Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) is an approach to research that emphasizes engaging stakeholders throughout the research process, sound comparative effectiveness methodology, and ensuring timely implementation and dissemination of research results. With these new and different emphases, many investigators lack the infrastructure, partnerships and preliminary data to apply for funding opportunities in this area.

**Goal:** The goal of this RFA is to provide support for activities that will strengthen a competitive application for external PCOR funding. New or previously unsuccessful applicants to PCORI or another PCOR funder are encouraged to apply. A deliverable upon completion of this award is an application to PCORI or another external funder (e.g., Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)

- PCORI: [http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/funding-center](http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/funding-center)

Successful proposals to this RFA must provide rationale for the current gap in their program that precludes a successful extramural application. Examples of activities that would be responsive under this award include:

- Development of a strong stakeholder engagement strategy, including efforts to engage “hard to reach” populations (e.g., racial/ethnic minorities or those from rural areas).
- Collection of pilot data directed to a topic aligned with the PCORI mission, using sound methodology.

PCORI has identified five priority areas for patient-centered outcomes research to which they direct the majority of their funding:

1. **Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options**
   Comparing the effectiveness and safety of alternative prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options to see which ones work best for different people with a particular health problem.

2. **Improving Healthcare Systems**
   Comparing health system level approaches to improving access, supporting patient self-care, innovative use of health information technology, coordinating care for complex conditions, and deploying workforce effectively.

3. **Communication and Dissemination Research**
   Comparing approaches to providing comparative effectiveness research information, empowering people to ask for and use the information, and supporting shared decision-making between patients and their healthcare providers.

4. **Addressing Disparities**
   Identifying potential differences in prevention, diagnosis or treatment effectiveness, or preferred clinical outcomes across patient populations and the healthcare required to achieve best outcomes in each population.

5. **Accelerating Patient Centered Outcomes Research and Methodological Research**
   Improving the nation’s capacity to conduct patient-centered outcomes research, by building data infrastructure, improving analytic methods, and training researchers, patients and other stakeholders to participate in this research.
Award: Up to $100,000 for 12 months of direct costs. ICTR will not issue no-cost extensions for this award program; activities must be completed within 12 months.

Deliverable: A successful application and project will lead to an application to PCORI or another external PCOR funder (e.g., AHRQ).

Eligibility of the Principal Investigator:

– The PI of this project must have the following investigator status:
  o Assistant, Associate or Full Professor (tenure track, CHS, or clinical). Senior investigators must show evidence of having a history of securing external, peer-reviewed funding.
  o Associate or Senior Scientists. Scientist applicants must have a letter from their Department Chair indicating support for an individual and independent research track for applicant; letters will be reviewed as part of proposal package.
  o Marshfield investigator equivalent of the above-mentioned positions.
– Be employed by UW-Madison or Marshfield Clinic (either sole or joint-appointment).
– Have applied for ICTR membership (www.ictr.wisc.edu/ictrmember).
– Have well-developed plans for a research career and the results of this award should form a significant part of that career path.
– Applicants who have an active PCORI or AHRQ PCOR grant are not eligible to apply.
– Previous ICTR pilot grant awardees are not eligible to receive a second pilot award as PI or Co-PI if the previous award is still active.
– PIs or co-PIs can only apply to a single ICTR Pilot RFA in a calendar year.

Important Dates

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<td>Mandatory Letter of Intent</td>
<td>Friday, January 15, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop (mandatory)</td>
<td>Friday, March 18, 2016</td>
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<td>Proposals due</td>
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<td>Review Period</td>
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<td>Awards Announced</td>
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Mandatory Letter of Intent: DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

All LOIs should be submitted as a single PDF/Word document to capgrants@lists.wisc.edu no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, January 15, 2016.

The LOI will not be used for ranking, but will assist staff in preparing for proposal reviews. Please include the following information in your letter:

1. PI Name, contact information, department.
2. Which of the 5 PCORI priority areas you will be addressing.
3. Title of your proposal.
4. Specific aims and a description of the activities you plan to undertake with an ICTR PCOR grant and how this will support preparation for a future PCOR submission.
5. Describe your plans for a future PCOR/AHRQ PCOR submission – indicate the potential RFA and research questions to address.
6. Names and roles of key personnel, including all community/stakeholder collaborators.
7. The LOI submission **must include** letters of support from your community/stakeholder collaborators as well as your academic collaborators.
   a. If you are a scientist – please also include a letter from your Department Chair indicating support for this independent area of investigation.
   b. At the letter of intent stage, support letters should confirm that collaborators have been in conversation with the research team about the project and are committed to being involved in the project. The letter of support that is required in the full application stage will require **much** greater detail.
   c. If you are collaborating with an ICTR-CAP Program or Affiliate – you must have a letter of support from the Director of that program.

