

GET INVOLVED!!

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR OUR POSTER SESSION

The CoHSTAR Executive Committee invites physical therapists involved in health services research to submit an abstract for a poster session that will be held during the Summer Institute on Health Services Research reception on June 21st from 4:30-6:00 PM at Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. Participation in this poster session provides a unique opportunity to discuss your work with the Summer Institute faculty and attendees. Individuals with accepted abstracts will be awarded complimentary Summer Institute registration.

SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH INTENSIVE WORKSHOP

The Health Services Research Intensive Workshop will take place before the Summer Institute on June 20th from 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm at Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center. Accepted Workshop participants will register for and attend the Summer Institute, but no additional fees are required for the Workshop. Health Services Research Intensive Workshop participants will have an opportunity for additional training, including one-on-one consultation with CoHSTAR faculty to discuss strategies to promote your research career.

INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH?

CoHSTAR newsletters feature interviews with prominent health services researchers describing their career paths. We conducted an interview with Kristin Archer, one of CoHSTAR's Visiting Scientists.



KRISTIN ARCHER
PHD, DPT

Dr. Kristin Archer is an Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Dr. Archer became interested in health services research while working as a physical therapist. She noticed wide variability in patient outcomes and a discrepancy between the physical therapy literature and what she observed in clinical practice. She decided to pursue a doctoral degree in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to gain the skills needed for a research career in academic medicine.

As CoHSTAR's Visiting Scientist, Dr. Archer's work is focused on cost-effectiveness analyses and pragmatic clinical trial design, along with methods for economic evaluation of health care programs. Dr. Archer explains that she did not receive extensive training in these content areas during her doctoral studies and was particularly interested in developing this expertise during her time as CoHSTAR's Visiting Scientist. Currently, Dr. Archer is evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a psychologically informed physical therapy (PIPT) program she developed that is delivered over the telephone. She believes that understanding the cost-effectiveness of PIPT as well as telephone delivery models is a key element to replicating these programs in clinical practice. In the future, Dr. Archer is interested in expanding her PIPT research to include various telehealth platforms in

order to increase access to care and make interventions more cost-effective.

Dr. Archer believes that health services research will improve our understanding of the variability in care across the country, and this information will help establish best practices. She explains, "It's important to understand the use and effectiveness of rehabilitation within the broader healthcare perspective." Leveraging big data from registries, clinical data research networks, and large hospital systems across the country will help facilitate this broader perspective. With this in mind, Dr. Archer points out that physical therapists may not have the methodological skills needed for this type of research, which highlights the importance of CoHSTAR and the training it can provide to both junior and senior investigators. Physical therapists with health services research training can help advance the profession by identifying the most effective ways to deliver high quality rehabilitation care. For those interested in pursuing a health services research career, Dr. Archer provides the following advice: choose a doctoral program that focuses on public health and develop a strong background in epidemiology, biostatistics, and health economics. For clinicians or individuals who have a doctoral degree without a strong quantitative background, she recommends attending conferences like Academy Health, seeking out additional training through coursework and structured mentorship opportunities, and forming multidisciplinary collaborations that include biostatisticians, health economists, and health policy and system researchers.

CoHSTAR NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/2017
WWW.BU.EDU/COHSTAR

GREETINGS FROM CoHSTAR!

As we finish our second year, CoHSTAR's efforts to increase physical therapy health services research capacity have expanded! CoHSTAR's Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows show great potential to change physical therapy practice and policy through their current work. Our Visiting Scientists continue to work with the CoHSTAR team to advance health services research. We recently funded three new Pilot Studies that address important issues facing physical therapy practice. Building on the success of CoHSTAR's first Summer Institute on Health Services Research, we are making plans for 2017! Since the APTA NEXT Conference & Exposition is in Boston, we will offer the 2017 Summer Institute as a Pre-Conference Workshop. We will host the Summer Institute at the Boston Conference & Exhibition Center, located in Boston's Seaport District, on June 21st. We look forward to welcoming colleagues to Boston for this exciting event! We are grateful to the Foundation for Physical Therapy for supporting CoHSTAR's efforts to advance health services research in physical therapy.



LINDA RESNIK, PHD, PT
COHSTAR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, BROWN UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH CAREER SCIENTIST, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

- Meet our new Pilot Study researchers
- Learn how to apply for CoHSTAR-funded Pilot Study
- Join us for our upcoming Summer Institute on Health Services Research @ NEXT
- Learn how to get involved with CoHSTAR
- Learn how to pursue a health services research



CoHSTAR AT CSM!

Attending CSM? Take this opportunity to meet with CoHSTAR core directors and learn more about our fellowship and pilot study opportunities.

CoHSTAR is comprised of three cores: Research Career Training Program Core at Brown University, Pilot Studies Core at the University of Pittsburgh and the Dissemination and Evaluation core at Boston University.



Research Career Training Program Core



Pilot Studies Core



Evaluation and Dissemination Core

CoHSTAR is funded by:



Funding Research to
Optimize Movement
and Health

INFORMING PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE THROUGH CoHSTAR-FUNDED PILOT STUDIES

CoHSTAR supports innovative health services research projects that address important issues facing physical therapy practice. Read about each of our new projects, to learn how CoHSTAR funding is making a difference.

