The New York City Clinical Data Research Network (NYC-CDRN) is seeking a technical director for a new project funded by Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The 18-month project will establish an information technology (IT) infrastructure for aggregating electronic health record (EHR) data across 7 New York City health systems to facilitate comparative effectiveness research (full summary is below). The position would be an 18-month consulting arrangement with the possibility of an extension if further funding is secured from PCORI or other sources.

The position requires experience and expertise managing large, complex, collaborative health information technology and/or health information exchange projects involving numerous stakeholders, especially large health care systems / academic medical centers. The person will coordinate efforts across NYC-CDRN’s governance committee, subject area committees, and individual participating institutions to meet milestones for the development of a citywide technology infrastructure that is interoperable with other CDRN efforts across the country.

The ideal candidate will have extensive knowledge of EHRs, information system architectures, distributed databases, controlled terminologies and the various issues related to interoperability of clinical information systems. Familiarity with other data types like claims data, bio-specimen and patient-reported data is desirable. Additionally, familiarity with organizational and policy issues related to EHRs, including patient consent, is desirable.

Given the size and complexity of the project, strong organizational and interpersonal skills are essential. Experience working on state and/or federal contracts is also highly important.

The New York City Clinical Data Research Network (NYC-CDRN) will bring together 7 health systems and a total of 22 organizations from across New York City to prepare a comprehensive data infrastructure for comparative effectiveness research covering up to 6 million patients. This project has the potential to fundamentally restructure the research landscape in one of the nation’s largest and most diverse urban centers, to advance sustainable, scalable paradigms for patient oriented research, and to support national research data network efforts.

The NYC-CDRN has several distinguishing features, including prominent leadership roles for patients, expertise in community engagement, support from state government, and participating clinical organizations with decades of research experience including patient-centered comparative effectiveness research, newer partners with innovative technologies, strong informatics expertise, existing clinical information exchange and interoperability, privacy and security expertise, and membership organizations that can effectively convene multiple stakeholders.

The NYC-CDRN will build on the successful experience of its participating organizations which are committed to sharing their capabilities across the network. The network includes the 6 existing Clinical and Translational Science Award Centers at the city’s medical schools and universities; the 4 associated...
medical centers, 5 organizations for patient engagement, 1 practice-based research network of Federally Qualified Health Centers, 1 genome center, 1 research support organization, and the new Cornell Tech Campus. The NYC-CDRN builds on infrastructure established by 2 New York State-supported health information exchanges.

Strong health system leadership support for data sharing is in place, and all institutions are committed to developing learning healthcare systems by embedding research activities into the provision of health care. The project will also rely on strong involvement from patients and patient organizations, with which we have a rich history of collaborating. Finally, this project enjoys the strong support of the New York State Department of Health, which has invested over $400 million in health information technology infrastructure for the state with goals that include facilitating data sharing for clinical purposes and fostering patient-centered clinical research.

The NYC-CDRN will include a rich breadth and depth of data, covering clinical, patient-reported, biospecimen, claims, registry, and study-specific data. The NYC-CDRN will develop three cohorts for patients with diabetes, obesity, and cystic fibrosis as well as fully partner with patients and clinicians through disease-specific community workgroups. The involved personnel have expertise in informatics, comparative effectiveness research, patient recruitment and engagement, human subjects protection, ethics, privacy and security, randomization techniques, and biobanking.