**I-ACQUIRE PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER DISSEMINATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**Introduction**

Our team is a remarkable group of dedicated clinicians, parents, academics and scientists who share a vested interest in helping infants with upper extremity movement limitations caused by stroke and detected soon after birth. We are unique among the many clinical trials funded by the Stroke Network within the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NINDS) at NIH. We have captured the interest of the neurologists throughout the 30 participating centers, because we are the only study that addresses pediatric stroke.

This unique circumstance affords us an opportunity to share our experiences and thoughts in the form of multiple “products” that can emerge from our individual and collective ideas. The I-ACQUIRE Publication Committee hopes you are excited about this opportunity. Most of us have ideas about optimal use of constraint therapy in this population and the many considerations that must be explored to assure the best outcomes for these infants. Equally true is the fact that few of us have had much experience expressing our ideas either in oral or written format.

While lack of experience can be intimidating, it can also be viewed as an opportunity to work with more experienced members of the I-ACQUIRE team to develop one’s thoughts, establish or participate in collaborative working teams, and ultimately, disseminate your ideas. While one may have just an early thought right now, there is nothing more exciting as a professional health care provider, educator, parent, or scientist than seeing one’s ideas emerge and gain understanding and acceptance by your peers. The tragic pandemic we are experiencing now has forced us to put our study on “hold”, but this hold gives us a chance to think about and share ideas for development and dissemination.

**How Would I Get Started?**

**Simple**. Just send us your idea. What would you like to pursue as an idea? “What is the question you wish answered? What form would that question take? Who else should participate? Specific to your location? Across I-ACQUIRE sites? Designed to be addressed by a select group, such as treating therapists, accessors, parents? Please be as specific as possible but do not hesitate to expand your ideas/thoughts into several sentences or paragraphs. Remember, there are no right or wrong ideas, there are only ideas that collaboratively we can help shape into concrete thoughts and working teams.

**How Do We Categorize or Label These Ideas?**

You will recall that I-ACQUIRE asks some very specific questions about dosing and outcomes. Those primary questions with their associated hypotheses are the primary bases for data generation and analyses by the Stroke Network Data Management Center at Medical University of South Carolina. Drs. Ramey and Lo are responsible for the accurate collection of the data to answer those primary questions and for writing up the interpretation of the results. The “Publications Committee” of the Stroke Network expects the collection of the primary data and answering the primary questions will occupy most of their time in working with the I-ACQUIRE grant. However, that attention to the primary I-ACQUIRE trial questions does not stop us from pursuing other very important questions. The categories might include: Parental Issues, Therapist Deliverables, Physician Engagement, etc.

Examples:

Parental Issues: through use of the newsletter or monitored/controlled Facebook, what content most effectively fostered parent engagement? Are there strategies for parent communication that should be shared?

Therapist Deliverables: What if the dosing cannot be delivered optimally or is impeded? What factors contribute to those occurrences? How doe they impact outcome? Are those factors comparable across sites or specific to identifiable situations unique to any one site or treatment environment?

Physician Engagement: How can the basics underlying this project be understood by pediatric neurologists? Are there roles or opportunities for them to disseminate/share this knowledge with colleagues via publications, grand round presentations, journal clubs, etc.? How does physician leadership within I-ACQUIRE mobilize other pediatric neurologists, StrokeNet neurologists, or physicians from other specialties? What form(s) should that take?

**How Should Information Be Disseminated/Distributed?**

Dissemination could take many forms: peer reviewed publications; platform or poster sessions at professional meetings: news releases; presentations at hospital meetings; presentations at local professional meetings; professional updates for practicing therapists. The choice will be made by the writing team; the originator of the “idea” may already have targeted an intended dissemination format.

**How Will the I-ACQUIRE Publications Committee Prioritize Ideas?**

To be determined but most likely based upon the comprehensiveness of thought, the speed with which the generator of the idea assembles a working team, and how quickly the team can translate the idea into a product for dissemination.

**How Is the I-ACQUIRE Publications Committee different from the Stroke Network Publications Committee?**

They are totally different. Consider the I-ACQUIRE Publications Committeeto be the local monitors and mentors for your ideas. Our responsibility will be to help you develop your effort so that it can be successfully implemented. The national Stroke Network Publications Committee has very specific guidelines regarding their expectations and these guidelines. These, to a large extent, are driven by rules and regulations about data protection and accuracy as well as HIPPA regulations. We will abide by those guidelines. However, a primary driver of our Stroke Network Publications Committee considerations may well boil down to costs related to their time and assistance and importance. It may well be that the organization we are describing for ourselves may have not been implemented in any previous Stroke Network trials. In fact, most those past efforts have been solely directed towards successful completion and submission of primary outcome papers with little devotion directed towards independent additional forms of dissemination.

We will share our dissemination efforts with the national Publication Committee for their approval. While we cannot predict their responses to our efforts for submission, one can speculate that the national Publications Committee will not hold much interest in our personalized efforts towards dissemination unless data analyses and interpretation related to formal data acquisition for I-ACQUIRE is required.

**What About Statistical Analyses?**

The thought of having to “do” statistics can be intimidating and a turn off. Many of your efforts may not require analyses at all. Other ideas may require some preliminary analyses for which we are prepared to help within I-ACQUIRE. Should there be a need for more additional analyses, we will contact the Stroke Network Data Management Center for their assistance. After all, they will be looking at the final product of your work anyway.

**So Why Would We Even Bother with This Additional Work?**

Because we are a first!!!!! **No one has ever gone this far** with a national effort to help children with limb movement limitations following pediatric stroke make all that is learned available. Most importantly, the totality of this effort sets the standard for the future efforts of this team, and, hopefully many teams to follow.