

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.