**Mandatory Grant Workshop Information**

**PCOR Training Activities:** This year UW ICTR CAP is sponsoring a series of state-of-the-art PCOR training activities for UW investigators. Investigators submitting an ICTR PCOR Pilot application are **REQUIRED** to attend at least 2 hours of a UW ICTR CAP PCOR training activity offered this year. For a list and detailed descriptions of these PCOR training opportunities click [here](#). Please note that PIs are required to fulfill this requirement; research team members and collaborators are welcome and encouraged to attend as well. **You must complete your 2 hours of training by March 18, 2016**, and confirm the dates of completion by emailing Kate Judge *(kjude@wisc.edu)*.

In addition to this mandatory activity, please be aware of these **optional** resources to help with your application:

- **RFA Primer:** An online video will be available to walk potential applicants through the RFA requirements. This video will be posted on the SMPH Video Library, with an anticipated release date of **December 15, 2016**. For up to date information about the workshop, see [SMPH Video Library](#).

- **ICTR CAP Programs:** The following CAP Programs & Affiliates offer PCOR resources to ICTR pilot applicants. The list below (alphabetical order) includes links to brief descriptions of each program. If you need further guidance on the programs listed below, contact Pilot Award Manager, Kate Judge.
  - Center for Patient Partnerships (CPP)
  - Program of Research on Outcomes for Kids (PROKids)
  - Sonderegger Research Center (SRC)
  - Wisconsin Network for Research Support (WINRS)
  - Wisconsin Surgical Outcomes Research Group’s (WiSOR)

**Application Requirements: DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016**

All applications should be submitted as a single PDF/Word document to capgrants@lists.wisc.edu no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, March 18th. The narrative section of the application (#6a-j) must be written in 11 point Arial font with ½-inch margins.

1. **Face Page** (download [here](#))
2. **Scientific Abstract:** Provide a concise description of the proposed research written for scientific audiences. 500 word maximum. Your scientific abstract must include:
   - Scientific rationale supporting your proposed research.
   - Research aims and project design.
   - Who will be on your research team (including patients and stakeholders), what roles they will play, and what is your plan for patient/stakeholder engagement?
   - Why the ICTR PCOR funding is necessary to prepare you for a highly competitive submission of PCORI (or other federal PCOR) grant application.
3. **Community Abstract:** The community abstract provides you with an opportunity to express to a community-audience how you anticipate that this project can, in the long-term, impact the health of Wisconsin residents. It should **not** be a reiteration of the Scientific Abstract but instead should **tell a story** that addresses the importance of this research, whose lives will ultimately be improved, and why. 500 word maximum. Your community abstract must include:

- Magnitude of the health issue. How many individuals are affected, what is the scope of this issue in the state, how are costs of health care impacted, etc.?
- Knowledge gap. What gap will your proposed research address; what will your project results tell us that is not already known?
- Community collaborators. Who are the stakeholders of this research project and how will they be involved in your research, what roles will they play? For investigations at the very early stages, engagement can be more limited to an initial conversation with a stakeholder about the applicability of the question to daily practice.
- Longer-term policy implications of your research. How might your research inform/impact organizational or public policies?
- Potential impact of this stream of research. How will this project, in the context of your larger research career, improve health in Wisconsin?

4. **Biosketches for key personnel** (please use the NIH bio-sketch format with the “personal statement” section; an example can be found [here](#)). Please submit resumes for non-academic stakeholders.

5. **Budget (up to $100,000 for 12 months of direct support):**

- Download the budget page [here](#). Please note that “months of effort” for each key personnel must be listed, even if no money is being requested to support their work under this pilot program.
- Budget justification (maximum 2 pages).
- Matching resources are encouraged and can be monetary or non-monetary. A letter of support is **required** that details matching resources.
- Download and complete the Non-Supplanting Letter and Questionnaire [here](#); please scan necessary signatures.

