Call for Proposals

Comparative Effectiveness Research in Health Care

Comparative effectiveness research (CER) has become a focus of health policy interest and activity in the context of both healthcare reform and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. CER is defined as “the conduct and synthesis of systematic research comparing different interventions and strategies to prevent, diagnose, treat and monitor health conditions. The purpose of this research is to inform patients, providers, and decision-makers, responding to their expressed needs, about which interventions are most effective for which patients under specific circumstances.”

We seek articles for a special issue of Academic Medicine examining the implications of CER for academic health centers (AHCs) and how the academic medicine community should be contributing to CER. We are interested in articles that (1) examine strategies for incorporating knowledge derived from CER into all levels of clinical practice and medical education in AHCs, (2) report key strategies to further develop the CER knowledge base to assist patients, providers and policymakers in making data-based decisions, and (3) analyze relevant policy issues that must be considered in developing and using the CER knowledge base and the implications of these issues for medical schools and teaching hospitals.

Examples of questions that submitted articles might address include:

- What are the workforce needs for CER? How can the CER workforce be expanded with innovative approaches to research training and career development?
- How will the use of CER in policy decision-making affect AHCs?
- Can AHCs become models for the implementation of CER in clinical practice? Should they?
- How might electronic medical records and other information technologies provide an opportunity for use of alternative research designs in CER? How can AHCs partner with other organizations in their communities to apply these approaches?
- What role should the NIH/NCRR Clinical and Translational Research Award (CTSA) Consortium play in CER? What is the role of individual CTSAs?
- How can principles for systematically evaluating medical interventions be incorporated into classroom and experiential education programs at all levels?
- How should federal agencies (e.g. NIH, AHRQ, CDC, DVA, CMS, DOD, etc.) collaborate in supporting, facilitating and using CER?
- How should national priorities for CER be established and what role should medical schools and teaching hospitals play in establishing these priorities?

We invite you by January 31, 2010, to submit a manuscript proposal (not to exceed 300 words), and your complete contact information to guest editor Harold Alan Pincus, MD, for his review. Proposals should be submitted at www.editorialmanager.com/acadmed/. Decisions on proposals will be reached by February 28, 2010, and final manuscripts will be due June 1, 2010.