

ABSTRACT: 2015 ELAM Institutional Action Project Poster Symposium

Project Title: Creation of a Center for Medical Education Research (CMER)

Name and Institution: Susan M. Perlis, EdD, Associate Dean for Medical Education
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Collaborators: **CMSRU:** Paul Katz, MD, Dean, Annette Reboli, MD, Vice Dean, Harry Mazurek, PhD, Associate Dean for Research, Richard O'Neal, MS Assistant Director CLIC;

Rowan University: Shreekanth Mandayam, PhD, Vice President for Research, & Eric Gregory, Compliance and Contracts Specialist, Office of Sponsored Programs

Challenge: As a new medical school, CMSRU is deeply engaged in developing and implementing a new medical education curriculum. As we increase the numbers of faculty and staff, we are conducting research projects to review components of our innovative curriculum and share them with colleagues at the regional, national and international levels. Our challenge is providing organized institutional support for medical education research (MER) which will promote quality and quantity of medical education scholarship at our institution.

Purpose/Objectives: To be effective in our MER efforts, CMSRU needs to develop infrastructure to support MER in general, and to ensure that we are using appropriate research methodologies and protocols, following the research requirements of Rowan University for protection of human subjects, and accurately reporting our findings. This new center will provide faculty and staff development related to MER methodologies along with support for faculty and staff to develop their MER projects. This support will involve monitoring the status of projects from inception through publication.

Approach: Dean Katz approved this project to develop a CMER. With the help of Richard O'Neal, research was conducted to review existing CMERs at other medical and health education schools. The project advanced by meeting with key administrators at CMSRU and Rowan University to review policies, procedures and requirements for conducting research. Administrative staff in the Office of Medical Education completed *electronic IRB training* and *grant funding* workshops at Rowan University. I met with the Director of the CMSRU medical library to review resources for medical education researchers including the AMA Manual of Style and the Associate Dean for Research to determine how projects would be directed to the Center. Dr. Reboli provided financial support to enable us to bring the AAMC Medical Education Research Certificate program to the CMSRU campus for a faculty and staff development series. Next steps include: developing a "model" for the CMSRU Center for Medical Education Research, meeting with the Office of Development to obtain funding for the support of the center, and working with IT to design a web presence.

Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy: The CMSRU faculty will be surveyed to determine their current MER projects. Policies, procedures, and activities need to be developed and implemented to be a functioning entity at CMSRU. Attendance at the 2015/16 faculty development AAMC MERC workshops will be tracked along with the number of active research projects that are generated and completed as a result of the workshops. Finally, the number of publications will be tracked annually along with our ability to generate funding to support further development of the Center.

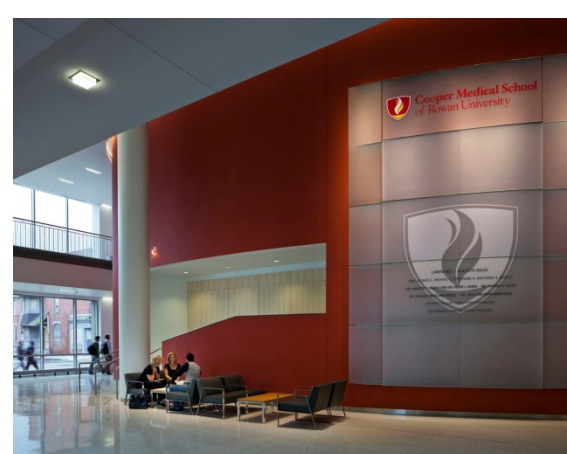


The Challenge: Development of a Center for Medical Education Research (CMER)

The Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (Camden, NJ) accepted their charter class in August, 2012. Members of the faculty, staff, and administration are deeply engaged in developing and implementing our innovative medical education curriculum as well as establishing all aspects of our new school. We are beginning to study the effectiveness of components of our curriculum and seek to organize medical education research efforts to support both the quality and the quantity of research projects. The development of a new Center for Medical Education Research (CMER) will:

1. Provide support for all medical education research activities;
2. Offer faculty and staff development related to medical education research;
3. Track research projects from inception through publication; and
4. Ensure compliance with Rowan University Office of Research and Office of Research Compliance

Essential Collaborators



CMSRU:

Paul Katz, MD Dean
Annette Reboli, MD Vice Dean
Harry Mazurek, PhD Associate Dean for Research
Amy McLeer, Director of Development
Matthew Gentile, Director of Assessment

Rowan University:

Shreekanth Mandayam, PhD Vice President for Research
Eric Gregory, Compliance and Contracts Specialist, Office of Sponsored Programs

Project Progress October, 2014 – March, 2015

The following tasks in the development of the CMER project were accomplished during the October, 2014 through March, 2015 timeframe:

1. Obtained approval to develop a CMER from the Dean of CMSRU and the Vice President for Research at Rowan University;
2. Researched medical education research models at AAMC medical schools;
3. Met with key individuals in the Offices of Research and Compliance at both CMSRU and Rowan University;
4. Established a flowchart for medical education research projects with the Associate Dean for Research at CMSRU;
5. Met with the Associate Dean for Program and Business Development and Director of Development at CMSRU to discuss funding opportunities;
6. Met with some faculty members currently involved in medical education research at CMSRU; and
7. Developed a plan to offer AAMC MERC workshops for faculty and staff development at CMSRU in conjunction with the Office of the Vice Dean of CMSRU and Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development.

