

## About Us<sup>1</sup>

Quality improvement (QI) and patient safety in healthcare are high priorities held by the federal government, accrediting bodies, regulatory agencies, and patient-advocacy groups; yet insufficient progress has been made in quality improvement science, particularly focusing on care processes.

The ISRN aims to accelerate interprofessional improvement science in a systems context across multiple sites; increase understanding of how to improve quality and safety in patient care; conduct research relevant to healthcare clinical practice and microsystems in diverse settings; and enhance the translation of research findings into healthcare.

This unique practice-based research network focuses on accelerating inter-professional improvement science. The ISRN fills a national gap by creating a collaborator infrastructure hub for inter-professional improvement and implementation science.

## Research Priorities

The ISRN Research Priorities are intended to define the most urgent research studies needed to determine effective strategies in quality improvement and patient safety at this point in time. By surveying key stakeholders, the ISRN developed these research priorities as guiding principles for conducting improvement studies. Through a rigorous process, consensus on the ISRN Research Priorities was established and framed as presented below.

- Coordination and transitions of care
- High-performing clinical systems and microsystems approaches to improvement
- Evidence-based quality improvement and best practice
- Learning organizations and culture of quality and safety

## Network Studies

The ISRN enables academic-practice partnership teams to conduct "landmark" studies across the national test bed of agencies. The team's collaboration and the ISRN Coordinating Center support ensures rigorous research with great potential for national impact and uptake.

Using the *Science of Team Science*<sup>2</sup>, network studies provide unique collaboration opportunities to create a new community of learning and idea exchange.

Studies currently recruiting hospitals to join the research collaborative include:

 Small Troubles, Adaptive Responses (STAR-2): Frontline Nurses Engaged in Quality Improvement

 Impact of Cognitive Load, Interruptions and Distractions on Procedural Failures and Medication Administration Errors

 Team Performance for Patient Safety

## Cyberinfrastructure



The screenshot shows the website interface for the STAR-2 study. It includes a navigation menu, a main content area with a welcome message, and a sidebar with various links and resources. The main content area features a "Welcome to our site!" message and a "Launch Pad" section with links to various resources like "RESIDENT INFORMATION", "POCKET CARD", "PRACTICE ENVIRONMENT SCALE", etc.

## Capacity Building

The field of quality improvement and improvement science is a relatively new field.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, there exists a lack of sufficient resources assisting clinicians and academicians in conducting rigorous research. The Improvement Science Research Network aims to build capacity in the field by facilitating discovery of 'what works' and assisting in the scale up and spread of this discoveries. With this, the ISRN is focused on building capacity of improvement science researchers through the following:

- IRB Assistance
- Web Seminars
- eReading Room
- eLearning Room
- Protocol Development
- Taxonomy for Common Terminology
- Collaborative Field Guide
- Protocol Implementation Support
- Network News - Official ISRN Newsletter

## Network Membership

As an ISRN member, you are part of the first national collaboration of clinical and academic leaders devoted to accelerating improvement science in a systems context across multiple clinical sites.

ISRN members receive practical support in designing robust research projects that generate reliable findings, thereby establishing a sound basis upon which to build their institutional QI initiatives.

Benefits Include:

- Priority participation in multi-site collaborations on patient safety and QI research
- Access to multisite research technology and resources
- Invitation to join the ISRN Speakers Bureau
- Access to member-only section of the ISRN website
- Recognition as an ISRN member and use of the ISRN logo

## References

1. Stevens, KR. (2009). Improvement Science Research Network. Project abstract. [http://www.improvementscienceresearch.net/documents/ISRN\\_Project\\_Abstract.pdf](http://www.improvementscienceresearch.net/documents/ISRN_Project_Abstract.pdf) Accessed June 15, 2010.
2. Stokols, D., Hall, K.L., Taylor, B.K., & Moser, R.P. (2008) The science of team science: Overview of the field and introduction to the supplement. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 35, 77-89.
3. Berwick DM. (2008). The science of improvement. *JAMA*, 299, 10, p. 1182-1184.

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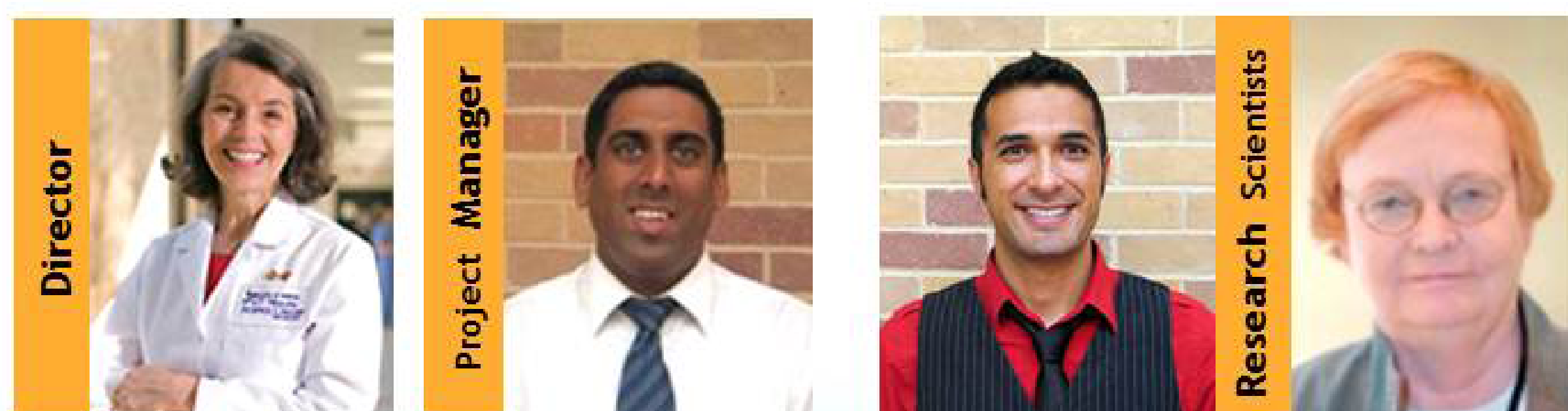
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## Coordinating Center

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The ISRN Coordinating Center is housed within the Academic Center for Evidence-Based Practice at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. Founded upon a longstanding commitment to clinical and translational research, the ISRN Coordinating Center partners with the Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (IIMS) to further reduce barriers to research and to strengthen the science of quality improvement.



## Improvement Science Summit\*



The Improvement Science Summit, an official conference of the ISRN offers participants the opportunity to:

- Connect academic and clinical scholars and other entities in partnerships to maximize efforts in investigating improvement strategies.
- Supplement and enhance capacity of health professionals and scientists to conduct rigorous improvement research studies through exploring methods and design applicable to this field of research.
- Solidify national research collaboratives to conduct rigorous improvement research on topics identified as national research priorities.

Join us in **San Antonio, TX** for this annual conference focused on advancing healthcare improvement research.

## Contact Us

For more information on the Improvement Science Research Network, contact us by:

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