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INTRODUCTION

UF Health Jacksonville, like all healthcare institutions, is adjusting to rapidly changing dynamics, notably of healthcare accountability, performance-based reimbursement, electronic information, and disparities in population health.

The Center for Health Equity & Quality Research (CHEQR) provides an organizational structure that strategically utilizes and synthesizes the broad range of individual and clinical capacities to embrace the mission, vision and values of UF Health. CHEQR made substantial contributions to the UF Health Academic Health Center missions in Jacksonville during the 2015-16 academic year.

Apart from building foundations for faculty to grow external funding, CHEQR staff have acquired external funding for population health and health equity research. However, CHEQR’s major role and return on investment is its support of UF Health missions in education and research. CHEQR also provides extensive support for the Academic Health Center service mission through data analysis supporting quality improvement and performance measurement as well as supporting evaluation of implementation and dissemination of evidence based medicine and healthcare.

Support for Education Mission

CHEQR’s primary accomplishment is its service as a campus wide research center. For example, ACGME RRC requirements for graduate medical education residencies require resident engagement in research. Support CHEQR provides resident and fellow research helps offset heavy clinical demands on faculty. Thus, CHEQR also helps many faculty with significant clinical effort overcome the major challenges to engage in their own research as well as mentor research of residents and fellows. Scholarship reported in the Campus Research Support Center illustrates this critical role in support of the education mission of the UF Health Jacksonville.
Support for Research Mission

CHEQR provides extensive support for the research mission overall and with particular emphasis in community engagement in research. Community engagement through participatory research and empowerment evaluation studies complements the UF Health commitment to our community. However, these research efforts in engagement and participatory studies also support and complement broader UF Health efforts to obtain external funding for research through mechanisms such as the CTSI and PCORI. These accomplishments are illustrated in the Campus Research Support Center, Community Engagement section of this Report.

Funding for Sponsored Programs

CHEQR has been successful in supporting research grant proposals for faculty from a broad range of clinical departments, including: background research efforts, program and research plan development, evaluation plans where appropriate, and completion and submission of requisite forms. CHEQR faculty and staff have also been successful in acquiring grants and contracts for local and state community services and research in public health systems and community based participatory research.

Faculty Scholarship to Build Research Portfolio

External funding for a wide range of research opportunities that typify academic health centers require demonstrated expertise reflected in scholarship for the areas for which external funding is requested. Suitable faculty scholarship that befits the role of a principal investigator is a prerequisite for successful grant requests. Thus CHEQR works with faculty to bolster individual and institutional portfolios needed to win more external funding in an era when such funding is increasingly competitive.

This Annual Report is intended to summarize accomplishments of CHEQR in the past year as well as to describe its ongoing role in further developing capacity of UF Health Jacksonville to undertake research, clinical analytics, and community engagement.

The Report is organized by major types of services that CHEQR provides as these align with the Mission, Vision and Values of UF Health:

- Campus Research Support Center
- Community Engagement
- Statewide Initiatives
The UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is a multi-campus resource offering research support services, research initiatives, education and community engagement. Within UF Health Jacksonville, CHEQR aims to mirror and expand at the local level resources and services similar to and increasingly aligned with the CTSI.

CHEQR focuses on education, research, grant development and scholarship to support faculty, residents and fellows in the College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, and UF Health.

**Education**

CHEQR provides research education programs tailored to specific needs that increase research capacities of faculty and trainees at UF Health Jacksonville.

We provide the following lecture series in an online platform that is available to students, residents and faculty on campus:

- Research Design Course
- Introductory Biostatistics Course
- SPSS course
- Grant Writing Seminar Series

These courses and seminars are available on the UFHealth Jacksonville Intranet at [http://1b-esx-infonet.umc.ufl.edu/cheqr/Pages/default.aspx](http://1b-esx-infonet.umc.ufl.edu/cheqr/Pages/default.aspx).

CHEQR faculty also provide lectures and tutorials by request, on topics such as grant writing, manuscript development, and effective research presentations.

In addition, CHEQR faculty have mentored faculty on campus to build their publication, research, and funding portfolio. This year, Dr. Faheem Guirgis (Emergency Medicine) received a K-award after working with CHEQR faculty since 2014, including the publication of seven co-authored articles with CHEQR.

