
Conducting Health Outcomes Research

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Preface

This book is, in one way, a continuation of an earlier set of efforts about outcomes research and, in another way, a totally new work. We have previously published two editions of a multi-authored text, *Understanding Health Outcomes Research*. When I was asked to consider a third edition, I opted to dramatically change the format and the content. I teamed up with my colleague, David Radosevich, who has been teaching the course on outcomes research with me at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, to write a jointly authored text that would approach this topic afresh.

The current text, *Conducting Health Outcomes Research*, is based on our collective experience teaching this material to a diverse group of students with varying degrees of clinical and epidemiologic backgrounds. At the same time, a lot has changed. Evidence-based medicine has become the holy grail of medical care. Comparative effectiveness research has begun to blossom. There is a greater than ever need for such a text.

We have tried to make this book more practical but readily acknowledge that in many instances we draw heavily on the work of earlier chapter authors. We have acknowledged that work whenever appropriate.

Robert L. Kane, MD

Acknowledgments

Although this book is newly authored, it draws upon a number of chapters in the previous iterations of the earlier version of the book. We would like to thank Maureen Smith for her writing on satisfaction and condition-specific measures; Adam Atherly for his writing on condition-specific measures; Jeremy Holtzman for his writing on assessing treatment; Todd Rockwood for his writing on satisfaction and demographics; Melissa Constantine for her writing on demographics; and Chris Schüssler-Fiorenza for her writing on satisfaction.

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Robert Kane, MD, holds an endowed chair in Long-Term Care and Aging at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, where he was formerly the dean. He directs the University of Minnesota's Center on Aging, the Minnesota Area Geriatric Education Center, the Clinical Outcomes Research Center, and an AHRQ-funded Evidence-based Practice Center. He has conducted numerous research studies on both the clinical care and the organization of care for older persons, especially those needing long-term care. He is the author or editor of 31 books and more than 470 journal articles and book chapters on geriatrics and health services research. He has analyzed long-term systems both in this country and abroad. Recent books include *The Heart of Long-term Care*, *Assessing Older Persons*, the sixth edition of *Essentials of Clinical Geriatrics*, and *Meeting the Challenge of Chronic Illness*. He and his sister, Joan West, have written an account of the struggles to get adequate long-term care for their mother, titled, *It Shouldn't Be This Way*. That experience led to his founding a national organization dedicated to improving long-term care, Professionals with Personal Experience with Chronic Care (PPECC), which has over 800 members. He is a graduate of Harvard Medical School.

His current research addresses both acute and long-term care for older persons, with special attention to the role of managed care, chronic disease, and disability, as well as systematic reviews of the literature on various topics. Dr. Kane has consulted to a number of national and international agencies, including the World Health Organization's

Expert Committee on Aging. He has received the President's Award from the American Society on Aging and the Polisher Award from the Gerontological Society of America, the Enrico Greppi Prize from the Italian Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics, and the British Geriatrics Society Medal for the Relief of Suffering amongst the Aged. He was elected to the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center's Academy for Excellence in Health Research.

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David M. Radosevich, PhD, RN is an epidemiologist and biostatistician at the University of Minnesota conducting health outcomes research in the Academic Health Center. He is a cofounder of the Health Outcomes Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting outcomes research. He cofounded and served as the Director of Transplant Information Services and served as the deputy director of the Clinical Outcomes Research Center in the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. He has participated in numerous projects measuring health outcomes and quality of care at the level of community, health plan, and medical group practice. In addition to collaborating in observational studies in the Division of Transplantation at the University of Minnesota and the Schultze Diabetes Institute, Dr. Radosevich works closely with studies on donor management and the donor family experience. Dr. Radosevich teaches health outcomes research in the School of Public Health.