



Enhancing Workforce Development to Accelerate Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RFI # WD-2023

1/17/2023

KEY DATES	
Request for Information Released	1/17/2023
Comments Due	3/17/2023

Issued By

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Infrastructure and Innovation, Workforce Development

About PCORI

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is an independent, nonprofit organization authorized by federal law. PCORI helps patients, caregivers, clinicians, policy makers, and other healthcare system stakeholders make better-informed health decisions—and improves healthcare delivery and outcomes—by funding research that produces high-integrity evidence about how to prevent, diagnose, treat, monitor, and manage diseases, disorders, and other health conditions, and by promoting the dissemination and uptake of this evidence. PCORI is committed to transparency and to a rigorous stakeholder-driven process that emphasizes engagement of patients, caregivers, and the broader healthcare community in all aspects of PCORI-funded research and its dissemination and uptake. For more information, visit [PCORI.org](https://www.pcori.org).

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Purpose

This request for information (RFI) is for exploratory purposes only to inform decisions regarding the prioritization and feasibility of strategic investment opportunities for workforce development to accelerate patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR). Workforce development is a critical component of PCORI's National Priorities for Health, which include a focus on "enhance[ing] the infrastructure that facilitates patient-centered outcomes research to drive lasting improvements in health and transformation of both the research enterprise and care delivery."

With this priority in mind, PCORI is interested in engaging the PCORI community regarding the opportunities to develop and support the PCOR workforce. PCORI conceptualizes the "PCOR workforce" broadly to include researchers, health system leaders, patients, community members, and others from diverse backgrounds who lead and partner in PCOR. PCORI is particularly interested in feedback on opportunities that may best support PCORI's [National Priorities for Health, Research Agenda](#), and [Strategic Plan](#). The information received will help inform PCORI's strategy for assessing and prioritizing opportunities for future investment.

This RFI should not be construed as an intent, commitment, or promise to acquire services or solutions offered. PCORI will use information submitted by respondents at its own discretion and will not necessarily provide comments to respondent submissions. PCORI will not reimburse RFI respondents for any expenses associated with responding to this RFI, though PCORI sincerely appreciates respondents' efforts and input.

Background

In late 2019, Congress reauthorized PCORI funding for another 10 years. A decade of generating evidence, influencing health research to be more patient-centered, and accelerating dissemination and implementation of research findings, as well as feedback from extensive discussions with the PCORI community, led to the adoption of a set of ambitious long-term goals—PCORI's [National Priorities for Health](#). PCORI's [Strategic Plan](#) provides a roadmap for our activities in the years ahead and reflects a holistic approach to generating and promoting the use of evidence designed to enable a more patient-centered system of health. The essential elements of this approach are comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) funding, stakeholder engagement, dissemination and implementation of research results, and investments to enhance the nation's health research infrastructure.

PCORI's National Priorities for Health explicitly state a commitment to accelerate the infrastructure needed to advance PCOR, a type of CER. PCORI takes a broad view of the work necessary to achieve progress toward this goal, including methodological research to advance CER, data and technical tools that can make research more efficient, and the PCOR workforce and delivery systems that are at the heart of patient care.

PCORI's newly established Workforce Development unit develops, executes, and leads strategies to advance the human resource components of PCOR infrastructure—in other words, *the people* who both lead and partner in PCOR.

Two priority areas for PCORI's Workforce Development unit are:

- **PCOR Training and Development:** Lead efforts to build an expanded, strong, diverse, and sustainable workforce trained in conducting and partnering in research by supporting the creation of PCOR curricula and delivering training and development opportunities.
- **Learning Health Systems (LHS) Training and Development:** Accelerate progress towards an integrated LHS by helping to develop a new generation of the PCOR community, including health system and community leaders who can support the generation, adoption, and application of evidence to improve the outcomes of individuals, populations, and health system performance.

