

## 2. CANDIDATE'S BACKGROUND

**2.1 Commitment to Patient Oriented Research (POR):** Dr. Limdi developed an interest in patient-oriented research in 1998, while working as a clinical pharmacist with the Stroke and Epilepsy services. Her initial research involved studying epilepsy and valproate in treating status epilepticus<sup>1-6</sup> and understanding factors contributing to the variability in warfarin response.<sup>7</sup> Reading the first report on the association of polymorphisms in the cytochrome P450 2C9 (*CYP2C9*) with warfarin dose and risk of bleeding,<sup>8</sup> was an “aha” moment spawning her interest in understanding the genetic underpinnings of drug response (pharmacogenetics). As a pharmacist, she immediately recognized the promise of pharmacogenetics in elucidating reasons for variable drug response and its potential to improve efficacy and safety of drug therapy.

Not knowing where to start, in part due to a paucity of mentors, she attended the first Pharmacogenetic Research Network Conference in 2001 with the sole purpose of finding a mentor. She looked through the speaker biographies for the word “pharmacogenetics” and “the name of a drug (any drug).” Dr. David Flockhart (Tamoxifen; Pharmacogenetics) was her first mentor (Pharmacologist, Internist). In fact, the aims of her K23 award were drafted in the cafeteria adjoining the Natcher Conference Center at NIH. An epidemiologist at the conference introduced her to Dr. Ron Acton (Microbiologist, Immunogeneticist; Mentor #2). She came away with a plan to pursue patient-oriented research (POR) in cardiovascular pharmacogenetics.

Recognizing the need to develop crucial research skills she decided to pursue structured didactic training offered by the Masters in Public Health (Dr. David Allison; Mentor #3; Psychology, Statistical Genetics) during the K23 award (NS045598) period. She set ambitious goals and proceeded to exceed them building the largest pharmacogenetic cohort of chronic warfarin users. After consulting with her mentors and Program officer, she decided to pursue a PhD in Epidemiology (Dr. Donna Arnett; Mentor#4 Cardiovascular nurse, Epidemiologist, Genetic epidemiologist) writing her RO1 with Dr. Arnett's guidance. Her expertise in clinical pharmacy, pharmacology, biostatistics, clinical research and epidemiology has allowed her to leverage these skills to secure independent NIH funding (HL092173; 2008-2013; 2014 with extension) which was competitively renewed (2014-19). Her research portfolio has grown to encompass pharmacogenetics and pharmacoepidemiology of antithrombotic agents, with studies involving observational and clinical trial designs.

**2.2 Evidence of Ability to Conduct High Quality Patient-Oriented Research:** In a short time span she built the largest prospective warfarin cohort (n=1647, 43% African American) enabling the evaluation of multiple hypotheses. These factors have led to fruitful collaborations that have been at the forefront of warfarin pharmacogenetics; identifying novel polymorphisms in *CYP2C9*,<sup>9-13</sup> understanding the influence of *CYP2C9* and *VKORC1* on warfarin dose among Whites and Blacks,<sup>10,11,14-26</sup> conducting comprehensive *VKORC1* haplotype analysis<sup>16</sup> and genome-wide association analysis.<sup>10,11,27</sup> Moreover her focus on genetic influence on warfarin-related hemorrhage<sup>21,28-30</sup> is recognized as a significant contribution. She has expanded her efforts to include the influence of kidney function on warfarin dose and hemorrhagic complications<sup>28-31</sup> and genetic analysis methodology.<sup>32-34</sup> This expertise and experience has made her a valued contributor to the ongoing International Warfarin Pharmacogenetics Consortium (IWPC) effort<sup>10,11,13,24,25,27,35-37</sup> and as a site-principal-investigator for the recently completed NHLBI clinical trial “Clarification of Optimal Anticoagulation through Genetics (COAG).”<sup>25</sup> Of Dr. Limdi's 60 peer-reviewed publications, 30 led by mentees and junior faculty.<sup>1,2,10-13,19,23,27,32,33,35,37-54</sup>

Dr. Limdi's interest in cardiovascular epidemiology and pharmacoepidemiology has also resulted in collaborative efforts to inform critical knowledge gaps in stroke and atrial fibrillation, target strategies to mitigate stroke severity, and assess the effects of antithrombotic and statin therapy (NS070307). Ongoing efforts with the CHARGE consortium (HL103612) aim to identify genetic susceptibility to adverse reactions of medications. Growing recognition of her expertise is attested by invited presentations to meetings (American Heart Association, National Kidney Foundation, Digestive Diseases Week, and International Thrombosis and Haemostasis and American Society of Hypertension).

Dr. Limdi serves as the Interim Director of UAB's Hugh Kaul Personalized Medicine Institute. The two principal strategic initiatives of the institute center on fueling discoveries through research and improving care through implementation of genotype-guided therapy. The implementation initiative aims to integrate precision medicine into routine clinical care, build a knowledge base that evolves as new knowledge is generated and provide clinical decision support at point-of-care using patient-specific clinical and genetic factors.

This unique career trajectory and seamless transition from K23 to RO1 and its competitive renewal was guided by a strong mentoring team. Her commitment to mentoring therefore reflects what she has learned from these role models regarding the skills needed to help potential investigators, appreciate their strengths, and the

wisdom needed to help them balance individual success with strong teamwork. Moreover ongoing collaborations with Drs. Veenstra (Economics, Pharmacogenomics) Prabhu, Brown, Brott (Cardiology), and Allon (Nephrology) have allowed her to broaden her skill set and develop a robust program in POR focusing on cardiovascular disease and its treatment. She has made specific choices in favor of research over clinical and administrative activities, and is now in a position to focus on mentoring others in this increasingly important area of research. The protected time afforded by this award will secure the time needed to devote to both the continuation of this highly productive career path and to mentoring the next generation of POR investigators in cardiovascular research and personalized medicine.

**2.3 Mentoring Record:** Dr. Limdi has mentored clinicians in POR since 2000 and has developed long-term mentor relationships with several investigators (Table 1). Drs. Irvin, Boehme and Albright successfully competed for AHA awards and Dr. Ather for the Walter B. Frommeyer, Jr., Fellowship in Investigative Medicine. Dr. Brown (KL2 awardee) is working in cardiometabolic syndrome and is now one of Dr. Limdi's collaborators. For her excellence in mentorship, Dr. Limdi was awarded the **2013 UAB Deans Mentorship award** (Appendix 1). In addition to the mentees, Dr. Limdi has served as a clinician mentor for post-doctoral T32 fellows in statistical genetics (Drs. Zhang, Cosgun and Yan).

**Table 1: Investigators Mentored and mentorship role**

<b>Mentee; Dr. Limdi's Role</b>	<b>Present Position, research focus and funding</b>
<b>Sameer Ather, MD, PhD</b> <u>2014-present:</u> Co-mentor (with Dr. Prabhu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Disease</li> <li>Cardiovascular pharmacogenetics; genetic predictors of Beta-blocker therapy in heart failure; anticoagulation response in heart failure.</li> <li><u>Awarded</u> Frommeyer Fellowship in Investigative Medicine. K23 planned for 2017 centered on Personalized Heart Failure therapy</li> </ul>
<b>Marguerite Irvin, PhD</b> <u>2008-present:</u> Co-Mentor (with Dr. Arnett)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, School of Public Health, UAB.</li> <li>Cardiovascular genomics and epigenomics: hyperlipidemia, hypertension, renal traits</li> <li><u>Awarded</u> Scientist Development Grant (AHA #15SDG25760021) K23 planned for 2018 in cardiovascular genomics and epigenomics</li> </ul>
<b>Karen Albright, DO,</b> PhD Candidate Epidemiology <u>2010- present:</u> Primary Mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellow in Advanced Geriatrics at the Birmingham VA (July 1, 2014 to June 30 2016)</li> <li><u>Awarded</u> AHA Mentored Clinical and Population Research Award (#14CRP30380256; July 1 2014 to June 30, 2016).</li> <li><u>Awarded:</u> Post-doctoral fellow (T32 HS019463; July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014)</li> <li>K23 in preparation, planned for 2016: The influence of medication adherence on ischemic stroke: Racial disparities.</li> </ul>
<b>Amelia Boehme, PhD</b> <u>2010- present:</u> Primary mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Awarded</u> AHA fellowship (grant# 13PRE13830003; Jan 1, 2013 to Dec 1, 2014)</li> <li>Predictors of thromboembolism and hemorrhage in patients on Ventricular Assist Devices; K23 in preparation; submission planned Oct 2016</li> </ul>
<b>Aditi Shendre MBBS, MPH</b> Epidemiology PhD candidate Clinical Mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genomic and epigenomics and admixture mapping in cardiovascular traits</li> <li>Genomic underpinnings of novel anticoagulant response K23 planned for 2018-2019.</li> </ul>
<b>Todd Brown, MD, MSPH</b> <u>2010-2013:</u> Co-mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Professor, Cardiology; Division of Cardiovascular Disease, UAB.</li> <li><u>Awarded</u> Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (KL2RR025776): Variation in Cardiovascular Risk among Different Clinical Presentations of Metabolic Syndrome.</li> <li><u>Currently</u> Co-investigator (RO1HL092173; PI Limdi) and COAG trial (Site PI: Limdi)</li> </ul>
<b>Jonathan Thigpen, Pharm.D</b> <u>2010-2013:</u> Primary Mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Professor, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Pharmacy</li> <li>Antithrombotic pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacogenetics, acute coronary syndrome</li> </ul>
<b>Anderson, Aaron, MD</b> <u>2010-2013:</u> Primary Mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Emory University</li> <li>Influence of comorbidities on Stroke occurrence, severity and outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Temeka Borden, Pharm.D</b> <u>2010-2012:</u> Co-mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug Information Analyst at American Society of Health-System Pharmacists</li> <li>Hypertension medication adherence in African Americans with diabetes (T32 Fellow)</li> </ul>
<b>Larry Ver Hoef MD</b> <u>2000-2008:</u> Co-mentor since residency, in decision making analysis in epilepsy surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate Professor, Neurology, UAB.</li> <li><u>Awarded</u> Patient Oriented Career Development grant (NIBIB: K23EB008452)</li> <li>Continuing to work in developing and integrating new neuroimaging tools and clinical decision-making in epilepsy surgery</li> </ul>
<b>Robert Knowlton MD, MSPH</b> <u>2006-2012:</u> Co-mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professor, Clinical Neurology. University of California San Francisco</li> <li>Continued collaborations on pharmacogenomics (Epilepsy Phenome Genome Project) and race and gender differences in the epidemiology of adult onset epilepsy</li> </ul>

### 3. CANDIDATES' CAREER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**3.1. Dr. Limdi's short-term and long-term goals** are to continue to build a patient-oriented cardiovascular research program bringing scientific rigor and innovation to the optimization of oral antithrombotic therapy. The maximum benefit of such a program can only be achieved if it also involves training and mentoring of the next generation of investigators. The work requires a thorough understanding of the principles and challenges of research using both observational and interventional approaches together with the ability to perform scientifically based and hypothesis-driven clinical research in complex and racially diverse population with multiple comorbidities (e.g. chronic kidney disease (CKD); heart failure (HF)) seen in routine clinical practice.

