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NEWS RELEASE

HRET Awarded New Contract from the University of Kentucky *Efforts will focus on integrating patient and caregiver input into care coordination*

CHICAGO – June 8, 2015 – The Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association (AHA) recently announced that it will partner with the University of Kentucky Center for Health Services Research to conduct a study called “[Project ACHIEVE](#) – Achieving Patient-Centered Care and Optimized Health In Care Transitions by Evaluating the Value of Evidence” -- to determine which transitional care services most effectively improve health outcomes and are of high value to patients and their caregivers. The study is funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) (Contract #TC-1403-14049).

As part of HRET’s ongoing effort to promote patient and family engagement and its work with PCORI, this project will involve the design and development of dissemination and implementation efforts, such as best practice recommendations, for national patient-centered care transition programs. The three-year project emphasizes the importance of patient transitions from hospital to home as well as the evaluation of nursing facilities and community care transitions.

“We are thrilled to be working with the University of Kentucky on the Project ACHIEVE Award that will build on our national quality improvement work,” said Maulik Joshi, HRET president and AHA associate executive vice president. “This work will advance patient care and improve the overall care process.”

AHA and HRET have extensive background in patient, family and caregiver engagement through projects such as the Hospital Engagement Network that involved nearly 1,500 hospitals across 31 states and demonstrated improvement in health care quality and safety throughout acute care and related health care settings. This new project will build upon past advancements in order to facilitate a final dissemination plan, optimize health care transitions and achieve comprehensive patient-centered care.

This is a subcontract for HRET, in partnership with the University of Kentucky Center for Health Services Research and experts and leading organizations in the care transitions field. PCORI

approved a \$15 million contract to the University of Kentucky Center for Health Services Research in September 2014. For more information, visit www.hret.org.

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Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET's mission is to transform health care through research and education. It focuses on identifying and exploring key issues affecting the health care delivery system. HRET's applied research focuses on improving quality, eliminating disparities, improving care coordination, improving leadership and governance, conducting data analysis and supporting the spread of improvement. Through AHA's Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE) strategy, HRET has helped hospital leaders to accelerate performance improvement by disseminating best practices, producing actionable reports and toolkits, conducting leadership development programs and implementing national improvement projects. For more information, visit www.hret.org.

University of Kentucky Center for Health Services Research (UK-CHSR)

The Center for Health Services Research (CHSR) at University of Kentucky was established in 1998 to address important issues in health services organization, financing, accessibility, cost, quality, appropriateness, and outcomes with the ultimate goal of improving the health status of individuals and populations. Integrated across UK's colleges, The Center focuses on leveraging collaboration to enhance interprofessional practice and education to advance the science of health care delivery and improve population health by transforming care delivery and community health. For more information, visit <http://chsr.med.uky.edu>.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is authorized by Congress to fund and disseminate research that will provide information about the best available evidence to help patients and their healthcare providers make more informed decisions. PCORI's research is intended to give patients a better understanding of the prevention, treatment, and care options available, and the science that supports those options.