



# AcademyHealth Overview

*Working Conference Health Services Research in Europe*

April 9, 2010  
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## Presentation Outline

- About AcademyHealth
  - Mission
  - Membership
  - Programs
- Advocacy for the Field of Health Services Research (HSR)
- Strengthening the Field of HSR
- Knowledge Transfer
- Comparative Effectiveness Research



## AcademyHealth's Mission

- As the professional society for health services researchers and health policy analysts, our mission is three-fold:
  1. Strengthen the research infrastructure
  2. Promote the use of the best available research
  3. Assist health policy and practice leaders in addressing major health care challenges
- We work to both “push” the production of research and promote the “pull” by decision makers

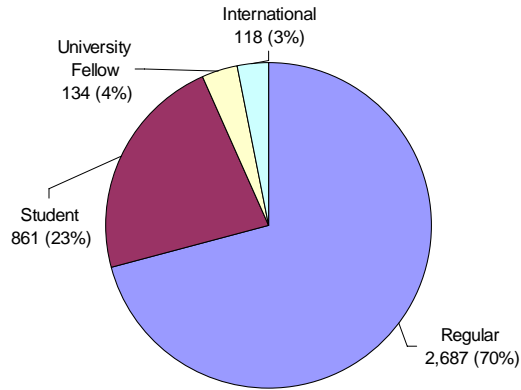


## AcademyHealth Membership

- Individuals (3800 members)
  - Health services researchers, public and private policymakers,, students, international, clinicians
- Organizational Affiliates (150 organizations)
  - Universities, government agencies, associations, health providers, foundations
- Interest Groups (15 groups)
  - Representing disciplines such as: health economics, long-term care, child health services research
  - Identifying priority issues, such as disparities, quality, workforce
  - Promoting the field though: health policy communication, research translation



## AcademyHealth's Individual Membership, Feb 2010 (n=3,818)



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## AcademyHealth's Organizational Affiliates, February, 2010

Category	Affiliates	
	Number	%
Research/Policy Center		
University Based	49	32.2
Non-University Based	19	12.5
Associations	30	19.7
Foundations	13	8.6
Health Providers	12	7.9
Government Agencies	10	6.6
Consulting Firms	9	5.9
Pharmaceutical Companies	6	3.9
Health Plans	4	2.6
<b>AcademyHealth Total</b>	<b>152</b>	



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## Conferences and Seminars

- National Conferences
  - Annual Research Meeting
  - National Health Policy Conference
- Health Policy Orientation
- Interest Groups Meetings
- Methods and Professional Skill-Building Seminars

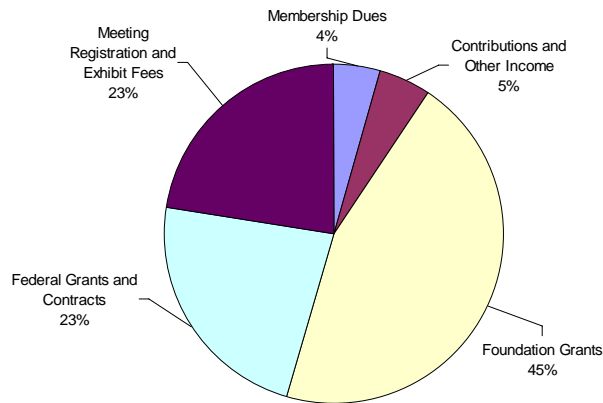


## Professional Development

- Methods Seminars
  - Best Practices in Designing and Analyzing Internet Surveys for HSR
  - Introduction to Health Services Research Methods (Two-Part Series)
- Professional Skill-Building Seminars
  - Overview of Preparing and Presenting Research Posters
  - Presenting Statistical Results to Non-Statistical Audiences
- HSRMethods.org
  - "Methods Minute"



## AcademyHealth Sources of Funding



## Advocacy for the Field: Increasing Federal Funding for HSR

- Of \$30 billion spent on health research, \$1.8 billion was spent on health services research
- Only 6 percent of spending is allocated to health services research. The remaining 94 percent is allocated to biomedical and clinical research

## AcademyHealth HSR Definition (2000)

Multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that:

→ **Studies how**

- social factors,
- financing systems,
- organizational structures and processes,
- health technologies, and
- personal behaviors

→ **Affect**

- access to health care,
- quality and cost of health care,
- and ultimately our health and well being

→ **In the following research domains**

- individuals,
- families,
- organizations and institutions, and
- communities and populations



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## Who Does HSR?

