



[The Optimizing Function and Independence QUERI](#), based at the Durham VA Center of Innovation to Accelerate Discovery and Practice Change (ADAPT), leverages scientifically-supported quality improvement methods to implement evidence-based practices rapidly into routine care and improve the timeliness, quality, and safety of care delivered to Veterans and caregivers. The three Function QUERI programs address gaps in current clinical care for Veterans at risk for functional decline and disability.

- STRIDE focuses on prevention of disability related to immobility during hospitalization through a supervised walking program.
- iHI-FIVES focuses on promoting functional ability and avoiding nursing home placement through caregiver training at the time of referral for home care services.
- Group Physical Therapy (PT) for Knee Osteoarthritis focuses on improving function in patients with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis through expanded access to PT in a group-based model.

January 2019 Edition:

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STRIDE Site Visit to Philadelphia, PA

The Function QUERI team conducted a STRIDE site visit at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA on November 5-6, 2018. During the site visit the team was able to:

- Meet with key stakeholders
- Host a documentation discussion
- Present to leadership
- Observe the wards where STRIDE will be implemented
- Collect data for the study

The Function QUERI STRIDE team would like to thank Priya Joshi, Matt Garin, Ann Danoff, Melissa Heinlein, and the wonderful nursing staff on wards 5 and 6!



In photo above, left to right: Priya Joshi, Matt Garin, Nicki Hastings, Ashley Choate, and Caitlin Sullivan.

STRIDE Site Milestones

- The Atlanta VA Healthcare System celebrated their 1 year STRIDE anniversary on December 4, 2018! Congratulations to their team for serving Veterans through the STRIDE program for over a year!
- The Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL STRIDE team launched their program in January 2019 and began enrolling STRIDE patients. Congratulations on a timely launch!
- The Robley Rex VA Medical Center in Louisville, KY STRIDE team instituted a friendly competition to see which ward could walk the most STRIDE patients each quarter, and there is a rotating trophy and other prizes for the winners!



iHI-FIVES Sites Complete First Round of Caregiver Classes

Our partners at the Puget Sound VA Healthcare System in Washington and at the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center in Poplar Bluff, Missouri have been very busy launching the first round of iHI-FIVES training! Both sites delivered a curriculum to friend and family caregivers of Veterans that builds coping, support-seeking, and hands-on skills.

The Function QUERI iHI-FIVES team is looking forward to upcoming site visits to the Durham VA Healthcare System (there's no place like home!) and the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL, which is also participating in the STRIDE program. Both sites will be launching their first iHI-FIVES classes in April-May of 2019.

Presentations/Publications/Articles

A sampling from November 2018 – January 2019:

- Virginia Wang, Ashley Choate, and team presented "From Concept to Reality: Replicating Effective Programs in the Function QUERI Program" on an HSR&D Cyberseminar on November 1, 2018.
- Courtney Van Houtven presented "Economic Spillover Effects of Intensive Unpaid Caregiving" at the International GSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, MA on November 14, 2018.
- Nathan Boucher presented the poster "Adaptation and implementation of an informal caregiver skills training program: from single site RCT to multisite pragmatic intervention" at the AcademyHealth D&I conference in Washington, DC on December 3, 2018.
- Courtney Van Houtven and Josh D'adolf presented a webinar "iHI-FIVES: Skills-based training for family caregivers of functionally and/or cognitively impaired Veterans" on the VA GRECC Associate Director for Clinical Call on December 17, 2018.
- Courtney Van Houtven and Josh D'adolf presented a webinar "iHI-FIVES: Skills-based training for family caregivers of functionally and/or cognitively impaired Veterans" on the VA National GERIPACT Call on December 18, 2018.
- Courtney Van Houtven and Josh D'adolf presented a webinar "iHI-FIVES: Skills-based training for family caregivers of functionally and/or cognitively impaired Veterans" on the VA National Caregiver Support Training Call on January 17, 2019.

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Please visit www.queri.research.va.gov for more information on the national QUERI program.

If you would like more information about Function QUERI, please contact the program coordinator: Elizabeth.Mahanna@va.gov

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