



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative



2007 Call for Proposals—Round 2

Proposal Deadline

December 13, 2006

Program Overview

(Please refer to specific sections for complete detail.)

Purpose

The *Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative* (INQRI) will generate, disseminate and translate research to improve the quality of care provided in hospitals. It will support interdisciplinary teams of scholars to address gaps in knowledge about the relationship between nursing and health care quality.

Eligibility Criteria (page 7)

Only interdisciplinary teams with at least one scholar from nursing and at least one scholar from at least one other discipline are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to applicants that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations as defined under Section 509(a).

Selection Criteria (page 7)

Complete selection criteria can be found on page 7.

Total Awards

- Up to seven two-year grants up to \$300,000 each will be awarded in 2007, the second round of this program.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **December 13, 2006 (3:00 p.m. EST)**—Deadline for receipt of brief proposals.
- **April 17, 2007 (3:00 p.m. EDT)**—Deadline for receipt of full proposals.

How to Apply (page 11)

This program will only accept proposals submitted online through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system at <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/inqri>.

For questions about the program or application process please contact:

INQRI Helpdesk

Phone: (800) 978-8309

E-mail: INQRIhelpdesk@constellagroup.com

www.inqri.org

Background

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has long been committed to improving the quality of health and health care for all Americans. Nurses carry tremendous responsibility for the delivery of safe, high-quality patient care in hospitals. Although there is anecdotal evidence of the impact of nursing care on patient outcomes, and research that indicates a correlation between the two, there is limited rigorous research demonstrating causal relationships between nursing care and the quality of patient outcomes. Building and sharing such evidence is central to RWJF's nursing objectives, which have been focused on retaining nurses working in hospitals. Ultimately, we aim to reduce the national shortage in nurse staffing and improve the quality of care that nurses are able to provide in hospitals.

RWJF's *Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative* (INQRI), a \$10-million, five-year program, was created to generate, disseminate and translate knowledge related to nursing's contribution to improving the quality of patient care.

This is the second of a series of calls for proposals to build a strong evidence base documenting the relationship between nursing care and patient outcomes.

The Program

Goals

The primary goal of INQRI is to generate, disseminate and translate research to understand how nurses contribute to and can improve the quality of inpatient care. Areas to be addressed include:

- the impact of nursing care processes, the nursing workforce and environment, and nursing-led innovation on the quality of patient care in acute care settings;
- structural, organizational and environmental factors that have a causal effect on the quality of nursing care provided in acute care settings;
- accurate, useful, feasible measurement of the quality of nursing care;
- methods to produce credible estimates of the changes in nursing and patient outcomes that can be attributed to changes in the nursing workplace and/or workforce;
- challenges that affect the conduct of research related to the quality of nursing care; and
- facilitators and barriers to the successful adoption of research findings to improve nursing care in acute care settings and health care systems.

Although patients in acute care hospitals are a primary focus of the INQRI program, we are also interested in research projects that cut across health care settings.

In this round of the INQRI program, up to seven two-year grants of up to \$300,000 each will be awarded to interdisciplinary research teams to investigate the relationships between nursing care and patient outcomes. **Proposals can be submitted in response to the specific topic areas below, or can be investigator-initiated ideas consistent with the broader set of goals outlined above.** Funded investigators will participate in three meetings to facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas and methods, to acquire input from stakeholders and to disseminate

results. The first of these meetings will be held July 18–19, 2007. The *principal investigator* and one other member of the project team (i.e., one scholar from nursing and one from another discipline) will attend the meeting. At the end of the two-year grant period, investigators will be required to produce results that can be shared in multiple forms including a synthesis of research findings and other communications vehicles targeted to inform decisions by policy-makers, hospital administrators and others.

For projects that involve data collection, grantees may be required to submit public use data files to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan at the end of their grant. Guidelines for archiving data sets can be found at the ICPSR Web site at <http://webapp.icpsr.umich.edu/cocoon/HMCA-FAQ/0186.xml>.

Topic Areas

In the last round of INQRI funding, grants were awarded to nine interdisciplinary teams. Several of the proposals funded in 2006 will identify, develop and test measures of how nurses contribute to health care quality and patient safety. As we await results from these scholars, who will provide the building blocks for several nursing quality improvement strategies, we also recognize the need to examine: 1) the processes by which nursing-sensitive measures may be improved; and 2) the process by which a set of nursing measures may be translated into policies that reward health care organizations based on nursing quality.

1. We must understand more about the major care processes (e.g., assessment, surveillance, symptom management, patient education, care coordination) or the combination of processes delivered by nurses that have the greatest impact on health care quality. We are interested in proposals designed to *identify the linkages between processes of nursing care and the quality of patient outcomes*.

2. Several quality reporting and payment programs are currently being tested that are likely to have major impact on hospitals. We believe that nurses can and do play a major role in achieving many of the quality benchmarks assessed in these efforts, but quality incentive programs give little attention to the work of nurses. We are seeking proposals designed to: (a) *identify nursing's contributions to hospitals' performance as measured by quality reporting programs and/or rewarded by pay-for-performance schemes*; and (b) *develop pay-for-performance schemes or other incentive programs that would recognize nursing's contributions and reward nurses for high quality (e.g., reward improvement of working conditions or enhance compensation for nurses)*.