DEVELOPING A PROGNOSTIC MODEL FOR RISK ADJUSTMENT IN PATIENTS WITH BACK PAIN

The long-term goal of this research is to advance risk adjustment methods for outpatient rehabilitation settings using a promising alternative to traditional comorbidity indices, the Functional Comorbidity Index (FCI). The overall objective of this application is to use a cohort of older adults with back pain that has both self-reported functional status and complete electronic health record data to examine the ability of an ICD9-based FCI to predict function, health-related quality-of-life, and overall health care use. Our main hypothesis is that the ICD9-based FCI will improve the prediction of long-term function and health-related quality-of-life as compared to a standard demographic model, and it will also be superior to other commonly used comorbidity indices. This project has the potential to lead to a risk adjustment model that can be easily applied and broadly adopted for use in outpatient physical therapy settings.

"Risk adjustment is becoming an important priority in health care so that we can make more fair and accurate decisions or comparisons among providers and health systems. This pilot funding from CoHSTAR gives us the ability to begin a very relevant line of research that has the potential to improve risk adjustment methods that are suitable for physical therapy settings. As a new investigator, this is a great opportunity to continue building my career in health services research."



SEAN D. RUNDPELL
PT, DPT, PHD
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

IMPACT OF HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES ON HOSPITAL READMISSION: IMPLICATIONS FOR BUNDLED PAYMENT

The study focuses on examining variation in hospital-level utilization of physical therapy services and the factors associated with that variation in patients with stroke. The study will use Medicare claims data to examine variation in physical therapy services provided (e.g., evaluation and units received) and its impact on unplanned hospital readmissions. This pilot study will contribute to PT practice examining the value of PT in improving patient's outcomes for patients with stroke in the acute care setting. This initial work will demonstrate the current gap in hospital-based PT practice and help determine if PT in acute care setting improves post-acute care outcomes and identify factors related to variations in outcomes, including the amount of therapy.

"CoHSTAR funding gave me an opportunity to apply my health service methods in the advancement of rehabilitation science."



AMIT KUMAR
PT, MPH, PHD
BROWN UNIVERSITY

HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS IN ADULTS WITH CEREBRAL PALSY: AN ANALYSIS OF MEDICARE DATA

We propose to analyze Medicare claims to identify the extent to which adults with CP receive/seek health care, and specifically rehabilitation care, for musculoskeletal disorders and describe the demographic and clinical characteristics of these individuals. For select musculoskeletal disorders we will compare patterns of healthcare utilization for adults with CP and similar adults without CP. These outcomes will provide valuable information on the delivery of care for the treatment of MSK disorders in the real world setting for adults with CP and will provide necessary information to inform best practices. Results will also provide guidance for future research that will expand this methodology to include the analysis of Medicaid and private insurance claims data, to incorporate other sources of data (e.g., EHR, registry data), and to utilize these to conduct comparative effectiveness research on interventions provided to adults with CP for MSK disorders. These initial studies will inform next steps in the integration and use of administrative data with other healthcare data to ultimately improve the quality and effectiveness of healthcare for adults with CP. This line of research has the potential to have an immense positive impact on provision of rehabilitation services across the life course for individuals with CP, with the ultimate goal of improving the health and quality of life of this population.

"The CoHSTAR pilot funding will allow me to take my research in a new direction, away from intervention research toward health services research. I believe the answers to many of our questions related to health care utilization and the efficacy of specific interventions for individuals aging with cerebral palsy lie within large data sets. The mentorship I will receive during this pilot project and the methodologies I will learn while working with large data sets will enable me to eventually conduct comparative effectiveness research which will enable me to guide rehabilitation specialists toward more effective, efficacious interventions for individuals aging with CP."



DEBORAH THORPE
PT, PHD
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
— CHAPEL HILL



The CoHSTAR Pilot Study program provides funding for physical therapy health services research. Pilot studies may be designed to provide preliminary data that will support larger subsequent funding efforts, or develop infrastructure (new instruments, data registries, etc.) needed to pursue physical therapy health services research questions. Awards are approximately \$25,000.00 total cost per project (direct costs only).

Visit our website to learn more about CoHSTAR's Pilot Study program!
<http://www.bu.edu/cohstar/research/pilot-study-apply/>

COHSTAR PILOT STUDY PROGRAM

Pilot study proposals should have the potential to result in future research funding and address physical therapy health services research questions in one of the following areas:

- Analysis of large data sets
- Rehabilitation outcome measurement
- Implementation science and quality assurance research
- Cost effectiveness

DEADLINES

Letters of Intent: June 15, 2017
Full Application: Sept 15, 2017



CoHSTAR

@NEXT APTA Annual Conference & Expo

SUMMER INSTITUTE ON HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

June 21, 2017 · Boston

Foundation for Physical Therapy | Funding Research to Optimize Movement and Health

CREATING INTEGRATED SYSTEMS OF CARE: PROMISES AND PITFALLS

CoHSTAR's 2nd Summer Institute will be offered as a Pre-conference workshop at the NEXT Conference & Exposition! Summer Institute attendees will discuss how lessons learned from the development and implementation of bundled payment initiatives can inform efforts to promote integrated care models in physical therapy.

POSTER SESSION – JUNE 21ST 4:30 TO 6:00

- Submit an abstract for the evening poster session. Accepted poster presenters will receive complimentary Summer Institute registration.
- Abstract submission deadline: April 15, 2017

INTENSIVE HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH WORKSHOP – JUNE 20TH 1:30 TO 5:30

- The Intensive Workshop provides mentorship and support for individuals seeking to submit health services research proposals. The workshop involves a competitive application process and no additional fees are required to attend.

"The move to bundling and other value-based systems requires physical therapists to be savvy when it comes to analyzing what they're doing and at what cost, requiring measurement beyond a service-level mentality".
– Justin Moore, PT, DPT, CEO, APTA.

Visit our website – learn more about the Summer Institute and register!
<http://www.bu.edu/cohstar/training/summerinstitute>