



Evidence Synthesis Collaborative INVESTIGATOR PROJECT NOMINATION FORM

Mission: To improve the health of Minnesota Veterans through collaborative evidence synthesis that informs our learning health care system.

Objective: The primary objective of the Investigator Initiated Review program within ESC is to provide opportunities for Minneapolis VAHCS clinicians to conduct mentor-supported targeted systematic reviews of health care interventions relevant to Veterans. The program aims to provide methodological learning opportunities in systematic reviews and is intended to support completion of an investigator-led review suitable for peer review publication, presentation, and serve as pilot work for future (ideally funded) projects.

Eligibility: Clinicians must hold at least a 5/8 appointment at the Minneapolis VAHCS. Priority will be early career/midlevel individuals with a University of Minnesota appointment. Fellows collaborating closely with, and supervised by, staff clinicians may be eligible. Applicants are encouraged to include collaborators from multiple disciplines.

Application: The application consists of 3 components: 1) Application Form that includes a summary of the evidence review's key clinical question(s), importance, feasibility (e.g. scope/amount of eligible literature, prior reviews, intended usage and applicant's available time; 2) CV; 3) Discussion with ESC Leadership to clarify/refine work scope and questions; applicant's role and availability; specific project interest; usage; additional career interests/background. Applicants are strongly encouraged to have a discussion to address questions etc...with ESC core members prior to application submission.

Selection: Applications will be reviewed by the ESC and Research Advisory Panel (RAP). Applicants will be notified of selection and start date. Completion is expected within one year of start date.

Terms of Support: Selected applicants will be designated as project lead investigator and are encouraged to list the project on their CV with the award (approximately \$45,000) allocated to the ESC (ESC Director listed as Principal Investigator). They are required to take "lead roles" working in collaboration with ESC core staff in the conduct of the systematic review including refinement of the key question, populations, interventions, outcomes; literature triage; data extraction; and report writing. They will work in collaboration with ESC members to learn risk of bias and certainty of evidence assessment. Awardees are responsible for completion of a manuscript-style report within one-year and presentation of findings locally (e.g. Research Conference; Grand Rounds). ESC core staff will be included as authors.

All reports, manuscripts, presentations, grant applications, will acknowledge ESC staff and/or funding source. Awardees will complete a survey providing feedback on the project experience and derivative products. The ESC director has overall responsibility and authority on project scope and work requirements.

Contact Information: Denise (Wei) Duan-Porter, ESC Director; Wei.DuanPorter@va.gov

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility is limited to clinicians holding at least a 5/8 appointment at the Minneapolis VAHCS. Priority will be early career/midlevel individuals with a faculty appointment at the University of Minnesota. Fellows collaborating closely with, and supervised by, staff clinicians may be eligible. Applicants are encouraged to include collaborators from multiple disciplines. Reports intended for usage by Medical Industry are not eligible.

APPLICATION:

The application consists of 3 components:

1. Application including a summary of the applicant’s background, prior experience, and available time; proposed evidence review’s key clinical question(s), importance, feasibility (e.g. scope/amount of eligible literature, prior reviews); intended use.
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
3. Discussion with ESC Leadership to clarify/refine work scope and key question(s); applicant’s availability, specific project interest, role, and usage; additional career interests/background. Individuals are encouraged to have a preliminary discussion prior to application submission to address questions, scope, roles etc. with ESC core members.

Applicant Information (attach copy of your and any collaborator's CV)

Name and Degree:

Email:

VA title:

% VA appointment:

Department/Section:

Academic Rank:

Collaborators (Name/VA title/VA Department and section/Academic rank):

Supervisor Name:

Supervisor Email:

Time available (%; including supervisor [10%; 1/2 day per week minimum]):

Intended Report Usage:

Are Department/Division research funds available to support this work? Yes No

Is this supported, or intended to be used, by Medical Industry (not eligible)? Yes No

Research/quality improvement experience including systematic reviews:

Project Information

Title (ensuring project is a systematic review):

Clinical/research/policy/implementation challenges/questions to address and their importance (especially relevant to Veterans)?

Introduction/Rationale/Intended Use: 1-3 paragraphs

Key clinical question(s) (e.g. What is the effectiveness [comparative effectiveness] and harms of intervention A for adults with condition B ?)

"PICO" format: (Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcomes):

Population(s):

Intervention(s):

Comparator(s):

Outcome(s):

Eligible study design (RCTs, cohort ...) and years of inclusion

Estimate of literature volume and need for a systematic review based on initial literature search (e.g. number of references identified in initial literature search; prior systematic reviews).

*If systematic reviews exist, briefly note why this review needed (date/scope).

Relevance to Veterans and VA Health Care and how findings will improve Veterans' health and VA health care delivery.

Are Veterans, or Veterans' insights, included in this proposal? Yes (please explain) No