



Tufts Health Care Institute, 1995-2016 Selected Educational Partnerships

Drawing on our extensive experience and expertise in developing and delivering educational programs about the health care system, Tufts Health Care Institute partnered with numerous other organizations to support their educational needs and goals. THCI's role in these partnerships included planning, creating, delivering and/or evaluating instructional resources and activities, as well as securing continuing professional education credits as appropriate.

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization



The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is a broad-based organization that works to coalesce, train, and organize the communities of Greater Boston across religious, racial, ethnic, class, and neighborhood lines for the public good. A major focus of the organization in recent years has been advocating for and facilitating access to high quality, cost-effective health care services for all citizens. <http://gbio.org/>

Tufts Health Care Institute collaborated with GBIO leadership and Public Health faculty from Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) to produce a webinar series to educate consumers on health care costs, quality, and consumer engagement. The presentations were intended to help consumers identify the underlying factors that contribute to rising health care costs and inefficient care in the U.S. and new models of care. The webinar series was broadcast to GBIO member congregations and later made available to a wider audience on THCI's website. The webinar series was made possible by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which THCI co-authored.

Massachusetts Health Quality Partners



Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP) is a broad-based coalition of physicians, hospitals, health plans, purchasers, patient and public representatives, academics, and government agencies working together to promote improvement in the quality of health care services in Massachusetts. MHQP's mission is to drive measurable improvements in health care quality, patients' experiences of care, and use of resources in Massachusetts through patient and public engagement and broad-based collaboration among health care stakeholders. <http://www.mhqp.org/>

THCI and MHQP collaborated on initiatives to educate both health professionals and consumers of health care services. THCI had a long-standing relationship with MHQP as an educational partner.

Collaborations included:

- Work to support MHQP on their major Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded Aligning Forces for Quality grant, focused on understanding and improving adult diabetes care in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston.
 - The **Healthier Roxbury Coalition** sponsored **Roxbury Rising Against Diabetes**, a month-long series of free events for residents of Boston's Roxbury neighborhood in October 2014, to raise awareness about the prevention and management of Type-2 Diabetes. **Roxbury Rising Against Diabetes** included blood sugar screenings, nutrition workshops, fitness activities, diabetes self-management classes, and more.
 - The **Healthier Roxbury Coalition**, with help from THCI staff, produced the ***Roxbury Rising Against Diabetes Healthier Roxbury Resource Guide***. This resource guide has valuable information about services and programs to assist and support individuals diagnosed with diabetes or at risk of developing the condition. The organizations listed include hospitals, health care centers, social service agencies, and other public and private community groups located in Roxbury or serving its population.

- Partnership on a statewide ABIM Foundation-funded initiative to educate practicing physicians and physicians-in-training about the importance of cost-effective care, as part of the national "Choosing Wisely" Campaign. (See THCI Partnership below, Choosing Wisely Massachusetts)
- Co-organizing a program for primary care physicians and mental health professionals on successful treatment strategies for medical patients suffering from depression and substance abuse.
- Co-organizing a symposium to address issues of care coordination that impact the patient experience. Participants in the course developed action plans to improve communication between primary care physicians and specialists and to improve the process of reliably informing patients about medical test results.

Choosing Wisely Massachusetts (and MHQP)

Choosing Wisely[®] is a national campaign developed by the ABIM (American Board of Internal Medicine) Foundation and supported by leading medical specialty societies to help guide conversations between patients and clinicians about whether a medical test or procedure is truly necessary for the patient.

Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP) is partnering with the ABIM Foundation, Consumer Reports and health care stakeholders across the Commonwealth, including Tufts Health Care Institute, to promote the adoption of **Choosing Wisely in Massachusetts**.

<http://consumerhealthchoices.org/choosing-wisely-massachusetts>

THCI has joined with clinician leaders, patients and consumers, hospitals, medical professional societies, health plans, employers and state agencies in using the Choosing Wisely campaign to raise awareness among both clinicians and patients about ways in which they can work together to give and receive care that is safe and effective. Among THCI's instructional resources that convey the messages of Choosing Wisely is a series of three archived Educational Webinars on High Quality, Cost-Effective Imaging.

MedSolutions



MedSolutions (now part of eviCare) is a medical cost management company that is committed to supporting Commercial, Managed Medicaid, state Medicaid, and Medicare Advantage health plans and the providers within their networks in improving the quality and consistency of care for members/patients. Their team of specialized medical professional resources (over 60 board certified physicians and over 200 nurses), extensive evidence-based guidelines, and advanced technologies, support clients and their providers in ensuring the right (evidence-based) care is delivered at the right time to the right patient. Flexible solutions are offered in Diagnostic Testing and Imaging Management; Comprehensive Musculoskeletal Management; Oncology Management; Cardiology Services Management and Post-Acute Care Management. <https://www.evicore.com/>

Tufts Health Care Institute developed a series of live and archived webinars on high quality, cost-effective imaging, to provide expert and evidence-based guidance to MedSolutions' clients. THCI worked with physician experts from Tufts Medical Center to prepare and deliver presentations on the appropriate use of spine and abdominal imaging as well as guidelines for minimizing the risk of exposure to radiation. Physicians viewing these webinars were eligible to receive continuing education credits.

