Research Support: Call for Proposals

Letter of Intent Deadline:
September 30, 2016 for initial review.
Proposals accepted on a rolling basis after September 30, 2016.

The Sparrow/MSU Center for Innovation and Research (CFIR) is interested in receiving Letters of Intent for research projects that address any of the outlined topics below. If a topic does not meet the investigators’ interests or if investigators believe there are other topics of need, the CFIR is also interested in receiving Letters of Intent for research projects on other topics and general focus. These topics, however, must also keep in mind the mission and vision of The Center for Innovation and Research.

- **Pain Management:** Millions of people in the U.S. suffer from pain on a daily basis, resulting in significantly decreased quality of life and related negative health outcomes for many of these individuals. For individuals in the hospital, pain may contribute to longer stays and recovery times, which have implications for health care costs and quality. Managing pain can be complex, particularly when individuals have co-morbid conditions. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to encourage a wide range of studies on pain management as they relate to the mission and vision of the CFIR. In alignment with national priorities, major funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, are also prioritizing research related to pain management. We encourage proposals on a range of topics related to pain management. New advances are needed in all areas of pain management: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-16-188.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-16-188.html).

- **Psychosocial Aspects of Health:** Psychosocial aspects of health are understudied and not well understood. Yet, they are one of the most important contributions to healthcare and health outcomes (Cukor, Cohen, Peterson, & Kimmel, 2007). Research focusing on psychosocial factors and health often focuses on such factors as: stress, social support, autonomy/control, trust, hostility, work environment, depression, and hopelessness. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to solicit proposals for innovative research projects focused on better understanding psychosocial factors in relation to overall healthcare processes and health outcomes for specific populations. Studies in this area may also focus on the work environment of healthcare settings and organizations and how psychosocial aspects affect employee satisfaction, stress, and related outcomes, which may ultimately affect patient care and safety.

- **Care Coordination and Navigation:** With the rates of chronic health conditions increasing, particularly among certain populations (e.g., older adults, lower socioeconomic status groups, etc.), increasing research is needed on the processes of care coordination and navigation, both from healthcare organizations and from patient and caregiver perspectives. According to McDonald et al. (2010, p. 4), "Care Coordination is the deliberate organization of patient care activities between two or more participants (including the patient) involved in a patient’s care to facilitate the appropriate delivery of health care services. Organizing care involves the marshalling of personnel and other resources needed to carry out all required patient care activities and is often managed by the exchange of information among participants responsible for different aspects of..."
care.” Given the complexity that comes with numerous treatment options and diverse healthcare staff, suitable patient care coordination and navigation is extremely important to “ensure that all patients receive timely and appropriate healthcare in a streamlined fashion, in order to optimize patients’ experiences of care and outcomes [as well as] maximize health service efficiency” (Walsh et al., 2011, p. 221). While care coordination and navigation within healthcare organizations is important, these activities do not end when the patient leaves the healthcare setting. We encourage submissions focusing on inpatient, outpatient, and community based care coordination and navigation.

- **Other:** In addition to the three substantive areas noted above, we are also interested in investigator-initiated topics that advance understanding of healthcare processes, delivery, and outcomes in innovative ways that are likely to lead to larger, scalable projects in the future.

**Research Project Letters of Intent (1-2 pages) must contain:**

Reviewed for Relevance to Mission and Vision and Priority Areas.

1. Aims
2. Description of study
3. Significance of study
4. **Innovation**
5. Relevance to the Mission and Vision of the Center for Innovation and Research should be explained. Relationship to patient care delivery, quality, safety, outcomes, and cost should be described.
6. Relevance to Sparrow Health System
7. **Speaks to gaps in current scientific knowledge, potential to transform care (Safety, quality, outcomes, and cost)**
8. One-year proposal timeline
9. List of research team and affiliation (clearly indicate which team members are from MSU and which are from Sparrow)
10. **Likelihood to lead to another proposal at Federal level. (Include PA #, RFA #, priority lists)**

No budgets are required with the Letter of Intent submission. If the team is asked to submit a Full Proposal, a budget will be included at that time. Budgets are typically $50,000 or less; however, higher budgets may be approved for exceptionally innovative projects proposed by experienced teams with a strong track record of external funding.

The study should have potential impact beyond Sparrow to the larger Health Care System.

**Please include the following information in your Letter of Intent: Project title, Name of Primary Investigator (PI) with credentials, PI email, PI office phone number, and an alternate phone number.**

**Please electronically submit Letters of Intent to:** Sharon.Baer@Sparrow.org

**Receipt of all documents will be confirmed via e-mail.** If no response has been received within two business days after the application deadline, send an e-mail to: Sharon.Baer@Sparrow.org or call 517-364-5730.

- **Documents that are incomplete or not prepared according to the instructions will not be reviewed and will be returned.**
Research Project Letters of Intent will be accepted on a rolling basis, but no later than September 30, 2016 by 5:00 p.m. for the initial review period.

The Center for Innovation and Research will review the Letters of Intent and make selections for requests for Full Proposals. Invited applicants will submit Full Proposals approximately 4 weeks after the invitation.

Research Project Letters of Intent must be submitted electronically in WORD format.

For more information or questions, please contact The Center for Innovation and Research by email at: Sharon.Baer@Sparrow.Org or by calling 517-364-5730.

- Letters of Intent should support the Mission and Vision of the Center and be consistent with the priority criteria.
- Interdisciplinary partnerships with active team members from both Sparrow and MSU is a requirement (Active means the team member is a key contributor).

References:

