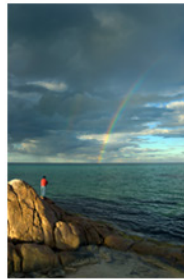
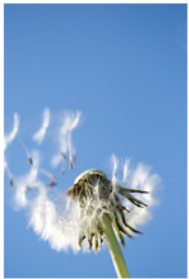




# PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH COOPERATIVE GROUP



## 2015 Pilot Award Funding Opportunity Announcement

We are excited to announce that the 2015 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) designed to provide mentorship and seed funding for research activities through the Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group (PCRC), is now available on the PCRC website: [palliativecareresearch.org](http://palliativecareresearch.org). This particular FOA encourages small research grant applications focused on supporting investigator development for building the science of palliative care. Funded proposals will use the PCRC infrastructure, may draw upon PCRC generated data, and involve PCRC investigators as mentors. 6 pilot grants will be awarded this cycle.

**Interest Letters due:** January 25, 2015 @ 5pm EST  
**Applications due:** February 1, 2015 @ 5pm ES  
**Award cycle:** July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

### Eligibility Requirements:

- At least one of the Principal Investigators must be a PCRC Member or PCRC Junior Investigator Member
- The Principal Investigator OR at least one member of the applicant team must be a Junior Investigator

**Please note:** All investigators who submit an Interest Letter are eligible to submit a full grant application and do not need to wait for approval of their Interest Letters.

**Opportunity to serve as PCRC reviewer!** If you are interested in serving as a reviewer for the upcoming Pilot Awards, please email [carey.candrian@ucdenver.edu](mailto:carey.candrian@ucdenver.edu). This is a wonderful opportunity for Junior Investigator Members to get hands-on experience reviewing and working in collaboration with senior investigators, who will also be serving as reviewers. Thank you for your service!

## PCRC STUDY LISTINGS

Study Title	Type	Status	Funding
Statin Discontinuation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)	Enrollment complete; manuscript submitted	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
Pharmacovigilance	Quality	Active enrollment; initial sites	CLHC, UC GIM & UCSF*
Best Supportive Care	Implementation	Study roll-out	American Cancer Society (ACS)
QDACT-PCRC	Quality	Study roll-out	Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)
Statin Guidelines & Practice Patterns	Survey	Protocol Development	PCRC 2014 Pilot Award
Pancreatic Care Planning	Intervention	Protocol Development	PCRC 2014 Pilot Award
Anticoagulation Therapy	Chart Review	Protocol Development	PCRC 2014 Pilot Award
Family Experiences of ICU Transfers	Qualitative	Protocol Development	PCRC 2014 Pilot Award
Caregiver Assisted Pain-Management	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)	Protocol Development	NINR R01
Pediatric Social Support	Intervention	Protocol Development	NINR R01
Caregiver Support for Pts w. Lung Cancer	Intervention	Protocol Development	NINR R01

\* Duke University's Center for Learning Health Care, University of Colorado's Division of General Internal Medicine and University of California San Francisco's Division of Geriatrics

PCRC is partnered with and generously funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research (Grant U24NR014637)

## NINR R01 Study Updates

### Study Title: Translation of a Lung Cancer Palliative Care Intervention for Clinical Practice

**Principal Investigators: Betty Ferrell (City of Hope) and Huong Nguyen (Kaiser Permanente)**

The project began in October and subject accrual will begin at the PI's local study sites on February 1. The study will include 214 patients with Stages II-IV lung cancer and their family caregivers. The intervention is based on a quality-of-life model including physical, psychological, social and spiritual well being. The study aims and hypothesis will test the outcomes of the intervention for this vulnerable population and will add to the understanding of how best to integrate palliative care advances into routine care of patients and families.

### Study Title: Caregiver-Guided Pain Management Training in Palliative Care

**Principal Investigator: Laura Porter (Duke University)**

This study will address the role of a caregiver-directed intervention for pain management at the end of life. The study team is currently in final protocol development and is finalizing site selection of 4 PCRC sites. Study implementation should begin soon!

### Study Title: Impact of a PCRC-Supported Legacy Intervention in Pediatric Palliative Care

**Principal Investigators: Terrah Foster (Vanderbilt University)**

The objective of the proposed study is to test the impact of a legacy-making intervention on coping and adjustment in children (7-17 years old) with refractory or relapsed cancer and their parents. The study team is currently piloting their Facebook and social media advertising, targeting audiences including children with cancer and their parents: Do you have a child between the ages of 7-17 who has cancer? Participate to have a chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card in a Vanderbilt University Study. Your child will create a digital story that reflects who they are, including music, photographs, and video.

Visit <http://mystor.ee/story/splash> to learn more.