**Research**

CHEQR provides research design and analysis consultation services including IRB preparation, protocol development, data collection, statistical analysis, and assistance with manuscripts and grants. Consultations include navigation towards an end result of either scholarship or grant submission.

Requests for services are triaged through a Consultation Request Form on the CHEQR website (using a REDCap form - [consulting and research services form](http://hscj.ufl.edu/cheqr/BiostatisticalServices.aspx)).

In 2015-2016, of the approximately 122 consultations, 70% needed assistance with their IRB application, 32% needed assistance with their study design and 77% needed statistical analysis. A third of consultations needed advice on data collection strategies, data processing and cleaning, and/or exploratory data analysis. Approximately 10% of these projects included support in the development of grant proposals for federal and local grant opportunities.
Grants

CHEQR assists with grant submissions across campus. Mentoring new investigators is a top priority. A publication and research track record is needed to achieve extramural funding in today’s research climate. Often, funding begins small through foundations or internal funding sources but this is an important early step by which research experience and a portfolio is eventually built. Over time, some preliminary studies lead to more federal grants such as R01 or K-awards.

Grant preparation also includes developing relationships between researchers, various experts, and the community. CHEQR has a successful track record of linking researchers; between campuses, between universities, and with the community. Below are recent grants CHEQR provided support for; some with preparing the application, others with funding by/for CHEQR Faculty. Grants are broken down by active/continuing, newly funded, pending, and non-funded.

Active/Continuing Grants

Lori Bilello, PhD (CHEQR) Evaluation of the Fostering Systems of Care Initiative (SOCI) Program. Sub-Award SAMHSA. $1,200,000 (CHEQR: $199,581).

Lori Bilello, PhD (CHEQR) Evaluation of the Systems of Care Initiative (SOCI) Expansion Program. Sub-Award SAMHSA. $600,000 (CHEQR: $60,000).

Lori Bilello, PhD (CHEQR) Partnerships to Improve Community Health. Sub-award CDC/Broward Regional Health Planning Council. $77,055.

Lori Bilello, PhD (CHEQR) Measuring integration between health care and public health to improve HIV early detection and control. RWJF Sub-award/RTI. $25,133.
William Livingood, PhD. (CHEQR) Study of local agency QI interventions to improve cost effectiveness of delivering STI services. RWJF. $277,642.

William Livingood, PhD. (CHEQR) Adolescent Obesity and Digital Health Intervention and CBPR. NIH. $35,000.

Steven Cuffe, MD (Psychiatry) Project to learn about youth (PLAY) - Mental Health Jax. CDC. $499,911 (CHEQR: $19,357.00).

Jeffrey Goldhagen, MD, MPH. Faculty Development in Community and Societal Pediatrics. HRSA. $1,046,741. (CHEQR: $7,709).

New—Funded Grants

Lori Bilello, PhD (CHEQR) ENRGISE- ENabling Reduction of low-Grade Inflammation in Seniors Pilot Study. Sub-award NIH Dr. Pahor, Institute for Aging, UF Gainesville. (CHEQR $4,500/randomized participant).

Lori Bilello, PhD (CHEQR) Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative. Florida Department of Health. (CHEQR $10,000).

CHEQR Supported applications—Pending Grants

Gurjit Kaeley, MD. (Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology) Can Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Reduce Imaging and Procedural Cost in Medicare Beneficiaries. AHRQ. Submission pending.


Non-Funded Grant Submissions

Carolyn Tucker PhD, (Psychology) Health-Smart: A church based empowerment model for weight reduction in African American communities. NIH. Not funded.


Lori Bilello, PhD. (CHEQR) (Primary: Apel Health Service Center) Capacity Building Initiative for Substance Abuse (SA) and HIV Prevention Services of At-Risk Racial/Ethnic Minority Youth and Young Adults. SAMHSA. Not funded.
Emma Roberson-Blackmore, PhD. (CHEQR) Antenatal Depression and Infant Outcomes. Health Resources & Services Administration. Not funded

Sunita Dodani, MD. (CHEQR) iHEALS: A Randomized Lipid Control Health Behavior Intervention Comparing Individualized and Community. Not funded.

