



Function QUERI

Optimizing Function and Independence
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

The [Optimizing Function and Independence QUERI](#), based at the Durham VA Center of Innovation to Accelerate Discovery and Practice Change (ADAPT), leverages scientifically-supported quality improvement methods to implement evidence-based practices rapidly into routine care and improve the timeliness, quality, and safety of care delivered to Veterans and caregivers. The three Function QUERI programs address gaps in current clinical care for Veterans at risk for functional decline and disability.

- STRIDE focuses on prevention of disability related to immobility during hospitalization through a supervised walking program.
- iHI-FIVES focuses on promoting functional ability and avoiding nursing home placement through caregiver training at the time of referral for home care services.
- Group Physical Therapy (PT) for Knee Osteoarthritis focuses on improving function in patients with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis through expanded access to PT in a group-based model.

October 2018 Edition:

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Welcome to Function QUERI!

The Function QUERI team would like to welcome two new members:

- Dana Thompson has joined the STRIDE team, and primarily will be administering patient phone surveys. Dana shares her effort as a research coordinator with two other groups at Duke University, managing studies involved with leukemia, malaria, and infectious disease. She earned Bachelor's degrees in Biology and English at Florida State University, and a PhD in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at Vanderbilt.
- Angela Hensel will also be administering patient phone surveys, and primarily helping the team to develop an implementation toolkit. Angela is a Presidential Management Fellow with VA's National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NCP). She obtained her Master's in Public Health (Health Behavior) from UNC Chapel Hill and holds Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Journalism from the University of Nebraska.

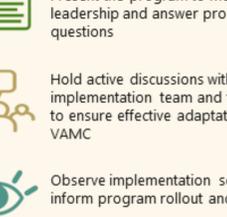
STRIDE is a Gold Status Practice

"Getting Hospitalized Veterans Back on Their Feet: The STRIDE Program" was chosen as a Gold Status practice in the 2018 [VHA Diffusion of Excellence](#) Shark Tank. See the pitch video [here](#).

The implementing facilities will be the Martinsburg VA Medical Center in Martinsburg, WV, and the Columbia VA Health Care System in Columbia, SC.

Congratulations to all [the finalists](#) for their efforts during the Shark Tank selection process!

Function QUERI Site Visits



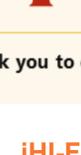
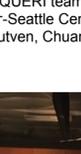
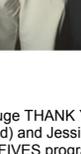
Function QUERI on Tour!

From August to September, the Function QUERI team conducted 3 site visits for both STRIDE and iHI-FIVES:

- VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle & Tacoma, WA (iHI-FIVES), Aug. 13-14
- Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL (STRIDE), Sept. 4-6
- John J. Pershing VAMC in Poplar Bluff, MO (iHI-FIVES), Sept. 25

3 sites

Purpose of a Function QUERI site visit:

-  Present the program to medical center leadership and answer program questions
-  Hold active discussions with the implementation team and frontline staff to ensure effective adaptation at the VAMC
-  Observe implementation setting to inform program rollout and logistics
-  Conduct critical data collection from staff to ensure accurate accounting of program impact and staff engagement

Thank you to each site for hosting our team!

Image Source: Noun Project

iHI-FIVES Site Visits

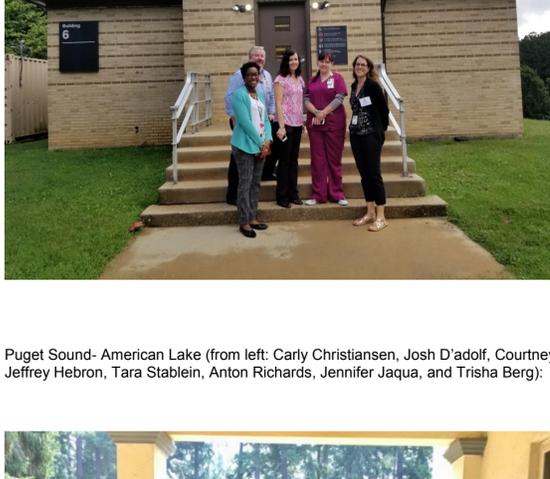
In addition to the above activities, the iHI-FIVES team provided train-the-trainer support for the iHI-FIVES curriculum and toured the training location to inform iHI-FIVES rollout and logistics.

As a bonus, the Function QUERI team presented the iHI-FIVES program on August 14th to researchers at the Denver-Seattle Center of Innovation (from left: Christian Helfrich, Steven Zeliadt, Courtney Van Houtven, Chuan-Fen Liu, and Paul Hebert):



We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to our Points of Contact: Tara Stablein and Carly Christiansen (Puget Sound) and Jessi Houchins and Patricia Castillo (Poplar Bluff), and the entire teams involved in the iHI-FIVES programs for hosting us.

Poplar Bluff (from left: Katina Robinson, Josh D'adolf, Jessi Houchins, Patricia Castillo, and Kasey Decosimo):



Puget Sound- American Lake (from left: Carly Christiansen, Josh D'adolf, Courtney Van Houtven, Jeffrey Hebron, Tara Stablein, Anton Richards, Jennifer Jaqua, and Trisha Berg):



STRIDE Site Visit

At the STRIDE Site Visit to the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, the Function QUERI team delivered interactive CONNECT exercises to staff. The Hines VA site was the first site visit from the newest STRIDE cohort. During the visit the team was able to build rapport, problem solve, and present several sessions of CONNECT training exercises.

