



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2020

Contact: Amy Friedrich-Karnik, VP, Advocacy and Communication
afriedrich@womenheart.org

WomenHeart and the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine Approved for a PCORI Engagement Award on Misdiagnosis of Heart Disease in Women

Washington, D.C. – WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease and [the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine \(SIDM\)](#) have been approved for a \$100,000 funding award through the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards program, an initiative of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The funds will support a convening to address missed and delayed diagnosis of heart disease in women.

Over the next year, WomenHeart and SIDM will work together to plan a convening of diverse stakeholders to address misdiagnosis and delay in treatment for women with heart disease and to support the initiation of research intended to improve patient health outcomes and quality of care. The two organizations will assemble a Steering Committee of women with heart disease, cardiologists, nurses, researchers, policy makers, industry and more to lead the planning process.

“Heart disease continues to represent a major threat to women’s health,” said Celina Gorre, CEO of WomenHeart. “Yet the perception of heart disease as a ‘man’s disease,’ the fact that women are less likely to receive diagnostic testing early in their care journey, and additional biases that many female patients face – particularly women of color – have contributed to high rates of misdiagnosis and delay in treatment for women with heart disease. We are thrilled to be awarded this funding so we can center women’s experiences as we bring together experts to build a plan for addressing this inequity and, ultimately, improve the care journey for women with or at risk of heart disease.”

“When the data show that a group of people is experiencing disproportionate failures in the diagnostic process, it is critical that we work together to fix the problem,” said Paul Epner, CEO and co-founder of SIDM. “We are gratified to receive this funding to identify gaps in research and craft research strategies aimed at eliminating harm from missed or delayed diagnosis of women with heart disease.”

This “Convening to Address Missed and Delayed Diagnosis of Heart Disease in Women” is part of a portfolio of projects that PCORI has funded to help develop a community of patients and other stakeholders equipped to participate as partners in comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) and disseminate PCORI-funded study results. Through the Engagement Award Program, PCORI is creating an expansive network of individuals, communities and organizations interested in and able to participate in, share, and use patient-centered CER.

According to Jean Slutsky, PCORI’s Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer, “This convening was selected for Engagement Award funding because it will bring together patients and other stakeholders and provide them the opportunity to collaborate around patient-centered outcomes research and clinical comparative effectiveness research (PCOR/CER). We look forward to working with WomenHeart and the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine throughout the course of their twelve-month project.”

WomenHeart and SIDM’s project and the other projects approved for funding by the PCORI Engagement Award Program were selected through a highly competitive review process in which applications were assessed for their ability to meet PCORI’s engagement goals and objectives, as well as program criteria.

For more information about PCORI's funding to support engagement efforts, visit <http://www.pcori.org/content/eugene-washington-pcori-engagement-awards/>.

#####

About WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease:

WomenHeart is the only patient centered organization serving the nearly 48 million women in the United States living with or at risk for heart disease—the leading cause of death in women.

WomenHeart is devoted to advancing women's heart health through patient support, community education and advocacy. For more information, visit www.womenheart.org.

About the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine

The Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine catalyzes and leads change to improve diagnosis and eliminate harm from diagnostic error. We work in partnership with patients, their families, the healthcare community, and every interested stakeholder. SIDM is the only organization focused solely on the problem of diagnostic error and improving the accuracy and timeliness of diagnosis. In 2015, SIDM established the Coalition to Improve Diagnosis to increase awareness and actions that improve diagnosis. For more information, visit <http://www.improvediagnosis.org>

About the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

PCORI is an independent, non-profit organization authorized by Congress in 2010 to fund comparative effectiveness research that will provide patients, their caregivers, and clinicians with the evidence needed to make better-informed health and healthcare decisions. PCORI is committed to seeking input from a broad range of stakeholders to guide its work.