Comparative Effectiveness Research:
Methods and Controversies
June 18, 2010

Schedule

8:00  Registration opens

8:15  Opening Remarks

8:30  CER Overview
Mark Helfand, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Director, Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center
Staff Physician, Portland VA Medical Center

9:30  Clinically Significant Treatment Effects: Effect Sizes and Moderators
Helena Kraemer, Ph.D.
Professor of Biostatistics in Psychiatry (Emerita), Stanford University
Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

10:30 Break and CER Pilot project posters

11:00 Breakouts
Breakout 1: Using the EMR for Comparative Effectiveness Research
- Este Geraghty, M.D., M.P.H.
- Eric S. Johnson, Ph.D.
- Scott MacDonald, M.D.
Breakout 2: Comparative Effectiveness Research: The Health Policy Interface Panel
Facilitators:
- Joy Melnikow, M.D., M.P.H.
- Neal Kohatsu, M.D., M.P.H.
Panelists:
- Susan Philip, M.P.P., Director, California Health Benefits Review Program
- Ronald Spingarn, Deputy Director, Healthcare Information Division, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
- Kurt Snipes, Ph.D., Chief, Cancer Surveillance and Research Branch, California Department of Public Health

12:00 Funding Comparative Effectiveness Research (Lunch Provided)
Mark Helfand, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Director, Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center

1:00 Cohort Studies in Comparative Effectiveness Research
Eric S. Johnson, Ph.D.
Center for Health Research, Kaiser Permanente, Northwest

2:00 Call for CER Pilot Project Proposals

2:15 Adjourn
Featured Speaker Bios

Mark Helfand, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., Director, Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center; Staff Physician, Portland VA Medical Center
Dr. Mark Helfand is a professor in the Departments of Medicine and Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology at Oregon Health & Science University and a practicing physician at the Portland VA Medical Center. Dr. Helfand has been a leader in methods for comparative effectiveness research. From 1998-2002, Dr. Helfand led a team that helped the US Preventive Services Task Force prioritize topics and develop evidence-based guidelines. In the area of comparative effectiveness, he was a founder of the Drug Effectiveness Review Project (2003-2006) and, since 2004, has served as director of the Scientific Resource Center for AHRQ's Effective Health Care program. He has directed the Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center since 1997 and is also Editor-in-Chief of the journal Medical Decision Making.

Eric S. Johnson, Ph.D., Center for Health Research, Kaiser Permanente Northwest
Eric S. Johnson, PhD, an epidemiologist, has designed studies using healthcare databases for 15 years. Most of his research describes prognosis in usual care settings and the prediction of clinical events that matter to patients, providers, and policy makers. Dr. Johnson serves as a scientific lead for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Scientific Resource Center, a component of the Effective Healthcare Program; in that capacity, he works to improve the rigor of comparative effectiveness studies in AHRQ's DEcIDE Network: Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions about Effectiveness. He conducts comparative effectiveness research through Kaiser Permanente's Center for Effectiveness and Safety and Research. Dr. Johnson has been teaching graduate and professional students in the University of Washington's Departments of Epidemiology and Pharmacy for the past ten years. He chairs a short course on comparative effectiveness research for the International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management.

Helena Kraemer, Ph.D., Professor of Biostatistics in Psychiatry (Emerita), Stanford University; Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
Dr. Kraemer received her bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Smith College (Summa cum Laude, 1958), did her first year of graduate study in Statistics as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Manchester, England, and then completed her doctoral studies in the Department of Statistics, Stanford University (1963). She joined the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford in 1964. Her primary interests concern the applications of biostatistics in the behavioral areas of medicine. In 1964, she became the statistician at the department, which she has continued to work in Cardiology, Pediatrics, Radiology, Oncology etc., as well as other areas. She has served as associate editor on the editorial boards of Statistics in Medicine, Psychological Methods, Archives of General Psychiatry, Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology. Her major recent research interests concern the use of statistical methods in risk research, specifically the focus on moderators and mediators, the use of effect sizes to indicate clinical or practical significance to replace the overuse and abuse of statistical significance, and, in general, identifying and trying to rectify common problems in the application of statistical methods in medicine. She became Emerita in 2007, but continues to be active, serving on the NIMH Council, on the DSM V Task Force, as well as consulting at various universities.
Breakout Leaders and Panelist Bios

Estella M. Geraghty, M.D., M.S., M.P.H./C.P.H., F.A.C.P., Assistant Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine, Division of General Medicine
Dr. Geraghty’s research interests revolve around health informatics, spatial epidemiology and geographic information systems (GIS). For the last two years she has been working on the evaluation component of the Cohort Discovery Tool, powered by i2b2 (informatics for integrating the bench and the bedside). This is a multi-institution project leveraging EMR data to improve cohort discovery among NIH designated CTSAs. Dr. Geraghty earned her M.D. from UC Davis in 2002 and also holds both a Masters of Medical Informatics Degree and a Masters in Public Health Degree from U.C. Davis. She is among the charter class of Certified in Public Health professionals.