The Function QUERI STRIDE team would like to thank Catherine Coghlan, Denise Meadows, Lisa McKenna, Geoffrey Paelmo, Helen Schneider, and Phillip Patacsil for their wonderful hospitality during our visit.

In photo from left: Josh D'adolf, Michael Searles, Preeti Abraham, Yolondia Barksdale, Phillip Patacsil, and Katina Robinson:

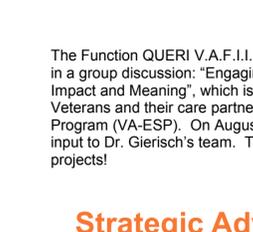


iHI-FIVES Collaboration

The Function QUERI iHI-FIVES Team would like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Jeffrey White, Mr. Lawrence Santeramo, Ms. Judith Davagnino, and Ms. Christy Knight for their help in collaborating in the creation and publication of our 6 narrated, informative caregiver videos:

- Managing Dementia Behaviors: ABC for Caregivers
- Improving Your Sleep
- Medication Management
- Planning for the Future
- Relaxation
- Understanding Anger

This video library will be delivered to participating iHI-FIVES sites as part of the iHI-FIVES implementation package. Their collaborative efforts represent the I-CARE values that stand at the core of quality Veteran care.



iHI-FIVES Optional

iHI-FIVES Videos • 6 videos • 10 views • Last updated on May 11, 2018

▶ Play all ◀ Share + Save

Veteran and Family Input Initiative (VAFII) News

The Function QUERI V.A.F.I.I. was invited by Dr. Jennifer Gierisch, PhD, MPH to participate in a group discussion: "Engaging Veterans as Advisors in Systematic Reviews to Enhance Impact and Meaning", which is a project designed to explore optimal methods to engage Veterans and their care partners as collaborators and advisors in the VA Evidence Synthesis Program (VA-ESP). On August 22, 2018, members of the VAFII met at the NCP to provide input to Dr. Gierisch's team. Thanks VAFII members, for your willingness to help across projects!

Strategic Advisory Group Call Reminder

The Function QUERI Strategic Advisory Group and Co-Investigators are scheduled to join the Function QUERI team for a one-hour conference call on November 13, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. EST. We will provide updates on our study progress and get input on specific topics for discussion.

Please contact Liz Mahanna with questions: Elizabeth.Mahanna@va.gov.

Presentations/Publications/Articles

A sampling from June 2018 – October 2018:

- Nicki Hastings and Liz Mahanna presented a ViREC Database and Methods Seminar: "Working with EHR Data Using VistAWeb, VINCI ChartReview Tool, and Joint Legacy Viewer" on June 4, 2018.
- Kelli Allen, Ashley Choate, and team's project "Group Physical Therapy for Knee OA" was announced as a semi-finalist for the VHA Shark Tank Diffusion of Excellence Competition in June 2018.
- Courtney Van Houtven gave presentations on "Identifying Caregivers: Challenges and solutions from implementation of iHI-FIVES within the VHA" and "Helping Involved Families Improve Veterans' Experiences Study (HI-FIVES)" at the GEC DAC strategic planning meeting on August 1-2, 2018 in Washington, DC.
- Courtney Van Houtven gave a presentation on "HI-FIVES caregiver skills training program: RCT to multisite intervention" at the Research Seminar at the Seattle-Denver Center for Innovation (COIN), Seattle, WA on August 14, 2018.
- Nicki Hastings presented "STRIDE" on a live webinar for the VHA Shark Tank Diffusion of Excellence Competition on August 30, 2018.
- Courtney Van Houtven gave a presentation on "Institutional support for informal caregivers to enhance care recipient use of social service delivery systems" at the International Conference on Evidence-based Policy in Vienna, Austria on September 15, 2018.
- Nicki Hastings and team published the paper "[Early Mobility in the Hospital: Lessons Learned from the STRIDE Program](#)" in *Geriatrics* on September 26, 2018.

Upcoming:

- Virginia Wang and team will present "From Concept to Reality: Replicating Effective Programs in the Function QUERI Program" on an HSR&D Cyberseminar on November 1, 2018.
- Nathan Boucher will present the poster "Adaptation and implementation of an informal caregiver skills training program: from single site RCT to multisite pragmatic intervention" at the AcademyHealth D&I conference in Washington, DC on December 3, 2018.

We are currently recruiting sites for the Function QUERI iHI-FIVES Program-

Do you know of any VAs that would like to participate in caregiver training programs?

If interested in a caregiver training program contact:

Courtney Van Houtven: Courtney.VanHoutven@va.gov

Acknowledgements

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Please visit www.queri.research.va.gov for more information on the national QUERI program.

If you would like more information about Function QUERI, please contact the program coordinator: Elizabeth.Mahanna@va.gov

If you wish to be removed from this mailing, please contact: Caiflin.Sullivan2@va.gov.