Faculty Development Plan – AAMC MERC

The AAMC Medical Education Research Certificate (MERC) research workshop series will be presented at CMSRU from June – December, 2015. The goal for this series is to enable faculty to earn a MERC and develop research projects related to the CMSRU Curriculum. The series will be co-funded by the Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development and the Office of Medical Education.



June, 2015 – Welcome to MERC series – *Preparing for your Study* (2 sessions)

Searching and Evaluating the Medical Education Literature
Formulating Research Questions and Designing Studies

July, 2015 – MERC Series 2 - *Hypothesis-Driven Research and Data Management*

Hypothesis-driven Research
Data Management and Preparing for Statistical Consultation

September, 2015 – MERC Series 3 - *Survey Research and Measuring Educational Outcomes*

Questionnaire Design and Survey Research
Measuring Educational Outcomes with Reliability and Validity

October, 2015 – MERC Series 4 - *Qualitative Methodology*

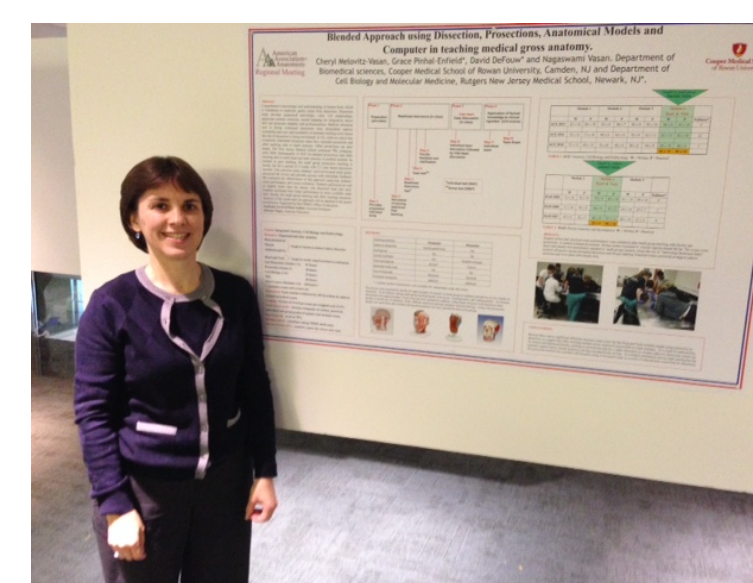
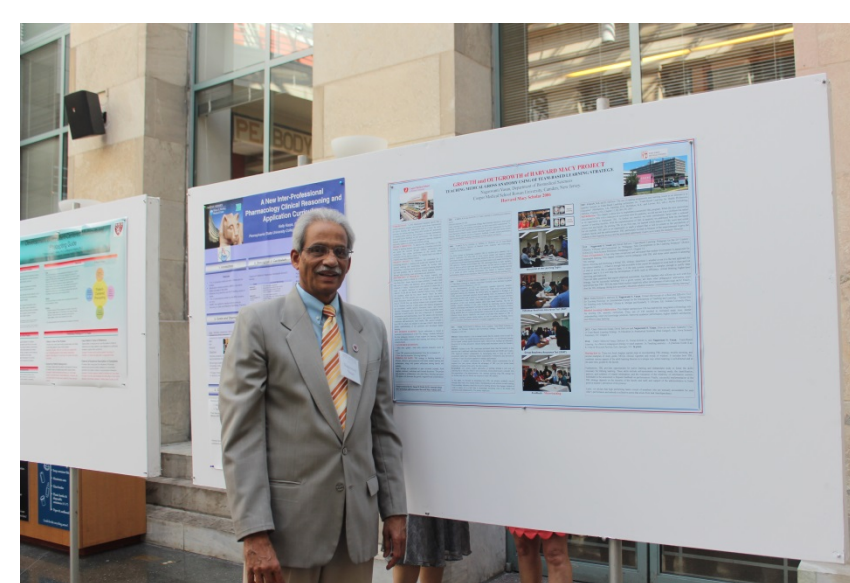
Introduction to Qualitative Data Collection Methods
Qualitative Analysis Methods in Medical Education

November, 2015 – MERC Series 5 - *Scholarly Writing, Program Evaluation and Evaluation Research*