**Who:**

- Clinicians
- Social and behavioral scientists
- Managers and administrators

**Where:**

- Universities
- Academic health centers
- Research institutes/"think tanks"
- Health plans and delivery systems

**In the following disciplines:**

- Biostatistics
- Health economics
- Medical sociology
- Medicine
- Operations research
- Political science
- Epidemiology
- Law
- Management
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Social work



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## Strengthening the HSR Infrastructure

- Identifying and filling “gaps” in the knowledge base
- Promoting interdisciplinary, collaborative research
- Investing in human capital and the “next generation”
- Developing/refining new methods
- Generating new data and restructuring existing data resources



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## Council of Sponsors

- Council of Sponsors
  - To coordinate the many federal and foundation funders of HSR, AcaemyHealth established this Council
  - It provides a mechanism for research funders in the public and private sectors to:
    - Review research priorities
    - Conduct research needs assessment
    - Oversee the development of a strategic plan for the field
- Recent Activities:
  - Supported AcademyHealth's Summits on Workforce and Methods/Data
  - Developed a compendium of research in progress for the new Administration and Congress that would inform health reform over the next 3-4 years



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## Health Services Research 2020 Summits

### Summit I: Workforce Needs

- Findings:
  - Demographics: Field is aging and increasingly female and racially/ethnically diverse
  - Growing field: Doubled in size from 5,000 in 1995 to 11,000 in 2007\*
  - More jobs in the private sector

### Summit II: Data & Methods

- Findings:
  - Data Challenges
    - Emphasis shift from surveys to systems data
    - More “naturally” occurring data that no one owns (cyberspace)
    - Data governance: What data are available? How can it be shared among institutions? At what cost?
    - Need to link researchers to users to answer relevant questions
  - Need for Methods and Training:
    - How to link data sets
    - Standards in research methods
    - Implementation research

## Knowledge Transfer: Bridging Mechanisms

- Create a fertile breeding ground for policymakers/practitioners and researchers to learn together:
  - Fosters dynamics among individuals and organizations that share challenges and interests, but would not otherwise come together.
  - Encourages multi-dimensional learning to tap into shared learning among peers.
- Effective Learning Networks Require:
  - Neutral convening body
  - Incentives to share
    - Public sector participants tend to pledge their allegiance to their profession and are more often willing to share
    - Private sector considerations about barriers of competition often hinder members' openness in sharing
  - Adequate Funding/Staffing
    - This requires staff with knowledge of the issues to nurture the process



## Lessons from Collaborations with Researchers, Policymakers, and Practitioners

### → Benefits:

- Adds prestige to practitioners' agency
- Helps practitioners recruit and retain high-caliber individuals, which invariably leads to higher quality care because service delivery is under scrutiny
- Helps organizations move away from making decisions based only on anecdotal evidence

### → Challenges:

- Maintaining funding for collaborations;
- Developing a joint research agenda that advances the intellectual publications goals of researchers and the pragmatic needs of practitioners;
- Maintaining the integrity and objectivity of research within an organization with vested interests



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## Federal Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (aka Comparative Effectiveness Research)

- Placement: Non-profit, non-governmental
- Duties: Identifying research priorities and establishing and carrying out research project agenda
- Scope: Compares health outcomes and clinical effectiveness, risks and benefits of 2 or more medical treatments, services, and other items
- Limitations:
  - Research cannot be used to determine coverage, reimbursement, or incentive programs
  - Dollars-per-quality adjusted life year may not be used
  - Does *not* explicitly prohibit the use of cost-effectiveness research



## Governance and Financing of New Outcomes Research Institute

- Governance: Overseen by multi-stakeholder Board of Governors
  - Directors of AHRQ and NIH
  - Patients
  - Physicians
  - Private payers
  - Pharmaceutical/device manufacturers
  - Quality improvement
  - Federal/state government staff—as public purchasers
- When fully funded, \$500 million budget for Institute and its funded research
- Funding from annual appropriations and assessment on Medicare and private health plans
  - **FY 2010:** \$10 million
  - **FY 2011:** \$50 million
  - **FY 2012:** \$150 million
  - **FY 2013:** \$150 million in + \$1/covered life in Medicare and private plans
  - **FY 2014-2019:** \$150 million + \$2/covered life in Medicare and private plans



## Outcomes Research Institute Methodology Committee

- Composed of 15 members appointed by the Comptroller General of the U.S.
- Members include experts in:
  - Health services research
  - Clinical research
  - Comparative clinical effectiveness
  - Biostatistics
  - Genomics
  - Research methodologies
  - Members from NIH and AHRQ
- Functions
  - Develops and improves the methods of CER
  - Updates methodological standards for research
  - Creates a translation table to act as a reference to address specific research questions
- Development and update of methodology will include input from relevant experts, stakeholders, and decision makers, and will provide opportunities for public comment

