



# New Direction for Family Practice Research Efforts

**Samuel N. Forjuoh, MB, ChB, DrPH**

**Associate Professor**

**Department of Family Medicine**

**Texas A&M University System Health Science Center**

**College of Medicine, Scott & White Hospital**

**Temple, Texas**

# Objectives of Presentation

- **Primary Care Research**
- Bring everyone on same page
- **Different funding agencies interested in specific types of Primary Care Research**

# New Directions for Research

## • Thematic research areas .....

- Primary care research
- Types of primary care research
- Criteria for settings priorities

## • Evidence-based medicine .....

- Shift from descriptive to analytic design strategies

# Descriptive vs. Analytic designs

## **Descriptive Studies**

No hypothesis testing

**No elucidation on the concept of causation**

Lacks power to generalize results

**e.g. Case Reports**

## **Analytic Studies**

Can hypothesize on cause-effect relationships

**Can elucidate on conditions of the concept of causation**

Results may be normally generalizable

**e.g. Case-control study**

# Hierarchy of Epi Design Strategies



**Complexity**

Case Reports

**Confidence**

**Case Series**

**Cross-Sectional Surveys**

**Case-Control Studies**

**Cohort (Follow-Up) Studies**

**Randomized Controlled Trials**

# Primary Care Research

- Any type of research conducted in a primary care “context” or “setting”
- What is primary care?



# Primary Care

- The provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of the family and the community.

# Primary Care . . .

- The organized, continuous, coordinated, and comprehensive care provided over time to populations undifferentiated by a particular disease, organ system, age, or gender

– Starfield (1996)

# Why Conduct Research in Primary Care?

- Improvement in care
- **Service to the community**
- Part of institutional education and research mission
- **Intellectual reward for individual**
- Cost-containment

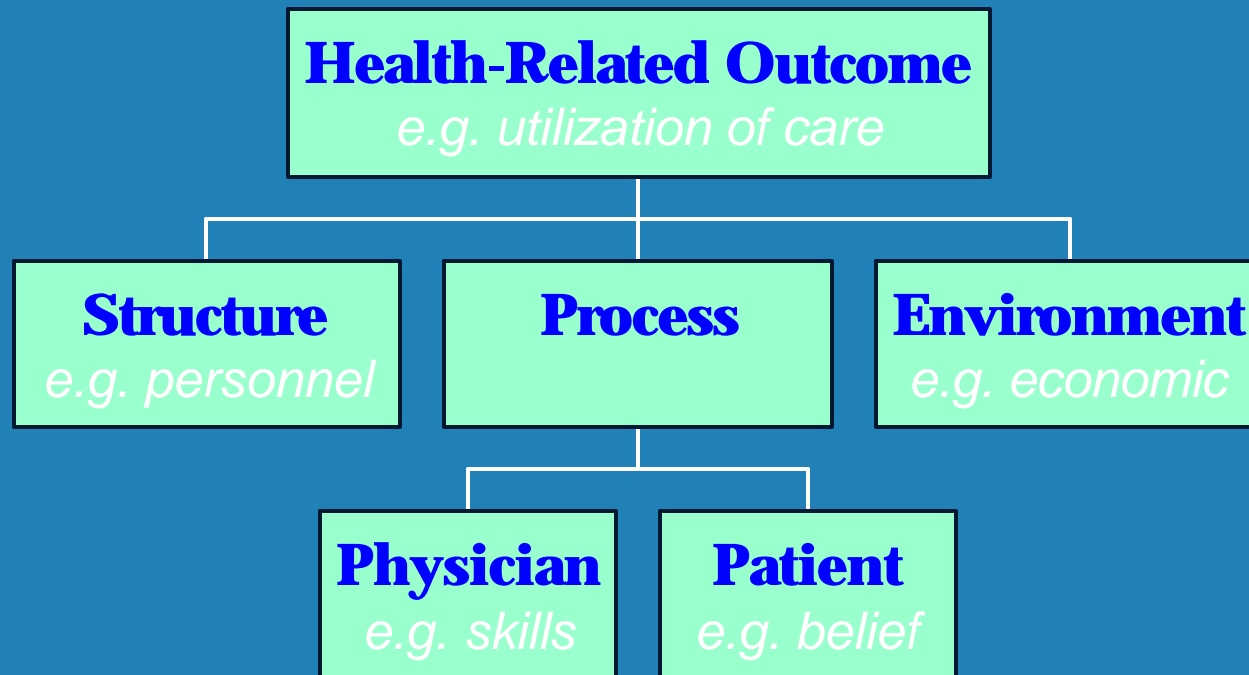


# Types of Research in Primary Care

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- ⊙ Basic research
- ⊙ **Clinical research**
- ⊙ Health services research
- ⊙ **Health systems research**

# Health Services System





# Basic Research

- Involves one of the following components of the health services system: *outcome, structure, or process*, OR the development of methods to study any of these components and their interrelationships.



# Clinical Research

- Involves at least one of the processes contributed by practitioners *and* either one of the processes contributed by patients or a facet of a health-related outcome.



# Health Services Research

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- Involves research in which at least one of the proposed explanatory variables of interest is not confined to consideration of the processes contributed only by practitioners



# Health Systems Research

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- ⦿ Involves research with at least one element of the environment and the design and operation of the health services system

# Matching Research Type with a Funding Agency

## RESEARCH TYPE

## FUNDING SOURCE

**Basic**

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**NIH**

**Clinical**

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**Health Services =>**

**AHCPR**

**Health Systems =>**

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