As part of these priority areas, PCORI is supporting advancements in PCOR training development and accelerating progress toward an integrated learning health system by promoting innovative approaches to engagement, data and technology, methods, and organization, culture, and system change. This will be accomplished through program activities that include building skills and capacities through external partnerships and the funding and management of projects such as the [AHRQ-PCORI K12 Institutional Mentored Career Development Program](#) and the newly announced [AHRQ-PCORI Learning Health System Embedded Scientist Training and Research \(LHS E-STaR\) Centers program](#).

PCORI's workforce programs will be conducted in alignment with [PCORI's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion](#). Programs will also actively support PCORI's National Priorities for Health to achieve health equity by expanding stakeholder engagement, research, and dissemination approaches that lead to continued progress toward achieving health equity in the United States.

Questions to Consider

PCORI seeks responses to the following questions related to the PCOR workforce landscape. **Respondents are invited to provide comments on any or all of the questions below:**

1. What are the greatest opportunities for health research workforce development? In particular, please comment on opportunities, gaps, and challenges in any of the following areas: engagement; data and technology; methods; and organizational issues such as culture change, diversity, equity and inclusion, and skills and capacities to effect system change (for example, accelerating progress toward a learning health system).
2. What programs and engagement strategies might PCORI consider developing to serve the workforce development needs of those who lead and partner in research? *See box below.*
3. What are the top strategic opportunities for PCOR workforce development that PCORI might consider supporting or leading? Are there partners or exemplar programs with which PCORI might consider engaging?
4. Are there other priorities or considerations related to PCOR workforce development PCORI should be aware of?

PCOR Workforce

PCORI conceptualizes the “PCOR workforce” broadly to include researchers, health system leaders, patients, community members, and others from diverse backgrounds who lead and partner in PCOR. For example:

Clinicians: Providers of health care in a clinical setting, including physicians, nurses, physician assistants, rehabilitative professionals, pharmacists, mental healthcare providers, complementary and alternative healthcare providers, and professional societies serving clinicians; can include both clinician researchers and clinicians that partner in research

Communities: Including community leadership and individuals who contribute, partner, and/or lead or co-lead research on issues affecting their community

Health System Staff and Leadership: Those who support research within health systems – organizations where care is delivered, including public and private hospitals and health systems, urgent care centers, retail health clinics, and community health centers, and organizations representing these facilities

Patient and Caregiver Partners: Persons with current or past experience of illness or injury, family members or other unpaid caregivers of patients, or members of advocacy organizations that represent patients or caregivers who contribute, partner, and/or lead or co-lead research

Researchers: From early career to late career, and research organizations and funders that reach diverse constituencies

Training Institutions: Those that deliver health professional education, including public and private universities and colleges, individuals affiliated with the delivery or administration of health professional education, and trade or professional associations representing these institutions, organizations, and individuals

Other Stakeholders from Diverse Backgrounds: Purchasers, payers, industry, policymakers and additional members of the PCOR community

Submission Guidelines

Interested organizations should submit responses to this RFI, **not to exceed five pages**, including all attachments, charts, etc. and using single-space, 12pt font minimum. Brevity and structured formats such as bulleted items are encouraged. All proprietary information should be marked as such. PCORI will provide confirmation of response submission, but respondents will not receive individualized feedback.

All responses, questions and inquiries must be in writing and emailed to workforcedevelopment@pcori.org by **March 17, 2023**. Please reference RFI# WD-2023 on all correspondence.

Responses will be confidential and may be used in aggregate to identify themes and priorities for PCORI. PCORI may choose to use the themes identified in the RFI responses in future public activities or materials. While quotes of responses may be utilized to clarify a specific theme, they will not be attributed and will not include any identifying information.

PCORI views this RFI as an opportunity for the PCOR community – including researchers, patients, caregivers, communities, health systems, and others from diverse backgrounds – to contribute information based on their knowledge and experience, acknowledging that participation is completely voluntary. You may choose to answer all or some of the questions above. This RFI should not be construed as an intent, commitment, or promise to issue funding opportunities or to fund any project. PCORI will use information submitted by respondents at its own discretion and will not provide comments in response to respondent submissions.

Due Date

Responses are due no later than 5 pm (ET) on March 17, 2023.