

## **Addressing Disparities**

**Romana Hasnain-Wynia, MS, PhD**  
Program Director, Addressing Disparities

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## **Welcome!**



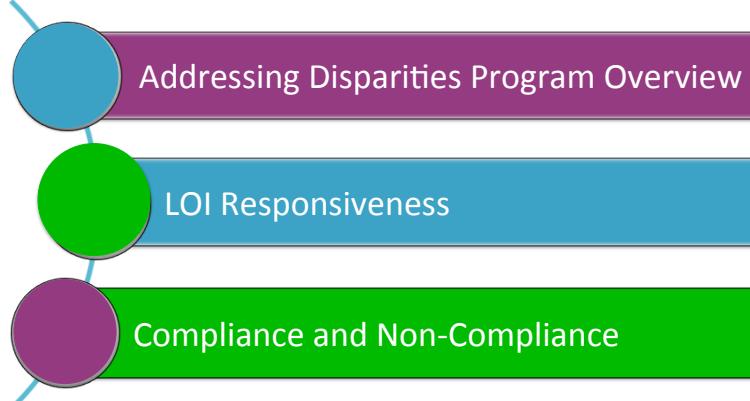
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Addressing Disparities



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## Session Objectives

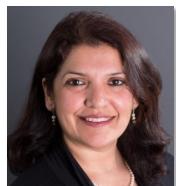
- In this session we will cover specifics regarding the Addressing Disparities (AD) program:



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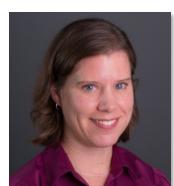
## Welcome – Addressing Disparities Program Staff



**Romana Hasnain-Wynia,  
MS, PhD  
Director**



**Ayodola Anise, MHS  
Program Officer**



**Cathy Gurgol, MS  
Program Officer**



**Mira Grieser, MHS  
Program Officer**



**Mychal Weinert  
Program Associate**



**Katie Lewis, MPH  
Program Associate**



**Tomica Singleton  
Sr. Administrative  
Assistant**



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## **Mandate includes: “....reducing practice variation and disparities”**

“ IDENTIFYING RESEARCH PRIORITIES.  
—The Institute shall identify national priorities for research, taking into account factors of disease incidence, prevalence, and burden in the United States (with emphasis on chronic conditions), gaps in evidence in terms of clinical outcomes, practice variations and health disparities in terms of delivery and outcomes of care...”

—from PCORI’s Authorizing Legislation



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## **Key Features of Our Funded Research**

Studies the benefits and harms of interventions and strategies delivered in real-world settings

Compares at least two alternative approaches

Adheres to PCORI’s Methodology Standards

Is based on health outcomes that are meaningful to the patient population

Is likely to improve current clinical practices



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## Addressing Disparities Mission Statement

### PCORI's Vision, Mission, Strategic Plan

#### Program's Mission Statement

To **reduce disparities** in healthcare outcomes and **advance equity** in health and healthcare

#### Program's Guiding Principle

To support comparative effectiveness research that will identify best options for reducing and **eliminating disparities**



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## Addressing Disparities: Program Goals

### Identify Research Questions

- **Identify** high-priority **research questions** relevant to reducing and eliminating disparities in healthcare outcomes

### Fund Research

- **Fund** comparative effectiveness **research** with the highest potential to reduce and eliminate healthcare disparities

### Disseminate Promising/Best Practices

- **Disseminate** and facilitate the adoption of **promising/best practices** to reduce and eliminate healthcare disparities



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## Addressing Disparities Advisory Panel Helps Guide the Work of Our Program



Addressing Health Disparities Advisory Panel



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## AD has committed \$140M in CER (as of October 2014)

