

On behalf of the American Sleep Apnea Association, the only national non-profit patient interest organization dedicated to educating the public and the medical community about sleep apnea and the importance of sleep, I am writing to commend PCORI on the national priorities for research and the research agenda.

The association would encourage the Institute as they look at projects comparing clinical effectiveness that make certain to keep "sleep" in mind. Sleep engages up to a third of our lives and is key to maintaining health while awake.

In one specific research area – Improving Healthcare Systems – we would advocate for exploring the use of an allied health professional to serve as a clinical sleep educator in the primary care practice as a way of responding to patient's need for answers to sleep related questions. Addressing sleep related questions early could reduce the need for care later.

The association is available to assist the Institute as they move forward on the research agenda.

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