Scholarship

CHEQR is committed to supporting scholarship including peer reviewed publications, white papers, abstracts, reports, presentations and posters. CHEQR strives to support faculty, residents and fellows to publish in high-impact, peer reviewed journals. Such publications disseminate important research being conducted on the campus and increase the likelihood of external funding. Highlighted scholarship through the support of CHEQR Faculty and staff are listed below:

Publications & Scholarship


Abstracts & Presentations


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH

CHEQR, as an extension of the UF CTSI, is focused on the community through partnerships with community agencies to education of potential research participants, with an emphasis on improving health and ending health disparities and inequities. Examples of this work include:

Jacksonville Health Equity Research Organization (JaxHERO)
CHEQR provides management and research support to JaxHERO. This is registered by the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) as a Primary Care Practice-Based Research Network. JaxHERO is composed of primary care centers from UF Health Jacksonville, Florida Department of Health-Duval, Mayo Clinic and St. Vincent’s Family Residency program. This network of primary care centers serve over 150,000 patients, many who are disproportionately minority and poor with high rates of diabetes, hypertension, cancer and other conditions. This network is also part of the OneFlorida Clinical Research Consortium funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). JaxHERO has collaborated with UF researchers on numerous research projects in the areas of diabetes (Dr. Hall), obesity (Dr. Tucker), pain management (Dr. Harle), and health risk assessments (Dr. Shenkman). Most recently JaxHERO collaborated with Dr. Rhonda Cooper-DeHoff, PharmD on a project entitled OPTImizing Precision of Hypertension Care to Maximize Blood Pressure Control Pilot (OPTI-BP Pilot). These projects have resulted in multiple publications and grants.

Florida Public Health Practice-Based Research Network (FL-PBRN)
CHEQR is also the Statewide Coordinating Center for the FL-PBRN. The FL-PBRN includes all 67 county health departments, the Florida Department of Health, and university partners representing the major public health colleges throughout the state. The network has been awarded two Robert Wood Johnson Foundation research grants.

Academic Community Partnership & Youth Advisory Board
An NIH supported academic–community partnership grant supported CHEQR efforts to engage the broader Jacksonville community, an adolescent youth research advisory board, and the youth serving primary care practitioners to develop intervention research using digital media to prevent and control adolescent obesity. NIH support enabled CHEQR to submit applications for other NIH funding opportunities, and illustrates the application of engagement and participatory research with a broad range of communities.

Project to Learn About Youth (PLAY) - Mental Health Jax.
This is a CDC funded community-based study to examine the epidemiology of specific mental health issues in youth facilitated through the Duval County Public Schools. CHEQR provides biostatistical and research assistance to this project. Dr. Steven Cuffe, Chair of Psychiatry, is the PI and Emma Robertson-Blackmore, PhD (CHEQR/Psychiatry Faculty) is a Co-PI. The project has multiple implications for the community including for the SAMHSA JSOCI grant (CHEQR evaluates).

ENabling Reduction of low-Grade Inflammation in SEniors (ENRGISE) Pilot Study.
This is a NIH funded feasibility study by Dr. Marco Pahor at the Institute for Aging, UF Gainesville. Dr. Lori Bilello serves as the local Jacksonville PI for the study, along with multiple CHEQR staff who implement the study protocol. The purpose of the study is to determine if two interventions (Losartan and/or Omega 3 fish oil) can reduce inflammation and improve mobility in people 70 and older. ENRGISE relies on
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH Cont.

community networking for referrals to the research through community outreach from groups including The 100 Grandmas, The Schell Sweet Center at Edward Waters College, and the UF COM-J Department of Family and Community Medicine. ENRGISE is also connected to UF COM-J Cardiology Research Laboratory, Brooks Rehabilitation Services, and HealthStreet community health workers’ outreach.

Jacksonville Regional Healthcare Collaborative (JRHC)
CHEQR faculty participate in the Jacksonville JRHC, a collective of entities committed to improving population health. The JRHC is comprised of healthcare providers, healthcare businesses, educators, and other interested parties throughout the region. JRHC aims to be a convening environment for synergistic collaboration that improves urban health, and stimulates economic growth through research, education and innovation across a spectrum of health industries and community development initiatives.

