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Statewide health consortium lands \$7.9M for research to improve patient outcomes

Aug 21, 2015, 5:58am EDT



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Editor- Orlando Business Journal

A statewide partnership among **Orlando Health**, the **University of Florida**, the **University of Miami**, **Florida State University**, health care systems, health plans, providers and patients was approved for a three-year, \$7.9 million award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

The funding award will create a clinical data research network that is part of a larger collaborative initiative called the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network, or PCORnet. PCORnet will allow researchers nationwide to conduct clinical research more quickly and less expensively than is now possible and will ensure that research focuses on the most important outcomes to patients.

The PCORI funding will designate the statewide partnership, called the OneFlorida Clinical Research Consortium, as one of 13 clinical data research networks nationwide, which are working to accelerate the translation of promising research findings into improved patient care.

The consortium includes 22 hospitals, 914 clinical practices and 4,100 physicians that provide care for close to 40 percent of Floridians. The UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute is leading development of the consortium and will coordinate the funding award.

OneFlorida initially will focus on high blood pressure, obesity and two rare genetic diseases, Duchenne muscular dystrophy and Phelan-McDermid syndrome. In a statewide survey, almost 75 percent of Floridians identified high blood pressure as their No. 1 health care concern, and clinicians routinely identify that condition as a critical issue for their patients.

“This funding is a critical component to our work with our statewide partners, including UF Health, to bring important research opportunities and clinical trials to our patients right here in Central Florida,” said Dr. [Mark Roh](#), president of the UF Health Cancer Center-Orlando Health and a member of the OneFlorida Clinical Research Consortium. “This funding will help connect our many partners around the state, and change the face of health care for Floridians.”

The Florida consortium also will contribute to the national network by allowing researchers access to more than 9 million de-identified and secure health care records through the OneFlorida Data Trust, so they can locate individuals who wish to participate in research and conduct studies more efficiently.