

Function QUERI

Optimizing Function and Independence
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

January 2017 Edition

Function QUERI Newsletter—Inaugural Edition

The overall goal of the Optimizing Function and Independence QUERI (Function QUERI) is to implement and evaluate three evidence-based clinical programs focused on maximizing function and independence in vulnerable Veterans:

STRIDE: a supervised inpatient walking program to prevent disability related to immobility during hospitalization

Group PT for Knee OA: group-based Physical Therapy to improve function in patients with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis

HI-FIVES: caregiver training to promote functional ability and avoid nursing home placement

Function QUERI TEAM

Principal Investigators (PI):

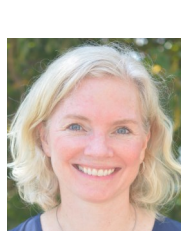
Dr. Hastings is Corresponding PI for Function QUERI, and Drs. Hastings, Allen, and Van Houtven each lead clinical program projects. Dr. Wang leads the implementation core.



Dr. Hastings, a geriatrician and health services researcher, is the Principal Investigator for the STRIDE program. She has experience in evaluating VA geriatrics programs and conducting partnered research.



Dr. Allen, a health services researcher and exercise scientist, is the principal investigator for the Group PT for Knee OA program. She is an experienced trialist, and an expert in functional assessment, and patient-centered outcomes research.



Dr. Van Houtven, health economist and health services researcher, is the principal investigator for the HI-FIVES program. She has expertise in comparative effectiveness research, family caregiver skills training RCTs (randomized controlled trials), cost modeling, and economic evaluation of policies and interventions.



Dr. Wang, a health services and policy researcher, is the Implementation Core Director for Function QUERI. She has conducted quantitative and qualitative studies examining healthcare organization and delivery; and comparative outcomes assessment in VA, and non-VA healthcare.

Co-Investigators:

Durham VA

Cynthia Coffman, PhD Biostatistician
Cathleen Colon-Emeric, MD
Helen Hoenig, MD
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Eugene Oddone, MD
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Project Staff- Durham VA:

John Bartle- Project Implementation
Dennis Bongiorno- Project Implementation
Ashley Choate- Research Assistant
Josh D'Adolf- Implementation Coordinator
Kenneth Fikes- Project Implementation
Janet Grubber- Statistician
Elizabeth Mahanna- Program Coordinator
Katina Robinson- Implementation Coordinator
Karen Stechuchak- Statistician
Caitlin Sullivan- Research Assistant
Sandra Woolson- Statistician

Thanks to Brandon Sheets, our primary clinical partner for the GroupPT Project!

Veteran Engagement Panel

Thank you to the Veterans and Caregivers who participated in Function QUERI's first Veteran Engagement Panel on November 9, 2016! The seven panel members reflect Durham VA's diverse Veteran population, and were recruited to represent each of the projects.

The perspectives of this panel will be instrumental for bringing the Veteran and caregiver perspectives to all phases and aspects of the projects. Feedback we received to incorporate into our projects include:

- When to call patients after hospitalization
- Providing information to Veterans about community exercise programs after discharge
- Providing Caregivers with information about self-care, VA resources, and respite care
- Providing assistance with goal setting for both Veteran and Caregiver
- Optimizing the referral process; identifying good candidates for the programs

We are in the planning stages for our next panel, to be held in early Summer of 2017.

REP & CONNECT

Function QUERI will utilize implementation strategies focused on promoting flexibility of clinical programs to fit local environments (Replicating Effective Programs) and enhancing the performance of provider teams (CONNECT).

Replicating Effective Programs (REP): using REP involves a bundle of implementation activities selected to achieve balance between fidelity and adaptation for local conditions. REP lays out strategies that are appropriate for different phases of program implementation.

CONNECT: a bundle of activities designed to improve communication with teams. Function QUERI will test the effectiveness of CONNECT to promote team function and readiness for change, and look at implementation outcomes.

A big THANK YOU to those who participated in the CONNECT session of Group to Group Mapping for Group PT!

Function Queri held the first CONNECT session on December 13, 2016, using the group to group relationship mapping activity for the GroupPT program. The participants included: Schedulers, Physical Therapists, and Physicians from: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation / Physical Therapy, and Ambulatory Care/Women's Health.

Throughout the session, participants developed a map depicting the strength of relationships between these service lines/roles based on the frequency and quality of communication between the groups. From this mapping participants identified specific challenges to improve communication frequency and/or quality between two groups. The participants were then able to collaborate and propose potential solutions to these challenges.

The Function QUERI team also plans to implement the CONNECT intervention for forthcoming rollout and evaluation for STRIDE and HI-FIVES.

Partners

This team brings together experienced and leading implementation practitioners and scientists with a successful record of partnered evaluation to meet clinical and operational needs clearly articulated by our partners. The Primary Partners / Stakeholders of Function QUERI are:

- [Geriatrics and Extended Care \(GEC\)](#)
- [Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation \(PM&R\)](#)
- [Caregiver Support Program \(CSP\)](#)
- [Voluntary Services \(VAVS\)](#)

Acknowledgements

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Please contact us at: Caitlin.Sullivan2@va.gov for questions.