The **long term goals** are to incorporate genetic and clinical factors to **Personalized Antithrombotic Therapy (PAT)** including oral anticoagulants (warfarin; and the non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants (NoAC; dabigatran, rivaroxaban apixaban, and edoxaban) and antiplatelet (clopidogrel, ticagrelor and prasugrel) therapy; and also to develop and implement clinical prediction rules (CPRs) to personalize risk-benefit assessment and enable clinical decision making at point of care. To this end, **more immediate-term goals** are to leverage **two resources** and expand opportunities through **three projects** for MD, Pharm.D, and PhD trainees in POR to address key knowledge gaps. The resources and projects are detailed in the research strategy section. The IRB approvals are attached as Appendix 2.

- a. **Resource I:** Genetic and Clinical Predictors of Response to Warfarin and Novel Anticoagulants (PI Limdi; R01HL092173; 2014-2019) has established a prospective inception cohort of patients on oral anticoagulants, including warfarin (warfarin pharmacogenomics cohort; goal=1800;1647 recruited) and dabigatran (DBG cohort; goal 500; 408 recruited).
- **Project 1**, led by Dr. Ather, will focus on warfarin response in patients with heart failure.
  - **Project 2**, led by Dr. Shendre will focus on candidate gene analysis; elucidate predictors of DBG-related major hemorrhage and develop CPRs. We will specifically assess variants in ATP-binding cassette, sub-family B, member 1 (*ABCB1*) and carboxylesterase 1 (*CES1*).
- b. **Resource II:** To facilitate delivery of precision medicine, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is establishing infrastructure to integrate genomics into clinical care. As the interim director of the leadership in UAB's Personalized Medicine Institute, Dr. Limdi is currently leading the implementation of Cytochrome P40 2C19 (*CYP2C19*) genotype-guided antiplatelet therapy (GGAT) in patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and those undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). Antiplatelet therapy is personalized based on patient-specific clinical factors and *CYP2C19* genotype.
- **Project 3**, led by Drs. Arora and Irvin, will determine racial differences in thromboembolic [major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) and stent thrombosis] and hemorrhagic events<sup>55-58</sup> and assess clinical utility and economic value of GGAT.

These goals are a natural progression of Dr. Limdi's current research and will serve to develop a robust patient-oriented research program for complex patients to personalize antithrombotic therapy.

### **3.2. Evidence of Ongoing High-Quality Patient-Oriented Research- its Relationship to this Program:**

The research plan in this application builds on Dr. Limdi's work in warfarin pharmacogenomics, observational studies and clinical trials. It has the dual aim of building a comprehensive approach to assessing genetic contributions to anticoagulant response; and of extending these findings back to the clinical realm to demonstrate the benefit of integrating this information into current decision making tools for antithrombotic therapy initiation. These studies will provide the foundation to understand whether institution of PAT based on individual benefit vs. risk will improve patient outcomes (effectiveness) and if these improvements help realize tangible population benefit (clinical utility) and are of value (cost-effectiveness).<sup>59-63</sup> She will leverage her current research and her leadership in UAB's Personalized Medicine Institute to meet her long-term goals.

The research plan has been extended from her current RO1 on warfarin pharmacogenomics and incorporates dabigatran. Its success is particularly relevant to the overall mentoring goal of the K24 Award. It uses a variety of data sources and analytic approaches to articulate studies that integrate genetic information into the treatment paradigm, and outcomes research to evaluate the benefits of this approach. This interplay of research approaches can serve as a model for new investigators in POR.

**3.3. Evidence of Monetary Support for Patient-Oriented Research** is evident from the record of extramural funding (**Table 2**). The resources created by the ongoing research program will be harnessed by mentees to chart their research careers in POR and result in the development of new proposals well beyond the funding period of this K24.

<b>Table 2: Extramural Research grants (current and completed within the last 5 years)</b>	
2014-19	Genetic and Clinical Predictors of Response to Warfarin and Novel Anticoagulants (R01HL092173; PI Limdi)
2011-15	Prospective meta-analyses of drug-gene interactions: CHARGE GWAS consortium (R01HL103612; PI Psaty)
2012-16	Potential EEG biomarkers and antiepileptogenic strategies for epilepsy in TSC (1P20NS080199; PI Bebin)
2008-14	Genetic and Environmental Determinants of Warfarin Response (R01HL092173; PI Limdi)
2008-14	Prediction of Warfarin Dosing Using Clinical and Genetic Factors (R01HL066176; PI Kimmel)
2010-14	Effect of Statins and Modifiable Factors on Stroke Outcome in Atrial Fibrillation (R01NS070307; PI Hylek)
2011-14	Clarification of Optimal Anticoagulation through Genetics (COAG; NCT00839657; PI Kimmel)
2009-12	Personalization of Anticoagulation Reversal with vitamin K (PARK; R01HL092173-02S2; PI Limdi)
2009-10	Administrative Supplements for High School Summer Research Experience (R01HL092173-02S1; PI Limdi)
2003-09	Pharmacogenetic optimization of anticoagulation therapy (K23NS045598; PI Limdi)

**3.4. Contribution of this Award to Attainment of Long-Term Career Objectives:** Having started her career as a clinical pharmacist, Dr. Limdi recognizes the time-intensive nature of effective mentoring. In fact, she owes her success in patient-oriented research, in the field of pharmacogenomics and anticoagulation therapy, to the mentorship she received. To augment her capabilities and to broaden her work to include antiplatelet agents and to advance the implementation of personalized medicine, Dr. Limdi needs an intensive focus on research and in training the next generation of POR investigators.

Dr. Limdi currently serves as a mentor for Drs. Boehme and Albright and co-mentor for Dr. Irvin; each receiving AHA grants under her guidance. Given this success, she would like to refocus her efforts on mentoring patient-oriented researchers and help three to four trainees to submit K23 applications in the next 5 year period.

<b>Table 3: Current and projected future distribution of effort</b>		
<b>Grants (start - end date)</b>	<b>Current Effort</b>	<b>Effort projected</b>
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<b>R01HL092173</b> (2/1/2014 to 1/31/2019)	40%	40%
1P20NS080199-01 (9/1/2012 to 8/31/2016)	10%	0% (ends in 2016)
Departmental	20%	Reduce to 10%
SOM PMI	30%	25%

In addition to Drs. Boehme and Albright, Drs. Ather, Shendre, Irvin and Arora have demonstrated significant interest in antithrombotic therapy, pharmacogenomics and precision medicine research. Following her mentors advice,<sup>64</sup> Dr. Limdi has helped mentees articulate the research questions and develop the projects pursued herein. She has helped them understand their motivation, the novelty of the proposed research, its ability to provide a niche, its practicality and its conduct in a supportive environment. These issues hold the key to a quality research career, one that generates exciting, novel, and effective therapies that can change lives.

The K24 award will provide critical protection of Dr. Limdi's time to enable her to maintain focus on mentoring new promising mentees in POR while broadening her own skill set which will only further facilitate her capacity to train others. Dedicated time to foster the careers of the junior scientists listed in this application will be required to launch the next generation of patient-oriented researchers dedicated to personalized antithrombotic care. Dr. Limdi's track record demonstrates she is the ideal person for this important job.

Specifically, with the K24 award, Dr. Limdi will:

1. Commit 25% effort to augmenting her skills further facilitating her mentoring of Drs. Ather, Shendre, Arora and Irvin, engaging them to lead the research proposed herein and submit K23 grants (in 2017, 2018 and 2019). Dr. Limdi will serve as the primary mentor for Drs. Ather, Shendre, Arora and Irvin.
2. Dr. Limdi will reduce effort on required teaching and administrative activities to 10%. This will allow her to focus on mentoring junior clinical investigators and augment her capabilities in POR.

Dr. Limdi was recently promoted to professor (Oct 2014) from associate professor (Oct 2009 – Sept 2014; with award of tenure in Oct 2011). She continues to maintain her independent peer-reviewed research program and to provide mentorship in patient-oriented research.

Protected time is central to Dr. Limdi's' ability to capitalize on the past several successful years of clinical research. The K24 award will assure that Dr. Limdi is able to focus on a series of compelling scientific questions that arise from her current work. These questions will require focused and vigorous effort over the next several years and prepare junior clinician investigators in this emerging field.

## 4. CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES DURING AWARD PERIOD

Dr. Limdi will commit 25% effort towards mentorship and further augmenting her POR skills.

**4.1 Development as a mentor:** Dr. Limdi's seamless transition from a clinician to a K23 awardee and finally to an independent researcher, was guided by a team of mentors with diverse expertise. These included Drs. Flockhart, Acton, Allison, and Arnett. Despite prior accomplishments, Dr. Limdi recognizes the need for continued mentoring. She has sought guidance from her mentors individually to discuss specific challenges in mentorship and developed strategies to address each challenge. These interactions have enabled her to develop effective skills which are reflected in the success of her mentees. She has:

- Encouraged junior faculty/ mentees to lead papers (30 published, 2 in press, 7 under review).<sup>1,2,10-13,19,23,27,32,33,35,37-54</sup>
- Successfully guided mentees to formulate hypotheses identify grant mechanisms for which they would be competitive and submit successful grant applications. In fact, in the last three years her mentees have secured AHA awards including Pre-doctoral fellowship (Boehme/ Limdi; grant# 13PRE13830003), Mentored Clinical and Population Research Award (Albright/ Limdi; grant #14CRP30380256) and Scientist Development Grant Award (Irvin/Arnett-Limdi #15SDG25760021).

Dr. Limdi has come to appreciate varying skill sets, strengths and weaknesses and has developed effective approaches to work with each individual. Her contribution in mentoring was recognized by UAB's 2013 Deans Mentorship award (Appendix 1). To continue to grow as a mentor and benefit from the interactions with senior faculty with extensive mentorship experience, Dr. Limdi has assembled a mentorship team (Drs. Saag, and Standaert). They will meet with Dr. Limdi (for 1.5 hours each time) quarterly to discuss specific challenges identified in Dr. Limdi's evaluations by mentees (discussed in section 6.3 of the mentoring plan).

In addition, Dr. Limdi will participate in a structured mentor training program "Mentor Training for Clinical and Translational Researchers" (<http://www.uab.edu/ccts/TrainingAcademy/Pages/Mentoring.aspx>) which focusses on six core competencies:

1. Maintaining effective communication (e.g., active listening, communication styles, constructive feedback, communication with diverse groups, strategies for improving communication).
2. Aligning expectations (establishing expectations, communicating expectations, aligning expectations of mentor and mentee, consideration of personal and professional differences).
3. Assessing understanding (understanding of core concepts and processes, identification of reasons for lack of understanding, strategies to enhance understanding across diverse perspectives).
4. Addressing equity and inclusion (expand understanding and influence of diversity, recognize impact of assumptions, and identify strategies for recognizing and addressing issues).
5. Fostering independence (define core elements of independence, strategies to build confidence and trust, identify benefits and challenges of fostering independence).
6. Promoting professional development (identify roles, develop strategies for guiding development, conversations about goals and objectives, open dialogue about competing demands).

