



NEWS RELEASE

December 10, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute receives 5th center with Harvard School of Public Health and Boston health systems to create \$4m AHRQ Patient Safety Learning Laboratory

Northeastern University's Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute (HSyE) in partnership with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health has received its 5th federally-awarded research center in the past 5 years, working with Boston area health systems to create a patient safety learning laboratory (PSLL). Funded by the Agency of Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) at \$4 million over four years, PSLL centers serve as interdisciplinary ecosystems to develop and test new approaches to pervasive patient safety challenges. The new center, called the Engineering High Reliability Learning Laboratory (EHRL), will be led by Drs. Sara Singer (PI) at HSPH, James Benneyan at HSyE, and Russel Phillips at Harvard Medical School and focus on testing systems science approaches to improving process reliability for medically complex patients, procedures, and diagnostics. Participating health systems include Boston Children's Hospital, Atrius Health, and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"The EHRL center is a very exciting initiative and perfect fit to all our missions, combining applied impact with research on better methods", said Dr. Benneyan, HSyE director and senior scientist. "We are tremendously happy to be partnering with such a great research team and health organizations, and with the vibrant collaboration that already is emerging." Dr. Benneyan is a national expert in healthcare systems engineering, previously serving as senior systems engineer at Harvard Community Health Plan, industrial engineer at IBM, and president of the industrial engineering healthcare society. This is the second AHRQ patient safety center grant that the HSyE Institute has partnered on, the first focused on IT solutions to co-engage patient, families, and care teams in making acute care safer.

The overarching mission of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, built on the nation's first graduate training program in public health, is to advance the public's health through learning, discovery, and communication. Northeastern's Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute is a university-wide institute created to impact healthcare nationally through integration of research, application, and education in systems engineering methods. HSyE houses five federally-awarded centers, several large-scale multi-institution grants and contracts, and undergraduate through post-doctoral training programs, with core funding from the National Science Foundation, Center for Medicare and Medicaid, National Institutes for Health, Veterans Health Administration, and AHRQ.

For further information, contact Sarah Benson, Communications and Development Coordinator for NEU's Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute, at s.benson@neu.edu or visit www.hsy.org.

- ##### -