



## Hines

### Center of Excellence

Director: Frances M. Weaver, PhD, MA, BA

### **Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2011**

The Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care (CMC3) has investigators based at two locations in the Chicago area. Our primary offices are at Hines VA Hospital (VAH); additional investigators and offices are located at Jesse Brown VAMC/Chicago (JBVAMC).

The Center's strategic goals are to:

1. Understand how management of care is affected when patients have multiple chronic conditions in which evidence or guideline-recommended care is either lacking, or conflicts or complicates management;
2. Characterize coordination of care within and across health care systems, including VA, Medicare, Medicaid and private sector for patients with complex chronic conditions;
3. Assess use of patient self-management and behavioral interventions as a means of improving outcomes in patients with complex chronic conditions;
4. Identify and address health care provider and system level factors that affect management of patients with complex chronic conditions; and
5. Identify, assess and compare the effectiveness of innovative strategies and technologies for improving the care of patients with complex chronic conditions.

As a result of our efforts to develop a CREATE, we are interested in working more closely with both the Telehealth and My HealthVet Program Offices to conduct research that incorporates both strategies to improve care delivery and outcomes for complex chronic care patients.

Dr. Frances Weaver is the Director of CMC3, based at Hines VAH; and Dr. Saul Weiner serves as the Associate Director of CMC3, based at JBVAMC. Dr. Weaver is also the Director of the Spinal Cord Injury QUERI, and Professor and Director of the Health Services Research division within the Department of Medicine at Loyola University, Chicago. Dr. Weiner is also the Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs in the School of Medicine at the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC). Dr. Marian Fitzgibbon, who served as Assistant Director for CMC3 at JBVAMC stepped down this year to transition to the university full time. Dr. Howard Gordon, a research health scientist at CMC3 and a general internist at JBVAMC agreed to step into this position. Dr. Gordon also oversees the Center's MD Post-resident Fellowship Program. Dr. Todd Lee serves as the Assistant Director for CMC3 at Hines VAH and is the PhD Post-doctoral Fellowship Director. Dr. Eileen Collins, PhD, RN serves as the RN/PhD Post-doctoral Fellowship Director for CMC3.

Investigators at CMC3 have academic affiliations at one of three major universities in the Chicago area: Loyola University, Department of Medicine or School of Nursing; University of Illinois, Chicago, Department of Medicine, School of Pharmacy; or Institute for Health Research & Policy; and Northwestern University, Center for Health Services Research.

While this year's total funding decreased over last year, the decrease was primarily in NIH funding and reflects a combination of grants ending and faculty who have left VA. VA RR&D and CSP funding increased over FY11, while HSRD IIR funding was relatively stable. New grants that will begin this FY include three QUERI RRs led by Drs. Hogan, Smith, and Guihan, respectively, and three projects involving partnerships

with VHA Operations. Specifically, Dr. Evans is working with National Center for Occupational Health and Infection Control (COHIC) to use evidence-based practice to improve health care practices in healthcare workers and the patients they serve. Dr. LaVela is working with COHIC on a project related to use of respiratory masks for infection control. Dr. LaVela is also working with the Office of System Redesign to extend research that she has been doing with this office related to telephone access. We anticipate approximately ten proposals for the December 2011/January 2012 submission deadlines. These projects include: a study of preventive care for pressure ulcer risk in SCI, a study of teleMOVE! for difficult to control blood pressure patients, an implementation study on infection control practices in SCI and an educational intervention study.

Two new affiliates joined CMC3 this year and we anticipate at least two more affiliates to begin working with us in the new fiscal year.

Dr. Evans was named to the Editorial Board of Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine; a primary outlet for SCI QUERI research. Dr. Fischer was invited to serve on the National Quality Forum's Renal Endorsement Maintenance Steering Committee. Participation on this NQF committee complements his ongoing efforts in VA as a member of the VA CKD Performance Measures Working Group.

Our publications increased by 35% this year totaling 67, including high impact manuscripts in Annals of Surgery, Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Medical Care, and Chest. Fifteen papers (23%) were authored by our two HSRD CDAs. The number of presentations increased significantly this year, from 38 in FY10, to 66 in FY11.

Our work also had impact on patient and system outcomes. Several investigators at CMC3 are involved in the new eHealth QUERI Center. Dr. Weaver chairs a research infrastructure group that is helping develop policies and procedures for researchers to work with My HealtheVet. Dr. Bentrem and colleagues reported longer waiting times for cancer treatment in VA and NCCC facilities than in community hospitals, highlighting the need to shorten the duration of waiting times between cancer diagnosis and treatment in VA. Dr. Hynes found greater comorbidities for Veterans at baseline and more health services use while undergoing dialysis than the non-Veteran population treated in the private sector.

We have active trainees in all of our OAA/HSR&D Post-doctoral Training Programs. In FY11 we had five PhD Post-doctoral Fellows: one who completed her fellowship in June; one who had to leave for personal reasons; two who have begun their second year of the Fellowship; and a new Fellow who began in August. Our MD Post-resident Fellow in Rehabilitation Medicine began her second year in August. One RN PhD Fellow is completing her second year of funding and a second RN PhD began her Fellowship earlier this year.