**4.2 Development of new skills:** The most critical issue impeding improvements in cardiovascular health is the enormous gap between what we know can optimize health and what actually gets implemented in practice. This is widely recognized. Senator Lister Hill said "*We must develop a communication system so that the miraculous triumphs of modern science can be taken, from the laboratory and transmitted to all in need.*" We must go beyond "*Bench-to-Bedside*" and demonstrate benefit the individual patient, the population and the health care system....."*Patient-to-Policy Maker.*"

To complement her expertise in clinical pharmacology, statistics and epidemiology and to instill skills necessary for implementation of personalized medicine, Dr. Limdi will undertake additional training in:

- Dissemination and Implementation Research: To gain a thorough grounding in conducting dissemination and implementation research and develop methods to ensure that evidence-based strategies to improve health and prevent disease are effectively delivered in clinical practice, Dr. Limdi will attend the NIH Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (TIDIRH; <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1690463>) in the summer of 2016.<sup>65</sup>
- Clinical Decision Making and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis: To evaluate the clinical utility and economic value of evidence-based interventions Dr. Limdi will undertake didactic training through doctoral level courses Clinical Decision Making (HCO721) and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (HCO722) in year 2. She will work closely with Dr. Pisu to lead the economic analysis for Project 3 while training her mentees.

## 5. TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION IN THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

Dr. Limdi has participated in training in the responsible conduct of research since 2000 both to meet IRB training requirements and to advance her knowledge on specific issues with regard to genetics research (Duke University Modules; self-study; July 2004). She also attended a formal 3-credit-hour course in fall of 2007 (approximately 40 hours for in-class instruction; *Principles of Scientific Integrity; GRD 717*). Dr. Limdi is a frequent discussion leader, working with the UAB IRB on issues of genomics, biobanking and data-sharing.

UAB offers a variety of resources for training in the responsible conduct of research, organized by the CCTS (<http://www.ccts.uab.edu/pages/RCR.aspx>). Specific requirements for K24 participants will include:

1. Agreement to the UAB Research Code of Conduct (<http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=114608>)
2. Enrollment in “Principles of Scientific Integrity” (GRD 717; 3 credit hours) taught by Dr. Jeff Engler with guest faculty contributing to specific subject matter.
  - **Format:** GRD 717 is a three-credit hour course offered twice each year. It provides systematic instruction on ethical issues and principles in the practice of science through reading, case discussions and lecture.
  - The textbook is Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research by N H. Steneck, modified to reflect more recent changes in rules and regulations. The team based learning pedagogic approach is modeled after a course developed by Dr. McCormack at the University of Florida School of Medicine.
  - Course material is made available online approximately one week before the class meeting. In-class time is spent in teams of 6 to 7 students, taking quizzes to measure comprehension of the course materials, followed by discussion of case studies.
  - **Subject Matter:** Topics covered in GRD 717 include the nature, extent, and causes of fraud in science; UAB policies on fraud; ideals of good science; the responsibilities of authorship and peer review; potential problems raised by the commercialization of research; scientists as public policy advisors; and ethical issues involved in animal experimentation and in clinical trials, conflict of interest, issues in research, authorship, ownership and data sharing, etc.
  - **Duration and Frequency of Instruction:** Students will read the textbook, watch slide presentations and videos (when available) on the class web site, and attend all course meetings. The class meets weekly over the course of the semester for 2.5 hours at each class meeting (40 contact hours).
3. Training in human subject’s research ethics, offered by the UAB IRB through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) web course.
4. Dr. Limdi will provide each trainee a copy of the book “*On Being a Scientist*” published by the National Academy of Sciences.<sup>66</sup> During the orientation (July/ August) Dr. Limdi will lead a one hour of *face-to-face instruction* with mentees to discuss specific ethical issues as they relate to the project at hand.
5. Starting September each year, Dr. Limdi will also lead hour long monthly discussions on topics related to Responsible Conduct of Research using the training modules developed by UAB’s Center for Ethics and Values in Sciences (<http://www.uab.edu/ethicscenter/educational-materials/rcr-materials>). Attendance will be mandatory for all mentees. The team will view the video followed by discussion on how the issues presented relate to ongoing research projects that the mentees are involved with. Topics include conflicts of interest, misconduct, data management, responsible authorship, collaborative science, intellectual property, genetics and race, misconduct and whistle blowing and modeling ethical behavior.
  - This will be supplemented with additional resources such as “**Ethics for Authors**” to help discussions on issues around authorship (<http://www.uab.edu/ethicsforauthors/>).
6. Dr. Limdi will develop a 4-hour interactive education session on the ethical, legal, and social issues (ELSI) of genomic research. This independent scholarly activity will enhance her understanding of evolving issues and will be used to develop IRB training modules for investigators pursuing genetic research.

To summarize, the format will incorporate written materials, classroom didactics, web based training, and video materials. The subject matter will cover ethics in both laboratory and clinical settings; faculty participation will include both classroom and individual interaction. The duration of instruction will encompass one semester of formal coursework and ongoing informal interaction; and the frequency of instruction will encompass both the didactic period of coursework as well as informal education throughout the period of support.



## 6. PLAN FOR MENTORING CLINICAL INVESTIGATORS IN PATIENT ORIENTED RESEARCH

**6.1 Mentoring Philosophy and Commitment:** The applicants' career has been profoundly influenced by role models in mentoring such as Drs. Arnett, Flockhart, Acton and Allison. Through the 5 year K23 award period her mentors' fostered independent thinking tempered with realism and sound methodology and guided the assimilation of a comprehensive skill set that allowed a seamless transition from clinical pharmacist to an independent patient oriented researcher. **Having walked the path from a clinical pharmacist with an idea, to a K23 awardee, and finally to an independent patient oriented researcher, makes her an outstanding candidate for this award.**

Given the collaborative nature of research, a mentee's career development often requires a team-based approach for success. As the primary mentor, Dr. Limdi has worked with each of her current mentees to define unique research questions, met with co-mentors to chart a training plan in POR that allows the mentees access to expertise in relevant fields. Moreover, while mentees work on individual career interests, they work with each other to learn to appreciate and work with different points of view. This multidisciplinary approach provides the "big-picture" and allows the mentee to develop a comprehensive view of the issues at hand and build collaborations (see section 6.3 for a full description of the mentoring plan). The role of co-mentors (Drs. Prabhu, Brott, Pisu, Brown, and Beasley) is discussed in their letters of support and reflected in the personal statement of their biosketches.

Dr. Limdi has built a record of successful mentoring of clinician scientists and is deeply committed to furthering the careers of POR investigators. In fact, three of her mentees (Dr. Irvin 15SDG25760021, Dr. Boehme 13PRE13830003 and Dr. Albright 14CRP30380256; Table 1) for whom Dr. Limdi has served as the primary mentor, have successfully been awarded grants from the American Heart Association. Dr. Irvin was also awarded two pilot intramural grants from the Minority Health Research Center and the UAB Diabetes Research and Training Center.

The breadth of her expertise has allowed Dr. Limdi to mentor investigators in several disciplines as they build their own independent patient-oriented research through UAB's training programs (Table 4) which target MD's and PhD's. Mentees report that she conveys the excitement of the creative process as well as the need for rigorous standards. She has created an environment that will support the development of independence by allowing fellows to implement their own ideas by leveraging resources. Her contributions were acknowledged by UAB's 2013 Deans Mentorship award.

Dr. Limdi has sought opportunities to influence young people considering research at the earliest stages of education, incorporating high school, undergraduates and medical students into her research. She has encouraged mentees to develop an original hypothesis, plan and implement a study and present findings at national meetings and submit publications. Her diverse skill set and her ability to explain complex concepts are attested to by the varied audiences she engages (from high school to faculty) across disciplines (cardiology, epidemiology, biostatistics, and neurology). She has even sought opportunities to influence high school (and even obtained NIH funding R01HL092173-02S1) and undergraduate students considering research careers.

The students are supported through programs for high school students (CORD Summer Science Institute) and medical students (Medical scientist training program, Short-term training in health professional schools) and pre-doctoral and post-doctoral scholars (through institutional training grants T32 and K12; See **Table 4**).

**Table 4: Mentoring activities in patient-oriented research**

Pre-doctoral, Post-doctoral Mentorship

**Short Term Training in Health Professional Schools NHLBI T35 HL007473 (PI: Lorenz; 05/1/1991 - 04/30/2018)**

Mentee: Ramy Bolis: A predictive algorithm for citalopram efficacy (co-mentor with Dr. Shelton; 2015, current)

Mentee: Alana Pearson: Influence of Apolipoprotein E genotype on warfarin response (primary mentor 2009-2010)

**Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) NIGMS T32 GM008361 (PI: Lorenz; 07/01/1992 - 06/30/2020)**

Mentee: David Figge: Genetics of levodopa induced dyskinesia's (co-mentor with Dr. Standaert; 2014- current; F31 NS090641-0A1)

**Statistical Genetics Post-doctoral Training Program 5T32HL072757-10 (PI: Tiwari; 04/15/2003 - 7/11/2018)**

Mentee: Qi Yan: Application of statistical genetic methodology for continuous and dichotomous drug response traits (co-mentor with Dr. Liu; 2012-2014)

Mentee: Erdal Cosgun: Machine learning techniques to mine genomic data to predict of drug response (co-mentor with Dr. Duarte; 2012-2013)

**Table 4: continued****Biostatistics Pre-doctoral Training Program T32 HL079888 (PI: Tiwari; 9/1/2005 - 8/31/2016)**

Mentee: Allison Fialkowski, MS: Pathway analysis approaches to predicting response to antidepressant medications (co-mentor with Dr. Liu; 2015, current)

**Interdisciplinary Training in Kidney Research T32 DK007545 (PI: Agarwal; 7/1/1987 to 3/31/2019)**

Mentee: Megan Yanik, MD: Personalized Medicine in pediatric kidney transplant recipients (co-mentor with Dr. Feig; 2014-2016)

**Health services, outcomes and effectiveness research training program (T32HS013852 Saag; 7/1/2003-6/30/2015)****Patient Centered Outcomes Research K12 HS0230091 (PI: Saag; 8/1/2014 to 7/31/2019)**

Mentee: Karen Albright, DO, MPH: Causes and consequences of racial differences in adherence to stroke prevention therapies (primary mentor T32 form 2012-2015; currently AHA grant #14CRP30380256)

Mentee: Jonathan Thigpen, Pharm.D: Antithrombotic Pharmacoepidemiology, Pharmacogenetics, Acute coronary syndromes (primary mentor: T32 form 2011-2013)

Mentee: Temeka Borden, Pharm.D: Racial differences in non-adherence to antithrombotic medications (primary mentor; T32 form 2010-2011)

**Undergraduate Mentorship****McNair Scholars Program** (co-mentor with Dr. Acton)

Mentee: Kiera Walker, B.S: Racial differences in the prevalence CYP2C9 \*2 variant (summer 2005)

Mentee: Jansa Lassiter, B.S: Racial differences in the prevalence of Apolipoprotein E (summer 2006)

**High School Summer Mentorship****Administrative Supplements for Summer Research Experience: Genetic and Environmental Determinants of Warfarin Response (PI: Limdi R01HL092173-02S1; 2009-2011)****Center for Community Outreach and Development – Summer Science Institute for High School students**

Mentee: Priya Shah: Myths and facts surrounding obesity- a survey of high school students (summer 2012)

Mentee: Arina Ghosh: Effect of kidney function on Cytochrome P450 2C9 expression (summer 2010)

Mentee: Jessie Strickland: Effect of kidney function on VKORC1 expression (summer 2009)

**6.2 Recruitment of Trainees:** Trainees will be recruited from departmental fellowship programs (cardiology, neurology, nephrology, and epidemiology), and through our T32, KL1, K12 and the MSTP programs based on referrals by program directors, including former fellows of the program, and through the K programs. Criteria will include commitment to a career in translational POR; strong clinical training and evidence for critical and independent thinking; capacity for the teamwork required for POR; and secondarily, interest or experience with a focus on cardiovascular outcomes. The list of current trainees in Table 1, attests to the range and quality of available mentees for recruitment into careers in patient oriented research.

