HEALTH SERVICES CORE

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Core Chair

Melisa Wong, MD
Junior Faculty Lead
Harvey Cohen, MD
Core Chair

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Tomma Hargraves
Patient Advocate Board:
SCOREboard Member

Meghan Karuturi, MD
Junior Investigator Board Member

Lisa Lowenstein, PhD

Jennifer Lund, PhD

Cara McDermott,
PharmD, PhD

Manvi Sharma, RPh, PhD
Junior Investigator Board Member

John Simmons, MD
Patient Advocate Board:
SCOREboard Member
HEALTH SERVICES CORE

CORE MISSION

- Foster and advance Health Services Research (HSR) in geriatric oncology
- Support researchers to design and conduct high-quality HSR focused on older adults with cancer and caregivers including patterns of care, comparative effectiveness, care delivery, and implementation science
- Partner with Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (Analytics) Core to understand strengths and limitations of specific data elements
- Provide consultations for HSR projects
  - Aims and study design
  - Grant planning
  - Data collection tools for health care utilization
  - Data access procedures for administrative databases
- Expand evidence base for personalized tailored care for older adults with cancer

CORE FUNCTION

- Consultation service for junior geriatric oncology investigators and senior investigators new to cancer and aging
- Advance quality of real-world data for older adults by advocating inclusion of standardized geriatric-specific doma
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- R21 phase/R33 Year 1 accomplishments/deliverables
  - 6 Core meetings to review 4 inquiries
    - PCORI implementation grant to implement GA in clinical practice (Lowenstein)
    - Career development grant to improve GA delivery and documentation in diverse populations (Schiaffino)
    - Form development for healthcare utilization for survivorship R01 (Mohile, 2 calls)
  - Collaborated with Analytics Core to develop database of available geri onc data sets
WHAT’S WORKING/WHAT’S NOT?

- What’s working
  - Diverse Core membership with diverse expertise
  - Engaged Core members ready to provide input
  - High Core meeting attendance by members

- Areas for Improvement
  - Need to increase number of HSR inquiries from broader CARG membership (only one inquiry from non-Core members)
  - Clarify potential areas of overlap with Analytics Core
  - Ongoing identification of expertise gaps we need to fill
HEALTH SERVICES CORE: EXAMPLE INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- Administrative claims database research:
  - How do I access datasets and create novel database linkages?
  - How do I identify relevant study populations, define treatments, covariates, and outcomes?

- Implementation science:
  - Which implementation science theory/framework/model should I use for my research question?
  - What implementation outcomes should be measured and how?
  - How should I design my study to capture relevant outcomes to inform a follow-up study to foster dissemination and implementation?
  - How do I adapt an evidence-based intervention for local settings and evaluate the adapted intervention?

- Descriptive and causal inference studies:
  - How do I address confounding, immortal time bias, and enhance external validity?
HEALTH SERVICES CORE: EXAMPLE INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- **Mixed methods:**
  - How can I incorporate mixed methods to enhance my study?
  - How do I best integrate my quantitative and qualitative data in a rigorous fashion?

- **Cancer care delivery research:**
  - How do I design an intervention that is feasible from a patient perspective and sustainable long-term?
  - How to design data collection tools that are low burden for patient and project staff to capture important health care utilization measures?

- **Shared decision making:**
  - How do I adapt this decision aid for older adults? How do I best measure shared decision making to test my decision aid?

- **Palliative care and end-of-life HSR:**
  - How do I address distinct challenges in data collection, follow-up response, and work with caregiver vulnerable populations
HEALTH SERVICES CORE: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Core membership: Goal of inclusion
  - Expand to new members based on expertise (let us know if you’re interested!)
  - Annual recommitment based on individual availability

- Outreach
  - Each Core member to bring at least one inquiry to CARG this year (e.g., self, mentees, colleagues)

- Collaboration with other Cores
  - Potential collaborative input from multiple Cores with select members based on expertise

- Career development
  - Option to open some HSR Core calls to CARG members if the specific inquiry allows