Hey Community Engagers,

A CCTSI Community Engagement Pilot Grant Applicants’ Webinar is being held for prospective applicants on July 18, 2011, 1:00-2:00pm, to explain the application requirements and address questions. We encourage anyone interested in applying for a community engagement pilot grant to participate. Webinar: https://www3.gotomeeting.com/join/3784994782. Meeting ID: 378-499-478. Join the conference call: 888-636-3807. Access Code: 1730525.

CCTSI Principal Investigator and Director, Ron Sokol, MD, is leading a CCTSI Town Hall meeting on July 26, 2011, Noon to 1:00pm, in the Hensel Phelps East Auditorium, of Research 1 North building, Anschutz Medical Campus. Focus includes an update on CCTSI, grant renewal, and audience Q&A. Lunch provided.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health (NIMHD/NIH), and the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU) are pleased to announce a Call For Abstracts For Special Theme Issue "Evidence for Informing the Next Generation of Quality Improvement Initiatives: Models, Methods, Measures and Outcomes." See the attached notice for more information. Abstracts are due September 1.

Have a fun day at the park and feel healthier for it. The Center for African American Health invites all to take part in Destination Health: Walk/Run/Learn on Saturday, July 30, 2011, at City Park, Denver. Register early for the 5K Walk/Run on a beautiful course that takes you around City Park, followed by an awards ceremony and entertainment by Mary Louise Lee Band. Register online at www.caahealth.org

Online registration is now open for the 2011 Engaging Communities in Education and Research Conference in Vail, Colorado, on September 23-25, 2011, for "Building Partnerships." This conference will attract 400 Colorado health providers, University of Colorado rural faculty, community researchers, and members from around the state of Colorado. http://ahec.ucdenver.edu/ecer/

Focus on PACT Communities - Colorado Research Network (CaReNet)
The Colorado Research Network (CaReNet) is a practice-based research network (PBRN) with member practices that mostly care for underserved patients. CaReNet is part of SNOCAP, an umbrella organization that supports practice-based research networks at the University of Colorado Denver. Since its founding in 1998, CaReNet has conducted many studies to examine primary health care, practice improvement, and access to care. CaReNet's mission is
to improve health and well-being by the application of scientific methods to questions important to primary care clinicians, their patients, and their communities. CaReNet is committed to questions with the potential to understand health, disease, and illness, and the roles and values of primary care, with a particular focus on disadvantaged populations.

Have a great weekend!
Jack Westfall
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)\textsuperscript{i}, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health (NIMHD/NIH)\textsuperscript{ii} and the \textit{Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)} are pleased to announce a

\textbf{Call For Abstracts For Special Theme Issue}  

\textit{Evidence for Informing the Next Generation of} 

\textit{Quality Improvement Initiatives:} 

\textit{Models, Methods, Measures and Outcomes}

According to the Institute of Medicine, problems in health care quality are serious and costly and can cause burdens in terms of lost lives, reduced functioning, and wasted economic resources. High quality health care is particularly important for safety-net settings that deliver a significant level of health care to vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities, low-income, rural and other medically underserved populations. Numerous quality improvement initiatives have been instituted over the recent years that focus on “systematic, data-guided activities designed to bring about immediate, positive changes in the delivery of health care.”\textsuperscript{iii}

HRSA and the NIMHD/NIH, in collaboration with the \textit{Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved (JHCPU)}, have partnered to publish a special theme issue that addresses: quality improvement initiatives related to clinical care outcomes, health systems delivery, organizational efficiencies, financing models, reducing medical errors, improving patient safety, and communications.

The intent of this theme issue is to address the questions:

- \textit{What evidence-based or prevailing practices have accelerated quality improvements initiatives in health care delivery, patient care and outcomes within the safety-net setting? For example:}
  - Lessons learned from quality improvement efforts with vulnerable populations (i.e., racial/ethnic minorities, low income, and rural populations) and implications for development of infrastructure and systems support within community health centers and other safety-net settings.
• What clinical improvement initiatives or interventions have led to quality care and outcomes for patients as well as care efficiencies and cost-savings? For example:
  o Evidence to support the impact of quality improvement initiatives on patient care and outcomes, including lessons learned from the Breakthrough Series (BTS) Collaborative Model, Health Disparities Collaboratives, or other quality improvement initiatives focusing on community health centers and/or safety net systems.

• What are the novel quality improvement measurements, methodologies, and tools in health outcomes? For example:
  o Teams-based quality improvement and the effect on training and curriculum.

• How can the science of quality improvement be enhanced to align with current prevailing initiatives in practice and add value to improved quality care and outcomes?

• What are the challenges and innovative strategies needed to improve and sustain quality of healthcare delivery and outcomes in vulnerable populations?

Submission/Review Process and Timeline

An abstract of 500 words or less which includes: 1) author names and affiliations, 2) contact information for the corresponding author, 3) proposed title, and 4) type of manuscript (original paper, commentary, brief communication, report from the field, column, or review) should be submitted by September 1, 2011 to OHITQPapers@hrsa.gov and addressed to: Ahmed Calvo, MD, MPH, Senior Guest Editor.

An initial review of the abstract by HRSA and NIH guest editors will determine the appropriateness of the proposed submission for this special theme issue. Authors will be notified by November 1, 2011 as to whether they are invited to submit full manuscripts to JHCPU. Invited manuscripts must be submitted to JHCPU by January 9, 2012 and undergo the standard blinded peer referee process as defined by JHCPU policy before final selections are decided. Final decisions are expected by May 1, 2012. The publication date for this special theme issue of the JHCPU is scheduled for August 2012.

The following types of full manuscripts will be considered: Original Papers, Commentaries, Brief Communications, Reports from the Field, Columns, and Reviews. Please identify in the abstract which type of submission is proposed using the guidelines of JHCPU. Papers submitted from outside the U.S. that contain examples relevant to the U.S. safety net settings are also most welcome. We encourage submissions from multi-disciplinary teams and/or individual authors from multiple backgrounds. For submission guidelines applicable to the types of full manuscripts, please see JHCPU “INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS” -- available at the JHCPU website. For additional information regarding JHCPU please visit http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_care_for_the_poor_andunderserved/.
In terms of content, original abstracts addressing relevant insights to science, education, practice, and policy are appropriate for this theme issue, if maintaining the focus on quality improvement initiatives. For additional information or questions, please contact Ahmed Calvo, MD, MPH, Senior Guest Editor at: OHITQPapers@hrsa.gov.

Special HRSA Guest Editors will be: Amber Berrian, MPH; Ahmed Calvo, MD, MPH; Yael Harris, PhD, MHS; Avril Melissa Houston, MD, MPH; and Samantha Wallack Mekler, MPP. Special NIMHD/NIH Guest Editors will be: Paula Goodwin, PhD; and Nishadi Rajapakse, PhD, MHS.

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i Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.

ii National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health (NIMHD/NIH): an institute within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, established under the Affordable Care Act, authorized to plan, coordinate, review and evaluate all minority health and health disparities research activities conducted and supported by the institutes and centers.