Dr. Limdi presents opportunities in POR to trainees in various UAB POR training programs (**Table 4**). Interested trainees in these programs will be encouraged to leverage these resources to propose K23 applications in POR. These presentations are important as they provide potential mentees a thorough understanding of the POR research. During the post-presentation question and answer sessions, trainees frequently come up with ideas for additional analysis and propose manuscripts. This is how the current mentees came up with hypotheses proposed herein. Dr. Limdi will mentor Drs. Ather, Shendre, Irvin and Arora in POR and in preparing and submitting their K23. In addition she will continue to co-mentor Dr. Albright in cardiovascular pharmacoepidemiology.

**6.3 Mentoring Program:** Dr. Limdi will work with each mentee to assemble a mentoring-team of clinician investigators and researchers to best guide them to develop their careers in POR.

**6.3.a Mentorship plan and contract:** Dr. Limdi will work with mentee to implement a systematic/formal prospective evaluation process including the following:

1. A baseline assessment of each mentees POR core competencies that will identify areas of strength and areas for improvement.
2. Development of a mentoring plan with accompanying project goals document. The mentoring plan/contract will be drafted collaboratively by the mentee and Dr. Limdi (Appendix 3).
3. Mentee evaluation: Each mentees' progress will be reviewed every six months by Dr. Limdi to ensure mentees are working towards their individual goals. If goals are not being met, Dr. Limdi will encourage (and help, if needed) the trainee to identify reasons for this and propose plans to address issues.



4. Mentor evaluation: Every 6-month, the mentee will evaluate Dr. Limdi. These evaluations will be provided to Drs. Saag and Standaert.
5. Both evaluations will be discussed with Dr. Limdi's mentoring team (Drs. Saag and Standaert) at their quarterly meetings to ensure progress, document milestones achieved and identify and address issues that arise (e.g. lack of mentee progress, conflicts with mentor/ co-mentors, etc.).

**6.3.b Mentorship components:** Although mentoring for each trainee will be individualized based on their prior experience, long-term goals, and individual abilities, a common basic approach (outlined below) will be followed. Mentoring will involve both formal and informal training, including one-on-one, working groups and didactics, taking advantage of the structure established as part of the T32, K12 and KL2 programs at UAB.

The core experience for trainees for who Dr. Limdi serves as the primary mentor will involve frequent (twice a week) contact for discussion of progress and problems; a more formal weekly session with each mentee to review progress and analyze primary data or prepare abstracts and manuscripts. Mentees for who Dr. Limdi serves as part of the mentoring team, monthly research meetings involving the mentoring team will be held to review progress. For all mentees, discussions every 3 months on career development and long-term planning will be scheduled. The overarching steps are presented below:

1. Mentoring begins with research presentations by Dr. Limdi, including principles of study design, biostatistics, clinical relevance, economic implications and focus on patient-centered outcomes. Mentees are challenged to think critically and creatively to design research projects.
  - *Example 1: During Warfarin Pharmacogenetics study meetings, Dr. Ather, a cardiologist by training, recognized that the patients with advanced heart failure require lower warfarin dose. We will formally test this hypothesis in the existing warfarin cohort in project 1.*
2. Mentees will typically choose or be assigned to *work on an existing project*. A beginning educational project, generally involving participation in ongoing efforts, will provide an introduction to the team and to research methods. A relatively straightforward independent study may also be performed by those with some prior training, providing early positive reinforcement. Guided by early progress and long-term goals, a more independent project will eventually be selected, building toward a research theme.
  - *Example 2: Dr. Irvin is working on Warfarin Pharmacogenetics dataset (along with Dr. Liu, co-investigator on RO1) to understand the influence of rare genetic variation in the existing UAB Warfarin Pharmacogenetics cohort (N~1200).*
    - She is conducting gene-based analysis wherein, rare variation (MAF<5%) within each gene is represented by a rare-variant-score (RVS).<sup>67</sup> For each gene, each common variant (MAF ≥ 5%) and the RVS are jointly modeled with adjustment for clinical and known genetic (*VKORC1*, *CYP2C9*) factors using R package v 2.14.2. Preliminary results indicate that rare variation in *FVII* (vitamin K dependent clotting factor; inhibited by warfarin) for Whites and 3 novel rare variants in *CYP2C9* may explain additional variation in dose among Blacks. We are collaborating with Dr. Kimmel (sub contract HL092173) to genotype an additional 643 samples as the genes show a trend toward significance ( $P < 3 \times 10^{-4}$ ); with planned submission of our publication in spring 2016.
  - *Example 3: Dr. Shendre has been working with Dr. Limdi since 2013. She is now working to integrate genetic factors associated with warfarin-related hemorrhage into risk prediction rules; with planned submission of our publication in fall 2015. She will be using a similar approach for Project 2.*
    - *Trainee publication:* Shendre S, Beasley TM, Brown TM, Hill CE, Arnett DK, Limdi NA: Influence of physical activity on warfarin dose and risk of hemorrhagic complications. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2014; 34: 545-54. PMC4109410.
    - *Trainee publication:* Influence of *CYP4F2* on warfarin dose, anticoagulation control and risk of hemorrhage. Under review *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*
3. Throughout the mentoring relationship, trainees are introduced to resources available for research, especially members of the research team who create a supportive environment. Working with a team helps trainees learn how to translate theoretical hypotheses into workable analyses.
  - *Example 4: Dr. Boehme has leveraged our institutions experience in patients with Ventricular Assist Devices (VAD) to identify predictors of thromboembolism and hemorrhage. As most of these patients are on warfarin and antiplatelet agents one of her aims is to understand the role of treatment in modifying the risk of thromboembolism and hemorrhage. This will have implications for her work in VAD*

patients as they are frequently admitted with hemorrhage and thromboembolism. She has published one paper, one is under review and two more are in draft.

- Trainee publication: Boehme AK, Pamboukian SV, George JF, Dillon C, Levitan EB, Griffin G, Beasley TM, McGwin G, Limdi NA. Predictors of Thromboembolic Events in Ventricular Assist Device Patients. American Society of Artificial Internal Organs. 2015, In Press
  - Trainee publication: Improvement in Kidney Function after Ventricular Assist Device Implantation and Its Influence on Thromboembolism, Hemorrhage and Mortality. Under review American Journal of Kidney Disease.
  - Example 5: To familiarize himself with warfarin, its monitoring requirements, drug interactions and reversal of oral anticoagulation – Dr. Arora is working with Drs. Limdi, (and Beasley, co-investigator on Dr. Limdi's RO1) on an analysis in the warfarin pharmacogenetics cohort. The main goal of this paper is to determine if genetic variation in genes affecting warfarin response influence INR reversal. Paper in draft (submit by October 2015).
4. Mentees are exposed to the principles of *scientific manuscript writing* through CCTS and T32 seminars. They also learn by working with Dr. Limdi directly. We review one of several excellent references that provide principles of scientific writing, review existing literature critically, and then the mentees' own writing. We focus on logic and clarity, beginning with the aims, methods, results, implications and limitations.
  5. Critical review of concepts and research takes place during our *weekly research conferences* for ongoing studies. At these weekly meetings, mentees discuss their progress with their analysis, interpretation and write-up of manuscripts/ abstracts. Mentees will be encouraged to attend and present their findings at national meetings focused on their area of POR. We have requested funds to support this. Additional practice meetings are scheduled in preparation for scientific meetings, which trainees are expected to attend to present their work (AHA, ASCPT, ACC, UAB venues).
  6. As mentees advance toward independence, they are encouraged to *develop their own ideas and carry out studies to test their hypotheses*. With a firm grounding in the literature, we challenge ourselves to think independently, and trainees are strongly encouraged to pose questions to the mentor and the team, and vice versa. Our discussions include questions such as: *What are the knowledge gaps? What is the next step in this line of inquiry? What is the clinical or policy relevance of this line of inquiry?*
    - Example 6: Dr. Albright is working with a large stroke cohort (REGARDS) to understand if racial differences in adherence to antihypertensive medications and statins explain the differences in ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke.
      - Trainee publication Albright KC, Boehme AK, Tanner RM, Blackburn J, Howard G, Howard VJ, Safford M, Beasley TM, Limdi NA. Addressing Stroke Risk Factors in Black and White Americans: Findings from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2009-2010. *Ethnicity and Disease* (2015, *In Press*).
    - Example 7: The warfarin cohort has exome-chip data on 1200 warfarin cohort participants and information on antihypertensive treatment. This has enabled Dr. Irvin to generate some pilot data to support her hypothesis of genetic underpinnings of treatment resistant hypertension.
  7. Seminars and Didactic sessions. Many fellows pursue course work to gain core epidemiology and biostatistics (MSPH program) training, gaining in-depth skills for research.

Dr. Limdi's mentoring opportunities and training possibilities are enhanced by the UAB Clinical and Translational Science Award (known as the UAB CCTS). Dr. Robert Kimberly, the Director and PI of the CCTS, will work closely with Dr. Limdi to integrate training of future researchers (letter attached). The UAB CCTS Research Education, Training and Career Development Component offers a range of degree and non-degree (certificate) programs for clinical and translational researchers and research team members. Currently, the predominant degree program is the *Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) in Clinical and Translational Science* which provides strong training for professionals interested in careers in translational research. These options are available to all mentees.

The Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) Training Program also identifies those motivated to further their clinical and translational research training. The CTS Training Program provides six months of research training, through 50 hours of lectures and interactive sessions. Didactic instruction includes lectures within: Clinical Trials, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Ethics, Clinical Genetics Research, Behavioral Research, Outcomes Research, Dissemination of Results, and Grant Writing and Funding Opportunities.

- *Example 8: Dr. Ather will be participating in the 6-month CTS certificate program (applications are due Nov 12, 2015) that includes approximately 50 hours of didactic instruction and interactive experience. Classes will be held Wednesday mornings, 8-10 a.m., beginning January 2016. He will enroll in EPI 730 course (fall 2017) to develop his K23 proposal.*
8. Within the first year of working together, we begin to plan for the trainee's *research grant*, taking advantage of the seminars on this topic offered through the CCTS and the grant writing course (EPI 703). We emphasize developing the specific aims and hypotheses; selection of study design and methods, including power analysis and statistical analysis; emphasis on significance and relevance to clinical practice and policy; and logistical details.
    - *Example 9: Dr. Albright wrote her AHA grant during the EPI 730- grant writing course. This course provides a focused program to allow candidates to spend a semester writing a grant. The complete grants are reviewed by faculty at UAB who provide written critique formatted as NIH grant review.*
    - POR Mentees can also apply for funding through the CCTS *Mentored Career Development Program (KL2 Scholar)*, health services, outcomes and effectiveness research training program, and the patient centered outcomes research program. Each scholar receives research and career mentoring from two mentors with excellent training records committed to extend interactions with the scholar.
  9. Dr. Limdi will also actively teach her mentees how to mentor, and will throughout the award period seek opportunities to continue to build her own mentoring skills. As mentees are promising candidates for independent research careers; therefore, they themselves will be in a mentoring position. As the mentee advances, these discussions transition to include planning the mentee's own mentoring activities.
 

As mentees transition from K-type grants to RO1 they serve as peer mentors (e.g. Dr. Irvin is a peer mentor for Dr. Shendre). The peer mentoring model is less formal and less inhibiting than other mentoring models. Peers can share their experience, provide important advice and guidance. Peer-mentors will also participate in the structured mentor training program "Mentor Training for Clinical and Translational Researchers" (listed in section 4.1; <http://www.uab.edu/ccts/TrainingAcademy/Pages/Mentoring.aspx>).
  10. As mentees transition from K-type grants to RO1, we will leverage the Biguan retreat which is designed for undisturbed grant writing support and is jointly sponsored by the UAB CCTS and the UAB School of Public Health's Office of Energetics (<http://www.uab.edu/ccts/news/24-research-news/180-biguan-launch-for-undisturbed-grant-writing-support>). The Chinese term "Biguan" loosely translates to a period of retreat to a quiet place for meditation. The cloistered sessions for grant application development and writing hosted receive heavy support from senior investigators and a grant consultant.
    - Each year 12-14 Biguan retreat sessions are offered with four investigators per Biguan
    - Once accepted, investigators are required to prepare a draft abstract or specific aims and have a phone consultation with senior investigator/grant consultant. This ensures that investigators start the Biguan with a working draft of the research aims.
    - This week long retreat begins with a Sunday evening dinner and ends on the following Friday. The participants can have no (i.e., zero) interruptions during the working day (roughly 9 to 5). By the end of the week, investigators break from the session with a near complete draft of their RO1 application.
  11. Dr. Limdi has worked with each mentee to assemble a mentoring-team based on their research interests. In line with new research proposed, Drs. Brott, Brown, Prabhu (cardiology), Beasley (Biostatistics), and Pisu (Health economics) will serve as co-mentors. Their role and expertise contributed is defined and biosketches and letters of support (LOS).
  12. Dr. Prabhu, recognizing the breadth and depth of opportunities this award will create for patient-oriented researchers in cardiovascular disease, has committed \$15,000 over 5 years to support generation of pilot data by mentees as develop their K23 applications (see LOS).

In summary, Dr. Limdi will: 1) train patient oriented researchers to be rigorous and independent academic investigators able to use the range of approaches available in epidemiology to address research issues in cardiovascular diseases related to the treatment, clinical utility/ cost-effectiveness, implementation, medical decision making, and precision medicine; 2) provide closely mentored research experiences with expertise in clinical pharmacology, pharmacogenomics, epidemiology and precision cardiovascular medicine. Throughout, Dr. Limdi will model mentorship through demonstration of commitment, devotion of time, supportiveness and enthusiasm; and by providing mentees with a sense of positive accomplishment, encouraging their ability to accept suggestions, and fostering a sense of collaboration.

## 10. SPECIFIC AIMS

Dr. Limdi has built a successful research program in cardiovascular pharmacoepidemiology with a focus on anticoagulant pharmacogenomics (RO1HL092173; 2008-2019). She has harnessed the racial diversity of the patient population served at UAB and made seminal contributions to understanding the differential influence of genetic variants on warfarin response across race groups. Similarly, the rich clinical phenotyping has enabled her team to understand the influence of comorbidity on warfarin dose and hemorrhage risk.

Dr. Limdi has long recognized the promise of pharmacogenomics in elucidating variability in drug response and its potential to personalize drug therapy. In addition to building her research program, since 2008, she has championed the precision medicine efforts at UAB. Harnessing scientific breakthroughs in genomics and informatics, precision medicine fosters a systematic approach to integrate genetic, clinical, and environmental factors into a tailored treatment plan for the individual patient. She has led the creation of UAB's Personalized Medicine Institute and is now the institutional leader in the implementation of genotype-guided therapy at UAB. In this application, Dr. Limdi leverages her strengths and resources to create unique training opportunities through three well-defined projects in cardiovascular POR and precision medicine.

In **Project 1**, Dr. Ather will test whether heart failure (left ventricular ejection fraction; LVEF <40%) influences warfarin response.

1. **Aim 1:** Elucidate the influence of heart failure on therapeutic warfarin dose required.
2. **Aim 2:** Elucidate the influence of heart failure on anticoagulation control (measured as percent time in target range; PTTR) and risk of hemorrhage.

In **Project 2**, Dr. Shendre will test whether candidate genes influence DBG-related major hemorrhage.

3. **Aim 3:** Determine the influence of candidate genes, demographic (race, age) and clinical factors (antiplatelet therapy, kidney impairment and heart failure) on DBG-related-hemorrhage. We will specifically assess variants in *ABCB1* (rs4148738) and *CES1* (rs2244613, rs8192935).
4. **Aim 4:** Incorporate patient-specific genetic and clinical factors into clinical prediction rules (CPRs) to personalize the prediction of hemorrhage among DBG users.

Projects 1 and 2 will utilize the warfarin and dabigatran cohorts (Resource I) supported by Dr. Limdi's RO1 entitled "Genetic and Clinical Predictors Warfarin and Novel Anticoagulants Response (HL092173; 2014-19)."

In **Project 3**, Drs. Irvin and Arora will assess racial differences thromboembolic [major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) and stent thrombosis] and hemorrhagic events and determine utility of genotype-guided antiplatelet therapy (GGAT) in ACS/ PCI patients.

5. **Aim 5:** Determine differences in thromboembolic and hemorrhagic outcomes among African Americans vs. European Americans and elucidate race-specific effects of *CYP2C19* and clinical factors.
6. **Aim 6:** Determine effectiveness (clinical utility) and economic value (cost-effectiveness) of GGAT.

Project 3 will utilize cohort of patients undergoing PCI (Resource II) supported by Dr. Limdi's intramural grant entitled "Pharmacogenomic Resource to Improve Medication Effectiveness (UAB-HSF; 2013-17)."

The mentorship aims of the current proposal centers on expanding the POR training opportunities for MD, Pharm.D, and PhD trainees. Mentees work with established resources to propose and test hypothesis, conduct analysis and publish original research and are actively engaged in POR including patient recruitment, documenting clinical phenotype and leading a specific part of the new research proposed with the opportunity to lead the analysis, presentation and publication of the new research and to submit NIH- K23 applications.

The K24 award would allow Dr. Limdi to assume primary mentorship responsibilities for Drs. Ather, Shendre, Arora and Irvin and guide their K23 award submissions (**Table 5**).

<b>Table 5: Time line and deliverables during the K24 period</b>					
Task	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Analysis/ publications	x	x	x	x	x
Patient accrual, clinical phenotype	x	x	x	x	
K23 applications		Ather	Irvin, Arora	Shendre	

This application is being submitted at a key time point in the applicants' career at which it would be possible for her to either be drawn into a large number of administrative and supervisory responsibilities or for her to focus on clinical research productivity and mentoring. This award will ensure that the candidate maintains protected time to focus on enhancing her career in POR, a large part of which involves mentoring junior investigators to build their own careers in patient oriented research focused on personalized medicine.

## 11 RESEARCH STRATEGY

Dr. Limdi’s long term goal is to integrate clinical and genetic knowledge with current approaches for prescribing antithrombotic therapy and developing patient-focused and population-based guidelines for “Personalized Antithrombotic Therapy” in patients with multiple comorbidities, reflecting the complexity of patients seen in routine clinical practice. The Research Plan describes rationale, current research, and new research (incorporating new oral anticoagulants and antiplatelet agents) that will be created by leveraging resources to enhance the candidates’ research career and enable mentoring in POR.

**11.1 Rationale for focus on antithrombotic agents:** The aging population is driving an increasing need for chronic antithrombotic therapy. Consider, for example, the increasing prevalence of atrial fibrillation (AF); which with the aging population portends to be a worsening epidemic.<sup>68-70</sup> The morbidity and mortality related to AF are substantial: 5-fold increased risk of stroke, 3-fold increase in heart failure and 2-fold increase in overall mortality.<sup>71-78</sup> In patients with AF, the overall decision to institute antithrombotic therapy has been framed as a decision between “antiplatelet (AP) versus anticoagulants (AC)” as these constitute the mainstay of stroke prevention and treatment.<sup>79-85</sup> However, accumulating evidence suggests the superiority of oral anticoagulants over aspirin.<sup>86-91</sup> The introduction of NoACs (dabigatran, rivaroxaban apixaban, edoxaban)<sup>92-107</sup> adds another decision point for initiating anticoagulation “warfarin vs. NoACs.” Compared to warfarin, the NoACs have superior or equal efficacy, a favorable bleeding risk profile, fewer drug interactions and lack of monitoring requirements. Anticoagulant and antiplatelet agents are “top-offenders,” accounting for 33.3% and 13.3% of all adverse-drug-related hospitalizations in the US. Hemorrhage was the main contributing cause for these hospitalizations; representing 63% of warfarin and 88% of antiplatelet related hospitalizations.<sup>108-110</sup>

**11.2 Hemorrhage remains a recalcitrant problem.** Patients requiring anticoagulation with comorbidities such as chronic kidney disease are often not well represented in clinical trials.<sup>111-113</sup> For example, with regard to the incidence of hemorrhage, **Table 6** illustrates two issues. First, the incidence of hemorrhage is higher in clinical practice compared to clinical trials (see warfarin data from our cohort vs. clinical trials). Second, in trials and practice, the incidence of hemorrhage is higher among patients with impaired kidney function.

