AHRQ R24 Webinar: Training and Mentoring

University of Texas Southwestern Center for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

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Webinar Outline

• Part 1: University of Texas Southwestern
  • Overview of experiential learning in PCOR
  • Formal training & mentoring

• Part 2: University of Maryland
  • Deeper dive
  • The voices of a partner & trainee

• Group discussion about PCOR training & mentoring
  • Lessons learned, best practices, innovations, challenges, gaps, what happens post-AHRQ 24
University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW)  
Center for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research  
Dallas, TX  
PI: Ethan Halm, MD, MPH

- PCOR in underserved patients, populations, & health systems
- Partnership between UTSW & Parkland Health & Hospital System (county safety net)
Training by Doing: PCOR Scholars Led Main Center Projects

• Junior faculty PCOR Scholars lead 3 main R24 projects

• Project 1: RCT of a population health outreach intervention to increase hepatocellular cancer screening in vulnerable patients with cirrhosis
  • Amit Singal, MD: promoted, 2 RO1s, CPRIT

• Project 2: Improving end of life care in African-American patients with advanced cancer
  • Ramona Rhodes, MD: promoted, ACS grant

• Project 3: Comparing the effectiveness of different approaches to predicting 30-day risk of readmission
  • Drs. Anil Makam, Oanh Nguyen: K23 x 2, R03, pilots
Training by Doing: Patient Engagement

• PCOR Scholars present to Community Advisory Panel (CAP) for projects, K award proposals

• Community Advisory Panel (CAP): 14 member group of patient & community stakeholders connected to Parkland Health & Hospital System

• PCOR Center pilot awards:
  • Pre-review & patient/stakeholder engagement coaching by PCOR faculty & research staff
  • Funded pilot awardees present early to CAP
Traditional Mentoring: Career Development Awards

• Primary/secondary mentor team
• Advisory Committee: internal & external
• Grant writing course in MS program/CTSA
• Internal K award grant review committee (3X/yr)
• Share successful K award applications
• Highlight PCOR Center training, mentor, infrastructure
• Share templates: resources, environment, human subjects
• “Successfully Obtaining an R” (SOAR) Program (CTSA)
Career Development Awards in PCOR Scholars

• 11 PCOR Scholars obtained career development awards
• Successful PCOR Scholars include:
  ➢ Michael Bowen, MD – NIDDK K23, KL2
  ➢ Caitlin Murphy, PhD – KL2, Academy Health Grant
  ➢ Ank Nijhawan, MD – NIAID K23, KL2
  ➢ Una Makris, MD – VA Career Development Award, KL2
  ➢ Anil Makam, MD – NIA K23 and R03, KL2
  ➢ Oanh Nguyen, MD – NHLBI K23, KL2
  ➢ Ramona Rhodes, MD – ACS Career Development Award, KL2
  ➢ Christy Turer, MD – NICHD K23, KL2
  ➢ Carlos Alvarez, PharmD – NIDDK K08, KL2
  ➢ Arthur Hong, MD- THR Clinical Scholars award
  ➢ David Gerber, MD- NCI K24
PCOR Center Faculty & Scholars: Promotions

- Eric Mortensen, MD – Full Professor, Gen. Internal Medicine
- David Gerber, MD – Assoc & Full Professor, Heme-Onc
- Simon Lee, PhD – Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences
- Jasmin Tiro, PhD – Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences
- Amit Singal, MD – Associate Professor, GI & Liver
- Ramona Rhodes, MD – Associate Professor, Geriatrics
- Carlos Alvarez, PharmD – Assoc. Prof., Pharmacy School
- Ank Nijhawan, MD – Assoc. Prof, Infectious Disease
Formal Training: Introduction to Patient-Centered Outcomes and Health Services Research

• MS in Clinical Sciences course: 13 x 2 hr sessions
  • 2 sessions on Patient & Stakeholder engagement
  • Patient experience assignment
• Taught by PCOR Center faculty (& PCOR Scholars)
• 45 multidisciplinary trainees (10 more this semester)
• Clinical faculty & fellows: MD, PharmD, PhDs, RN
• Students: medicine, public health, health professions
• Research staff: coordinators, programmers, RAs
PCOR Center Works-in-Progress & Incubator Seminars

