Goals

- Provide an overview of AHRQ's mission and programs
- Discuss the Agency's current funding opportunities and priorities
- Share AHRQ resources for researchers
- Provide an opportunity to meet with a representative from AHRQ
What’s in a name

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
  - A part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services
  - A scientific research agency
  - The leading federal agency on health care quality and safety
What’s not in our name

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- A part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services
- A scientific research agency
- The leading federal agency on health care quality and safety
- Not a policy-making or regulatory agency
AHRQ Mission Statement

To improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans
- Improves health care quality for all Americans
- Transforms research into practice
- Improves health care outcomes through research
- Uses evidence to improve health care
AHRQ Research: How it is Unique

- Dual focus -- Services + Systems
- Considers cost-effectiveness
- Values effectiveness over efficacy
- More patient-centered, less disease-specific
- Includes primary care and prevention
Research at HHS: Where Does AHRQ Fit In?

- **NIH** -- basic biomedical bench research and "efficacy" clinical trials

- **CDC** -- the public health system and community-based interventions

- **AHRQ** -- "effectiveness" of health care services and the health care delivery system
An Example: Diabetes

- NIH -- Collaborative Studies on Angiogenesis and Diabetic Complications
- CDC -- National Program to Promote Diabetes Education Strategies in Minority Communities
- AHRQ -- Translation Research for the Prevention and Control of Diabetes
The Organization

- One Agency
  - Director: Carolyn Clancy, MD
The Organization

- One Agency
- Five Centers
  - Center for Delivery, Organization, and Markets (CDOM)
  - Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends (CFACT)
  - Center for Outcomes and Evidence (COE)
  - Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships (CP3)
  - Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQuIPS)
The Organization

- One Agency
- Five Centers
- Four Offices
  - Office of the Director (OD)
  - Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer (OCKT)
  - Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations (OEREP)
  - Office of Performance Accountability, Resources, and Technology (OPART)
The Organization

- One Agency
- Five Centers
- Four Offices
- Approximately 300 folks
- One building
  - John M Eisenberg Building
  - 540 Gaither Road
  - Rockville, MD 20850
What AHRQ Does
Provides a locus of leadership and expertise for advances in health care delivery, organization, and markets through research.

Director – Irene Fraser

Projects
- Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)
- ACTION (ISDRN)
- Quality Indicators
- Long-term Care
Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends (CFACT)

- Conducts, supports, and manages studies of the cost and financing of health care, the access to health care services and related trends. CFACT also develops data sets to support policy and behavioral research and analyses.

- Director – Steve Cohen

- Projects
  - Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)
  - Intramural research
Conducts and supports research and assessment of health care practices, technologies, processes, and systems.

Director – Jean Slutsky

Projects
- Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs)
- Effective Health Care initiative
- Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERTs)
- National Guidelines Clearinghouse
Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships (CP3)

- Expands the knowledge base for clinical providers and patients and assures the translation of new knowledge and systems improvement into primary care practice
- Director – TBD
- Projects
  - Health Information Technology
  - US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)
  - Practice-based Research Networks (PBRNs)
Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQuIPS)

- Works to improve the quality and safety of our healthcare system through research and implementation of evidence
- Acting Director – Bill Munier
- Projects
  - Consumer Assessment of Health Plans (CAHPS)
  - Patient Safety
  - National Healthcare Quality and Disparity Reports
The Offices

- Office of the Director
- Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer (OCKT)
  - Research dissemination and product development
- Office of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations (OEREP)
  - Grant review
  - Training grants
  - Coordinates priority population activities
- Office of Performance Accountability, Resources, and Technology (OPART)
  - Grant Administration
Cross Cutting Portfolios

- Prevention and Care Management
- Health Information Technology
- Patient Safety
- Comparative Effectiveness
- Value
And all this is accomplished with...

- **AHRQ Budget:**
  - 2004: $303 million
  - 2005: $318 million
  - 2006: $318 million
  - 2007: $318 million (CR)
  - 2008: $329 million proposed
For Primary Care Researchers

- It is not the best of times…
  - Limited new funds for investigator initiated grants
  - Budget cap for RO1s: $300,000/yr

- It is not the worst of times …
  - Prevention research funding
  - New Health IT funding
  - Continued funding of R03s and training grants
  - PBRN contract work
  - SEN on implementation research
Research on Systems and Organizational Interventions for Improving Healthcare Quality for Low-income People served in Under-resourced Settings and Communities

Notice Number: NOT-HS-07-045
Interest in Research Implementation
Small Research (R03) Grants

Notice Number: NOT-HS-07-002
New Interest

Coming soon...
"If you're stumped, why not just write an illegible prescription and hope the pharmacist comes up with something?"
New Funding Opportunities in 2008

- RFA-HS-08-003
- Optimizing Prevention and Healthcare Management for the Complex Patient (R21)
- Closing date: November 28, 2007

