



## IMPROVEMENT SCIENCE RESEARCH NETWORK

### PROJECT ABSTRACT

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Quality improvement and patient safety in healthcare are high priorities held by the federal government, accrediting bodies, regulatory agencies, and patient-advocacy groups; yet insufficient progress has been made in quality improvement science, particularly focusing on care processes in the hospital setting. The broad goal of this project is to create a new large-scale coordinating center to support this unique practice-based improvement science research network (ISRN) for the purpose of accelerating inter-professional improvement science in an acute care. Our proposed ISRN will fill a national gap by creating an infrastructure hub for inter-professional improvement and implementation science. Our 2-year project will establish a sustainable infrastructure for the innovative ISRN in healthcare within acute care settings.

Our specific aims are as follows:

1. Design an ISRN that uses best practices from PBRNs and capitalizes on synergies between the ISRN center team, Steering Council, IIMS, and Westat, Inc, to achieve economies of scale and shared learning.
2. Recruit and engage key members from leading clinical and academic settings to be members of an effective national research network that collaborates to generate improvement science to guide practice.
3. Launch a relevant, rigorous, and robust ISRN program of research studies to improve patient care within microsystem and system contexts and across multiple hospital sites.
4. Establish ISRN coordinating center resources and structures that enhance ability of clinical and academic researcher partners to conduct and disseminate rigorous improvement research studies across multiple settings.
5. Design a web based electronic technology infrastructure that supports the conduct of improvement research studies and affords efficiency and accuracy for collecting, storing, processing, using, and communicating data and information.
6. Evaluate the essential network features, including governance and policies, staff support, communication, and effectiveness of multi-site study support.

#### KEY PARTNERS:

- UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX
  - Academic Center for Evidence-Based Practice
  - Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (funded through a Clinical and Translational Science Award from National Institutes of Health)
- Westat, Inc., Rockville, MD

#### GRANT AWARD INFORMATION: TWO YEAR GRANT TOTAL AWARD \$3,097,368

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Principal Investigator: KATHLEEN R STEVENS, EDD

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