**When creating your budget, please note the following parameters:**

- There is an **expectation** that a subset of award funds will support stakeholder/patient engagement.
- Funds are available for personnel, supplies and other allowable expenses. Because ICTR is a NIH-funded Institute, pilot budgets must follow the same rules/spending limitations as federal grants.
- Funding of education per se is **not** allowed under this program. However, tuition remission can be included for students who are budgeted to be paid as UW research or project assistants, whose efforts are integral to the research endeavor.
- Indirect costs are **not** allowed.
- Investigator salary is allowed, but **clear justification** of why it is necessary should be provided – requested funds should be limited and used principally to directly support the research and effort must be reported even when salary is donated.
- Only travel funds **necessary for project conduct** (e.g., participant travel) are allowed.
- No-cost extensions will not be allowed for this funding mechanism.

6. **Narrative:** The narrative **should not exceed 6 pages** and should address each of the following components.

   a. **Specific Aims.**
b. **Rationale for Pilot Funding.** Please explain why an ICTR PCOR pilot award will increase the likelihood of submitting a highly competitive grant. What specific gaps do you propose to fill with this ICTR PCOR funding (e.g., building stakeholder engagement, collecting pilot data)

c. **Background and Significance.**

d. **Investigator.** Please explain how the PI and research team are especially suited to this project. If you are a junior investigator, explain how you and your research team have the appropriate experience, training and mentoring. If you are a more established PI, have you demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that has advanced your field (i.e., publications, external peer-reviewed funding, and/or sustained practice/program/policy change)?

e. **Environment.** Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

f. **Approach.** Include preliminary studies, research design, methodologies, analyses, potential problems and alternative strategies.

g. **Engagement Plan:** Describe the plan to engage patients and stakeholders meaningfully in the various phases of the proposed research. As you complete your engagement plan, consider the six PCORI Engagement Principles (reciprocal relationships, co-learning, partnership, trust, transparency, and honesty – and how these will be reflected in your plan). Refer to the Engagement Rubric for assistance as you complete this plan.

- **Planning the study:** Describe how patient and stakeholder partners will participate in study planning and design.

- **Conducting the study:** Describe how patient and stakeholder partners will participate in the study conduct.

h. **Future considerations – policy implications.** If applicable, please address how your research might inform/impact organizational or public policies. For definition of “policy” and other key terms, please link here.

7. **Impact Statement.** Please respond to one of the three following questions regarding impact that is best aligned with your research question:

   a. Identify the specific metrics that you will use to identify the effects of your research on health outcomes (including physical, mental, and/or social), or the effects of your research on specific, well-established determinants of health (PI must be able to justify determinants chosen).

   b. If specific metrics will not be measured in your pilot, describe the metrics that you will use to identify the effects of your subsequent research on health outcomes or on specific, well-established determinants of health.

   c. If you are not be able to measure specific health outcomes directly, describe other possible impacts of this pilot or subsequent research, where impact is defined as: any permanent new or revised structures, policies, or processes in the delivery of health care services or community health programs that are the result of this project/collaboration.

8. **Timeline:** Project must be completed within 12 months of start date. Please include a depiction of what tasks will be completed during which months and a narrative that indicates how you will address timeline and deadline issues/potential challenges with your collaborators and stakeholders. This timeline and description does not count against your 6-page narrative described above.

9. **Literature citations:** Please attach.

10. **Letters of Support:** Please include signed (can be electronic) letters of support from all your collaborators. Collaborator letters should indicate support for the project; describe the role that they will play in the research; and how they intend to use the results of this project towards program, practice or policy change.
PCORI RESOURCES. Applicants to this RFA should be familiar with PCORI and its grant processes. Please refer to the following links for more information.

- www.pcori.org
- http://www.pcori.org/content/research-we-support
- http://www.pcori.org/content/what-we-mean-engagement (includes link to the PCORI Engagement Rubric)

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES.

- For information about dissemination and implementation research: https://ictr.wisc.edu/DnI
- Toolkit on Patient Partner Engagement in Research: http://www.hipxchange.org/TOPPER

Please submit your completed application to capgrants@lists.wisc.edu

no later than Friday, March 18, 2016 at 11:59 pm.

If you have questions about the RFA, please contact Kate Judge at kjudge@wisc.edu

Information for all applicants: The following links provide you with important information about the ICTR CAP award program and processes.

Important Definitions & Key Terms
List and description of ICTR CAP Programs and Affiliates (for collaboration purposes)
Overview of the full review process
Scientific merit review criteria
External Community Review Committee review criteria
Non-supplanting form
Grantee Expectations