

Title: Does Our Current Research Paradigm Improve or Impede the Quality of Care for LBP patients?

Moderators/Facilitators: Kevin F. Spratt, PhD, Jon Lurie, MD, MS and Ron Donelson, MD, MS

Description: **This focus group has been scheduled for Monday the 8th of June, beginning at 8:00 AM and ending at 11:30 AM and is intended for surgeons, non-operative clinicians, engineers, researchers and methodologists since successful disruptive innovation in clinical research methods is unlikely without buy in from all of these stakeholders.**

Our goals are to consider three basic questions:

- 1) Are care-seeking LBP patients better off now than they were 30 years ago? We will address the current state of clinical research and practice in the US and around the world.
- 2) Have RCTs *improved or impeded* the quality of care for LBP patients, i.e. what are the pros and cons associated with RCTs as the longstanding “gold” standard for clinical research?
- 3) What can we do to improve research paradigms and does meaningful research improvement require a paradigm shift? Are there ways and means of realizing a research structure that will ensure that care and practices 20 years from now will be substantially better than what we have now?

The structure of the focus group depends, in part, upon how many attendees sign up to participate. Our intent is to utilize general principles that apply to most focus groups:

- 1) No more than 10 members per group and no more than three groups since we have three facilitators.
- 2) The facilitator(s) will introduce specific questions related to our three topics and group members will then talk to each other rather than to the facilitator.
- 3) Of course only one person talks at a time and should limit that time to 2-3 minutes for each comment.
- 4) The facilitator(s) will introduce questions, monitor the discussion, record the conversation, and then provide a summary of the discussion points. These records will remain confidential and no group member names will be attached to specific comments.
- 5) A moderator’s primary responsibility is to ensure that all group members have an opportunity to express their thoughts.

We plan to have each topic discussed for 50 minutes with short breaks between sessions. We should have 30 minutes at the end to summarize the inputs and outputs generated by focus group participants.

Focus Group Chairs will present in the general session on the morning of Friday June 12, 09:00-09:30. Five minutes per focus group with a 10 minute overall discussion is planned.

If you wish to participate in this focus group please send an email to Kevin.F.Spratt@Dartmouth.Edu and on the email subject line please enter “Research Paradigm Focus Group.” This subject text will ensure that I will see the email and be able to respond to your request. That response will be to send a packet of materials to each respondent that includes:

- 1) a formal response letter that will remind you of the date, time, and location of the focus group meetings;
- 2) several documents to read in preparation for the meeting, and
- 3) a request that you indicate via email that you have received the materials.

If I do not receive this confirmation that you have received the materials, I will send a second email including the materials again. In addition, an email will be sent on June 1, 2015 as a reminder of the focus group meeting and to provide any additional information that has come up related to our focus group preparation. If you have signed up for the focus group but find that you will not be able to participate please send an email to let us know and use the same subject line so that I will be sure to see your message.