Infectious Disease and the Opioid Epidemic

Els Houtsmuller
Associate Director, Science
Healthcare Delivery and Disparities Research
About PCORI

• An independent research institute authorized by Congress in 2010 and governed by a 21-member Board of Governors representing the entire healthcare community
• Funds comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) that engages patients and other stakeholders throughout the research process
• Seeks answers to real-world questions about what works best for patients based on their circumstances and concerns
How PCORI Complements Ongoing Efforts

- **Discovery**
  - NIH
  - Industry
  - Academia

- **Regulation/Approval**
  - FDA
  - CMS

- **Dissemination, Implementation and Policy**
  - AHRQ
  - CDC
  - Patients
  - Specialties
  - Payers

- **Comparative Clinical Effectiveness Research (CER)**
  - PCORI
  - VA
How is PCORI Different?

• We fund research on which care options work, for whom, under which circumstances.
• We focus on answering questions most important to patients and those who care for them.
• We aim to produce evidence that can be easily applied in real-world settings.
• We engage patients, caregivers, clinicians, insurers, employers and other stakeholders throughout the research process.
• This makes it more likely we’ll get the research questions right and that the study results will be useful and taken up in practice.
Who Are Our Stakeholders?

- Payers
- Clinicians
- Caregivers/Family Members
- Purchasers
- Policy Makers
- Patients/Consumers
- Hospitals/Health Systems
- Industry
- Training Institutions
- Patient/Caregiver Advocacy Organizations
As of November 2017, PCORI has awarded $252 million to fund 65 CER studies related to aspects of noncancer pain, including opioid use.

$74 million to fund 13 CER studies related to opioid use. These projects involve 105,000 patients.*

*Includes target numbers of active participants and records from health databases.
The Opioid Epidemic: Spanning the Care Continuum

- Prevention of Unsafe Prescribing
- Non-Opioid Treatment Options for Pain
- Management of Long-term Prescription Opioid Use
- Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

Education and Communication
Addressing Hepatitis C Treatment for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder

- Despite the highest HCV prevalence and incidence, HCV treatment of persons with substance use disorders has been challenging.
- Cost medications, concerns about medication adherence, linkage to HCV care
Addressing Hepatitis C Treatment for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder

Patient-Centered Models of HCV Care for People who Inject Drugs
Alain Litwin, MD (PI) Montefiore Medical Center

Patient-Centered HCV Care via Telemedicine for Individuals on Opiate Substitution Therapy: A Stepped Wedge Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial
Andrew Talal, MD (PI) State University New York
Questions?