New Direction for Family Practice Research Efforts

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Objectives of Presentation

- Primary Care Research
- Bring everyone on same page
- Different funding agencies interested in specific types of Primary Care Research
New Directions for Research

- Thematic research areas …..
  - Primary care research
  - Types of primary care research
  - Criteria for settings priorities
- Evidence-based medicine …..
  - Shift from descriptive to analytic design strategies
Descriptive vs. Analytic designs

**Descriptive Studies**
- No hypothesis testing
- No elucidation on the concept of causation
- Lacks power to generalize results
- e.g. Case Reports

**Analytic Studies**
- Can hypothesize on cause-effect relationships
- Can elucidate on conditions of the concept of causation
- Results may be normally generalizable
- e.g. Case-control study
Hierarchy of Epi Design Strategies

- Case Reports
- Case Series
- Cross-Sectional Surveys
- Case-Control Studies
- Cohort (Follow-Up) Studies
- Randomized Controlled Trials

Complexity

Confidence
Primary Care Research

- Any type of research conducted in a primary care “context” or “setting”
- **What is primary care?**
Primary Care

- The provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of the family and the community.

– Institute of Medicine (1996)
Primary Care . . .

- The organized, continuous, coordinated, and comprehensive care provided over time to populations undifferentiated by a particular disease, organ system, age, or gender

  - Starfield (1996)
Why Conduct Research in Primary Care?

- Improvement in care
- **Service to the community**
- Part of institutional education and research mission
- **Intellectual reward for individual**
- Cost-containment
Types of Research in Primary Care

- Basic research
- Clinical research
- Health services research
- Health systems research
Health Services System

**Health-Related Outcome**
- *e.g.* utilization of care

**Structure**
- *e.g.* personnel

**Process**
- *e.g.* skills

**Environment**
- *e.g.* economic

**Physician**
- *e.g.* belief
Basic Research

- Involves one of the following components of the health services system: outcome, structure, or process, OR the development of methods to study any of these components and their interrelationships.
Clinical Research

- Involves at least one of the processes contributed by practitioners and either one of the processes contributed by patients or a facet of a health-related outcome.
Health Services Research

- Involves research where at least one of the proposed explanatory variables of interest is not confined to consideration of the processes contributed only by practitioners.
Health Systems Research

- Involves research with at least one element of the environment and the design and operation of the health services system.
## Matching Research Type with a Funding Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESEARCH TYPE</th>
<th>FUNDING SOURCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>NIH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Services</td>
<td>AHCPR</td>
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