

## **2017 Annual Research Meeting (ARM) Planning Committee Conference Theme Areas of Focus**

*The 2017 ARM is organized around the following 20 themes in health services research and policy:*

### **AGING, DISABILITY, AND END-OF-LIFE**

- Innovative policies, programs, and initiatives to encourage quality and better coordination of services for older adults and people with disabilities
- Strategies to reduce disparities in access to long-term services and supports (LTSS)
- Alternative payment models in LTSS across the care spectrum (HCBS, post-acute care, nursing home, palliative care, hospice), including pay for performance
- Policy, planning, and strategies that address changing needs and preferences for LTSS, informal care, and family caregiver support
- Strategies for improving access and outcomes in palliative care and end-of-life care
- The role of social determinants and other non-health care services (e.g., housing, transportation, meal programs, informal care) on the well-being of older adults and people with disabilities

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

- Evaluating the implementation and effects of federal policy changes on mental health services (e.g., federal parity, Medicaid expansions, ACA behavioral health benefit expansions, ACOs/shared savings models).
- Overcoming disparities in behavioral health services
- Opioid and other substance abuse, including prevention, screening, and treatment approaches
- Integrating behavioral health and other health care services, including models/methods used, financing incentives, outcomes, and unintended consequences
- Innovations in behavioral health services, including telemedicine, technology, and media supports in behavioral health care
- Behavioral health interventions for returning veterans and service members

### **COMPLEX CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

- Innovations in measuring quality of care and improving outcomes, including patient-reported outcomes, and measures meaningful to patients
- Innovations in care coordination and management, focusing on patient-centered care planning across care settings (e.g., primary care, transitional care, and palliative care)
- Addressing multi-morbidity and treatment burden across the lifespan
- Innovations for financing and delivery systems to support optimizing care for complex chronic conditions
- Understanding the intersection of complex social and health care needs

### **CONSUMER CHOICE AND INCENTIVES**

- Health insurance choice including exchanges
- Impact of benefit design and high-deductible health plans on care
- Consumerism and use of price transparency and quality data for provider and care choice
- Incentives and provider behavior
- Incentives and patient / consumer behavior
- Using behavioral economics for health policy innovation and health reform

## **COVERAGE, ACCESS, AND MEDICAID**

- Access, utilization, health, and labor market outcomes of the newly insured, the relationship between coverage and access, lessons learned in the early years of the ACA and how the 2016 elections may impact coverage and access
- Coverage trends: employer sponsored, Marketplace, Medicaid, and uninsured, the churn between programs, efforts to insure the uninsured, and their impact on access
- Impact of provider participation, narrow networks, and cost-sharing (premiums, high deductibles) on access to care, quality, and costs in Medicaid, Marketplaces, and employer sponsored coverage
- Provider responses to changes in coverage patterns
- State Medicaid policy, impact on coverage, health outcomes, and churn

## **DISPARITIES AND HEALTH EQUITY**

- Research that advances our understanding of linkages between social determinants of health and health disparities and health equity
- Research on the design, evaluation or implementation of interventions to reduce disparities at the local, state/regional or national level
- Research on the implementation of health IT-based interventions to reduce disparities in health and health care
- Research examining the effect of health policies (including insurance expansion, delivery system reform, value-based and alternative payment models) on health and health care disparities
- Descriptions of methodological advances in research and practice relevant to disparities and health equity, such as measurement of social risk, identification and tracking of disparities, evaluation of disparities reduction interventions, comparative effectiveness research, stakeholder engaged research, and adaptive clinical trials

## **HEALTH WORKFORCE**

- Workforce strategies to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities
- Workforce implications of increasing use of technology and telehealth
- Impacts of emerging care delivery models on the workforce, including from public and private initiatives (e.g., PCMHs, ACOs, CMMI)
- Workforce implications of care system integration (e.g., primary care, behavioral health and oral health)
- Impacts of health professions' regulatory environments on effective use of the health workforce
- Building health care career pathways that support practice in high need areas (e.g., medically underserved, rural, primary care)
- Innovations in measuring health workforce supply, demand and relationship to population need

