Research Funding

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is a nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to fund comparative clinical research, or CER. The studies we fund are designed to produce reliable, useful information that will help patients, family caregivers, clinicians, employers, insurers, policy makers and others make better-informed health and healthcare decisions. Our work is guided by a 21-member Board of Governors representing the entire healthcare community.

CER AND PCOR
CER is research that compares two or more available healthcare options to determine what works best for which patients, under what circumstances. PCORI supports patient-centered outcomes research, or PCOR, which is CER that focuses not only on traditional clinical outcomes but also on the needs, preferences, and outcomes most important to patients and those who care for them.

BY THE NUMBERS

Research Projects By Area

Most Studied Conditions*
- Mental/Behavioral Health: 145 projects
- Cancer: 96 projects
- Cardiovascular Diseases: 83 projects
- Neurological Disorders: 79 projects
- Nutritional and Metabolic Disorders: 63 projects

Most Studied Populations of Interest*
- Racial/Ethnic Minorities: 336 projects
- Low Socioeconomic Status: 226 projects
- Women: 190 projects
- Older Adults: 157 projects
- Individuals with Multiple Chronic Conditions: 132 projects

*Number of projects (out of a total of 531). A project may study more than one condition or population of interest.
ENGAGEMENT
We believe research that involves patients and other stakeholders from the start will lead to useful results more likely to be taken up in practice. So we engage patients and other stakeholders in all aspects of our work and require the research projects we fund to do so as well.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES
Our research funding is guided by five National Priorities for Research, which we developed with significant input from across the healthcare community. These are:

- Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options
- Improving Healthcare Systems
- Addressing Disparities
- Communication and Dissemination Research
- Accelerating Patient-Centered Outcomes Research and Methodological Research

INPUT FROM PATIENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Our funding decisions are guided by input from all sectors of the healthcare community.

- We solicit potential research topics and questions from the community.
- We prioritize topics that meet critical needs through our multi-stakeholder PCORI Advisory Panels.
- We engage patients and other stakeholders in reviewing applications for our funding.

We issue calls for research proposals through PCORI Funding Announcements, which can be found on our website at www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities. Types of announcements:

- Calls for proposals on specific topics prioritized by stakeholder input
- Calls for proposals for pragmatic clinical studies addressing specific prioritized topics

METHODS MATTER
Better methods will produce more valid, useful information that will lead to better healthcare decisions and, ultimately, to improved patient care and outcomes. To that end, we fund research on ways to improve the conduct of PCOR. And per our authorizing legislation, we’ve developed a set of Methodology Standards as the basis for sound PCOR.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR MORE EFFICIENT RESEARCH
PCORnet®, the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network, enables patient-centered clinical research to be conducted faster, more easily, and more efficiently. It does so by tapping into rich stores of real-word data collected during routine care through electronic health records, patient-reported outcomes, health claims, and other sources.

By leveraging this information, PCORnet generates evidence about the comparative clinical effectiveness of therapies, diagnostics, and prevention strategies.

PCORnet was developed with funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.