

VA Partnered Research Training Program

David A. Haggstrom, MD, MAS

VA HSR&D Center for Health Information & Communication, Indianapolis VA

Division of General Internal Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine

Agenda

- Welcome, Eric Bass, SGIM CEO
- Overview of Partnered Research Evaluation Training Program, David Haggstrom (10 minutes)
- HSR&D Director, David Atkins (10 minutes)

 - COINs
 - COREs (Consortia of Research)
 - Research to Impact for VeteRans (RIVRs)
- QUERI Director, Amy Kilbourne (15 minutes)
 - Partnered Research Evaluation
 - VISN Partnered Implementation Initiative
 - Partnered Evidence-Based Policy Resource Center
- Description of project, Jeff Whittle (10 minutes)
- Questions (10 minutes)
- Break-out pod sessions (30 minutes)

Structure of Training Program

- **Bi-monthly 90-minute sessions**
 - Lectures/Expert Panels (60 minutes)
 - Break-Out “POD” Sessions with Peers (30 minutes)

- **In-Between Sessions:**
 - Monthly Mentor Meeting (National, Invited Panel)
 - Research & Career Mentoring
 - Review Partnered Research Project Assignments
- **Assignments**
 - Assigned Readings before Lectures/Panels
 - Partnered Research Project
 - Receive Feedback From:
 - Mentors
 - Peers during “POD” Sessions

Schedule

- **JULY 2020: Overview of VA Partnered Research Evaluation Training Program**
- **SEPTEMBER 2020: Implementation Science Models & Methods (Donna Zulman)**
- **NOVEMBER 2020: RIVR program PANEL: Case studies of Operations-Research Partnerships (Moderator, Stephanie Guerra)**
- **JANUARY 2021: Business Strategy (Richard Griffith, Indianapolis VA Chief Strategy Officer)**
- **FEBRUARY 2021: Partnered Research Evaluation PANEL (Moderator, David Atkins)**
- **MARCH 2021: Communication to Non-Research Audiences**
- **APRIL 2021: 2021 Annual Meeting in Boston, MA**
 - SGIM SESSION 1: Pitch your project to others**
 - SGIM SESSION 2: In-person discussion & networking – Certificate presentation**

2020-2021 SGIM VA Partnered Research Scholars

Julian Brunner	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Samuel Edwards	VA Portland Health Care System
Utibe Essien	University of Pittsburgh VA Center for Health Equity Research & Promotion
Sonya Gabrielian	VA & UCLA Department of Psychiatry
Heather Gilmartin	Department of VA, Eastern Colorado Health Care System and the Denver-Seattle Center of Innovation (COIN)
Laura Kim	VA National Simulation Center (SimLEARN)
Lucinda Leung	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Keith McInnes	Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital
Spyridoula Maraka	Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System
Jessica Moreau	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Qiyang Mu	Milwaukee VA Medical Center
Megan Shepherd-Banigan	Department of Veterans Affairs Durham VISN
Jessica Wyse	VA Portland Health Care System

2020-2021 SGIM VA Partnered Research Mentors

<u>MENTEE</u>	<u>MENTOR</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>
Julian Brunner	Kristina Cordasco	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Samuel Edwards	Steve Pizer	Boston University School of Public Health – VA Boston
Utibe Essien	Jeff Whittle	VA Milwaukee VA Medical Center
Sonya Gabrielian	Barbara Bokhour	ENRM Veterans Hospital
Heather Gilmartin	Donna Zulman	Palo Alto VA Medical Center
Laura Kim	Robert Axon	Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center
Lucinda Leung	Elizabeth Yano	VA Greater LA Healthcare System
Keith McInnes	Austin Frakt	Boston University/Harvard School of Public Health
Spyridoula Maraka	David Haggstrom	Indianapolis VA Medical Center
Jessica Moreau	Karin Nelson	VA Puget Sound Healthcare System
Qiyang Mu	Anais Tuepker	VA Portland Health Care System
Megan Shepherd-Banigan	Alison Hamilton	VA Greater LA Healthcare System
Jessice Wyse	Fran Weaver	VA Great Lakes Healthcare System VISN 12

SGIM-VA Planning Group

- Erika Baker (Senior Committees Project Manager, SGIM)
- Leslie Dunne (Director of Development and Project Management, SGIM)
- Gerald O'Keefe (VA HSR&D CIDER Director)
- David Atkins (VA HSR&D Director)
- Neda Laiteerapong (SGIM Council, University of Chicago)
- Som Saha (SGIM Council, Portland VA, OHSU)
- David Haggstrom (VA Program Leader, Indianapolis VA, IU)
- Jeff Whittle (VA Co-Program Leader, Milwaukee VA, MCW)

Partnered Research Definition

“Activities where researchers and practitioners work together, with different roles, to use research both to solve practical problems and to contribute to science”

Ovretveit J, Hempel S, Magnabosco JL, Mittman BS, Rubenstein LV, Ganz DA. Guidance for research-practice partnerships (R-PPs) and collaborative research. *J Health Organ Manag.* 2014;28(1):115–126.

Selby J, Slutsky J. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2014 Dec;29 Suppl 4.

Basic Assumptions

- Health care research would be *more relevant* and have *more impact* if key stakeholders were invited to participate in the research process.
- The learning health care system calls for close participation in the research and development process by researchers with
 - organizational leadership
 - front-line clinicians
 - patients & caregivers
- Research that is embedded and integrated within a working health care system can provide
 - Generalizable knowledge
 - More immediate value for the system

Evolution of Field of Partnered Research

- **Partnered research originally focused upon:**
 - Community-based participatory research
 - Patient-centered research (PCORI)
 - Clinicians & health system leaders (more recent)
- **These decision-makers bring insights to the formulation of:**
 - research questions
 - conduct of research
 - interpretation of results
 - robust implementation of findings

Differing Perspectives of Research & Operations

- **Differences in Training & Culture, Language, Incentives & Priorities**
- **Researchers:**
 - Trained to value a deliberative approach to fully understand research findings, methodological innovations, and careful data interpretation
 - Less comfortable focusing on observed point estimates (i.e., differences) than on the uncertainty around those estimates (i.e., confidence intervals), which can frustrate decision-makers
 - Incentivized by the need to publish & to obtain/continue research funding
- **Clinicians:**
 - Incentivized to find answers to the practical questions they face with their patients
- **System Leaders:**
 - Focused primarily on factors that impact financial viability, including
 - Demands for performance measurement
 - Work necessary to improve performance
 - Means of gaining efficiency in health care delivery

How Might We Describe a Successful Partnered Researcher?

- Excellent methodological skills in effectiveness or implementation research
- Good interpersonal skills to serve on multidisciplinary teams that may include organizational engineers and informaticians, as well as key stakeholders
- Extensive exposure to the health care delivery system such that the researcher is comfortable communicating to patients, clinicians, and members of the “C-suite”

VA Partnered Research Programs: HSR&D & QUERI

- HSR&D and QUERI have promoted partnered research in complementary, distinct ways
- HSR&D-partnered research initiatives include
 - Centers of Innovation (COIN) initiatives
 - COREs (Consortia of Research)
 - HSR&D takes a longer-term perspective to build the science that operations can use across initiatives to help predict what they need 3–5 years from now
- QUERI, whose goal is to help providers implement evidence-based practices using quality improvement methods, employs a shorter time frame of 1–3 years.