Description of Funded Research Projects

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Post-Doctoral Researchers

Research Project Title:

SUN 4 Patients (Stroke Units Necessity for Patients) - Improving Stroke care in Greece in terms of management, costs and health outcomes
Principal Investigator:
Olga Siskou

Popular Title:
Study for the investigation of stroke patient clinical outcomes, costs and experiences

Scientific Field:
Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Communication Science

Host Institution:
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Nursing Department
It is a prospective cohort multicenter study of patients with first ever acute stroke (N=1,000). All patients will be followed for three months. Moreover, a sub-group of the 300 firstly recruited patients will be followed for a year to obtain data on post hospital health and social needs, health services utilization (medication, rehabilitation, outpatient visits) and productivity loss. Actually, it is the first attempt to measure the value of stroke care in Greece, and it is anticipated to enable improvements in “effectiveness and efficiency”, via reallocation of spending among types of services (e.g. rehabilitation instead of in-patient), “establishment of specialized social support services, development of a national network of specialized stroke units” all over the country, “minimization of non-value adding practices” (e.g. overuse of diagnostic imaging), “adoption of evidence based practices”, “shortening of care cycle time” etc.

Specifically, the main objectives of the project are: 1) to provide essential data on acute stroke management (quality indicators) incorporating hard clinical outcomes that will contribute to an ongoing process of quality improvement, 2) to develop an interactive multichannel platform, for collecting, cleansing and curating high quality in hospital and follow up data, applying multidimensional quality assessment analysis, providing statistical and analytic reports, monitoring behavioral changes and supporting overall project management, 3) to evaluate the experiences of patients and physicians / nurses, and their impact on stroke management, 4) to assess severe negative impact of stroke on the life of survivors, including quality of life and disability, 5) to measure health related and non-health related (loss of productivity, informal care) national expenditure for stroke care, using a bottom up approach, and 6) to evaluate the value of care focusing on health outcomes compared with the total costs of achieving them.
Project short term impacts on society, refer to the investigation of household needs not being met by the official public system (e.g. supporting work market engagement, providing nursing home services on a continuous basis). Medium term impacts on society & economy, refer to the improvement of individual patient outcomes and health outcomes (e.g. due to the adoption of revised clinical protocols), waste elimination in stroke care, avoiding the hard trade-offs among cost, quality, and access to care. Moreover, it is expected that a great number of stakeholders/policy makers, experts on the field of stroke care and Non-Governmental Organizations (donors), will be actively engaged in order to develop specific Stroke Units (ones that will operate as centers of Excellence) and Tele-stroke services. Finally, project long term impacts on economy & society mainly focus on the diminution of stroke mortality and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) of the population because of stroke implications.
H.F.R.I. funding supports our research effort in a difficult time for research in Greece. It has been the motivation for the continuation of our research project and gives us possibilities for its implementation and expansion. It also provides new work opportunities and strengthens the research team with new members.

To me, H.F.R.I. funding would mean...

The Principal Investigator,
Olga Siskou

Funding

Amount: 370,000 €
Duration: 30 months
Foundation: H.F.R.I.
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