## **IMPROVING SAFETY, QUALITY, AND VALUE**

- Innovative policies, strategies, and interventions that aim to improve safety, quality and value
- Person-, provider-, and community-level engagement in comprehensive approaches to safety, quality or value improvement efforts
- Consequences of and reasons for diagnostic and treatment delays or errors
- Impacts and consequences of perceptions of value on intervention implementation and sustainability
- Role of precision medicine and patient heterogeneity on health policy and safety

- Federal, state, or local interventions: optimizing targets for quality and value improvement

### **LESSONS FROM ABROAD**

- Translating evidence from across borders into practice and policy
- Solutions for aging and long-term care
- Improving health at low cost: Innovations from low and middle-income countries
- Tackling inequities in health and/or health care: political, organizational and technical responses
- Innovations in health services and systems research: data, methods, participation
- Showcasing international comparative research: what works, what is difficult, and how can it be made easier?
- Responding to the challenge of non-communicable diseases: lessons from countries at all levels of development
- Achieving the sustainable development goals and universal health coverage: the contribution of research

### **MATERNAL, CHILD, AND FAMILY HEALTH**

- Coverage, access, and payment for maternal, child, and family health in the era of health reform - CHIP, Medicaid, ACA
- Reproductive, family planning, preconception services in integrated delivery systems: models, financing, quality measures and outcomes
- Adverse childhood experiences: epidemiology, impact and policy implications
- Disparities/inequities in maternal and child health, innovative policy and programmatic interventions to advance maternal and child health equity, both domestic and foreign
- Innovations for the delivery of maternal and child health care: cross-sector, new models of care, health system
- Patient- and family-centeredness, patient/stakeholder engagement in the research process
- Causes of child and maternal morbidity & mortality, including the social, behavioral, systematic and environmental determinants of health
- Developments and methodological improvements in the measurement of maternal and child health quality/safety
- Adolescent health: environmental, social, psycho-social influences; the role of non-health care interventions (e.g., positive youth development); innovations to address disparities among increasingly diverse population
- Access to comprehensive women's preventive health services across the life course; emerging issues and trends in women's health and health services

### **MEASURING SAFETY, QUALITY, AND VALUE**

- Measuring diagnostic errors and inappropriate use of health services, including medications
- Measures of provider, practice and health system characteristics to improve the safety, quality, value, and equity of health services
- Application of qualitative and mixed methods to measure the safety, quality, value, and equity of health services
- Developing personalized quality metrics that consider patient and disease heterogeneity
- Methods for measuring patient reported outcomes
- Methods for measuring behavioral health interventions
- The inadvertent consequences of quality measurement and reporting

- Measuring value in a value-based payment world
- Developing quality measures to address disparities in health services and outcomes

## **MEDICARE**

- Impacts of alternative payment models such as ACOs, bundled payments, and Medicare Advantage on cost and quality
- Prescription drugs and other specialty care markets
- Role of beneficiary choice: plans, providers, treatments, access to expensive services and specialty care including issues for Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible beneficiaries and other economically vulnerable seniors
- Performance measurement, quality of care, and value-based purchasing initiatives
- MACRA incentives, provider integration and consolidation and other issues in physician payment
- Interactions between Medicare and other healthcare markets and payers

## **METHODS RESEARCH**

- Development of techniques to promote patient engagement in research
- Innovative approaches to development or standardization of informatics tools
- Analysis of heterogeneity of treatment effects
- Role of randomized and experimental / quasi experimental design in evaluating causal effects of health system transformation
- Methods and applications that leverage longitudinal data for population health
- Mixed methods in Program, Policy or Intervention Evaluation
- Addressing biases in comparative effectiveness research studies using EHRs

## **ORAL HEALTH**

- Integrating research with policies for health, health care and prevention: bridging the production and use of research, linking research with policy. Translating evidence from across borders.
- Addressing key agendas: tapping into research to address the Sustainable Development Goals. Using research to tackle health inequities or achieve quality universal health coverage.
- Partnerships: research as a means for innovation and inter-sectorial work. Finding solutions to problems such as aging and long term care. Building on research to integrate the collaborations from different sectors and fields of knowledge. Innovations from low and middle income settings and their scaling up. Developing appropriate technologies that are then used in different settings.
- Skillsets/Human Resources: building the workforce to boost public health research and health systems research. Supporting a cadre of trained consumers that support the development of relevant research for health.
- Standards: Developing the methods and standards to produce and use research on key issues such as non-communicable diseases, equity, implementation.
- Advocacy: illustrating the returns of research. Showcasing international comparative research. Illustrating what works, what are the challenges, and options to address them.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR AND MANAGEMENT**

