Worldwide Progress Toward a Learning Health System

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The LHS is a “Big Idea”

• People are naturally drawn to visionary ideas that stimulate imagination
• Transformation begins with a Big Idea

Author: Kobi Yamada
I don’t know how to describe it, but it went from being here to being everywhere. It wasn’t just a part of me anymore… it was now a part of everything.
The LHS Connects Discovery to Practice

Better Health = D2K + K2P + P2D
Better Health Requires This

D2K

A Health Problem of Interest

K2P

P2D
What Happens to a Big Idea

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Becoming Part of Everything: Some Highlights

• In the U.S.—AHRQ and PCORI teaming up
  – Learning Networks
  – Health System Scientists Training Grants

• International Initiatives
  – Pan-European
  – UK
  – Switzerland
  – Canada
AHRQ is embarking on a journey to use research to support the transformation of health care organizations into learning health care systems. I’m convinced there is great potential for AHRQ to catalyze the work already underway within health care organizations to improve patient care by expanding and building on the use of evidence.

AHRQ has stepped up its activities in this area in part because of the potential of learning health care systems to make a difference in the care that patients receive. The Agency’s Comparative Health System Performance Initiative aims to develop a set of measures that can help health care organizations to chart their progress toward becoming learning health care systems. In addition, we’ve committed significant funding to explore the potential of health information technology to generate, adopt, and apply evidence. We’re also directing training investments toward people embedded within learning health care systems.

As AHRQ and others explore these areas, many good ideas are emerging about the best ways to systematically apply evidence to patient care. Momentum is growing. With that in mind, we think the time is right to broaden the discussion.
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Development of a Learning Health Care System

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The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), of which I was the director from May 2016 until January 2017, has played a leading federal role in promoting evidence-based medicine through its support of health services research, the synthesis of clinical research findings into evidence, and strategies to move evidence into practice. Although evidence-based medicine remains an aspirational goal, studies consistently show gaps between optimal care as determined by research evidence and actual practice.¹ In this Viewpoint, a wide range of workflow challenges clinicians face in implementing their guidance. Furthermore, specialty societies also lobby on behalf of the financial interests of their members, which can introduce a conflict for interpreting evidence and issuing practice guidance. The contradictions in guidance among specialty societies may contribute to variation in practice even within the same health care system, and thereby undermine patients’ ability to have consistent information with which they can participate in shared decision making.
A PCORI Patient-Powered Research Network

Improvers wanted.
Together, we're collectively restoring the wellbeing of all kids with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis — changing the way medicine is practiced.

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WATCH OUR VIDEO
JOIN OUR CIRCLE
PCORI Funded Project: Taking 4 PPRNs to LHSs

PCORNET LEARNING HEALTHCARE SYSTEM NETWORK COLLABORATIVE

• Autism Learning Network
• Epilepsy
• NephCure
• PARTNERS (Pediatric Rheumatology)
AHRQ-PCORI First Ever LHS Training Grant!

Participating Organization(s)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI, http://www.pcori.org/)

NOTE: The policies, guidelines, terms, and conditions stated in this announcement may differ from those used by the NIH. Where this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) provides specific written guidance that may differ from the general guidance provided in the grant application form, please follow the instructions given in this FOA. Also note that AHRQ has different page limits than NIH for the application Research Strategy, which can be found within each individual FOA. AHRQ Grants Policy and Information to applicants regarding Funding Opportunity Announcement procedures can be found at http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/policies/foaguidance/index.html.

Components of Participating Organizations

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

PCORI, Healthcare Delivery and Disparities Research (HDDR) Program

Funding Opportunity Title

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Learning Health Systems Mentored Career Development Program (K12)
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Europe: Institute for Innovation Through Health Data
European Digital Infrastructure for the LHS
UK: Northern England

CONNECTED HEALTH CITIES
We use information and technology to improve health services for patients across the North of England. #datasaveslives

Development of learning system for alcohol
Switzerland: First Official National Initiative

Swiss Learning Health System

A National Platform for Health Systems and Services Research, Policy and Practice
Look Familiar?

Ziele des Swiss Learning Health System

Politik und Praxis stärken, indem wissenschaftliche Grundlagen kontinuierlich in das Gesundheitssystem integriert werden
Canada/British Columbia

The System Awakens: Building Learning Healthcare Systems in Canada

For three decades, CHSPR's annual conference has provided a platform for thought-provoking dialogues on emerging research in the health services and policy domain. In 2018, the conference will address the question of how British Columbia can become a learning healthcare system. In a learning healthcare system, every patient interaction is treated as a learning activity, and the ethos of the system overall is improvement. Speakers will share the latest thinking on learning healthcare systems and facilitate conversations on how British Columbia can adopt the principles and actions that define such systems.
Concluding Points

• Michigan pretty much “got there first” with an LHS agenda
• There are many others in the game
• There is funding out there
• The Collaboratory is a major mechanism to keep us out in front
Thanks
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