

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.

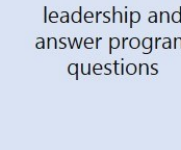
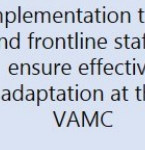
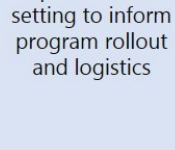
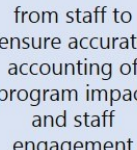
- STRIDE focuses on prevention of disability related to immobility during hospitalization through a supervised walking program.
- iHI-FIVES focuses on promoting functional ability and avoiding nursing home placement through caregiver training at the time of referral for home care services.
- Group Physical 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.

#### April 2019 Edition:

- Function QUERI Site Visits
- iHI-FIVES Site Visits to Durham and Hines
- STRIDE Site Visits to Tampa and Houston
- STRIDE Site Launches and Milestones
- Welcome new iHI-FIVES sites!
- Presentations/Publications/Articles
- Acknowledgements

## Function QUERI Site Visits

**Purpose of a Function QUERI site visit:**

-  Present the program to medical center leadership and answer program questions
-  Hold active discussions with the implementation team and frontline staff to ensure effective adaptation at the VAMC
-  Observe implementation setting to inform program rollout and logistics
-  Conduct critical data collection from staff to ensure accurate accounting of program impact and staff engagement

## iHI-FIVES Site Visits to Durham and Hines

The Function QUERI team recently conducted site visits at the Durham HCS in Durham, NC on February 13, 2019 and at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL on March 4, 2019.

Durham (from lower left: Josh Dadolf, Jasmine Moore; from upper left: Kasey Decosimo, Gretchen Horton, Courtney Van Houtven, Jency Brodgen, Erin Foerster):



Hines (from left: Cynthia DeLaTorre, Jillian Inserra, Courtney Van Houtven, Katina Robinson, Josh Dadolf):



Kasey Decosimo (left) and Katina Robinson (right) of the Function QUERI team also presented the CONNECT team communication intervention at Hines.



Both Durham and Hines will be launching their first iHI-FIVES class in May. We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to our Points of Contact: Gretchen Horton (Durham) and Cynthia DeLaTorre (Hines) and the entire teams involved in the iHI-FIVES programs for hosting us.

## STRIDE Site Visits to Tampa and Houston

The Function QUERI team conducted STRIDE site visits at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, TX on January 16-17, 2019 and the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, FL on January 30 –February 1, 2019.

Houston (from left: Ashley Newman, Karen Bonnette, Mabelen Madrid-Austria, Ashley Choate, Nicki Hastings, Syreeta Garriques, Stephanie Sneed, and Jeanine Stewart):



Tampa (from left: Josh Dadolf, Ashley Choate, Roberta White, Katina Robinson, Nicki Hastings, Leni Bilello, Jill Massengale, Juan Jose Villeda):



## STRIDE Site Launches and Milestones

Congratulations on the following milestones for STRIDE!

- The Robley Rex VA Medical Center in Louisville, KY celebrated their 1 year anniversary for STRIDE on 2/20/2019.
- The Central Iowa VA Health Care System in Des Moines, IA celebrated their 1 year anniversary for STRIDE on 4/23/2019.
- The Robley Rex VA Medical Center in Louisville, KY officially graduated from the Function QUERI program. Thanks so much for your hard work!
- The final four STRIDE sites have officially launched:
  - ◊ The Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL: 1/7/19
  - ◊ The Corporal E. Cresenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA: 1/25/19
  - ◊ The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, TX: 3/4/19
  - ◊ The James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, FL: 3/25/19
- The STRIDE Toolkit, a step by step guide on implementing STRIDE, is complete and ready to disseminate to new programs! Thank you to all who contributed to it. See our contact information below in acknowledgements if you would like a copy.
- Quarterly *STRIDE Diffusion Network Calls* will commence April 24th. The objective for these calls will be to connect STRIDE teams across the country to share best practices and lessons learned.

## Welcome New iHI-FIVES Sites!

The final four Function QUERI iHI-FIVES sites were recruited in March! The following sites will begin implementing the iHI-FIVES caregiver training program in 2019-2020:

- South Texas VA Health Care System in San Antonio, TX
- Portland VA Medical Center in Portland, OR
- Tennessee Valley VA Healthcare System in Nashville, TN
- William S. Middle Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, WI

## Presentations/Publications/Articles

A sampling from November 2018 – January 2019:

- Courtney Van Houtven gave a workshop presentation "Cancer Demographic and Careforce Trends and Implications for the Future of Cancer Care: Family caregiving perspective" at the National Academies of Sciences and National Cancer Policy Forum on February 11, 2019.
- Nicki Hastings gave a presentation "Practice Change through Health Services Research: the Case of STRIDE" at the Duke Clinical Research Undergraduate Experience (dCRUE) in Durham, NC on February 12, 2019.
- Nicki Hastings gave a presentation "Promoting Mobility in the Hospital: the Case of STRIDE" at the Safe Patient Handling & Mobility Conference in Orlando, FL on March 5, 2019.
- Courtney Van Houtven gave a briefing on "iHI-FIVES program and sustainability" before the National Director of the Caregiver Support Program in Washington, DC on March 20, 2019.

#### Acknowledgements

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Please visit [www.queri.research.va.gov](http://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](mailto:Elizabeth.Mahanna@va.gov)