A New Patient-Centered Study on Preventing Fall-Related Injuries in Older Adults

A PCORI-NIH Webinar/Teleconference

June 4, 2013
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Welcome

Bryan Luce, PhD, MBA
Chief Science Office,
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Welcome

• Webinar participants can ask questions via the webinar “chat” feature or via Twitter, #PCORI.

• Submitted questions will be discussed during the public comment periods after panelists’ remarks. Members of the media on deadline, please identify yourself so we may triage your questions.
Preventing Fall-Related Injuries in Older Adults

Bryan Luce, PhD, MBA, Chief Science Officer
June 4, 2014
About PCORI

PCORI helps people make informed health care decisions, and improves health care delivery and outcomes, by producing and promoting high integrity, evidence-based information that comes from research guided by patients, caregivers and the broader health care community.
What Is Patient-Centered CER?

PCORI funds comparative effectiveness research (CER) that answers questions important to patients and other clinical care decision makers by:

- Comparing two or more options for screening, diagnosis, treatment
- Considering the range of relevant outcomes
- Conducting studies in real world populations and real world settings
- Attending to differences in effectiveness and preferences across patient subgroups
Answering Questions That Matter Most to Patients: Preventing Fall-Related Injuries

PCORI’s patient-centered CER aims to answer questions that matter most to patients

- Falls remain one of the most common causes of disability and loss of independence among older adults
- Unlocking the key to falls prevention will have significant impact on the health care system and most importantly patients
- Until now, no large-scale study has been undertaken to identify the most effective combination of falls prevention strategies to fit the needs of different individuals and different health care systems
How We Selected Preventing Fall-Related Injuries as an Important Research Topic

PCORI identified fall prevention as a high-priority topic through a stakeholder-driven process that incorporated perspectives from all parts of the health care community.
How We Selected Preventing Fall-Related Injuries as an Important Research Topic

On March 12, 2013, PCORI convened an ad hoc workgroup consisting of patients, researchers, stakeholders, and others to pick out the top-tier questions related to fall prevention.

Their input ensures that the research funded will produce results that are relevant to patients and those who care for them.
About the Funding Announcement

- Fall-related injuries in older adults are a critical health issue.
  - Falls represent the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults.

- The National Institute on Aging is a perfect fit for this partnership.
  - NIA brings expertise in conditions affecting older individuals as well as its established infrastructure and capabilities in managing large, multi-year clinical trials.

- The intent of this collaborative project is to evaluate a comprehensive, multi-factorial approach to falls.
New Patient-Centered Study on Preventing Fall-Related Injuries in Older Adults

Richard J. Hodes, MD
Director, National Institute on Aging
About the National Institute on Aging

• NIA is one of 27 Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health
• Established in 1974
The National Institute on Aging at NIH

• Conducts research
• Trains and develops research scientists
• Provides research resources
• Disseminates information on health and research advances
Why focus on falls in older people?

Falls are a common but serious problem:

• Approximately one in three older Americans falls each year and 20-30% of those who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries such as lacerations, hip fractures, or head trauma.
• These injuries may lead to a loss of independence or death.
• Risk factors include illness, functional impairments, and environmental hazards.
What We Know, What We Need to Know

• Some tested interventions have substantial effects; others little or none.
• Multifactorial interventions have been successful but unable to be broadly applied.
• Strategies now need to be tested in different practice settings with different populations to see how individual, practice, health care systems-related barriers can be overcome to reduce falls and fall-related serious injuries.
Making a Difference in the Community: the Value of Collaborating with PCORI

• Meaningful involvement of patients and stakeholders, as partners with researchers

• PCORI engagement may help overcome barriers to research and implementation success:
  ➢ Help facilitate provider adherence to future guidelines
  ➢ Help providers facilitate improvements in patients’ home safety
  ➢ Improve patients’ adoption of recommended risk-modifying behaviors
  ➢ Connect and coordinate provider efforts to reduce risk (e.g., coordinating medication adjustment across several providers)
RFA-AG-14-009 – NIH Invites Applications for Major Study

- Fall Injuries Prevention Partnership, a research partnership between IC/NIH and PCORI, with funds provided by PCORI to NIH
- RFA developed by NIA staff, PCORI identified as partner
- NIA and PCORI share understanding of RFA, study aim to address personal, public health burden of serious falls
- RFA published July 2013
- RFA invited applications for randomized clinical trial of multifactorial strategy for preventing serious fall-related injuries among non-institutionalized older people
- Applications reviewed February 2014
The Study

• Randomized Trial of a Multifactorial Fall Injury Prevention Strategy

• $30 million, 5-year study supported with funds from PCORI and led by NIA and team of investigators

• Joint Principal Investigators:
  o Dr. Shalender Bhasin, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School
  o Dr. Thomas Gill, Yale School of Medicine
  o Dr. David Reuben, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA

• Study will test an individually tailored prevention strategy and concept of a fall care manager in various health care systems, communities

• **Primary outcome:** reduction in serious fall injuries
Communicating Principal Investigator

Shalender Bhasin, MD
Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women’s Hospitals
Patient Perspective

Martie Carnie
Co-chair, Brigham & Women’s Hospital’s Patient and Family Advisory Council
Clinician Perspective

Mark Wiest, MD
Family Physician, Arizona
Audience Question and Answer

June 4, 2014
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Wrap-up

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