



# U-IMPACT NEWSLETTER

UTAH INTERMOUNTAIN-WEST PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE SURGICAL CARE TRANSITIONS

## WHAT IS U-IMPACT?

The Utah Intermountain-West Partnership to Improve Surgical Care Transitions (U-IMPACT) was established over two years ago and has been proudly supported by three continuous PCORI Pipeline to Proposal Awards. We are currently in the Tier III award period. U-IMPACT's primary goal is to engage surgical patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers to use their experiences and explore where problems in surgical care coordination exist and to identify solutions for those problems.



ATTENDEES OF OUR PATIENT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING ON DECEMBER 2, 2016.

WATCH OUR PROJECT VIDEO:  
[UIMPACTSURGERY.COM](http://UIMPACTSURGERY.COM)

## LOI UPDATE & GRANT SUBMISSION

In September 2016, U-IMPACT selected a patient-centered research proposal and submitted a letter of intent (LOI) for a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) funding opportunity. In October 2016 PCORI invited us to submit a full application. Our team furiously worked throughout October, November, and December to prepare and submit a full application. Our submitted project proposal is focused on identifying an effective intervention for improving care coordination during transitions of care for surgical patients and their caregivers.

### U-IMPACT PRESENTATIONS:

"Patient-Centered Transitions of Surgical Care"  
Dr. Benjamin Brooke  
University of Utah Surgical Society  
October 12, 2016

"Information Exchange between Providers during Transitions of Surgical Care: Communication, Documentation, and Sometimes Both"  
Stacey Slager, MS  
Information Technology and Communications in Health  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
February 2017

## INVESTIGATOR SPOTLIGHTS



**Dr. Benjamin Brooke** is a Vascular Surgeon and Health Services Researcher. He has served as the U-IMPACT project lead during the Pipeline to Proposal Tier I, II, and III award periods, and serves as the chairperson for the U-IMPACT Advisory Board.

Dr. Brooke grew up in Salt Lake City and received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Utah before heading east to complete his internship and residency in General Surgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. During his residency, he also received a Ph.D. in Clinical Investigation from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. After completing his Vascular Surgery fellowship at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Dr. Brooke returned to the University of Utah in 2013.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Brooke is actively involved in health service research aimed at improving quality, patient safety and clinical outcomes. Dr. Brooke has authored more than 50 peer reviewed publications focused on surgical outcomes and quality measures, and his research has been published in high-impact medical journals including the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, and Health Affairs.

*"Meeting different patients, caregivers and healthcare providers through U-IMPACT during the PCORI P2P award has been one of the most satisfying experiences of my career. I've learned a lot more about the healthcare system from hearing everyone's different experiences, and hope that we can identify effective high-impact solutions together as a team. My wife and I have 2 children (Miles -14 and Ava -11) who are very active in sports and keep our weekends busy. We enjoy hitting the ski slopes in the winter and biking in the summer."*



**Dr. Timothy Farrell** is a practicing Geriatrician and Primary Care Provider. He helped to establish U-IMPACT and has served as a co-leader of the project during the Tier II & III award periods.

Dr. Farrell's academic interests include transitions of care, primary care practice redesign, health literacy, medical ethics, geriatrics education, and interprofessional education (IPE). He is a previous recipient of HRSA's Geriatric Academic Career Award (GACA) and currently serves as a co-investigator on the University of Utah Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), a Donald W. Reynolds Next Steps in Physicians' Training in Geriatrics grant, and an NIA GEMMSTAR grant. Dr. Farrell also serves as Co-Chair of the American Geriatrics (AGS) Society Care Transitions Special Interest Group, a Fellow of the University Of Utah Academy Of Health Science Educators, and as a member of the

AGS Ethics Committee. In 2016, Dr. Farrell was named Director of University of Utah Health Sciences IPE.

*"I am originally from western Massachusetts and completed my undergraduate, medical school and fellowship training in New England. In 2009, I joined the faculty of the University Of Utah School Of Medicine (Division of Geriatrics). My wife and I have 2 children (ages 2 and 6), so life is busy at our house! When I am not running after my kids or taking care of patients, I enjoy Red Sox baseball as well as golf, tennis, skiing, and hiking."*



# 2017 Health Services Research Conference

Partnering for Better Health Through Patient and Caregiver Activation

## Save the Date!



**Where:** University of Utah Health Sciences Education Building

**When:** Monday, March 13, 2017 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Who Should Attend:** Families, patients, caregivers, community members, researchers and health care professionals

---

### Come share YOUR story and help shape health care research in Utah!

Meet with patients, community members, researchers, health care providers and policymakers to learn:

- How to become actively involved in health research that matters to you
- Updates on new research results and how they can benefit your life
- How to connect with researchers on topics you care about
- Organizations and resources that exist to help support your health needs

**Together we can improve health for everyone in Utah!**



### Registration Information Coming January 2017!

Attendance is FREE for patients, caregivers, and community members. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For more information visit: <http://healthinsight.org/partnering-for-better-health>

*Supported through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Program (PCORI) Award (EA-3957-HealthInsight)*

U-IMPACT Project Coordinator: Julie Beckstrom  
U-IMPACT Research Director: Sarah Halbern  
Contact [Julie.Beckstrom@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:Julie.Beckstrom@hsc.utah.edu) with questions and/or comments.