



CoHSTAR

Center on Health Services Training and Research

Brown University

Research Career Training Program Core

Boston University

Evaluation and Dissemination Core

University of Pittsburgh

Pilot Studies Core

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

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Center on Health Services Training and Research



About CoHSTAR

The Center on Health Services Training and Research (CoHSTAR) is dedicated to advancing health services and health policy research in physical therapy. The center 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 Update

CoHSTAR funding was announced at Combined Sections Meeting 2015 and funding for the center began in May, 2015. In the first quarter of funding, CoHSTAR created an External Advisory Board, issued a Request for Applications for pilot studies, solicited applications for visiting scientists, began recruiting efforts for post-doctoral and faculty fellowship positions, and held the first External Advisory Board meeting.

CoHSTAR External Advisory Board members include:

- Karen Lohmann Siegel, PT, MA, (Chair), Deputy Director, Rehab Research & Development, Dept of Veterans Affairs
- Leighton Chan, PhD, Chief, Rehabilitation Medicine Department, Clinical Centers, National Institutes of Health
- Pamela Duncan, PT, PhD, Professor of Neurology, Wake Forest School of Medicine
- David Hickam, MD, MPH, Program Director, Clinical Effectiveness Research, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute
- Michael P. Johnson, PT, PhD, Practice Leader - Home Health, BAYADA Home Health Care
- Justin Moore, PT, DPT, Executive Vice President, Public Affairs, APTA

The **CoHSTAR Pilot Study Program** provides funding for pilot research in areas related to physical therapy health services research. The pilot studies may be designed to provide preliminary data that will support larger subsequent funding efforts, or develop infrastructure needed to pursue physical therapy health services research questions. CoHSTAR has funded three pilot studies to date. Topics include:

- “Enabling Physical Therapy Health Services: The Development of a Cross-Walk for Functional Measures in Post-Acute Medicare Claims,” Christine McDonough, Pengsheng Ni, Anna Tosteson, Julie Bynum, Donald Carmichael, and Alan Jette, Boston University
- “Associations Between Continuity of Care and Future LBP-Related Utilization and Costs in Patients with Low Back Pain,” Jake Magel, Julie Fritz, and Jaewhan Kim, University of Utah
- “Development and Preliminary Implementation of a Registry for Physical Therapists’ Management of Knee Pain,” James Irrgang, G. Kelley Fitzgerald, Gerard Brennan, University of Pittsburgh/Intermountain Health Care

At least one additional pilot study will be funded in 2015. [Learn more about the Pilot Study Program.](#)

Visiting Scientists Announced:

- Katherine Berg, PT, PhD - Associate Professor, Past Chair, Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, University of Toronto; Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Waterloo. Her interests include: quality and outcome measurement in long-term and post-acute care.
- Kristin Archer, PT, PhD - Associate Professor, Director of Orthopaedic Research, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Vanderbilt University. Her interests include: cost effectiveness, economic evaluation of health care programs.



Center on Health Services Training and Research



CoHSTAR Organization

The Research Career Training Program Core (RCTPC) is led by Vincent Mor, PhD at Brown University. The aim of the RCTPC is to provide training for up to 9 postdoctoral trainees and 5 Visiting Scientists in health services research for physical therapists that will guide their career development as health services researchers. The RCTPC will oversee all trainee and Visiting Scientist recruitment activities. Postdoctoral fellows and visiting scientists will be recruited, and the annual research retreat will be hosted at the Brown University School of Public Health.

The Pilot Studies Core (PSC) is led by Kelley Fitzgerald, PT, PhD and Anthony Delitto, PT, PhD at the University of Pittsburgh. The aims of the PSC are to solicit pilot study applications relevant to PT, select outstanding pilot projects for funding, provide oversight/data safety and quality monitoring of ongoing pilot projects, assist investigators to translate pilot projects into full scale research grant applications for extramural funding, and monitor the progress and success of the PSC.

The Evaluation and Dissemination Core (EDC) is led by Alan Jette, PT, PhD and Mary Slavin, PT, PhD at Boston University. The aims of the EDC are to develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation framework to assess CoHSTAR activities, communicate with core directors and coordinate improvement activities as needed, ensure program information is optimally disseminated to target audiences, and enhance the impact and sustainability of CoHSTAR activities. The activities of the EDC include evaluating all CoHSTAR activities, disseminating CoHSTAR outcomes, and hosting the Summer Institute on Health Services Research.

Accepting Applications to CoHSTAR

• Fellowships

- Full time, postdoctoral fellowship trainee opportunities (1 or 2 years) are available at the three participating institutions. Postdoctoral fellows may focus their activities on a unique research focus areas or they may craft an individual experience that involves activities at two or three sites.
- Part time, faculty fellowship opportunities (1 or 2 years) are available at the three participating institutions. Research fellows will retain their faculty appointments at their home institutions, while utilizing CoHSTAR support to maximize their protected time for research activities. Faculty fellows will be paired with a CoHSTAR site and faculty mentor or mentoring team.
- [Learn more about postdoctoral and faculty fellowship opportunities.](#)

• Visiting Scientist Program

- CoHSTAR's Visiting Scientist Program enables visiting physical therapist researchers to work with faculty mentors across the three collaborating institutions, providing opportunities for experience working on-site with investigators at one or more of the collaborating institutions.
- Visiting Scientists receive up to \$20,000 depending on the nature of the support available from their parent institution.
- Applicants proposed projects will be evaluated on: significance of the project and its relevance to CoHSTAR goals, likelihood the project would lead to future external funding, and the promise and potential of the candidate for future health services research success.
- Applications for visiting scientists for the 2015-2016 academic year are being accepted for all three CoHSTAR locations.
- [Learn more about the visiting scientist program.](#)

• Summer Institute on Health Services Research

- SAVE THE DATE: June 28-30, 2016 in Boston, MA

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