Creatinine Clearance	Inception cohort	RELY trial		ROCKET AF		ARISTOTLE	
	Warfarin (UAB)	Warfarin	Dabigatran	Warfarin	Rivaroxaban	Warfarin	Apixaban
≥80	6.7	2.3	<b>1.9</b>	3.17	3.2	1.8	1.5
50-79.9	6.5	3.6	<b>3.2</b>		3.3	3.2	2.5
30-49.9	11.1	5.3	<b>5.1</b>	4.7	8.0	6.4	3.3
<30	19.0	0.0	<b>13.6</b>				

Among the NoACs, from documents submitted for FDA review, DBG is associated with a higher risk of hemorrhage. Given the limited representation of patients with multiple comorbid conditions in clinical trials; cohorts representing the complexity of patients seen in clinical practice can help uncover such risks. In our warfarin cohort, 40% of patients have impaired kidney function, demonstrating that the kidney function-hemorrhage association is clinically relevant at the individual and population level.<sup>17,114-117</sup>

Dr. Limdi’s research plans center on her successful program in Warfarin pharmacogenomics supported by the competitive renewal of her grant entitled “Genetic and Clinical Predictors of Response to Warfarin and Novel Anticoagulants” (RO1 HL092173; 2014-2019) and Genotype-Guided Antiplatelet Therapy (Funded by UAB Health Services Foundation; 2013-2017). Dr. Limdi uses this program to create mentorship opportunity and design patient oriented research projects to be led by trainees under her mentorship.

**11.3 RESOURCE I: Warfarin and Dabigatran Cohort** is supported by Dr. Limdi’s RO1 entitled “Genetic and Clinical Predictors Warfarin and Novel Anticoagulants Response (HL092173; 2014-2019)” which aims to:

1. Identify rare and common variants influencing the risk of warfarin-related hemorrhage (in 700 cases vs. 700 controls) using genome wide analysis (GWA).
2. Elucidate the influence of race, kidney impairment and concurrent antiplatelet therapy on risk of warfarin-related hemorrhage among 1000 AF patients on warfarin. The genetic predictors from the GWA above will be replicated in this 1000 warfarin treated AF cohort.
3. Elucidate the influence of race, kidney impairment and concurrent antiplatelet therapy on risk of dabigatran related hemorrhage among 500 AF patients on DBG.
4. Develop (for Dabigatran) and refine (for warfarin) clinical risk prediction rules for hemorrhage.



**11.3.a Clinical Data Collection:** Both warfarin and DBG cohorts are prospective, inception cohorts. Participants are enrolled at initiation of therapy and followed for up to 2 years. Demographic (age, race, gender, occupation, education, income, and health insurance), lifestyle (exercise, alcohol and smoking) and medical history are documented paying special attention to factors associated with hemorrhage risk (**Table 7**).

- Medical history includes indication for therapy, comorbid conditions, and medications. During follow-up (monthly for warfarin, and quarterly for DBG), factors influencing response such as dose, INR (for warfarin), concurrent medications, adherence are documented.<sup>118-120</sup> The completeness of the data is highlighted in recent reports wherein only 3 of 1563 patients had missing GFR values.<sup>32,37</sup>
- Concomitant medications can influence response to warfarin and DBG<sup>121,122</sup> and independently increase the risk of hemorrhagic complications.<sup>123-126</sup> The increase in risk of hemorrhage can result from co-therapy with CYP2C9 inhibitors (e.g. amiodarone) or inducers (e.g. carbamazepine)<sup>123,124</sup> for warfarin P-gp inhibitors (e.g. amiodarone) or P-gp inducers (e.g. rifampin) for DBG<sup>127-129</sup> or concomitant use of antiplatelet for warfarin and DBG.<sup>130-136</sup> Medication history will be documented by self-report (over the counter drugs, e.g. proton pump inhibitors) with validation through medical records and pharmacy refill records.

**Table 7** Overview of measurement strategy for key clinical risk factors associated with risk of hemorrhage

Prior Bleeding history	Defined ICD-9 diagnosis code of hemorrhage (e.g. intracranial or gastrointestinal bleeding)
Hypertension	BP>140/90 on two consecutive visits, use of an antihypertensive medication
Diabetes Mellitus	Hemoglobin A1c>7.0, use or insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents
Prior Stroke	Ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes will be identified using primary ICD-9 diagnoses
Adherence	Validated 8-question Morisky scale <sup>137-139</sup>
Health-related quality of life	HrQOL using the EQ-5D instrument <sup>140-144</sup>
Medication history	Self-report (over the counter drugs) with validation through pharmacy dispensing records
Kidney impairment <sup>145-147</sup>	Four categories based on estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> ); no /mild chronic kidney disease (CKD; eGFR ≥60); moderate-risk CKD (eGFR >45<60), high-risk CKD (eGFR >30<45), and very-high-risk CKD (eGFR <30 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )..
<b>The proportional representation across these categories will be 60%, 25%, 10% and 5% respectively</b>	
Antiplatelet agents (AP)	None, low (e.g. aspirin ≤162 mg/day), high intensity (e.g. aspirin 325 mg/day, 75mg/day clopidogrel, 10mg/day prasugrel, 90mg bid for ticagrelor or dual anti-platelet therapy).
<b>The proportional representation across these categories will be 43%, 30%, 27% respectively</b>	

- Major hemorrhage will be defined by ISTH criteria.<sup>56,148</sup> This includes fatal events, symptomatic bleeding in a critical area (e.g. intracranial, intraspinal, intraocular, retroperitoneal, intraarticular, pericardial) and bleeding with a decrease in hemoglobin ≥ 2 g/dl, and/or leading to transfusion ≥ 2 units of red blood cells.
- Event Adjudication: 3 blinded examiners review all thromboembolic and hemorrhagic events are reviewed by. The pair-wise inter-rater agreement (Kappa= 0.93 to 0.96) is excellent. Because patients with fatal events are most likely to be lost and it is imperative to ensure documentation of all fatal events, the vital status of such patients is determined by querying the Alabama Dept. of Vital Statistics to verify cause of death and obtain a death certificate. These efforts have ensured low (9%) loss to follow-up.

**11.3.b Warfarin cohort** currently includes 1647 participants (goal 1800 by 2016). African Americans comprise 43% of the cohort. This cohort has archived DNA and genotype data to enable candidate gene, haplotype, genome-wide association study (GWAS, Illumina 1Mduo). The clinical and genetic data has resulted in many manuscripts<sup>9-11,13-16,19-24,26-33,35-37,44,45,47-49,149-151</sup> This has also allowed us to elucidate differences in warfarin response (**Table 8**) between African Americans (AAs) and European Americans (EAs).<sup>10,11,14-26</sup>

**Table 8: Anticoagulation control, over anticoagulation and hemorrhage among 1357 patients**

Variable	EA	AA	
Number of patients	762	595	AA spent less time in target INR range (PTTR) compared to European Americans (EA; P<0.0001).
Follow-up time (yrs)	1111.3	803.3	There were 156 major hemorrhagic events observed during 1912 years of follow-up (incidence 8.2/100 patient-years; 95% CI: 7.0, 9.5). Gastrointestinal hemorrhage was most common (n=94), followed by hematoma (n=24), genitourinary (n=14), Intracranial hemorrhage (n=12), Hemoptysis (n=10).
% Time In range (PTTR)	57.6%	49.1%	
Episodes of INR >4	811	756	AAs had a higher incidence of hemorrhage than EAs (p=0.03) and a 70% higher relative risk (p=0.013) after adjustment for clinical and genetic factors compared to EAs.
Major Hemorrhage	68	70	
Incidence of hemorrhage	6.7 [5.2, 8.5]	9.7 [7.5, 12.2]	
Risk of hemorrhage (AA vs. EA)		1.7 [1.13, 2.48]	

Leveraging the clinical and genetic data, Dr. Ather will determine the influence of heart failure on warfarin response (dose, anticoagulation control and hemorrhage) in Project 1.



**11.3.c Dabigatran (DBG) cohort** recruitment was initiated in Feb 2014 and currently includes 408 participants (goal 500 by 2016). African Americans comprise 15% of the cohort. Clinical data collection and review all thromboembolic and hemorrhagic events is as described above over the 2- year follow-up.

- Although warfarin remains widely used, concordant with national trends, the use of NOACs is increasing at UAB. African Americans constitute 12 to 20% of NoAC users at UAB compared to 1.2 to 1.5% in clinical trials (**Table 9**).<sup>92,101,103</sup> This can provide unique opportunity for understanding racial differences in NoACs response and identifying factors associated with risk of hemorrhage.

Table 9: Current users of warfarin, dabigatran, rivaroxaban and apixaban at UAB								
	Warfarin (% AA)		Dabigatran(% AA)		Rivaroxaban (% AA)		Apixaban (% AA)	
2012	7074	24.8%	1819	8.2%	652	15.5%	n/a	n/a
2013	6069	28.9%	1147	10.0%	1603	15.7%	181	9.4%
2014	5462	29.1%	848	14.4%	2057	18.9%	788	12.3%

- The current RO1 does not include any genetic/ genomic assessments for DBG. Dr. Shendre (candidate for PhD in epidemiology) has initiated collection and archival of DNA samples (supported by Dr. Limdi).
- Among the NoACs, DBG is associated with a higher risk of hemorrhage. To capitalize on the current DBG cohort supported by Dr. Limdi’s RO1 (goal 500; 408 enrolled), Dr. Shendre, with the guidance and assistance of the research associate, will recruit an additional 500 patients to create a 1000 patient cohort. African Americans will comprise 15% of the DBG cohort. This will provide a robust cohort to conduct the candidate-gene analysis proposed in Project 2.

