

Dear Colleagues:

The Kaiser Permanente and Johns Hopkins Medicine Research Collaboration Committee (RCC) is actively requesting proposals for collaborative research opportunities. The KP/JHM research initiative seeks to support collaborative epidemiologic, health services and related clinical research to be conducted jointly by Kaiser Permanente and Johns Hopkins researchers. Research proposals should highlight the effective synergy of the Kaiser Permanente/Johns Hopkins collaboration in tackling the complex and intriguing questions vexing our health systems.

The RCC will grant funding for proposals **which best represent seminal research that leverages the unique capabilities of Kaiser Permanente and Johns Hopkins as learning health systems**. Research proposals should align with both organizations' strategic priorities:

- Innovations in using Epic to improve health care
- Demonstrating the value of health care services
- Analyze and greater utilize evidence-based medicine in optimizing care integration and coordination

The RCC will consider a wide array of research proposals such as analyzing EMR data; developing clinical research registries; implementing safety and quality improvement research projects; and conducting comparative effectiveness trials. The goal is to conduct collaborative research that leads to practice integration for quality improvement; reliable infrastructure and improved efficiency.

Accepted proposals are granted limited funding (up to \$75,000 for 12 months; non-renewable) generally launched as **pilot projects** to be reviewed for expansion to more complex proposals in the future.

Though the boundaries among various types of research may overlap proposals should fall into one of four main areas:

1. Outcomes and effectiveness: EMR or claims data analysis; generally without an active intervention to evaluate patient care, patient outcomes and potential disparities
2. Quality improvement and implementation research: data analysis targeted at improving value to our patients or to understand the complexity of care delivery
3. Learning health systems research: 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
4. Clinical research: active data collection from humans such as clinical trials with a patient-level intervention

Funded studies will be managed **by two co-Principal Investigators (PIs); one from Johns Hopkins, and one from Kaiser Permanente**.

As part of a learning health care system, research teams will develop an evaluation and implementation plan of their pilot to translate their findings into new interventions that can optimize health care delivery. This may include funding for additional analyses, research on additional evidence, or moving directly to implementation and dissemination.

For a listing of previously funded studies, visit the RCC website:

<https://jhkpresearch.johnshopkins.edu/funded-research/>

Sincerely,

The Kaiser Permanente and Johns Hopkins Medicine Research Collaboration Committee

Brief Application Guidelines

The RCC is offering pilot money for up to 4 projects, up to \$75,000 each (no indirect costs). 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.

Please note these are pilot projects and should have limited scope for the pilot project. ONLY the work proposed will be authorized.

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 one researcher from JHM and one 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. <i>Please see "What your Brief Application needs to include" below.</i>
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, September 27, 2019
If you have questions?	Please contact Michael Horberg (Michael.Horberg@kp.org) or Daniel Ford (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 2 pages or less, 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) 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)? Please note that we do not pay indirect costs. [Your brief budget proposal will be an appendix to the aforementioned 2-page proposal description].

The applications are due by 5pm Eastern Time on **September 27, 2019**. We will endeavor to render funding decisions by **November 1, 2019**, 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).