Community engagement in research is a two way street; to enable engagement, CHEQR staff and faculty serve within the community to develop connections to facilitate community based research. These partnerships include working with organizations like the Duval County Public Schools, The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), Drug Free Duval, Florida Department of Health in Duval, the Northeast Florida Health Planning Council, the University of North Florida, Jacksonville Areas Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN), PFLAG of Jacksonville, APEL, Family Support Services, and many other non-profit groups, all supporting a healthier region.

EVALUATION SERVICES

CHEQR faculty and staff has extensive experience providing program evaluation and quality improvement consulting including to:
- non-profit organizations
- local and state public health organizations
- K-12 public school systems

Evaluation is a critical component of many community, health care, and health professions grants. We provide tailored evaluations that are rigorous and meaningful to programs and funders.

During the past year, we provided evaluation services to two multi-million dollar federal grants – SAMHSA System of Care Initiative and the CDC Partnerships to Improve Community Health as well as other programs in the community and within UF Health Jacksonville.

SAMHSA System of Care Initiative – Jacksonville System of Care Initiative (SOCI) was awarded a cooperative agreement by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to benefit the system for children’s mental health services within Duval County, Florida. Subsequently, CHEQR was awarded a sub-contract through the City of Jacksonville and Managed Access to Child Health (MATCH, Inc.) to evaluate the Initiative. This evaluation is required by the SAMHSA Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Families Initiative (CMHS). In addition, each grantee has local evaluation activities that focus on key issues that are
important to the local initiative and the community. For SOCI, this includes an analysis of the Medical Home for Homeless Children Program (MHHCP), High Fidelity Wraparound Program and the Mirror Project, an organizational self-assessment designed to help organizations evaluate strengths and areas for improvement in the area of cultural and linguistic competency (CLC). Additionally, CHEQR provided evaluation services to an expansion grant for the System of Care that was awarded in 2016 that focuses on children and youth involved in mental health crisis stabilization facilities.

**CDC Partnerships to Improve Community Health** – Broward Regional Health Planning Council was granted a *Partnerships to Improve Community Health* (PICH) award, one of only 39 grants awarded throughout the United States. The PICH initiative is a true collaborative working with multi-sector community organizations and agencies to reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, improve nutrition, increase physical activity and improve access to programs for preventing and managing chronic diseases. Over 25 organizations are part of the PICH initiative and includes 20 community based projects including implementing Healthy Community Zones, Complete Streets, “Go, Slow, Whoa” food labeling system throughout Broward county. CHEQR is the lead evaluator for this 3 year grant and it provides evaluation and implementation support of several of their county-wide projects.

**W. Martin Smith Interdisciplinary Patient Safety Awards Program** – CHEQR is the evaluator of a grant received by Dr. Christopher Scuderi, the chair of JaxHERO, for a project called “Practice Transformation Improving Quality Using a Team Based Approach.” This a pilot study uses AHRQ’s TeamSTEPPS program to improve team based care in six of the primary care practices in the UF Jacksonville Primary Care Network. It involves training sessions that focus on the 4 core competency areas of TeamSTEPPS (team leadership, mutual performance monitoring, mutual support, and communication) and on the basic concepts of team-based care in a patient centered medical home (PCMH) model. We are evaluating the impact of the implementation of the TeamSTEPPS program on employee satisfaction and improved teamwork as well as the impact on the management of chronic care patients, especially those with diabetes.

**The Community Asthma Partnership at Wolfson Children’s Hospital** is a program that THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health provides which fulfills their focus area of health and wellness. The Community Asthma Partnership is an asset to families in Northeast Florida with children who are considered high risk for asthma. High risk patients are identified and qualify as high-risk under the National Institutes of Health guidelines including patients having four or more ER visits; two hospital admissions within 12 months; or one Pediatric Intensive Care Unit admission lifetime. CHEQR used a quasi-experimental design to evaluate the program’s two main outcome measures (ED visits and admissions) for the year prior to a child’s program enrollment compared to after participating in the program for one year. In addition, interviews with staff were conducted to understand program operations as well as some of the challenges they face in implementing the program and addressing the complex socio-economic factors that may impact the health of the children in the program.
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