

APPENDIX I

APPLIED PRIMARY CARE/HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CURRICULUM

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Module B -- Participatory Inquiry Research Methods

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OVERVIEW

The AHRQ Institutional Training Innovation award (R25 HS09788) supported the development, piloting, and integration of an applied primary care/health services research curriculum into the HRSA-funded NRSA Postdoctoral Primary Medical Care Research Fellowship at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

The ten educational modules that were developed addressed the following applied research "core competencies"

- Searching for Primary Care/Health Services Research Information and Resources
- Participatory Inquiry Research Methods
- Research Partnerships: The Challenges of Collaboration
- Grantsmanship
- Working with Large Databases
- Race and Ethnicity in Research
- Primary Care Practice-Based Network Research
- Quality Improvement
- Focus Group Methodology
- Writing for Publication

The curriculum was well received by fellows and faculty and contributed to their scholarly productivity. Challenges in the curriculum development and implementation process included: meeting the learning needs of a diverse group of fellows with varying levels of research expertise; engaging busy consortium research faculty in developing the educational modules; balancing the desire for structure vs. flexibility; determining an optimal sequence for presenting the curriculum; and scheduling speakers from non-academic organizations.

The funding also helped us to expand our research/educational partnerships with both academic and non-academic organizations, and provided trainees with valuable "real world" research experience.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the AHRQ Institutional Training Innovation at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School was to produce researchers capable of carrying out applied primary care/health services research that is both responsive and relevant to the needs of a changing health care delivery system.

The specific learning objectives were as follows:

- Fellows will be able to develop working partnerships with key non-academic stakeholders and constituency groups on applied primary care/health services research projects of mutual interest;
- Fellows will become knowledgeable about the use of participatory inquiry methods and stakeholder analysis in carrying out applied primary care/health services research;
- Fellows will have an opportunity to participate in at least one collaborative applied primary care health services research project relating to a Healthy People 2010 health promotion and disease prevention objective;
- Fellows will learn how to write research grants and negotiate technical assistance agreements with these stakeholders and constituency groups; and
- Fellows will be able to communicate and disseminate their research findings to a variety of academic and non-academic audiences.