Dear Colleagues:

The Kaiser Permanente and Johns Hopkins Medicine Research Collaboration Committee is actively requesting research proposals to foster collaborative research between the two institutions and address complex and intriguing healthcare and clinical questions vexing our health systems. Specifically, we are looking for research proposals that are aligned with both organizations' strategies and present opportunities to prove the synergy of the Kaiser Permanente/Johns Hopkins collaboration. We hope to identify and fund proposals that accomplish seminal research utilizing the unique capabilities that only two such organizations as Kaiser Permanente and Johns Hopkins have.

Broadly, the goal is to support collaborative epidemiologic, health services and related clinical research to be conducted jointly by Kaiser Permanente and Johns Hopkins researchers. The review panel (the Kaiser Permanente/Johns Hopkins Research Collaboration Committee, "RCC") will consider a wide array of research proposals ranging from analyzing EMR data, developing clinical research registries, implementing safety and quality improvement research projects and large collaborative studies, and conducting comparative effectiveness trials. We hope to gradually build lasting infrastructure and efficient processes as we conduct each collaborative research project. Of course, these proposals have limited funding (up to $75,000 for 12 months; non-renewable), so the goal is likely pilot work for larger and more complex research proposals later.

Though the boundaries among various types of research overlap and are at times opaque, the research proposals should fall into one of four main areas, with two co-PIs, one from Johns Hopkins, and one from Kaiser Permanente:

1. Clinical research that includes research with active data collection from humans such as clinical trials with a patient-level intervention

2. Outcomes and effectiveness research that uses EMR or claims data generally without an active intervention to evaluate patient care, patient outcomes and potential disparities

3. Quality improvement and implementation research that uses a variety of data sources to improve value to our patients or to understand the organization, financing and delivery of care

4. Learning health systems research that studies an evolving model where continuous information on process, outcomes and preferences of care is derived from electronic health records (EHRs) and other mainly digital sources and is meaningfully used by the system to improve

A unique feature of this pilot program is that both organizations are committed to carefully reviewing the results of each pilot study and developing an implementation plan based on the results. This may include funding for additional analyses, looking for additional evidence, or moving directly to implementation and dissemination. We expect the research team would be a partner in the evaluation and implementation plan so we could demonstrate how these pilot studies are imbedded in an effective learning health care system.

In 2016, we funded 3 projects: 1) Developing and assessing quality performance metrics for care of adults with sickle cell disease; 2) Effectiveness and value of newer treatments for hepatitis C; and 3) Improving the diagnosis of stroke in patients who present with dizziness.

We greatly appreciate your support of this research collaboration. ***Please see the next page for details about the Brief Application.***

Sincerely,
Bernadette and Peter

Brief Application Guidelines

The RCC is offering pilot money for 3 projects, up to $75,000 each. Successful pilot projects will be able to demonstrate the ability to produce initial results within 12 months and demonstrate partnership between investigators from both KP and JHM.

Examples of desired results would include, but are not limited to: 1) larger grant application to an external funding source; 2) submission for publication or presentation at a national conference; or 3) implementation into practice. There is also an expectation of presentation of these results to senior leadership of both institutions, as well as working collaboratively with operational teams at the two institutions to close any care gaps identified from the research.

It is expected that these initial pilots have a long-term goal of leading to larger external (to KP and JHM) joint grant applications. Failure to show evidence of that in the Brief Application will greatly hinder the likelihood of initial pilot funding.

These projects should be new research and not continuation of prior research or continuation of previous funding. Of course, research can be based on prior efforts, but should be unique and able to "stand alone".

Who	The application should be jointly written by 1 researcher from JHM and 1 researcher from KP.
What	The application will be responsive to one of the four areas listed above. Brief applications that address the learning health system topic will be given extra consideration. *Please see "What your Brief Application needs to include" below.*
Where	Please send completed Brief Applications to **both** Michael.Horberg@kp.org **and** dford@jhmi.edu
When	The application is due by 5pm Eastern Time, Friday, March 10
If you have questions?	Please contact Michael.Horberg@kp.org or dford@jhmi.edu Also, please see our website at jhkpresearch.johnshopkins.edu for a copy of this request and other useful information. We recognize that you may have a great idea but not know a potential research collaborator/colleague at the other institution. Drs. Horberg and Ford will endeavor to make such introductions after consultation with our various research colleagues.

What your Brief Application needs to include:

1. Provide names of JHM and KP researchers jointly submitting applications (application must be submitted by at least 2 researchers with representation from both KP and JHM)

2. In less than 2 pages, describe what you are trying to do (research question and briefly the methods), and how this assists the aims of a larger funded project over the long term. Also, briefly describe the evidence gap you are trying to fill and why your question is relevant, and for which population of stakeholders.

3. Included in the above, discuss the population, data source and research design approach / methods you envision using for the overall project and for this pilot (as they may differ). What types of data do you need to support your research (e.g., inpatient, ambulatory, etc.)? Is there a specific KP region or JHM entity that you would like to work with?

4. In one paragraph, explain what prior work may have already been completed at one or the other collaborating organization that might help make this project more feasible

5. In no more than 1 paragraph, describe the key deliverables or "products" that you believe are achievable during this pilot and how long would it take to achieve them

6. Who are the researchers at each institution who could collaborate on both the pilot and then a potential subsequent larger effort? (If you do not know a relevant collaborator at Kaiser Permanente or Johns Hopkins, please contact Drs. Ford or Horberg *we're here to help and all applications must have two co-PIs.*) A directory of researchers at Johns Hopkins based on expertise can be found at this website (http://ictr.johnshopkins.edu/clinical/clinical-resources/clinical-research-informatics-core/scival-experts-research-profiles/) Please state also why KP and JHM will be the right institutions to do this research.

7. A brief budget. If you were awarded a modest pilot grant (e.g., in the $50,000 to $75,000 range) how would you propose to spend these resources (you may include support for investigators and appropriate staff)?

The applications are due by 5pm Eastern Time on Friday, March 10, 2017. We will endeavor to render funding decisions by April 1, 2017, so that projects can begin soon after that. The RCC will also help with data access issues and IRB approvals, as required. The RCC also will assist with coordination with organizational and operational leaders.

If necessary, once we receive the applications, we will schedule a conference call with the PIs to discuss each application.

If you have any questions, please contact either Michael Horberg (Michael.Horberg@kp.org) or Dan Ford (dford@jhmi.edu).