The Center for Health Outcomes in Medicine Scholarship and Service (HOMES): Fostering and Supporting Physician-Initiated Research in Internal Medicine

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Carmen Zoom

Abstract: The Center for Health Outcomes in Medicine, Scholarship, and Service (HOMES) was launched at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in 2020 to support physicians with a desire to participate in health outcomes research. The eight HOMES research faculty are sub-divided into core groups: biostatistics, end-of-life/palliative care, and bioethics. Each core is led by multidisciplinary faculty with expertise in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research designs. Though housed in General Internal Medicine (GIM), anyone within the Department of Internal Medicine – clinical faculty, residents, or fellows – are eligible to apply for HOMES consulting to accomplish their research goals. A GIM needs assessment was conducted in February 2021 to refine HOMES services. Interested clinical faculty apply for HOMES support via a centralized email address and application form. The clinical faculty is then paired with HOMES faculty member in the core group that best fits the content area and research methodology, and project oversight is provided by HOMES leadership and administrative staff. In addition to direct mentoring, HOMES established several faculty development initiatives. This includes a lecture series with regular research-in-progress meetings and faculty journal clubs, an online research toolkit using curated open-access content addressing research skills, and the HOMES Research Toolkit podcast that features our research faculty providing brief lessons on specific research skills. A qualitative analysis of the needs assessment revealed that department faculty desire research-specific mentorship, a larger pool of senior
research faculty, and more pathways to contribute to existing projects. In Year 1, HOMES supported 28 faculty from seven Divisions (20 GIM, 2 Hematology/Oncology, 2 Palliative Medicine, 1 Hospital Medicine, 1 Cardiology, 1 Infectious Diseases, 1 Pulm/Crit) within the Department of Internal Medicine on 74 projects. This included mentoring on 22 grant submissions to major foundations and the National Institutes of Health. GIM faculty supported by HOMES secured $2.6 million in research funding from federal agencies and disseminated research findings at major scientific meetings. The early experience with HOMES demonstrates that academic clinicians can increase scholarly contributions with a research infrastructure that pairs mentorship with a research skills curriculum. Next steps include broadening collaborations across the medical center, expanding the pool of senior level research faculty, further developing clinical faculty research training and building on early successes by solidifying stable extramural funding sources.

About the Speakers: Dr. Seuli Bose Brill is an Associate Professor at the Ohio State University (OSU) College of Medicine. She is Director of the Center for Health Outcomes in Medicine Scholarship and Service (HOMES) and serves as the Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Section Chief in the Division of General Internal Medicine. She also serves as Director of the OSU Pragmatic Clinical Trials Network. Dr. Brill’s clinical interests include joint mother/infant care after complex pregnancy, primary care for patients with rare and congenital illness, and primary care access expansion among vulnerable populations. She leads a clinical initiative to improve postpartum health outcomes among women with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) in partnership with the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Health. Her research interests include health outcomes associated with Advance Care Planning (a comprehensive process preparing patients and caregivers for future end-of-life decision making), clinician-patient communication, and bioethical considerations in technology supported medical decision making. Her research has been funded by entities such as the National Institutes of Health, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Medicaid, and the Arnold Gold Foundation. She is passionate about: breaking down barriers to conducting research in real world clinical settings; empowering practicing physicians to engage in health outcomes research; engaging multidisciplinary teams in research, and providing mentorship to learners and junior faculty. Dr. Brill holds a B.S. in Chemistry (2000) and a B.A. in French Language and Literature (2000) from the University of Virginia. She was a Cancer Research Training Fellow at the National Cancer Institute from 2000-2002. She then earned her M.D. degree (2006) from the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. She completed residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics (2010) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and completed a fellowship...
in Clinical Bioethics (2017) at the Ohio State University. Dr. Martin Fried joined the Division of General Internal Medicine in 2018, bringing with him an enthusiastic attitude towards research and education. Alongside his busy primary care practice, Dr. Fried is interested in the integration of addiction medicine within primary care. He is actively seeking grants from funding agencies to learn how we can best treat patients with opioid use disorders within our primary care clinics and maintain those patients within treatment. Dr. Fried is working with physicians across the medical center to study and improve transitions of care of patients with addiction as they transition from acute care through addiction psychiatry services and into ongoing lasting recovery. Since joining the division, Dr. Fried has led the Division of General Internal Medicine buprenorphine prescribing efforts and has developed the nascent policies and protocols that allow the longitudinal care of people with opioid use disorder while meeting state and federal standards of care. Alongside this, Dr. Fried is a founding member and producer of Core IM, an internal medicine podcast now affiliated with the American College of Physicians for CME credit.