Note: FOA states “We expect that the work from this FOA will provide the foundation for further studies that test the impact of such adaptations, assess the barriers and facilitators to implementing adaptations, examine tools to implement tailored interventions, and investigate the implications for patient-centered health care of such personalized approaches to prevention and care management.”
New Funding Opportunities in 2008

- Notice of Intent to Publish a Request for Applications for Health Information Technology Projects Focused on Patients with Complex Healthcare Needs in Ambulatory Settings

Continuing Funding Opportunities in 2008

- **AHRQ Small Grant Research Program**
  - R03 mechanism
  - Developmental research projects
  - New investigators encouraged
  - $100K total (D+I) over 1 – 2 years
  - Applications accepted March, July, and Nov 16th
Continuing Funding Opportunities in 2008

- **AHRQ Small Grant Research Program**
- **AHRQ Health Services Research Program**
  - RO1 mechanism
  - 2008 funding cap of $300K/year
  - Strong preference to areas of special emphasis
Other funding opportunities at AHRQ

- Conference grants
  - AHRQ Grant Program for Large Conference Support
  - Small Grant Program for Conference Support

- Special Emphasis Notice: Important Considerations for Applying for Conference Grant Support from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
Other funding opportunities at AHRQ

- Conference grants
- Training grants
  - Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08)
  - Independent Scientist Award (K02)
  - NEW Mentored Scientist Award (K01)
  - National Research Service Award: Individual Postdoctoral Fellowships (F32)

- For more information see: http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/grantix.htm
How Hazardous Is Health Care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGULATED</th>
<th>ULTRA-SAFE (&lt;1/100K)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving</td>
<td>Scheduled Airlines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Manufacturing</td>
<td>European Railroads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chartered Flights</td>
<td>Nuclear Power</td>
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<td>Mountain Climbing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bungee Jumping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthCare</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of encounters for each fatality

Total lives lost per year
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

Data

- MEPS: Nationally representative statistics of health care use, expenditures, sources of payment, and insurance coverage for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

- www.meps.ahrq.gov
  - Be sure to check out the interactive web-based query tools at:
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- **Data**
  - MEPS
  - HCUP
    - Federal, state, industry partnership
    - Sampling frame includes 90% of all inpatient discharges
    - Includes charge, payer, clinical data

- [http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/home.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/home.jsp)
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

Data
- MEPS
- HCUP
- National Safety Net Monitoring Data Books
  - http://www.ahrq.gov/data/safetynet/
  - http://www.ahrq.gov/data/safetynet/profile.htm
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- **Data**
  - MEPS
  - HCUP
  - National Safety Net Monitoring Data Books
  - NHQR / NHDR
    - [http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhqr06/nhqr06.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhqr06/nhqr06.htm)
    - [http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr06/nhdr06.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr06/nhdr06.htm)
Stages of Facing Reality

- Stage 1. “The data are wrong”
- Stage 2. “The data are right, but it’s not a problem”
- Stage 3. “The data are right; it is a problem; but it is not my problem.”
- Stage 4. “I accept the burden of improvement”
Quality Tools

- **www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov**
- Launched December 2003
- Clearinghouse for practical, ready-to-use tools for measuring and improving American’s health care
- Host the NHQR and NHDR
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- Data
- Tools
  - Quality Tools (see NHQR/NHDR)
  - Quality Measures
    - http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov/
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- **Data**

- **Tools**
  - Quality Tools (see NHQR/NHDR)
  - Quality Measures
  - Quality Indicators (see HCUP)
  - NGC
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- **Data**

- **Tools**
  - Quality Tools (see NHQR/NHDR)
  - Quality Measures
  - Quality Indicators (see HCUP)
  - NGC
  - **NEW** Innovations Exchange
    - http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/
Resources for Primary Care Researchers

- Data
- Tools
- Annual AHRQ Conferences
  - AHRQapalooza  September 8-10, 2008
  - PBRN Conference  June 11-13, 2008
Cool Stuff

- Evidence Reports
  - http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcix.htm
  - Future research and key questions

- USPSTF
  - Future research section of clinical recommendations and systematic reviews
More Cool Stuff

- Concept Paper Review Programs
  - Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships (CP3)
    - http://www.ahrq.gov/about/cp3/cp3conrev.htm
  - Center for Outcomes and Evidence (COE)
    - http://www.ahrq.gov/about/coer/concept.htm
Active grants database
- http://www.gold.ahrq.gov/

Useful tips on preparing a grant
- “How to Write a Grant application.”
  http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants
- “Introduction to the Funding Process: A Primer”
  http://www.nimh.nih.gov/researchFunding/introtofund.cfm
- Peer Review Policy and Issues
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer.htm
  http://www.drg.nih.gov/Video/Video.asp
Even More Cool Stuff

- Ordering AHRQ publications
  - AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse
  - 1-800-358-9295
  - Open weekdays, 9 - 5 eastern time

- AHRQ website homepage
  - www.AHRQ.gov
For additional information, please contact:
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