• A statement/executive summary that describes what was accomplished with funding (activities and achievements), summary of how funds were expended, outcomes, and overall progress.

Sharon Weissman, MD  
University of South Carolina, School of Medicine,  
Department of Medicine, Infectious Disease Section.

**Clinical Incentive Grants:** Amount Awarded: $14,450

**Project Title:** Retrospective Review of Cause of Death (COD) in HIV-Infected Patients in South Carolina using the CoDe Protocol.

**Executive Summary:**  A retrospective study was conducted on 459 HIV infected patients receiving care at the University of South Carolina HIV Clinic and/or Palmetto Health Richland Hospital between 2005 and 2013. Using the established Cause of Death Project (CoDe) protocol, we measured multiple factors including comorbidities, risk behaviors, contributing and underlying causes of death. This study is one of the few US based studies using this validated protocol. Among the deaths, 25.9% were sudden and 15.2% were unexpected. Almost one-fifth were related to AIDS-related infections; 47.5% related to non-AIDS causes; with the remainder unknown. Statistically significant increases in CD4 counts and decreasing viral loads were observed over the study period. There were no statistically significant differences observed by HIV risk behavior, race, gender, age at death, or on antiretrovirals at death. In support of the existing literature, improved HIV management appears to reduce the AIDS-related attributable death among patients observed in this study. Study results were presented in 2012 at the South Carolina Infectious Diseases Society Annual meeting and again at the Infectious Disease Society of America Annual Meeting, IDWeek. Initial study results were based on individuals receiving care from 2005-2010. Following the initial review the study protocol was amended to include a proposal to cover individuals receiving care through 2013. Data collection, data validation and cleaning and final data analysis was completed in 2014. A manuscript was submitted in December 2014 and published in February, 2015 (attached). Currently the researcher involved in this study have several active studies examining HIV outcomes and disparity of testing, treatment and care in South Carolina but, at least so far, no additional funding has been secured.

**Presentations and Manuscript References:**


**Summary of Expenditure of Funds:** Attached