3. In addition to projects that address these two foci, we also are interested in investigator-initiated ideas that are: (a) *consistent with the broader set of program goals outlined above*; and (b) *have the potential to make methodological or conceptual contributions to the field of quality improvement*.

Eligibility Criteria

Only interdisciplinary teams with at least one scholar from nursing and at least one scholar from at least one other discipline are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to applicant organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations as defined under Section 509(a). Please note that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation makes grants to organizations in the United States and U.S. territories only.

Selection Criteria

Brief proposals will be reviewed by a diverse group of researchers and stakeholders. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit full proposals for funding consideration.

Brief proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Significance of the nursing quality research question examined.
- Evidence of meaningful interdisciplinary collaboration in both the conception and design of the project.
- Potential to produce new information that can demonstrate where nursing makes a contribution to quality and/or to improve the quality of care that nurses provide.
- Relevance and potential impact of the findings for both practice and policy.
- Timeliness of the project for affecting policy development or implementation.
- Quality of plans for disseminating findings among key stakeholders in practice, research and policy.
- Potential for translation of findings to improve health care quality.

Full proposals also will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- *The idea*—innovativeness and relevance of question; soundness of conceptual framework; potential generalizability, impact and adoption of findings.
- *The methods*—methodological rigor; extent to which design can establish causal relationship between nursing and quality; feasibility; data precision; strength of analytical plan.
- *The team*—evidence of involvement of scholars from nursing and other disciplines in conceptualization, choice of empirical methods and plans for dissemination; experience of team as well as efforts to involve new scholars; capacity of team to complete project on schedule.
- *The plans for impact and translation*—incorporation of stakeholders into the study design and plans for dissemination; evidence of plans to use research findings to influence quality-related issues (e.g., nursing care processes; nurses' work environment; measurement of nursing performance).

Evaluation and Monitoring

Oversight for this program is provided by a national advisory committee (NAC). As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, grantees will be required to participate in formative and summative evaluations.

Grantees are expected to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports. Grantees are also required to submit periodic information as needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. Grantees will work in cooperation with a communications firm hired to increase the impact of findings. Project directors will be asked to attend periodic meetings and give progress reports on their grants. At the close of each grant, the lead organization is expected to provide a written report on the project and its findings suitable for wide dissemination. Please note that a finding suggesting that a concept is not sufficiently linked to nursing quality is a result equally important as one that discovers a viable strategy to improve the quality of care provided by nurses.

Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related, non-luxury travel, and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment deemed essential to the project. In keeping with RWJF policy, grant funds may *not* be used to subsidize individuals for the costs of their health care, to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, or as a substitute for funds currently being used for similar activities.

How to Apply

All proposals for this program must be submitted only through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system at <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/inqri>.

There are two stages in the competitive application process: (1) the submission of a brief proposal that will describe the project, and, *if invited*, (2) the submission of a full proposal and line-item budget for a grant.

Stage I: Brief Proposal

Applicants must submit a brief proposal, which will include a six-page proposal narrative and a one-page preliminary budget. Applicants must also complete a set of questions designed to assist staff in the overall program evaluation.

All proposals must be submitted via RWJF's Grantmaking Online system. The INQRI Helpdesk will host optional training sessions for Grantmaking Online via our teleconferencing service. Scheduling information about these sessions will be posted on the INQRI Web site at www.inqri.org and the Grantmaking Online Web site at <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/inqri>.

All inquiries regarding the program, selection criteria or application requirements may be directed to:

INQRI Helpdesk
6003 Executive Boulevard, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: (800) 978-8309
E-mail: INQRlhelpdesk@constellagroup.com

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of proposals submitted. This program has a NAC that will make recommendations about grants to the Foundation staff. All grant decisions are made by RWJF.

Program Direction

Direction for this program is provided by the University of Pennsylvania and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Administrative support for the program is provided by:

Constella Group, LLC
6003 Executive Boulevard, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20852

Responsible staff members at the University of Pennsylvania are:

- Mary Naylor, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., *program director*
- Mark Pauly, Ph.D., *program co-director*
- Heather Kelley, M.A., *program associate*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Lori Melichar, Ph.D., *program officer*
- Susan Hassmiller, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., *senior program officer*
- John Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., *senior vice president and director, Health Care Group*
- Paul Tarini, M.A., *senior communications officer*
- Lois Shevlin, *grants administrator*

Responsible staff members at Constella Group, LLC are:

- Laura Clarke, *lead project manager*
- Christine Eby, *associate user support specialist*
- Farrah Jolly, *program support specialist*

Timetable

December 13, 2006 (3:00 p.m. EST)

Deadline for receipt of brief proposals.*

February 16, 2007

Applicants will be notified of invitation to submit a full proposal.

April 17, 2007 (3:00 p.m. EDT)

Deadline for submission of full proposals.

June 15, 2007

Grantees will be notified of funding decisions.

September 1, 2007

Grants begin.

** All proposals must be submitted through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. Program staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late applications.*

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. The Foundation seeks to:

- assure that all Americans have access to quality health care at reasonable cost;
- improve the quality of care and support for people with chronic health conditions;
- promote healthy communities and lifestyles;
- reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at:
www.rwjf.org/services.



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