- Organizational and system factors driving cost, quality of care, and patient care experiences.
- Innovative and emerging health care delivery models for inpatient and outpatient care settings

- Approaches to defining, measuring, rewarding, and improving team performance in health care
- Strategies that improve operational efficiency and clinician/staff engagement in performance improvement
- Interventions and policies that promote the adoption of evidence-based organizational capabilities and processes in health care.
- Role of clinicians, managers, teams, boards, and consumers in leading and managing change in health care organizations

#### **PATIENT-CENTERED RESEARCH**

- Share best stakeholder engagement strategies to successfully conduct patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR)
- Generating PCOR/CER evidence within PCORnet: Challenges and Opportunities
- Development of new PCOR/CER methodology and strategies
- PCOR influence on policy and national research directions
- Reports on patient-centered interventions in clinical trials
- Design and testing of individually- tailored interventions in research
- Engaging patients and families as partners in research studies

#### **PAYMENT AND DELIVERY SYSTEMS INNOVATIONS**

- Evaluations of payment and delivery reforms aimed at improving multiple goals, including health outcomes, quality, equity, care coordination, or the value of care
- Evidence from innovations aimed at improving the management of high-need, high-cost patients
- Evidence on the effects of the use of alternative payment models at the payer, organizational provider or individual practitioner provider level
- Use of innovative measures, outcomes and methods in the evaluation of payment and delivery innovations in care design across a spectrum of settings (outpatient, inpatient, post-acute, behavioral health)
- Evaluations of payment and/or delivery system innovations promoting patient-centered care and population health management
- Assessment of integration of payment for hospital, primary, specialty, and/or behavioral health care

#### **PUBLIC AND POPULATION HEALTH**

- State and local innovations and evidence of their impact on population health
- Population health efforts supported by the health care sector: moving beyond clinical care of the individual patient
- Addressing the social determinants of health through multi-sectoral partnerships
- Incorporating health equity into population health: improving health for all while closing the gaps
- Making the business case for population health: economic evaluations of evidence-based interventions
- Innovative metrics and measurement to demonstrate population health improvement and systems change at multiple levels

#### **TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH**

- Progress in implementing and generating value from EHRs and EHR data for clinical care, public health, and research

- Challenges and opportunities surrounding the use of HIT platforms to enable clinical transformation and population health management
- The impact of big data analytics, data science, and open science relative to achieving the learning health care system
- The ethical and legal issues surrounding big data analytics and big data research and discovery
- Patient and community engagement in health via personal health records and other consumer-oriented technologies
- Emerging data sources (e.g., sensor technologies, social media, and linked open data) and their impact on HSR
- Socio-technical factors influencing the creation of learning healthcare systems
- Challenges and opportunities for HSR technology innovation and entrepreneurship to impact dissemination

### **TRANSLATION, DISSEMINATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND IMPACT**

- Advances in measurement of context, implementation fidelity, readiness to change and other implementation-related constructs, including mixed methods approaches
- Innovative approaches to the dissemination, implementation, impact, and uptake of research results by healthcare decision-makers, including through research-clinical-policy partnerships
- Studies of strategies for improving implementation, adaptation, scale-up and spread of evidence-based practice including knowledge management, including across different settings such as low or middle income countries to the US or from pilot to scale
- Innovative methodology for dissemination, implementation, and impact research including analytic methods for routinely collected data, practice-based research methods, pragmatic trials, and realist evaluation
- Effective strategies for enhancing stakeholder engagement in implementation, spread and/or sustainability of evidence-based practices or new care models, including multilevel engagement
- Effective strategies to reduce the use of interventions that are not evidence-based, have been prematurely widely adopted, yield sub-optimal benefits for patients, or are harmful or wasteful.