## 2014 Pilot Award Study Updates

### Study Title: Anticoagulation Therapy on Discharge to Hospice Care

**Principal Investigators: Jon (JJ) Furuno (Oregon State University)**

This pilot study is a mixed methods approach to better understand anticoagulant decision making on discharge to hospice care with the long-term goal of optimizing safe and effective medication use in hospice patients at PI's local site. Preliminary results from this study suggest that among 1,142 hospice discharges, 8.2% of patients received an anticoagulant on discharge to hospice care. Indications significantly associated with receiving anticoagulation therapy included atrial fibrillation, deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism treatment on the index acute care admission, and previous heart valve replacement. OHSU pharmacy resident, Christina Kowalewska, presented these results at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Anaheim, CA in December.

### Study Title: Experiences of Family Members of Patients Admitted to the ICU from the Acute Care Floor

**Principal Investigator: Ann Long (University of Washington)**

This pilot study is examining the experiences of family members of patients requiring transfer to the ICU after clinical deterioration on the acute care floor in order to inform the design of interventions to enhance the quality of palliative and end-of-life care provided to high-risk population. All IRB procedures are complete, and the study team is actively screening for eligible family members. To date, daily evaluation of each ICU census at participating PI's local study sites has identified 17 patients experiencing ICU transfer after clinical deterioration on the acute care floor. Of these, 6 met eligibility criteria. The study team is actively pursuing enrollment of family members for these patients, and qualitative interviews and survey completion will begin this month. Insights gained from this project will inform the development of future interventions to improve palliative care for this patient population and their family members.

*Continued on page 3*

## 2014 Pilot Award Study Updates continued

### Study Title: Identifying the impact of the Statin Discontinuation Study and the new ACC/AHA guidelines on practice patterns

**Principal Investigator: Nrupen Bhavsar (Duke University)**

Surveying PCRC palliative care clinicians, this pilot study seeks to understand how the results of the Statin Discontinuation Study and proposed ACC/AHA guidelines impact health and costs associated with treating patients with life limiting illness. Currently, the study team is in the process of uploading the physician survey to Qualtrics and it will be ready for dissemination after some usability testing. Please keep an eye out for the survey link to participate!

### Study Title: Feasibility of an Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Planning Intervention in Pancreatic Cancer

**Principal Investigator: Virginia Sun (City of Hope)**

This pilot study involves testing the feasibility of an interdisciplinary palliative care planning intervention in patients with pancreatic cancer. The intervention includes case presentation and care coordination through bi-weekly interdisciplinary care meetings, and patient education on quality-of-life (physical, psychological, social, spiritual) concerns at the PI's local site. The study protocol completed initial review by City of Hope IRB, and will begin recruitment of ten pancreatic cancer patients following PCRC Scientific Review Committee review and approval. Enrolled patients will be followed for two months after receiving the interdisciplinary palliative care planning intervention. The study team plans to complete accrual in mid-March 2015.

## Upcoming important dates

### Face-to-Face PCRC Investigator Meetings

- Spring: March 26-27, 2015 (Chicago IL)
- Fall: October 7-8, 2015 (Bethesda MD)

## Steering Committee Updates

On behalf of the PCRC, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Diane Fairclough, DrPH, who served as the PCRC's lead statistician and a Steering Committee member for the past three years. Diane – your time, expertise and guidance have been invaluable to the success of the PCRC!

And at the same time, we would like to welcome Dr. Greg Samsa to the Steering Committee! Greg is also a member of the Scientific Review Committee and co-directs the Data, Statistics and Informatics Center (DISC) and we are fortunate to have such an outstanding statistician lead us forward. Professionally, Dr. Samsa is a statistical generalist – the statistical equivalent of a family doctor that knows a little bit about everything (but not necessarily a lot about



anything). Apart from the usual experiences with trials and observational databases, he has also worked in the area of information synthesis – for example, through decision and cost-effectiveness modeling that use systematic reviews to generate their inputs. He is intrigued by the notion of learning health systems, and is searching for a way to make a contribution to that discipline. During the past few years he has been spending significant energy developing graduate programs offered by the biostatistics department at Duke, the distinguishing feature being extending their focus from the usual one on analytics to also include biology and communication. He hopes to demonstrate that much of the artistic component in the art of statistical practice can be systematically taught.

During his career he has had the opportunity to collaborate with people in almost every area of medicine. Dr. Samsa particularly enjoys working in palliative care, as people in this field are consistently among the most sensitive and decent people that he has encountered.

## Connect with us!



pcrc@duke.edu @pcrcgroup pcrcgroup

[www.palliativecareresearch.org](http://www.palliativecareresearch.org)