## **Quality Improvement and Research Perspective**

Innovation in Electronic Health Records for Oncology Care, Research, and Surveillance: A Virtual Workshop

Session 1: Overview of the Use of EHRs in Oncology Care, Research, and Surveillance National Cancer Policy Forum

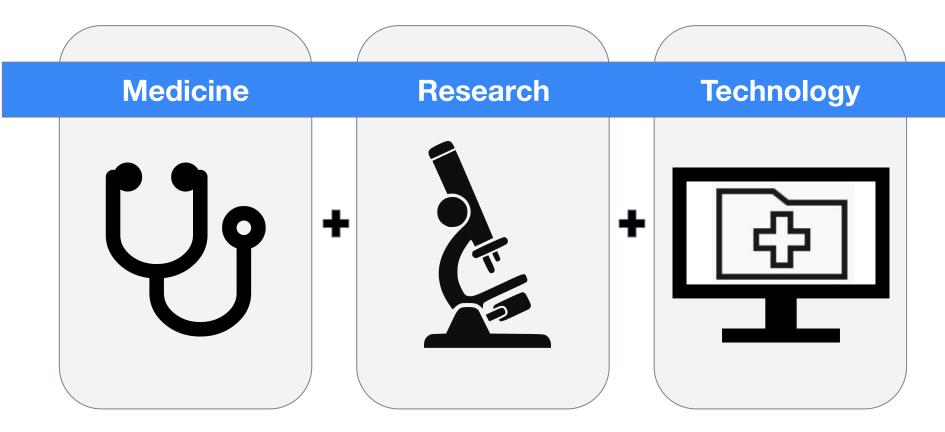
Neal J. Meropol, MD Flatiron Health February 28, 2022



## Disclosures

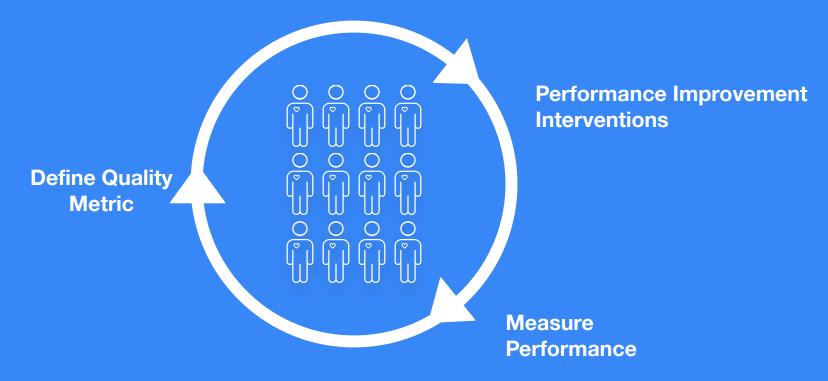
Employment by Flatiron Health, Inc., an independent subsidiary of the Roche Group

Equity interest in Flatiron and Roche



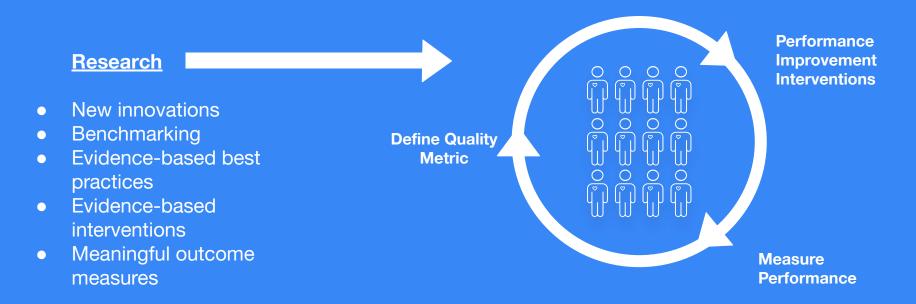


## Quality Improvement (QI) Flywheel





## Research informs Quality Improvement



Both QI and Research require rigor regarding project design, populations, endpoints, & analytic plan



## EHRs were not built for quality improvement or research

#### However...

- ✓ Rich source of patient-level data
- ✓ Integrate multiple data sources
- ✓ Real-time documentation
- ✓ Digital information
- ✓ Key component of point-of-care workflow
- ✓ Representative of all patients



#### Basic tools that enable EHRs for QI and Research



Privacy framework that respects patients



Curation capabilities for structured & unstructured data



Front-end and back-end EHR access



Linkage to data not documented in the EHR



Careful application of ML and NLP



Relentless appetite for context-specific characterization of data quality and fitness-for-purpose



## **Examples of EHR-enabled Cancer Quality Initiatives**

Guideline / Quality Metric
Concordance Measurement

Risk Prediction Modeling

Benchmarking

Prompting / Nudging

Treatment Decision Support

Patients Like Mine



#### EHRs for Retrospective Research

#### Retrospective RWD has many successes...

- Understanding real-time practice patterns and outcomes
- Comparative effectiveness
- Policy impact on patient care & outcomes

- Supporting regulatory and HTA decision making
- Understanding healthcare disparities
- Design of prospective studies

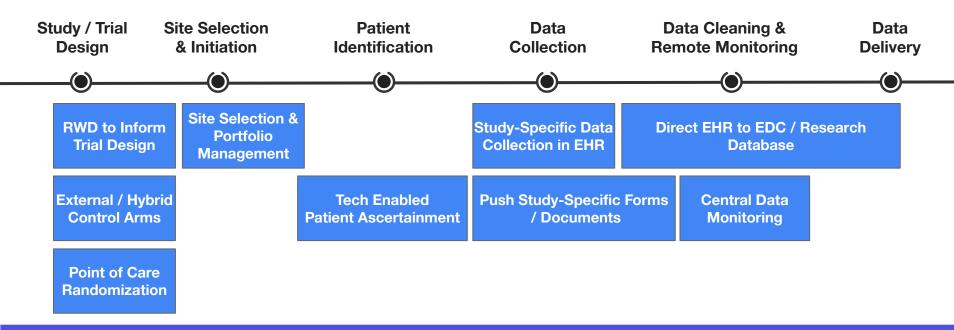
#### ...but also some limitations

- Missingness
- Bias (selection, confounding)
- Causal inference

- Outcome measurement (timing, characterization)
- Exposure inconsistency



# EHRs in prospective research - a new opportunity to bridge research and practice



Implement pragmatic design elements and leverage routinely collected data whenever possible



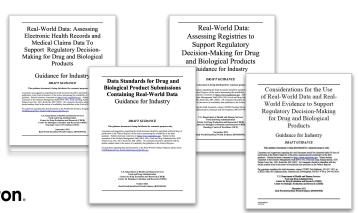
#### Momentum is Building

#### **FDA Program & Draft Guidances**

2018



2021



#### **NCI CTAC Strat Plan**

2020



- Decentralized trial activities
- New data collection approaches
- Operational burden

How can we realize an Integrated EHR-based Evidence Generation Platform and Quality Improvement System?



Incentivize high quality data entry



Legislate interoperability



Promote adoption of data standards



Normalize data sharing with privacy protections



## **Thank You**