• Monthly meeting of multidisciplinary investigators to elicit feedback on research in progress
• Presenters discuss research, ideas, grant proposals
• Attendance averages 15-20 people
• Faculty & trainees, collaborators, interested visitors
• “Incubator sessions”: to promote, less well-developed “ideas in progress,” smaller group, more bottom-up peer critiques, available on request
Other Training & Mentoring

• Sponsored PCOR Scholars & trainees to attend:
  • AHRQ-funded CERTAIN conferences at MD Anderson
  • AcademyHealth Dissemination & Implementation conf.

• Dr. Halm keynote address at meeting of North Texas Clinical Research Coordinator & IRB professionals
  • “Role of research staff in making PCOR better”

• CTSA/MS mentors twice yearly mentors lunch

• “From mentorship to sponsorship” workshop: Office of Faculty Diversity & Inclusion
PCOR Center Visiting Professors

- Grand Rounds to raise PCOR awareness & legitimacy
- PCOR methods workshops: 90 min over lunch
  - Topics: PCOR, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, stakeholder engagement, scientific writing, mentoring
- 1 on 1 meetings:
  - Leadership: to boost importance of PCOR
  - PCOR Scholars & PCOR Center Core faculty
- Roundtable group discussions: 60-90 min
  - Junior faculty, fellows
  - Free-ranging Q & A
- Dinner with PCOR faculty & Scholars
- Traveling Professor: Dr. Halm to MD Anderson
  - Grand Rounds, 1:1 mentoring, group roundtable
Visiting Professors

• Eric Bass, MD: Johns Hopkins, scientific writing, stakeholder engagement
• Jodi Segal, MD: Johns Hopkins, systematic reviews
• Mitchell Feldman, MD: UCSF, culture of mentoring
• Anand Naik, MD: Baylor, PCOR in multimorbidity
• Neil Powe, MD: UCSF, PCOR in ESRD
• Barbara Turner, MD: Univ TX San Antonio: PCOR in chronic pain and hepatitis C
• Erin Krebs, MD: Univ of MN, PCOR opiate addiction
Collaboration with CTSA

- PCOR scholars present at semi-annual CTSA KL2 Clinical Scholars Retreats
- PCOR Scholars present at weekly CTSA Clinical Scholars Forum
- PCOR Center faculty are key discussants at these
- MS Courses: PCOR/HSR, Intro to Clin. Research, Mentoring, Grant Writing
- Co-funding of PCOR Center pilot award funding
  - $10K in CTSA matching funds, $10K PCOR Center
PCOR Center Pilot Awards: Funded

• Priority given to PCOR Scholars, junior faculty
• Caitlin Murphy, PhD: “Patient experiences with and adherence to oral anticancer therapies”
• Yordanos Tiruneh, PhD: “Integrated intervention to Improve Outcomes in HIV & Depression”
• Shannon Juengst, PhD: “Patient-centered feedback on a mobile health platform for rehabilitation”
Pilot Awards: Pending

• Arthur Hong, MD: “Patient & MD Perspectives on use of the ED care in cancer”
• Sarah Barlow, MD: “Needs assessment of parents & providers to improve management of childhood obesity”
• Wanpen Vongpatanasin, MD: “Patient acceptance of drug monitoring to assess medication adherence in poorly controlled HTN”
Lessons Learned

• Concentric circle philosophy
  • PCOR Center Scholars & faculty
  • Invest heavily in the most promising individuals
  • Broader collaboration & consultations with many

• Promote PCOR stage migration:
  • Pre-contemplation ➔ Contemplation ➔ Action
    Promote Awareness  Training & Mentoring

• Synergize: partner with like-minded people & institutional initiatives (CTSA, grad. school, Cancer Center)

• Be aware of common training & mentoring hazards
  • Paddington Bears: “Please take care of this bear”
  • Fuzzy brain syndrome: not curable
  • Hope is not a strategy: “I always wanted to try research”