T3 - IMPLEMENTING RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE  (Up to $20K)

The Institute of Medicine (2009) ranks knowledge transfer as a high research priority. Each year, billions of U.S. tax dollars are spent on research and hundreds of billions are spent on service delivery and community health programs. However, relatively little is spent on, or known about, how best to ensure that the lessons learned from research are relevant to, and inform and improve the quality of health, and delivery of services.

This two year pilot award, through Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICHR), is designed for researcher-clinician partnerships to address a significant healthcare issue for which there is a research base. The focus is on implementing research-based practices in various types of healthcare to improve outcomes of individuals and families. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support innovative approaches to overcoming barriers to use of evidence-based interventions in a variety of healthcare sites. The award is designed to provide researchers and clinicians with experience and evaluation data from an implementation project that strives to improve quality of care. Findings from these projects should serve as a basis for future grant applications to 1) test implementation strategies; 2) examine the influence of context on knowledge uptake and use; and/or 3) spread (“scale up”) evidence-based practices with demonstrated effectiveness. Applications awarded pilot grant funding are expected to complete a manuscript with submission to a peer reviewed journal by the end of the two year funding cycle.

We are seeking researchers and key stakeholders who are committed to implementing improvements in care delivery based on research evidence. We are especially interested in projects that hold promise for future grant funding and/or spread across several practice communities. Examples of topics include but are not limited to the following: hypertension screening and treatment; provision of family focused care; diabetes prevention; self-care management for chronic conditions; obesity prevention and treatment; care coordination; and pain management. These are only examples and we encourage proposals that address other healthcare topics for which there is a research base.

Additional Guidelines and Information
The project plan should include the following:
- Description of the investigator-key stakeholder partnership
- Practice recommendations based on the summary of research
- Site of implementation including a description of the setting (e.g. patient care unit, primary care practice, long-term care setting; community health agency) and populations receiving care in those settings.
- Key stakeholders involved with implementation
- Implementation strategies with supporting rationale.
- Evaluation Plan (process and outcome indicators that demonstrate improvements in care and alignment with the evidence-base).

The application needs to illustrate that the partnership is a collaborative effort between the researcher and the major key stakeholder or clinician. The application should include how potential challenges encountered during the project will be addressed and the plans by the key stakeholder, clinician or healthcare agency to sustain improvements following project completion.

The application requires letters of support from the Department Head/Chair of the scientist and the supervisor/leader of the key stakeholder, clinician or individual community member.

In addition to the stated expectations, please consult the Eligibility Requirements and Application Guidelines document for additional Pilot Grant Program restrictions and requirements.
Funding and cost share requirements: Support for this award must be justified by a detailed budget which cannot exceed $20,000. This application requires matching funds (of $10,000) from the scientist’s department at the University of Michigan. Applicants must ensure that a matching dollar commitment equal to 1/2 of the total budget is secured from the PI's sponsoring department/unit prior to submission. The one half or 10K matching dollar requirement may be divided between collaborating units.

Two Award examples are illustrated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 sponsoring departments:</th>
<th>1 sponsoring department:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICHR = 10K</td>
<td>MICHR = 10K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of the Investigator 1 = 5K</td>
<td>Department of the PI only = 10K</td>
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<td>Organization of the Investigator 2 = 5K</td>
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<td>Total Award = 20K</td>
<td>Total Award = 20K</td>
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Review Process
Proposals will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team composed of implementation scientists and key stakeholders based on the following:

Merit: The proposal addresses
- a significant practice or healthcare issue of high impact
- clear description of the evidence-base for the practice
- well-designed implementation plan
- inclusion of key stakeholders
- feasible timeline
- shared responsibility of researcher and clinician, or key stakeholder
- strong evaluation plan

Sustainability:
- Considerations of sustainability are integrated into the implementation plan
- Plans for ongoing sustainability following completion of the project are addressed

For questions about this RFA or assistance with the application, please contact: Kent Key, kentk@umich.edu