New England Quality Care Alliance



New England Quality Care Alliance (NEQCA) is a partnership of approximately 1,800 community and academic physicians dedicated to providing comprehensive, innovative, high-quality and affordable health care that brings value to its patients and the community, and expands the teaching and research mission of Tufts Medical Center. This alliance aims to further enhance the clinical integration of the NEQCA network and better coordinate patient care. <https://www.neqca.org/>

THCI provided support to NEQCA leadership, helping to design and evaluate courses and seminars for NEQCA-affiliated physicians and other health care

professionals within the NEQCA network. THCI's services included assistance with planning the overall educational goals and objectives for NEQCA programs, conducting pre-and-post-program surveys and obtaining continuing education credits for conference and program attendees.

Training topics ranged from increasing efficient care management to integrating behavioral health into primary care. In addition, THCI provided content and editorial support for a number of successful grant applications to support NEQCA's learning and operational goals.

Pri-Med



Since 1995, Pri-Med has been a leading provider of professional medical education to a community of over 260,000 US clinicians. With live programs in over 30 cities and many more at www.pri-med.com, the organization's goal is to deliver education that is immediately usable, affordable and accessible, mostly for primary care physicians. In 2012, Pri-Med acquired Amazing Charts, a top-rated provider of electronic health records (EHR) software to nearly 10,000 practices. Many Amazing Charts users are also in small primary care practices. Looking forward, Pri-Med is committed to helping clinicians integrate up-to-date medical education that links to specific needs in their patient panels in order to improve outcomes of care in an increasingly complex health care environment. <https://www.pri-med.com/>

Pri-Med leadership engaged THCI to organize systematic reviews of Pri-Med presentations by a cadre of expert, academic physicians. These experts provide independent review of the educational content and presentations to assure that they reflect relevant, evidence-based knowledge, are educationally sound, and meet national continuing medical education requirements.

Screening for Mental Health



Screening for Mental Health's (SMH) mission is to provide innovative mental health and substance abuse resources, linking those in need to quality treatment

options. SMH programs—provided both in-person and online—educate, raise awareness, and screen individuals for depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorders, alcohol use disorders, and suicide. SHM envisions a world where mental health is viewed and treated with the same gravity as physical health. <https://mentalhealthscreening.org/>

THCI partnered with Screening for Mental Health to develop an online learning module to help school-based staff and mental health professionals implement SMH's SOS Signs of Suicide® Prevention Program. Working with SMH leadership, THCI transformed SMH's in-person training sessions and their educational tools into an online learning format that is user-friendly and can be accessed anytime and anywhere by school-based health professionals. The online utility enables users to obtain continuing education credits in their profession, and enables SMH staff to track the dissemination and utilization of the educational module.

Tufts Health Plan



A nonprofit organization founded in 1979, Tufts Health Plan is nationally recognized for its commitment to providing innovative, high-quality health care coverage to more than one million members. The plan offers an array of health management programs, which support evidence-based approaches to health and wellness.

Tufts Health Plan is one of the few health insurers in Massachusetts to participate in the commercial, Medicare and Medicaid/state-sponsored markets, offering coverage across the life span regardless of age or circumstance. Tufts Health Plan is also a leader in advancing public policy discussions on the issues of prevention and wellness, affordability, and removing obstacles to accessibility.

With headquarters in Massachusetts, Tufts Health Plan also serves members in Rhode Island. <https://tuftshealthplan.com/>

THCI and Tufts Health Plan collaborated on an annual "mini-rotation" for senior and chief residents, designed to teach them about the health care system, including sessions on health care financing, costs, quality reporting and

improvement, and new models of care. This four-day, intensive course, “Practicing Medicine in the Era of Health Reform” was co-sponsored by Tufts Health Care Institute and Tufts Health Plan, with partial funding from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation. Tufts Health Plan’s CEO and a number of senior staff members and medical directors participated on the course faculty.

THCI also developed online modules on "Geriatric Screening and Health Maintenance" and "Geriatric Case Management" for Tufts Health Plan providers in the Medicare Preferred program.

Tufts University School of Medicine



Founded in 1893, Tufts University School of Medicine offers students the academic foundation and clinical experience they need to move confidently to the next steps in their education, training and careers. Students at TUSM can pursue degrees in medicine, biomedical research, public health, medical science (physician assistant), and other professional degree programs, all of which train outstanding leaders in their fields. Students may also combine fields through a variety of unique joint degrees. <http://medicine.tufts.edu>

THCI worked with faculty in the TUSM Office of Educational Affairs to develop a “Resident as Teacher” curriculum for residents and fellows. The suite of five modules includes "Feedback and Evaluation," "Effective Presentations," and related topics. These modules are available to graduate medical education programs and institutions subscribing to the THCI Online Learning Campus.

From 2005 until March 2016, THCI managed the **TUSM Office of Continuing Education (OCE)**. TUSM OCE was established over 30 years ago primarily to serve the continuing education needs of Tufts-affiliated physicians. Today, the OCE sponsors, develops and implements continuing education (CE) programming that addresses health care improvements and enhances the professional development of both TUSM-affiliated and non-TUSM physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other members of the health care team. Activities include live conferences, live and archived Internet courses, journals, and point-of-care continuing education.