Neal D. Kohatsu, M.D., M.P.H., Senior Medical Advisor, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS); Chief, Medical Policy and Benefits Branch
Dr. Kohatsu currently serves as Senior Medical Advisor in the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and also as Chief, Medical Policy and Benefits Branch. Previously, he directed the Cancer Control Branch in the California Department of Public Health. From 2003-2006, he was an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Iowa where he did research in worksite health promotion and nutrition/physical activity intervention and taught courses in evidence-based public health. He has published in the area of clinical preventive services, chronic disease epidemiology, and patient safety and is Associate Editor of the 15th Edition of Maxcy-Rosenau Public Health & Preventive Medicine. Dr. Kohatsu is board-certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. He completed a fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Epidemiology at Stanford University and preventive medicine residency at the University of Arizona. He received an M.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh and an A.B. in Human Biology from Stanford University.

Scott MacDonald, M.D., Internist, UC Davis Medical Group, Sacramento; PCN Associate Medical Director for Clinical Information Systems
Dr. MacDonald graduated from UC Davis Internal Medicine residency and has been a primary care internist for 10 years. For the past 6 years, he has been part of the UCD EMR team, acting as liason between the technical and clinical aspects of our Health Informatics efforts. As Associate Medical Director he has helped guide development of EMR content and user interfaces for ambulatory EMR deployment and optimization. Key area of interest includes leading the Clinical Decision Support Workgroup, with a goal to use electronic tools and our existing database to help clinicians provide better care in a more efficient manner. He also chairs the Ambulatory Reporting Workgroup which is charged with developing clinical and operational reports to support quality improvement efforts and population-based patient care.

Joy Melnikow, M.D., M.P.H., Professor, UC Davis Department of Family and Community Medicine; Director, Center for Healthcare Policy and Research
Joy Melnikow, M.D., M.P.H. is the Director of the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research and Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California, Davis. She is a member of the US Preventive Services Task Force. She received her M.D. from UC San Francisco and her M.P.H. in epidemiology from UC Berkeley. She completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Massachusetts, worked for the Indian Health Service, and was on the faculty of MetroHealth Medical Center/Case Western University before coming to UC Davis in 1992. Her research focuses on cancer prevention, women’s health, particularly in regard to decision making and patient preferences, comparative effectiveness, and cost effectiveness.

Susan Philip, M.P.P., Director, California Health Benefits Review Program
Susan Philip is the Director for the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) and has been with the program since 2003. Previously Ms. Philip provided Medicare compliance consulting and oversight services for provider credentialing, network contracting, marketing, and financial reporting for risk-adjustment payments at the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Northern and Southern California regions. Prior to that, she worked at the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) on outreach and research related to The Leapfrog Group’s patient safety initiatives and hospital-level quality measures. Prior to
PBGH, Philip served as a Policy Analyst at the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) where she conducted analysis on consumer choice, the hospital outpatient prospective payment system, and access to post-acute care. She received her Master's in Public Policy from the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, and AB from Columbia College.

Kurt P. Snipes, M.S., Ph.D., Branch Chief, California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance and Research Branch
Dr. Snipes has worked for the California Department of Public Health for over 17 years, serving as an epidemiologist with the California Cancer Registry, Chief of the Cancer Research Section, Acting Chief of the Cancer Detection Section, and Acting Chief of the Cancer Control Branch. He is currently the Chief of the Cancer Surveillance and Research Branch, which oversees the California Cancer Registry, the Survey Research Group, the California Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and the California Lupus Surveillance Program. Dr. Snipes earned his B.S. in Biology from the University of California, Irvine, and he earned both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Comparative Pathology from the University of California, Davis. He also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Epidemiology from UC Davis and is a former Fulbright Scholar. In addition to a number of professional committees, Dr. Snipes is an active volunteer with the American Cancer Society, serving as a member of the California Division's Board of Directors and Chair of the Outcomes and Evaluation Team for the Mission Delivery Group. Dr. Snipes is also Vice-Chair of the California Dialogue on Cancer, the statewide coalition charged with implementation of California's comprehensive cancer control plan. In addition to his position with the Cancer Surveillance and Research Branch, Dr. Snipes holds a faculty position with the Division of Hematology and Oncology of the UC Davis Medical Center.

Ronald Spingarn, MS, Deputy Director, Healthcare Information Division, California State Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
For nearly 10 years, Mr. Spingarn has held various executive, management and analyst healthcare policy positions for the State of California, including legislative and external affairs director of California's State Children's Health Insurance Program, legislative staff for State Senator Jackie Speier, and one of the first employees at the Department of Managed Health Care. Previously, for more than a decade, he provided and directed HIV/AIDS prevention services, and worked as a health researcher/writer for local government, community-based and international non-profit organizations, and universities, after beginning his career in journalism. He earned a Master of Science from Columbia University, Graduate School of Journalism, and a Bachelor of Science from Boston University, College of Communication.