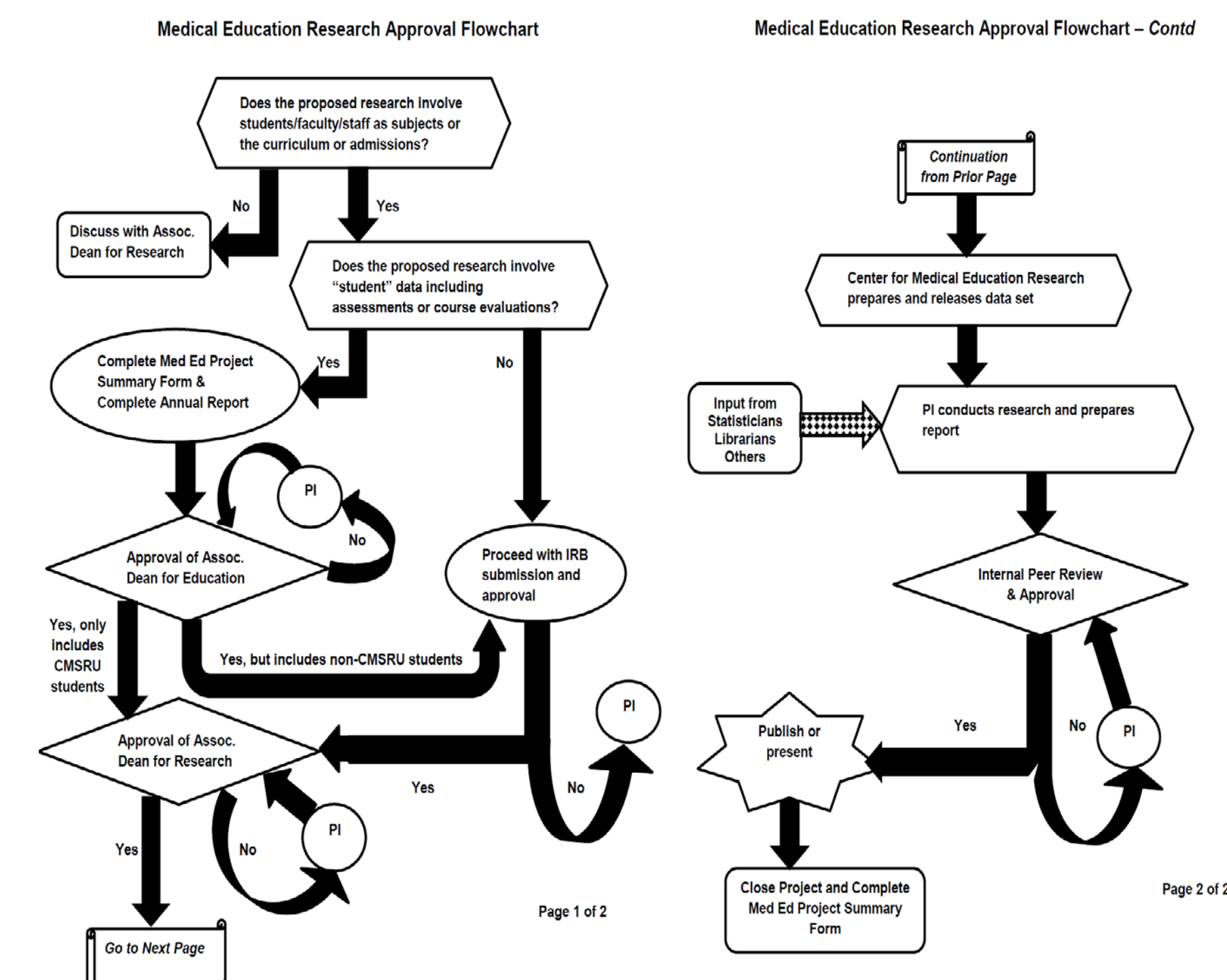
Scholarly Writing: Publishing Medical Education Research
Program Evaluation and Evaluation Research

December, 2015 – MERC Series 6 - *CMSRU Medical Education Research*

This workshop will review policies and procedures related to conducting medical education research at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.



Medical Education Research Project Diagram



Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy

CMSRU faculty and staff will be surveyed to determine their current MER projects. Attendance will be maintained for the AAMC MERC workshops. The number of active new research projects that are generated and completed as a result of the MERC workshops will be followed by the CMER. The number of publications generated by MER will be tracked by the CMER along with the amount of funding generated to support MER at CMSRU.

Select References

- Carline, J. Funding Medical Education Research: Opportunities and Issues. *Academic Medicine*, 2004;79: 918-924.
Gruppen, L. Creating and sustaining centres for medical education research and development. *Medical Education*, 2008; 42: 121-122.
Gruppen, L.D., Yoder, E., Frye, A., Perkowski, L.C., Mavis, B. Supporting Medical Education Research Quality: The Association of American Medical Colleges' Medical Education Research Certificate Program. *Academic Medicine*, 2011; 86: 122-126.