### Investigator Initiated Projects

41 CER projects  
\$71.8M

### Targeted Projects

- Treatment Options for Uncontrolled Asthma: 8 CER trials, \$23.2M
- Obesity treatment options in primary care for underserved populations: 2 CER trials, \$20M
- Reducing Hypertension Disparities in collaboration with NHLBI/ NINDS: Funding Announcement Nov 2014; up to 2 CER trials, \$25M

### In the Pipeline

First round of pragmatic clinical trials, awards in January 2015

In Development Stage (Perinatal Outcomes, Lower Extremity Amputations, and other topics)



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# Conceptual Framework & Driver Model Anchors and Helps to Guide the Addressing Disparities Program

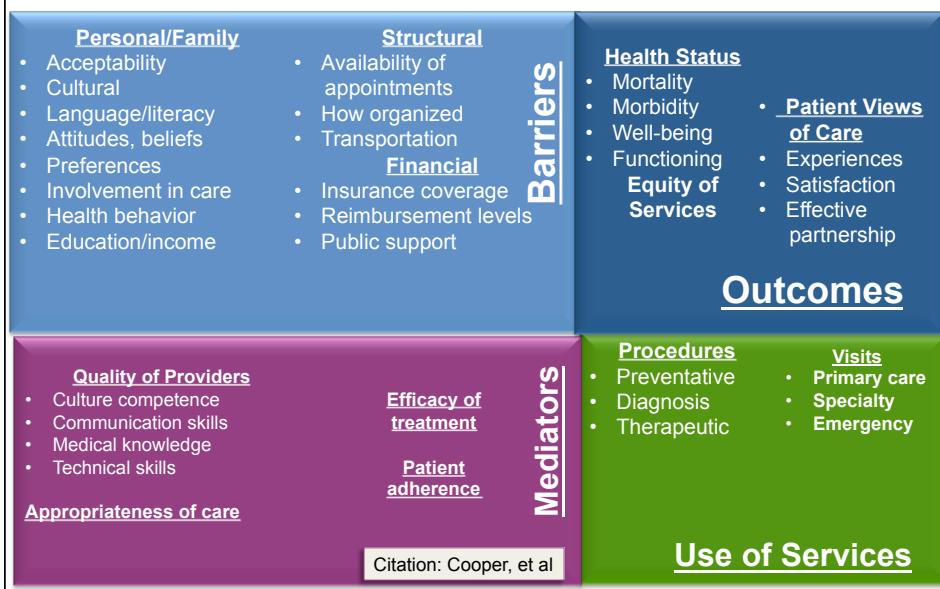


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## Barriers and Mediators of Equitable Healthcare



## Addressing Disparities Driver Model

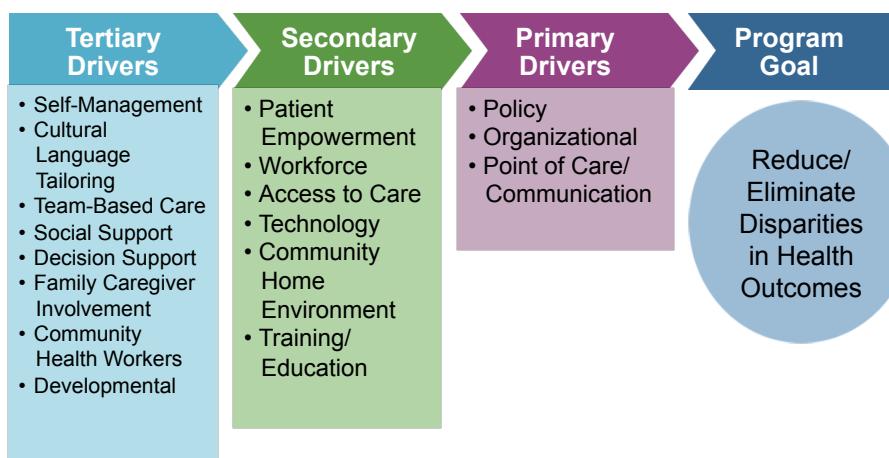
- The model is an evolving tool used to
- Evaluate where we are
- Identify where we need to go



