Foundation for Physical Therapy
Annual update on the Center of Excellence in Physical Therapy Health Services and Health Policy Research and Training Grant

CoHSTAR FUNDING

The Center on Health Services Training and Research (CoHSTAR) funding was announced at the 2015 Combined Sections Meeting and a grant of $2.5 million was awarded to Principal Investigator, Linda Resnik, PT, PhD. Funding for the center subsequently began in May, 2016.

ABOUT CoHSTAR

Generous donations to the Foundation for Physical Therapy has made it possible to establish CoHSTAR. This Center is dedicated to advancing health services and health policy research in physical therapy and has four primary objectives:

1. Build health services research infrastructure to facilitate interdisciplinary health services/health policy research by physical therapist scientists
2. Expand the number of physical therapist health services/health policy researchers by training highly skilled, physical therapist health services/health policy researchers
3. Increase the quantity and quality of physical therapy health services/health policy research by supporting high quality pilot and small studies that lead to external funding and scholarship
4. Build upon active and growing research programs at collaborating institutions to build a sustainable, long-term capacity for PT health services and health policy research training

CoHSTAR Opportunities

The next call for trainees applications will be released later this year. Anyone interested in submitting an application should first contact CoHSTAR members to discuss the opportunities.

For more information, visit bu.edu/cohstar or e-mail Audrey Kydd at Audrey_Kydd@brown.edu.
CoHSTAR Year One in Review

CoHSTAR’s first ever Summer Institute on Health Services Research (HSR) provided an opportunity to promote and facilitate the advancement of HSR to better address issues in the healthcare system. The sold-out Summer Institute sessions are now available for viewing at no cost. Take advantage of this opportunity and experience this groundbreaking event today!

Access the Summer Institute archived webcast at:
[bu.edu/cohstar/training/summer-institute/]

Pamela Duncan
PT, PhD, FAPTA
Keynote Speaker

Current Pilot Studies

PI: Christine McDonough, PT, PhD; Boston University

Development and Preliminary Implementation of a Registry for Physical Therapists’ Management of Knee Pain
PI: James Irrgang, PT, PhD, FAPTA; University of Pittsburgh

Associations between Continuity of Care and Future Low Back Pain-related Utilization and Costs in Patients with Low Back Pain
PI: John Magel, PT, DSc, OCS, FAAOMPT; University of Utah

The Impact of Physical Therapy on Improving Function and Reducing Hospitalizations in Medicare Home Health (HH) Populations
PI: Jennifer Stevens-Lapsley, PT, PhD

Faculty Fellow and Visiting Scientists

Epidemiologist and Associate Professor at Duke University, Adam Goode, PT, DPT, PhD, is developing integrated and collaborative care models between Physical Therapists and Primary Care Physicians and working with CoHSTAR collaborators on the development of patient reported outcome measures to be implemented in electronic health record for patients with knee osteoarthritis. Dr. Goode also participated in a PCORI pragmatic clinic trial grant submission as Site-PI.

Chair and Associate Professor of the Department of Physical Therapy, Executive Chair of the Rehabilitation Sciences Sector, and Chair of the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Katherine Berg’s, PT, PhD. Her objective has been to examine early functional change as a predictor of outcome for patients admitted to skilled nursing facilities.

Associate Professor, Director of Orthopaedic Research, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Vanderbilt University, Kristin Archer, PT, PhD. Dr. Archer has learned methods for economic evaluation of health care programs and used new knowledge to incorporate cost-effectiveness aim into grant applications. Dr. Archer has also participated in PCORI pragmatic clinic trial grant submission as Site-PI.
2nd Summer Institute
CoHSTAR has already begun to prepare for next year’s Summer Institute. While the topic is still pending, the upcoming Institute will take place in Boston prior to the APTA NEXT Conference & Exposition.

Pilot Studies
The latest round of Pilot Studies applications have been received and three applications will be selected for funding later this year.

Faculty Fellows
Four faculty fellows were offered positions within CoHSTAR for year 2.

Dr. Adam Goode of Duke University will continue for another year and will be mentored at the University of Pittsburgh under Dr. Anthony Delitto and Dr. Kelly Fitzgerald. He will continue to look at preventing the progression of disability in people with knee osteoarthritis.

Dr. Daniel Young from the University of Nevada will be mentored at Boston University under Dr. Alan Jette. He will be looking at the effect of physical therapist services on relevant outcomes for patients in the acute care hospital.

Dr. Meghan Warren of Northern Arizona University will be mentored at Brown University under Dr. Theresa Shireman. She is working to expand her knowledge of methods for health services research design and analysis.

Dr. Daniel Pinto from Northwestern will also be mentored at Brown University under Dr. Trikalinos. He will be conducting a network meta-analysis of rehabilitation strategies before or after total knee replacement.

Postdoctoral Fellow
Pending the completion of her PhD, Catherine Schmidt, PT, DPT, will begin as CoHSTAR’s postdoctoral fellow and will be mentored by Dr. Vince Mor and Dr. Linda Resnik.

Visiting Scientist
Janet Freburger, PT, PhD, Associate Director and Medical Practice and Prevention Program Research Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research will be coming on as CoHSTAR’s newest Visiting Scientist. She will be collaborating with CoHSTAR colleagues at Brown University to develop a competitive grant application examining transitions of rehabilitation care and its impact on outcomes.

Message From Linda Resnik
Although Health Services Research (HSR) is still new to many physical therapists, CoHSTAR is generating an enthusiastic following, as people are coming to understand the importance of our work for the profession. We have accomplished a great deal since our inception. Although recruitment of fellows in our first year was challenging, we had a very competitive pool of applicants for fellowships in our second year. Interest in our training opportunities is clearly growing. We completed our first Summer Institute (which had a capacity crowd), had great responses to our 2 calls for proposals for Pilot Studies, and hosted 2 Visiting Scientists.

Moving forward, we plan to continue to disseminate information about CoHSTAR and raise awareness about the importance of HSR. It is important that physical therapists are primed early in their careers, and early in their doctoral programs to know that a career in HSR is an option for them, and to understand how they can pursue that option through advanced training.

I am proud of the progress CoHSTAR has made thus far. It has been a successful collaboration between our three institutions. I believe, as more therapists become aware of our Center, they will be inspired by the importance of this work, will want to get involved in training and research and will work to ensure that this effort is sustained.

To learn more about CoHSTAR, visit bu.edu/cohstar/
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