

# Engaging the IHPI Community: A Needs Assessment

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## Purpose/Objectives

- Assess challenges that small research groups and nontraditional health services and health policy researchers encounter
- Identify opportunities for IHPI to develop infrastructure and services that address these challenges to facilitate integration of these groups within IHPI.



## Stakeholder Interviews

Interviewed one-on-one and in groups of two

Medical School Researchers:  
Ophthalmology, Radiology,  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,  
Obstetrics and Gynecology



Additional Stakeholders:  
School of Nursing  
School of Engineering

## Questions

1

What are the current challenges you face in conducting health services research?

2

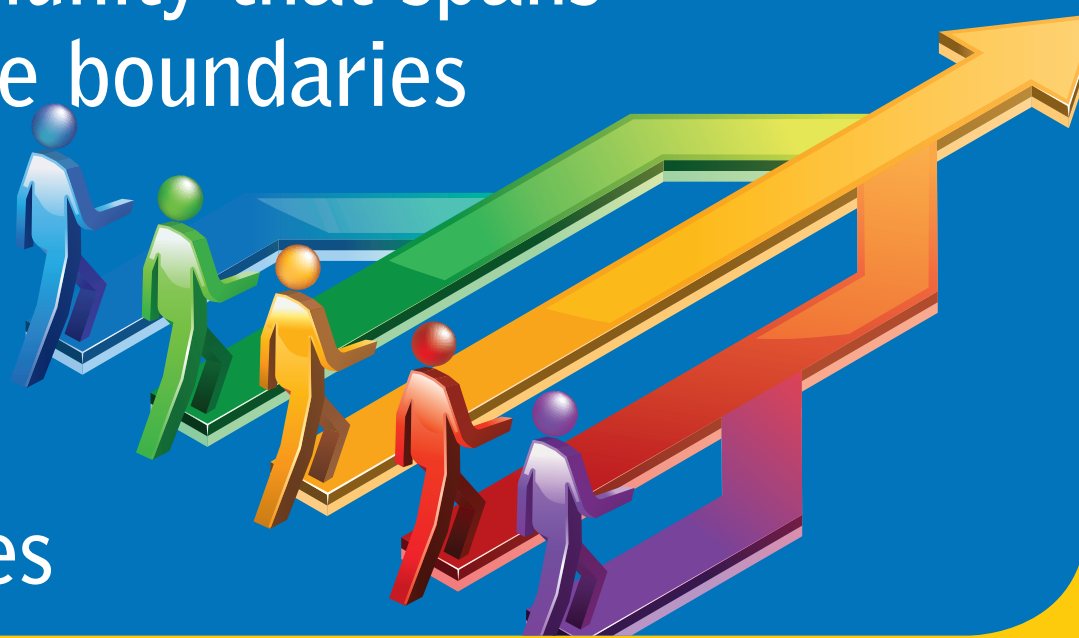
What are the opportunities for IHPI to address these challenges?

3

What are the potential financial models to support shared IHPI resources?

## Shared Challenges

- Difficulty identifying interdisciplinary research partners within the Medical School and across the university
- Need to foster sense of community that spans discipline boundaries



- Funding initiatives

## Potential Opportunities

- Create searchable database of IHPI researchers by interest/expertise
- Organize community engagement events to foster interrelationships
- Map current research networks and contacts to identify and suggest potential collaborators
- Encourage co-location at IPHI to facilitate organic encounters
- “Embed” with different research groups
- Broader stakeholder representation into IHPI committees including leadership
- Financial Models: Indirect cost recovery, Cost-sharing by research groups and the IHPI, Medical School chairs support



## Specific Challenges



## **ABSTRACT: 2014 ELAM Institutional Action Project Poster Symposium**

**Project Title:** Broadening the IHPI Community: A Needs Assessment

**Name and Institution:** Ruth C. Carlos, University of Michigan

**Collaborators:** John Z. Ayanian, Director, Institute for Health Policy and Innovation (IHPI)

**Background, Challenge or Opportunity:** Founded in 2011, the IHPI includes membership from across the university with the mission to enhance the health and well-being of local, national, and global populations through innovative, interdisciplinary health services research that effectively informs public and private efforts to optimize the quality, safety, equity, and affordability of health care services. The IHPI strives to include the breadth of health services and health policy researchers across the university, especially small research groups and nontraditional research partners that would benefit from the IHPI infrastructure. The IHPI has an opportunity assess the challenges and opportunities of integrating these groups.

**Purpose/Objectives:** The primary purpose of this project is to assess the current challenges that small research groups and nontraditional health services and health policy researchers encounter and to identify opportunities for IHPI to develop infrastructure and services that address these challenges to facilitate integration of these groups within IHPI.

**Methods/Approach:** During the needs assessment phase, the primary approach used one-on-one structured interviews with key stakeholders and research group leaders jointly identified by the collaborators. These structured interviews were framed using the following three questions with follow-up questions as directed by the stakeholder responses.

1. What are the current challenges you face in conducting health services research?
2. What are the opportunities for IHPI to address these challenges?
3. What are the potential financial models to support shared IHPI resources?

**Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy:** Small research groups from ophthalmology, radiology, physical medicine and rehabilitation and obstetrics and gynecology were interviewed. Additional stakeholders from the School of Nursing and the School of Engineering were interviewed. During the needs assessment phase, the following observations emerged. Challenges were viewed concretely by small research groups housed within the Medical School, centered on the difficulty of obtaining resources, including access to data; statistical, programming and administrative support, and the need for centralization of these resources potentially housed within the IHPI. Outside the Medical School, there were challenges of communicating the relevance of the IHPI and collaboration with the Medical School regarding health services research and the opportunity to influence policy; this seemed most acute within the School of Engineering. Other perspectives included the continued need for diversity of stakeholders within the leadership. No consensus on potential financial models emerged, though a variety of options were discussed.