

## Promoting Diagnostic Excellence Across the House of Medicine

### REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

#### Background

[The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#) recently awarded a [grant](#) to the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) to promote [diagnostic excellence](#) across the field of medicine. With this funding, CMSS will provide up to 10 grant awards to CMSS members through an external review process to support the development of resources and programs focused on diagnostic excellence, including diagnostic safety, quality and equity.

#### Description of Awards

CMSS will make 10 awards in the amount of \$100,000 each to CMSS members to support the development and dissemination of resources and programs on diagnostic excellence by specialty societies, including, but not limited to:

- Develop and disseminate CME-accredited, educational materials focused on diagnostic excellence;
- Build diagnostic excellence tracks, symposia, pre-courses, and webinars at virtual and in-person specialty society meetings;
- Highlight diagnostic excellence in specialty society-supported journals, including special issues, journal supplements, sections, or columns on diagnostic excellence;
- Use specialty society's social media platforms to build interest and expertise in diagnostic excellence, including tweekchats and podcasts;
- Drive greater focus on diagnosis and symptoms into society clinical registries, clinical practice guidelines, and clinical research efforts;
- Support society-sponsored quality improvement initiatives and cross-specialty collaboratives that drive team-based approaches to improve diagnosis;
- Identify, disseminate, and implement innovative strategies from society members that can support improved diagnosis.

#### Eligibility and Preference

All CMSS members are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to specialties with more limited prior engagement in diagnostic excellence. CMSS members may jointly submit letters of intent with appropriate justification for how the collaboration will support diagnostic excellence across specialties.

Programmatic preference will be given to societies that focus on clinical areas that represent a significant portion of preventable harm from diagnostic errors in the society's specialty, as well as the highest risk clinical areas<sup>1</sup>, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and infection. Preference will also be given to proposals that focus on equity in diagnostic excellence.

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<sup>1</sup> Newman-Toker, David E., Schaffer, Adam C., Yu-Moe, C. Winnie, Nassery, Najilla, Saber Tehrani, Ali S., Clemens, Gwendolyn D., Wang, Zheyu, Zhu, Yuxin, Fanai, Mehdi and Siegal, Dana. "Serious misdiagnosis-related harms in malpractice claims: The "Big Three" – vascular events, infections, and cancers" *Diagnosis*, vol. 6, no. 3, 2019, pp. 227-240.

## Proposal Process

CMSS will use a two-stage proposal process. Interested CMSS members will be asked to submit a brief letter of intent describing the society's proposed program and approach. CMSS will review all letters of intent and invite societies whose letters of intent are responsive to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be reviewed by an external Advisory Committee made up of a diverse group of national experts in diagnostic excellence and patient safety, as well as individuals with expertise in the key engagement vehicles for specialty societies, including continuing education, publishing, communication, quality improvement, and research.

## Submitting a Letter of Intent

Interested societies should send a letter of intent to CMSS by **Friday, April 29, 2022**. Letters should be no more than two pages in length, single-spaced.

Letters should include the following information about the society's proposed project:

- **Background:** State the problem that the project is designed to address. Describe the clinical focus and data-driven rationale for that focus.
- **Project Description:** Describe the proposed project and how it will serve to increase engagement of your members in diagnostic safety, quality, and equity.
- **Objectives:** State the aims and objectives of the project. Describe how the project will promote diagnostic excellence, including safety, quality and equity.
- **Proposed Activities:** Describe the activities and strategies of the proposed project and how they support the overall objectives. Describe the types of resources and programs that will be developed and how they will be disseminated.
- **Outcomes:** Summarize the projected outcomes and measurement strategy of the proposed project in the short term (at the end of the one-year project, and over the long term (3+ years after the project ends).

<b>Address letters of intent to:</b>  Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, MACP Chief Executive Officer Council of Medical Specialty Societies 633 North St. Clair Street, Suite 2400 Chicago, IL 60611	<b>Send letters of intent by e-mail to:</b>  Sarah Imhoff, MPA, Senior Program Director Council of Medical Specialty Societies Phone: 301-615-3197 Email: <a href="mailto:simhoff@cmss.org">simhoff@cmss.org</a>  Joan Williams, Project Administrator Council of Medical Specialty Societies Phone: 312-202-5584 Email: <a href="mailto:jwilliams@cmss.org">jwilliams@cmss.org</a>
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## CMSS Support

CMSS will serve as a coordinating center to monitor and promote cross-specialty learning, improvement, collaboration, and identification of best practices in diagnostic excellence that can be shared among the grantees and with the broader medical community. Specific areas of support include:

*Grantee Learning Network:* CMSS will launch and manage a learning network for the grantees to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and sharing of successes and best practices. CMSS will convene the grantees in person at the CMSS Annual Meeting to share lessons learned with each other and CMSS and Moore Foundation staff. CMSS will also convene the grantees for virtual meetings on a quarterly basis. Grantees will also have access to an online learning community for collaboration, discussion and sharing resources.

*Dissemination of Findings:* Grantees will be invited to share their learning and results with the full CMSS membership at the CMSS Annual Meeting and targeted virtual events. CMSS will also work with the grantees to write and submit abstracts and publications on this work. CMSS will also collaborate with the grantees on identifying opportunities to share findings with the wider healthcare community, including briefings, coordinated conference panel submissions, and invitational meetings. CMSS may also engage stakeholders across the medical education continuum to disseminate the resources as part of medical education curricula.

*Spreading Best Practices and Successful Strategies:* CMSS will work with the grantees to identify effective strategies, specific approaches, and actionable resources that can be incorporated into specialty-specific project deliverables. CMSS will develop three to five derivative resources, such as playbooks and resource guides, from specialty society deliverables that can be disseminated and used across a wider audience of specialty societies. These derivative resources will be shared on CMSS Connect, CMSS website and member websites, social media, and podcasts.