

John E. Ware, Jr., Ph.D. Addresses Health Outcomes Research Issues One Year into National Government-sponsored PROMIS Initiative

Bethesda, MD, June 9, 2005 - John E. Ware, Jr., Ph.D. recently addressed a national audience of health care leaders at the "Critical Issues in eHealth Research Conference" sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to encourage discussion, debate, and identification of issues related to the theoretical and methodological aspects of eHealth research. Ware, a Co-Principal Investigator of one of the PROMIS primary research sites, discussed "*Outcomes Research Before and After NIH's PROMIS Initiative*" and outlined ways in which the PROMIS team is working to improve consumer-reported health outcomes measurement. Dr. Ware is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of QualityMetric Health Outcomes Solutions. In addition, he is also the founder and Senior Scientist at Health Assessment Lab.

PROMIS, a cooperative network funded under the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research Initiative to reengineer the clinical research enterprise, has nearly completed its first year of operation. Bringing together collaborators from all over the country at six primary research sites and a statistical coordinating center, PROMIS will help define the next generation of health outcomes measurement.

Members of the PROMIS team are developing a computer adaptive way to measure patient-reported symptoms such as pain, fatigue, and other aspects of health-related quality of life (HRQOL), across a wide variety of chronic diseases and conditions.

In his presentation, Ware stated that HRQOL measures are the best predictors of future health, inpatient and outpatient expenditures, health-related job loss, response to treatment, work productivity and mortality. He said the PROMIS team plans to improve upon existing measures with better psychometrics, computerized adaptive testing (CAT) software and use of the Internet for alternative connections and standardized scoring.

"We are mapping all major domains of health and measuring them on a standardized metric," he said. "In the area of physical functioning, we are working with James Fries, MD, at Stanford University to take all the known physical functioning measures and catalogue and calibrate them so they can all be scored on a common ruler."

Advantages of the PROMIS approach, according to Ware, include:

- compatibility with various data capture approaches;
- substantial reductions in respondent burden and data capture costs;
- reliability sufficient to screen and monitor individual patient outcomes; and
- the opportunity to monitor data in real time.

Ware is also working with the PROMIS Intellectual Property Committee in search of the best way to protect the new health measurement standards being created by the NIH, while making them widely available. "One of the most important aspects of our work is to develop a sustainable business model that will protect the intellectual property and make it possible for the commercial world to license it in support of royalty-free access for scholarly research," he said. "The future of health outcomes measurement is in the shared public and private use of new technology and developments in patient-reported outcome measurement capability."

About QualityMetric Incorporated

QualityMetric Incorporated has integrated the consumer's voice into health care decision-making with self-reported generic and disease-specific health outcomes surveys used worldwide to measure health status with scientific validity in clinical practice, disease management, population monitoring, clinical trials, and direct-to-consumer marketing. Founded in 1997 by John E. Ware, Jr., PhD, principal developer of the SF-36[®], SF-12[®], and SF-8[™] Health Surveys, QualityMetric's scientific expertise has dramatically evolved the value and precision of health-related quality of life measurement while our technology applications, including the world's first computerized dynamic health assessments (DYNHA[®]), have broadened the options for administration.

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