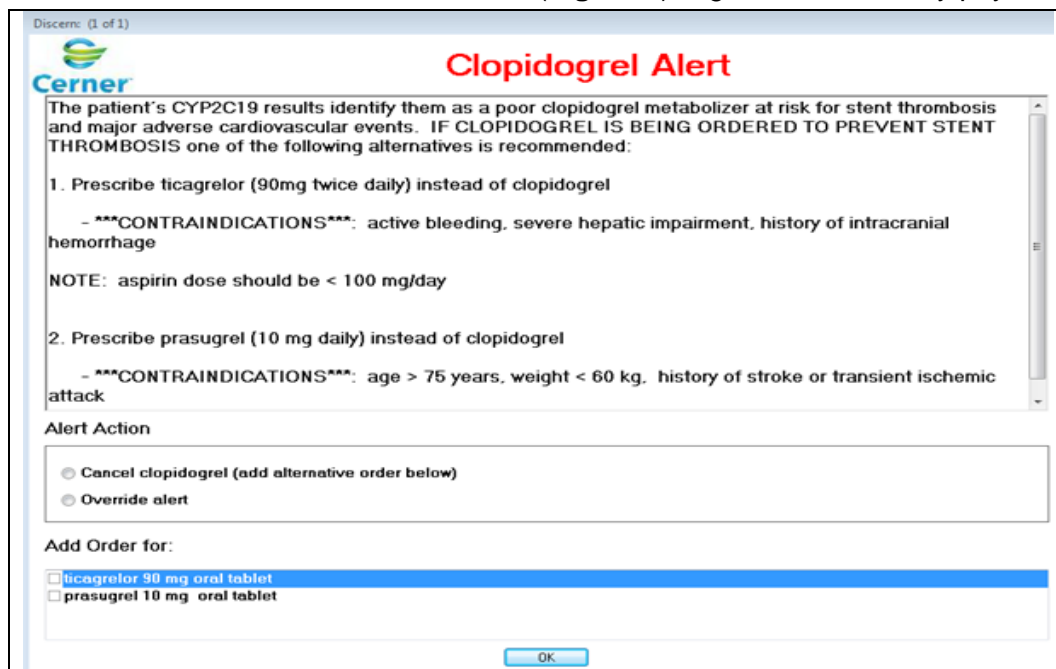
**11.4 RESOURCE II: Cohort of patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI):**

To facilitate delivery of precision medicine, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is establishing infrastructure to integrate genomics into clinical care. Implementation of *CYP2C19* genotype-guided antiplatelet therapy (GGAT) in patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and those undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is ongoing. ACS/PCI patients (30% African American) are prescribed dual-antiplatelet therapy (DAPT), most often, aspirin and clopidogrel. Clopidogrel is activated by cytochrome P450 2C19 (*CYP2C19*).<sup>152,153</sup> Possession of one or two copies (intermediate, poor-metabolizer) of *CYP2C19* loss-of-function (LOF) alleles (e.g. \*2, \*3) confers an increased risk for major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) and stent thrombosis in clopidogrel users.<sup>154,155 156-162</sup> In contrast, possession of the *CYP2C19*\*17 (gain-of-function; GOF) allele may enhance inhibition and may increase bleeding risk.<sup>163-166</sup>

Although the current standard of care is to initiate DAPT without *CYP2C19* testing (non-GGAT), physicians can choose *CYP2C19* genotype-guided antiplatelet therapy (GGAT) as part of clinical care. Genotyping is done in the Molecular Diagnostic lab using the SPARTAN platform<sup>167</sup> with a 60-90min of sample receipt. For patients possessing *CYP2C19*\*2 or \*3 alleles, an automatic alert (**Figure 1**) is generated to notify physicians.

**Figure 1:** Clinical Decision support guiding antiplatelet selection in post-PCI patients possessing *CYP2C19* loss-of-function alleles.

For patients with *CYP2C19*\*1/\*1 or \*1/\*17 or \*17/17 genotype the CDS is not triggered. The physician can choose dual antiplatelet treatment based on patient-specific clinical factors.



Clinical decision support providing recommendations for alternate antiplatelet therapy based on published guidelines is embedded in the electronic medical record.<sup>168</sup> Therapy is then tailored based on clinical and genetic factors prior to discharge. Adoption of testing in ACS/ PCI patients is evolving, with testing performed in 35-40% of patients. All patients are approached for enrollment in a prospective inception cohort. Over a six month period, in addition to the 111 genotyped for *CYP2C19*, 189 patients who have undergone PCI without GGAT have consented to participate. *CYP2C19* genotype distribution is presented in **Table 10**.

<i>CYP2C19</i> genotype	Metabolizer status	Observed among 111 patients at UAB			Expected <sup>168</sup>	
		N=111 (%)	AA <sup>‡</sup> N=19	EA <sup>‡</sup> N=89	AA	EA
*1/*1	Normal	40 (36%)	7 (37%)	31 (35%)	21%	33%
*1/*17, *17/*17	Ultra-rapid	40 (36%)	8 (42%)	31 (35%)	45%	40%
*1/*2, *2/*17 or *1/*3	Intermediate	30 (27%)	4 (21%)	26 (29%)	30%	25%
*2/*2, *2/*3 or *3/*3	Poor	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	4%	2%

In addition to the clinical data collection described in section 11.3, risk factors associated with thromboembolic and hemorrhagic outcomes (**Table 11**) are documented.<sup>169-179</sup>

<b>Hemodynamic and laboratory parameters</b>	<b>Related to PCI</b>
Blood pressure, Heart rate	Emergent or urgent procedure
Shock/ Hemodynamic instability	Acute MI (STEMI or NSTEMI)
Platelet count, Anemia, Hematocrit, GFR (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	Stent thrombosis (revascularization)
Creatin kinase (CK), creatin kinase-myocardial band (CK-MB), Cardiac Troponin I	Multi-vessel disease, Left main stem disease
B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP)	Pre and post-PCI percent blockage, TIMI flow grade
ST-segment deviation on ECG	Site of and length of lesion (ostia, bifurcation)
	Number of stents

Patients are followed for 1 year and thromboembolic and hemorrhagic outcomes documented as defined below.<sup>55-58</sup> Event adjudication is done as described in section 11.3.

- Thromboembolic complications will include stent thrombosis as defined by Academic Research Consortium<sup>57</sup> and Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events (MACE): defined as non-fatal stroke,<sup>57</sup> non-fatal myocardial infarction (MI),<sup>180</sup> and death secondary to any cardiovascular cause.<sup>57</sup> This includes deaths from MI, sudden cardiac death, heart failure, stroke, and other cardiovascular causes.
- Hemorrhage will be defined as events with a  $\geq 10\%$  hematocrit and/or  $\geq 2\text{g/dL}$  hemoglobin drop or that requires transfusion or surgical intervention. We will also assess bleeding as defined by TIMI-38.<sup>58</sup>
- We expect the incidence of thromboembolic complications to range from 10-30 per 100 patient years (pyrs) and hemorrhage to range from 5-20/ 100 pyrs.

By July 2017, this cohort is expected to enroll 1250 patients with a 1-year prospective follow-up. This is expected to include recruitment of GGAT (goal n=250) and non-GGAT (goal n=1000) patients with DNA and plasma samples archived for research will support new research by Drs. Arora and Irvin (Project 3).

***Mentees will leverage these resources and propose new research to address new knowledge gaps. Mentees will learn principles of research, analytic approaches including candidate gene, genome-wide association analysis, and development of clinical prediction rules. More importantly, mentees will work collaboratively on problem solving and proposing alternate approaches for ongoing projects. The experience will engage them in generating hypothesis and pilot data and develop their careers in POR.***

**11.5 PROJECT 1: Determining the effects of heart failure on warfarin response**

**11.5.a Rationale:** While pharmacogenomics is the cornerstone of precision medicine, variability in response is also influenced by comorbid conditions.<sup>181-184</sup> Therefore, in addition to genomics, we must also focus on understanding the influence of comorbid conditions on drug response. Patients requiring warfarin often have multiple comorbid conditions that influence warfarin response. We have shown that CKD patients require lower warfarin dose and have a higher risk of hemorrhage.<sup>30,145,147,185</sup> Similarly, warfarin dose requirements are lower in patients with acute decompensated heart failure (HF).<sup>186</sup> However, the influence of heart failure (left ventricular ejection fraction LVEF <40%) on warfarin response has not been evaluated. To address this knowledge gap, **Dr. Ather will lead Project 1** using the existing Warfarin Cohort (n=1647; goal n=1800) wherein 10-20% of patients are expected to have LVEF <40%. He will determine the influence of heart failure on warfarin response through two aims:

- **Aim 1:** Elucidate the influence of heart failure on therapeutic warfarin dose
- **Aim 2:** Elucidate the influence of heart failure on anticoagulation control (percent time in target range; PTTR), and risk of hemorrhage.

**11.5.b Statistical methods and power:** The influence of heart failure on warfarin dose and anticoagulation control will be evaluated using multivariable regression analyses. All analyses will account for demographic (e.g. age, BMI), lifestyle (e.g. smoking), clinical (comorbid conditions, amiodarone use), and genetic factors.

Warfarin dose (mg/day; log transformed to attain normality) will be defined as the average maintenance dose after the attainment of three consecutive INRs in target range measured at least 2 weeks apart. Here we present sample size needed to detect a dose difference (7-10.5mg/week) at 80% power with alpha of 0.05.

Dose Difference	Patients with LVEF < 40 %		
	10%	15%	20%
7 mg/week	1570	1120	880
10.5 mg/week	700	500	395

Proportion of time spent in target range (PTTR) will be estimated for each patient using the Rosendaal linear interpolation method.<sup>187</sup>

PTTR Difference	Patients with LVEF < 40 %		
	10%	15%	20%
10%	1150	1100	875
15%	690	500	390
20%	390	280	220

Time in target range for each patient will be assessed by the percentage of interpolated INR values within the target range of 2.0–3.0 after attainment of first INR in target range. Here, we present sample size needed to detect a 10-20% PTTR difference at 80% power with alpha of 0.05.

The influence of heart failure on the risk of major hemorrhage (as defined by the ISTH criteria)<sup>56,148</sup> will be assessed using the counting process format in the proportional hazard (PH) model.

Relative Risk	Patients with LVEF < 40 %		
	10%	15%	20%
1.75	1930	1340	1040
2.0	1230	860	660
2.5	680	480	390

Minor hemorrhages (mild nosebleeds, microscopic hematuria, mild bruising, and mild hemorrhoidal bleeding) will be excluded. Here we present sample size needed to detect a 1.75 to 2.5 risk ratio at 80% power with alpha of 0.05.

**11.5.c Mentee plans:** Ather's (MD, PhD) clinical and research interests are centered on personalized medicine in complex patients with cardiovascular disease (specifically heart failure). He will be co-mentored by Drs. Limdi and Prabhu. The proposed project will provide him with patient-oriented research experience and allow him to explore genetic underpinnings of variability in response to other commonly used medications such as B-blockers. He plans to apply for a K23 award to study predictors of drug response in heart failure patients.

## 11.6 PROJECT 2: Identifying genetic factors associated with Dabigatran-related hemorrhage.

**11.6.a Rationale:** Dabigatran (DBG), the first NoAC introduced in the USA, has similar overall risk of hemorrhage compared to warfarin.<sup>188,189</sup> Older age ( $\geq 75$  years) and kidney impairment are risk factors for DBG-related hemorrhage.<sup>190-198</sup> However, the influence of other clinical (e.g. antiplatelet therapy), demographic (race, gender), and genetic factors associated with DBG-related hemorrhage in a real world population remains largely unexplored. The RE-LY genetics sub-study reported that variants in ATP-binding cassette, sub-family B, member 1 (*ABCB1*) and carboxylesterase 1 (*CES1*) are associated DBG concentrations.<sup>199</sup>

The current RO1 aims to elucidate the influence of kidney impairment and concurrent antiplatelet therapy on risk of DBG-related-hemorrhage. The RO1 did not propose any genomic assessments for the DBG cohort. Dr. Shendre has initiated sample (DNA) collection supported by departmental funds available to Dr. Limdi. Dr. Shendre will leverage this resource for Project 2. She will work with the clinical coordinator, enrolling an additional 500 patients on DBG, to create a 1000 patient DBG cohort (500 to be enrolled as part of the RO1; enrolled 408) and conduct candidate gene analysis in 1000 patients.

