



PRIORITY RESEARCH AGENDA - FISCAL YEAR 2020

SGIM members value excellence in research to promote the delivery of high-value, evidence-based, person-centered, and community-oriented health care. Funding for this research must span from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Each agency has a unique and complementary mission, and each merits the strong support of Congress.

Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

PCORI was created by Congress to fund research that takes patient preferences and other factors into account and so enables patients and their physicians to make the best possible scientifically-based treatment decisions. It is essential to building patient-centered healthcare delivery systems and to identifying the best possible treatment decisions for individual patients. Its unique public-private funding structure reflects its broad mandate and support. SGIM strongly supports:

- *Congress reauthorizing PCORI so that it can meet its mission and enhance the focus of America's health care systems on patients and their families.*

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ provides the scientific evidence needed to improve primary care delivery and make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable—all priorities of SGIM. Using AHRQ's research and tools, the U.S. health care system prevented 1.3 million errors, saved 50,000 lives, and avoided \$12 billion in wasteful spending from 2010–2013. SGIM strongly supports:

- *Funding AHRQ at not less than \$460 million in appropriated funds including the statutory transfer of funds from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund.*
- *Encouraging AHRQ to increase the portion of its funding used for investigator-initiated research, similar to the National Institutes of Health, enhancing creativity and engaging a wider pool of talent and ideas.*
- *Empowering AHRQ continuing to address research needs for tackling key primary care priorities, including the opioid epidemic, the obesity epidemic, and improving care delivery.*

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH is renowned for funding the best peer-reviewed biomedical, behavioral, and translational research, with 85 percent of all funds appropriated used for research project grants, chosen by merit, in universities and research centers in every state in the nation and about ten percent going to high-quality research on the NIH campus. SGIM strongly supports:

- *Funding for NIH that is robust and sustainable over a period of years including not less than \$41.6 billion for FY2020.*
- *Funding for the full spectrum of translational research, including community engagement. Congress should set appropriations for the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program at not less than \$585 million, ensuring that medical advances created by NIH reach people expeditiously in communities across America.*

VA Medical and Prosthetics Research

SGIM strongly support the DVA's research mission in its entirety, but has a special interest in their health services research, which improves the health and welfare of America's returning war and other service veterans. SGIM strongly supports:

- *Funding of not less than \$840 million for Medical and Prosthetics Research in the VA, proportionate to the growing challenges of providing the best care to our veterans.*

Repeal of the Dickey Amendment

The Dickey Amendment states that "none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may be used to advocate or promote gun control." Repeal of this language would allow for more research on the sources of gun violence, injury, and death to identify strategies prevent them and thus improve public health. Short of repeal, Congress should designate specific funds for public health gun violence research.

For further information about SGIM's research priorities, please contact Lyle Dennis of CRD Associates at 202-484-1100 or at ldennis@dc-crd.com.