

Equality State Research Network Charter

Purpose

The Equality State Research Network (ESRN) the ESRN works closely with partners across Wyoming to develop and answer research questions relevant to providers, educators, patients, families, and others within local communities. The statewide network is committed to engaging in community-based learning and improving patient-centered outcomes through community based participatory research (CBPR), community engagement, quality improvement, and scientific inquiry.

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is, “a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community with the aim of combining knowledge and action for social change to improve community health and eliminate health disparities.” (W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Community Health Scholars Program, 2001)

CBPR relies on “trust, cooperation, dialogue, community capacity building, and collaborative inquiry toward its goal of improving health and well-being.” (Minkler & Wallerstein, 2003)

Membership

An ESRN member is any individual (community member, patient / family member, advocate, healthcare professional, academic researcher etc.) that interacts with the network to help serve the ESRN goals. All members are equal in their contribution to the ESRN and committed to connecting diverse populations, local community needs / interests, and high-quality research. This includes recognition, acknowledgement and value all contributions.

Membership is free and provides access to a diverse network of community experts across Wyoming. Membership provides access to the University of Wyoming, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities and College of Health Sciences research and evaluation team and resources. Members offer a voice to relevant health related questions, issues, and address concerns from their local communities throughout Wyoming. Members create a collaborative relationship between one another. All members benefit from community focused education, training and career development. Researchers are eligible to apply for grants and receive research support.

Responsibilities of Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)

- To organize and facilitate activities of the Equality State Research Network.
- To create collaborative opportunities between academic investigators and Members, pursuing new research opportunities, and encouraging bi-directional communication between Members and investigators.



- To organize and regularly convene the ESRN Network Advisory Council (NAC), comprising representatives from Members to discuss possible research opportunities, and help facilitate the success of the ESRN. The NAC should be composed of at least five community stakeholders, and 5 professional stakeholders (including providers, academics, payors, policymakers, or other connected with healthcare systems in Wyoming).
- To develop opportunities for training and quality improvement for all Members.
- To offer an open forum for discussion, networking, and collaboration between health care organizations and providers, academic institutions and researchers, and community members.
- To ensure that any and all Members who are involved in ESRN research activities (e.g., employees, agents, or volunteers) fulfill appropriate regulatory and compliance requirements, including but not limited to, human subjects training and review, good clinical practices, and conflicts of interest mitigation.
- To conduct periodic evaluations of the ESRN (e.g., governance, operations, productivity) with input from Members.

Responsibilities of Members

- To work together to build research collaborations using best practices for conducting research in community settings, including developing a broad range of research studies, including person-centered outcomes research practices, comparative effectiveness research, observational research, clinical trials, health services research, quality improvement, translational science and other forms of healthcare research that can be effectively implemented through this network.
- To work together to involve all stakeholders in research, including patients and their family members, providers, policy makers, the academic community, and all others who have an interest in improving healthcare in Wyoming.
- To focus on bench to bedside to community translational discovery to improve health across the lifespan.
- To provide discipline-specific expertise, this includes community-members' perspectives aligned with the goals of the network.
- To be committed to participating in ESRN studies, when they are suitable and feasible for your interest/ expertise.
- Comply with any additional regulatory or study specific requirements.
- Commit to and support ESRN goals, including being an advocate and ambassador for the ESRN within your profession, community or affiliated institution/organizations
- Collaborate, and share specific local expertise and experiences, including identifying and voicing health questions in your home, work, or families.



- Complete online trainings to develop a shared understanding of the members. To better serve the goals, structure, and principles of Patient Centered Outcomes Research, Comparative Effectiveness Research and Community Based Participator Research concepts.

Responsibilities of Network Advisory Council

- To work together to develop a quality, academically vetted and focused approach to healthcare research collaboration that is patient centered.
- To assist with identification of investigators, clinicians and other community representatives to lead, collaborate and/or consult on ESRN research studies.
- To assist in the development of online training to understand CBPR, PCO/CER.
- To review and make recommendations to the ESRN network, based on evaluation results of member engagement.
- Design reporting guidelines, communication guidelines, and establish yearly research priorities / agenda.
- Review and provide feedback of ESRN engagement funding applications.
- Access to the University of Wyoming, Wyoming Libraries catalog.

Common Agreements

Participation: Monthly Network calls will be held on the last Tuesday at 12:00 PM (MST). Calls are expected to be 1 hour and not exceed 1.5 hours and will be facilitated by WIND. Members are encouraged to attend the majority of the monthly calls (i.e.7 out of 12 calls) on an annual basis for continued membership.

Communication: Communication involves sharing ongoing and upcoming information that might be of interest to the larger group, updates on the status of projects, and other regular communication for members and WIND. Network communication is based on mutual respect and understanding between peers.

The ESRN website will house a repository of ongoing projects.

<http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/esrn/index.html>

Monthly Meeting Communication:

- Meetings will be posted on the ESRN website. A calendar appointment, zoom link and agenda will be emailed one week in advance to active members.
- Project documents (including meeting minutes and agenda's) will be posted on the ESRN website.

Meeting Ground Rules:

- Members should be respectful of others including any guests on the call and professional in their remarks/suggestions/comments.



- Maintain a respectful stance toward all participants.
- Come empowered to make commitments for your area
- Make sure everyone's voice is heard.
- All ideas are good ideas.
- Be open to feedback.
- Share celebrations and challenges alike.
- Turn on your video whenever possible.

Signature of ESRN Member:

Your signature represents your commitment to the Equality State Research Network’s Ground Rules and Member’s Roles.

Printed Name

Date

Signature

City/Town

- Network Advisory Council
- Member

Indicate which category you are representing on the network:

- Community Representative (i.e. community member, patient / family member, advocate, etc).
- Healthcare Professional Representative
- Academic / Researcher Representative
- Student

Signature of Wyoming institute for Disabilities, Equality State Research Network:

Eric Moody, Ph.D.
Research Professor and Director of ESRN

Please email your signed charter to esrn@uwyo.edu