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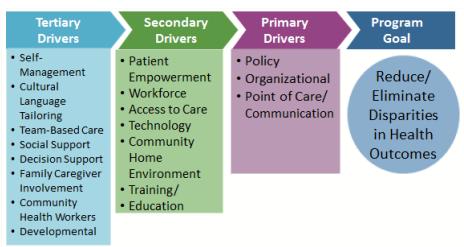
## Addressing Disparities Driver Model



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## A Look Toward Portfolio Impact



- Driver model is an analysis tool, not an end product
- Model used to
  - Identify gaps in investment
  - Identify topics we can analyze collectively
- Clusters of substantial investment have already evolved:
  - Community health workers (~50% of projects)
  - Disease self-management (~50% of projects)
  - Cultural tailoring (~40% of projects)



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## A Look Toward Portfolio Impact

Pre-Award and Strategic Planning

Post-Award and Portfolio Management

Assessment of Impact

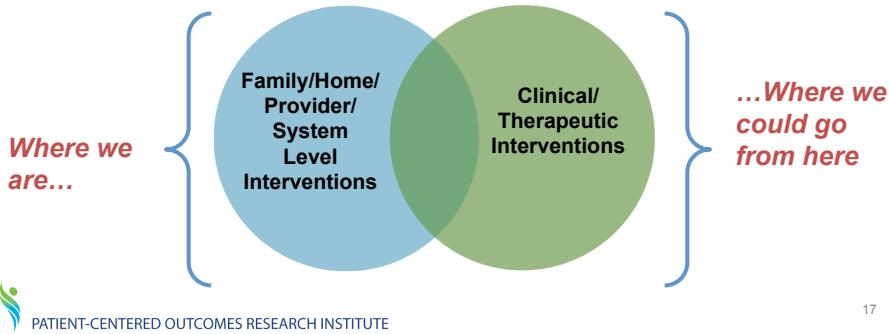


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## PCORI's Investment in CER in the AD Program

- The current AD portfolio has a large number studies with multi-component/multi-level interventions.
- None/very few of our current studies are testing specific, clinical/therapeutic interventions through head-to-head trials.
- We are interested in studies where there are noted gaps in clinical/therapeutic evidence focusing on disparities populations.



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## Additional Criteria

### Potential for Widespread Impact

Will the results of a study have an impact on healthcare policy, clinical practice, and reducing disparities?

### Feasibility

Is there a clear path to implementation in different populations and/or settings?

### Prospects for a Definitive Study

Will study results be useful/definitive to inform decision making by patients and clinicians regardless of results?

### Prospects for Partnering

Is there the potential to collaborate/partner with other funders, health plans, or medical societies to achieve scalability, adoption, and implementation?



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## Unsuccessful LOIs

- Cost Effectiveness Analysis studies are automatically disqualified
- Not targeting specific disparities population
- Comparators are not clearly delineated
- Unclear about rationale for “usual care” comparator



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## Strong LOIs

- Clearly identified:
  - Population
  - Comparators
- Dissemination plan with identified stakeholder partner involvement
- Is a unique or novel study that doesn't duplicate projects already funded in portfolio



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## Full Applications

- Very competitive
- Lots of high quality projects
- “Pretty good” proposal is not competitive
- Needs to be different from previously funded studies



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## Strong Applications

- Outline engagement throughout the study including in the dissemination plan
- Are based on head-to-head evidence-based treatments as comparators
- Clearly identify a specific Addressing Disparities population and include power calculations that target that population



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## Recap

In this session, we described:

- Addressing Disparities (AD) program area specifics
- Responsiveness of an Letter of Intent to the AD PCORI Funding Announcement (PFA)
- Success of AD applications



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## Questions?

# Thank You!

**Romana Hasnain-Wynia, PhD**  
Program Director, Addressing Disparities



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