- **Aim 3:** Determine the influence of candidate genes, demographic (race, age) and clinical factors (antiplatelet therapy, kidney impairment and heart failure) on DBG-related-hemorrhage. We will specifically assess variants in *ABCB1* (rs4148738) and *CES1* (rs2244613, rs8192935).<sup>200</sup> Genotyping will be conducted by the Heflin genomics core laboratory using pyrosequencing or taqman assays.
- **Aim 4:** Incorporate patient-specific genetic and clinical factors into clinical prediction rules (CPRs) to personalize the prediction of hemorrhage among DBG users.

**11.6.b.1 Statistical Analysis and power for Dabigatran-related hemorrhage:** The association of kidney function, antiplatelet therapy and variants in *ABCB1* and *CES1* with hemorrhage using time to event analysis

employing the Cox PH model after accounting for clinical factors is listed above. As the minor allele frequencies (MAF) of candidate-gene variants are 45% (rs4148738), 33% (rs8192935) and 18% (rs2244613), the analysis is adequately powered (>80%; alpha=0.05) to detect hazard ratios of  $\geq 2$ . We have extensive experience with using methodology with warfarin pharmacogenomics (allowing changes in kidney function, interacting medications, anticoagulation control, etc. over time).<sup>21,28,29</sup>

<b>Table 12 Power (1000 patient cohort) at two-sided alpha=0.05 to detect HR=2.0</b>				
Event rate in unexposed	% of patients with exposure			
	5%	10%	20%	30%
0.04	0.61	0.86	0.97	0.99
0.05	0.70	0.92	0.99	0.99
0.06	0.77	0.95	0.99	0.99
<b>Power to detect HR=3.0</b>				
0.04	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.99
0.05	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99
0.06	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99

In **Table 12** we conservatively estimate power to detect a hazard ratio  $\geq 2$ . We assume that patients are enrolled over 2 years, followed for up to 2 years with an attrition rate of 10% under varying rates of hemorrhage (4 to 7/100p-years) in the unexposed, proportion of patients with exposure (1% to 30%) at two-sided alpha level of 0.05.

**11.6.b.2 Statistical Analysis- Model development:** Dr. Shendre is refining the current CPR for warfarin-related- hemorrhage (e.g. HASBLED)<sup>81,134,201-208</sup> by including genes (*CYP2C9*) known to influence bleeding risk and is using the analysis approach described herein.

We will assign a risk score to predictor variables that are proportional to the magnitude of the effect size in the final multivariable Cox PH model (**Table 13**).

The risk score will be collapsed into “low,” “intermediate,” and “high” risk groups based on the observed incidence of major hemorrhage. Because there are no definitive or clinically determined cut-points for rates of major hemorrhage at which warfarin would be contraindicated we will choose risk thresholds to optimally aggregate low-risk vs. high-risk groups.

**Table 13:** Example for assigning risk score based on kidney function (under review)

Kidney Function	Adjusted HR (95% CI); p	Score
eGFR $\geq 60$	Referent (HR=1.0)	0.0
eGFR $\geq 45-60$	1.11 [0.55,2.25]; p=0.78	0.0
eGFR $\geq 30-44$	2.11 [1.01,4.41]; p=0.048	2.0
eGFR $<30$	5.65 [3.11,10.27]; p<0.0001	5.5

A similar approach will be used to identify risk factors for DBG related hemorrhage and develop a clinical prediction rule for DBG-related hemorrhage. Predictors will be incorporated in model building. We will apply backward elimination selection on 1,000 bootstrap samples, with significance level <0.05 for removing a variable. The final model will include variables that meet the threshold in >50% of the bootstrap samples. This method has been used to develop AF risk-prediction models among Framingham and ATRIA participants.<sup>206,209</sup>

**11.6.c Mentee plans:** Dr. Shendre (MBBS, PhD candidate in Epidemiology) will be co-mentored by Drs. Limdi, Beasley and Brown. She plans to complete her PhD in Epidemiology (May 2016) and join Dr. Limdi's team as a post-doctoral fellow. She will lead Project II and plan to apply for a K23 award (by spring 2019) centered on clinical prediction of hemorrhage among patients taking non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants including apixaban, rivaroxaban and edoxaban. This well-defined project will allow Dr. Shendre to gain the experience and propose incorporation of rivaroxaban and apixaban to build larger NoAC cohort as part of her K23 application. This will enable further refinement of clinical decision support “warfarin vs. dabigatran or rivaroxaban or apixaban.” Moreover, as 15-20% of NoAC users are African American, she will be able to test additional hypotheses to elucidate clinical and genetic underpinnings that may underlie race-specific differences in NoAC response.

### **11.7 PROJECT 3: Evaluate racial differences in major adverse cardiovascular events in ACS/ PCI patients and determine clinical utility of genotype-guided antiplatelet therapy**

**11.7.a Rationale:** Despite the strength of *CYP2C19*-outcome association,<sup>156-162</sup> adoption of this precision medicine remains limited as evidence of utility is limited. African Americans (AAs) with ACS/PCI experience poor clinical outcomes.<sup>210-221</sup> AAs are under-represented (<1.5%) in clinical trials, and in research supporting *CYP2C19*-outcome associations,<sup>157</sup> There is limited data on predictors that (may) differentially influence poor outcomes in this race group.<sup>222-224</sup> Resource II will be expanded to support Project 3. Drs. Arora and Irvin will gain experience in implementation research, clinical prediction rule development and assessing utility.

- **Aim 5:** Determine differences in thromboembolic and hemorrhagic outcomes among African Americans vs. European Americans and elucidate race-specific effects of *CYP2C19* and clinical factors.
- **Aim 6:** Determine effectiveness (clinical utility) and economic value (cost-effectiveness) of GGAT.



**11.7b.1 Analysis approach, power to evaluate racial differences in outcomes:** We will assess the effect of *CYP2C19* and clinical factors on risk of thromboembolism and hemorrhage over the 1-year follow-up. Based on the *CYP2C19* genotype distribution (Table 10) we expect prevalence of GOF alleles (\*17) to range from 36-42% and LOF alleles (\*2, \*3) to range from 21-28%. Varying the event rate from 10-30/100p-years, our analysis is powered (>80%; alpha=0.05) to detect hazard ratios (HR) of  $\geq 1.5$  for race-adjusted analysis in 1250 patients and race-stratified analysis among EAs (n=875). We are powered to detect HR of  $\geq 1.8$  race-stratified analysis among AAs (n=375). For *CYP2C19*\*race interactions we are powered to detect HR of  $\geq 2.0$ .

**11.7.b.2 Analysis approach, power to evaluate clinical utility:** Effectiveness analysis will compare rates of thromboembolism and hemorrhage among patients receiving GGAT (n=250) compared to non-GGAT group (n=1000). Assuming that 25% of patients possess *CYP2C19* LOF alleles associated with an increased risk of thromboembolism and 35% of patients possess *CYP2C19* \*17 alleles associated with bleeding, the 1250 patient cohort would provide  $\geq 80\%$  power at alpha of 0.05 to detect  $\geq 6.5\%$  decrease in event rate.

**11.7.b.3 Cost-Effectiveness Analyses** will be conducted from a third party payer perspective and have a time horizon of one year (corresponding to the study follow-up period). Outcomes will be measured by Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) calculated for the one year follow-up using utility weights obtained from the response to the EQ-5D instrument. Utility weights will be obtained at baseline, six and 12 months follow-up.

We will compare costs of the GGAT strategy, which include cost of genotyping and associated antiplatelet therapy plus the cost of medical care in the follow-up period for patients in the GGAT group, to the costs of the non-GGAT strategy which include the cost of antiplatelet therapy plus the cost of medical care in the follow-up period for patients in the non-GGAT group. We will first determine the differences in total costs using a regression model where costs will be the dependent variable, and a binary variable indicating study strategies will be the independent variable. Similar analyses will be used to determine the impact of GGAT on the QALY. We will then determine the 1) net cost of GGAT vs. non-GGAT, and 2) effectiveness, i.e., the difference in QALY between GGAT and non-GGAT. If GGAT is less costly and more effective than non-GGAT, then GGAT will be considered cost-saving. If the GGAT is more expensive and more effective than non-GGAT, we will calculate an Incremental Cost Effectiveness Ratio (ICER) as the ratio of net cost and effectiveness using \$50,000 to \$100,000/QALY as our threshold. To examine uncertainty we will sample with replacement costs and outcomes from the two study groups and calculate mean costs and outcomes for each bootstrap sample, repeating the procedure 1000 times.<sup>225,226</sup>

**11.7.c Mentee plans:** The proposed project will provide Dr. Irvin the perfect context to acquire the additional skills in patient-oriented research, clinical translation and implementation to complement her work in genomic discovery work. She plans to apply for a K23 award (spring 2018) using archived samples for additional genomic interrogation in the future, including genome-wide rare and common genetic variant association, developing risk prediction rules using clinical and genetic factors. Dr. Arora will work with Drs. Limdi and Pisu in assessing clinical utility of GGAT, developing risk prediction rules and finally evaluating its effectiveness through implementation. As a clinician scientist he is interested in developing a portfolio centered on implementation of evidence-based interventions to improve care of patients with cardiovascular disease.

## **11.8 Limitations and alternative strategies and future efforts**

- 1. Project 1:** The influence of heart failure (HF) on warfarin response is defined based on LVEF <40% rather than New York Heart Association Functional Classification. Dr. Ather will refine the definition of HF through medical record review and assess HF-warfarin response based on functional class.
- 2. Project 2:** We recognize that the CPRs for DBG related hemorrhage will need to be validated in the future. Model validation and further development will be pursued as part of Dr. Shendre's K23 incorporating other NoACs and using methodology proposed by McGeechan et al and Pencina et al.<sup>227-234</sup>
- 3. Project 2** proposes a candidate gene approach. We recognize that DBG-related hemorrhage may be influenced by other genes. Moreover, while we are not enrolling patients on Apixaban and Rivaroxaban, Dr. Shendre's will propose expanding assessment of genetic underpinnings of NoAC-related hemorrhage.
- 4. Project 3:** Although we evaluate a MACE and stent thrombosis as a composite endpoint, we recognize that they are clinically distinct endpoints. The skills developed, along with pilot data generated will allow Dr. Irvin to a larger cohort patient cohort with 1 year follow-up as part of his K23 to evaluate each endpoint separately. Moreover the archived DNA samples will allow her to propose additional genomic analysis. We will explore differential benefits from genetic testing by race: African Americans vs. European Americans. Although the study is underpowered to assess race-specific benefits of GGAT, the pilot data generated can then be further developed and validated through aims the K23 grant.

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