

The Regional Medical Library for the Greater Midwest Region (GMR) of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) was established at the University of Iowa on May 1, 2016. Serving the National Library of Medicine, the Regional Medical Library is one of eight in the nation and serves the ten state region of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The Regional Medical Library is funded with federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, and Department of Health and Human Services under a five year cooperative agreement.

AIM 1

The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa will establish a regional office for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine staffed with quality health information professionals and governed by stakeholders. Partnerships with regional network members will be established to support the mission of the NNLM including access to quality health information for health professionals, librarians and consumers during the five years of the grant.

The GMR maintains relationships with 31 designated Resource Libraries, libraries participating in resource sharing, and 13 Partner Outreach Libraries, libraries that share a mission of health information outreach. This year, the GMR facilitated a meeting of Resource Library directors at the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) meeting; feedback collected will be used to make changes to the program and encourage collaborative projects.

The office maintains stakeholder focus groups representing health professionals, health sciences librarians, and public librarians, which provide input on an ongoing basis. This year, a focus group for community colleges was established to obtain input to better serve community colleges with allied health programs.

The GMR is active in providing support for NNLM national initiatives, including research data and public libraries. Contribution to initiatives includes: personnel support for the research data initiative, sponsoring the Public Libraries Symposium at the Medical Library Association (MLA) annual meeting, programming a full-day preconference at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) annual meeting, populating the American Library Association (ALA) Programming Librarian database with NNLM projects, participation on the Consumer Health Information Specialization (CHIS) work group and coordinating the CHIS national sponsorship program.

Year 3 objectives for AIM 1:

OBJECTIVES	
Hold Stakeholder Focus Group meetings online	Complete
Maintain relationship with Resource Libraries through site visits, quarterly meetings, and in-person meeting at AAHSL	Complete
Lead or contribute to national initiatives which support national priorities	Complete
Use newly developed performance measures to evaluate success of GMR office	Complete

- Two to four meetings held annually with each focus group
- Initial site visits made to Resource Libraries in North Dakota and South Dakota
- Quarterly meetings held for Resource Libraries
- In-person meeting for Resource Libraries conducted at AAHSL in November
- Mapped performance measures to office goals and developed a tool to track progress

AIM 2

The GMR will continually strive to improve communications within the NNLM and NLM, and with network members and the community through a variety of communication modes, with the intent to enhance knowledge and understanding of the network's programs and services and to ensure transparency with our peers, network members, and the community during the five years of the grant.

The GMR purchased GovDelivery, a communication software tool, following recommendations from a team of graduate business students from Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa. The software allows the office to target communication to specific audiences, such as public libraries or public health professionals. The office launched monthly newsletters this spring for health professionals, health sciences librarians, and public librarians.

The GMR maintains communication internally with NNLM through committee meetings and participation in such groups as Education meetings, the NNLM Research Data Management Working Group, Evaluation Working Group, CHIS Working Group, PubMed Working Group, YR4 Class Coordinating Working Group, Public Health Working Group, Membership Working Group, Web Working Group, Program Committee, and Steering Committee.

Year 3 objectives for AIM 2:

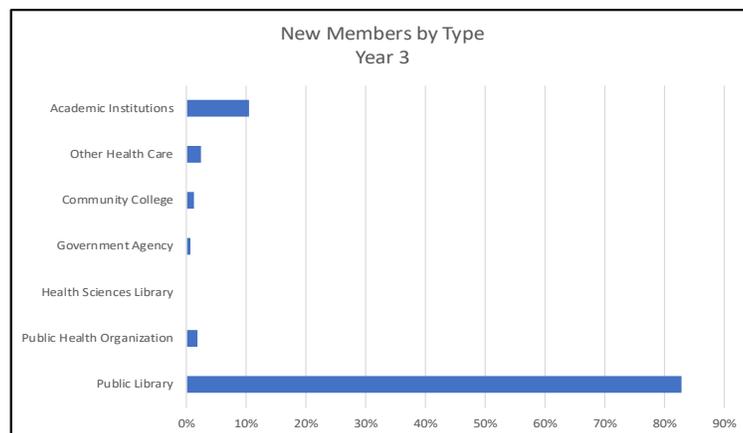
OBJECTIVES	
Implement Contact Management software	Complete
Develop newsletters for member groups (health professionals, health sciences librarians, and public librarians)	Complete
Attend National Network Steering Committee and Program Committee meetings	Complete
Develop and post an annual report on the GMR website to share progress with network members	Complete
Maintain social media, such as Facebook and Twitter	Complete
Maintain ongoing new content on the GMR blog, <i>Midwest Matters</i>	Complete
Attend chapter and state health sciences librarians meetings	Complete

- GovDelivery software implemented in January
- Over 75 blog posts made on *Midwest Matters*
- Over 200 posts made on the Facebook page
- Reached over 100,000 people through Twitter feed
- Made presentations at seven state and chapter health sciences library meetings

AIM 3

The GMR staff will expand and manage the GMR network to enhance services to health care professionals, librarians, and community organizations throughout the five years of the award so that the NNLM mission continues to be met through a distributed network.

During the third year of the grant, 163 new members were added, with the largest number of new members coming from public library and health sciences library organizations. This year, the GMR implemented membership kits for new members, which contain *Libraries Transform* posters and stickers, brochures, a book on outreach, a certificate and a welcome letter.



Year 3 objectives for AIM 3:

OBJECTIVES	
Send certificates and membership kits to new network members	Complete
Implement targeted recruitment plan for community college members, including mailing to non-members	Complete
Develop membership brochures for target populations (public libraries, public health agencies, and community colleges)	In Progress

- 150% increase in new members added from last year
- Membership kits were mailed to 163 new members
- Letters and brochures were sent to 166 community college organizations in the region, which are not yet members
- Postcards promoting membership were mailed to non member public libraries and public health organizations

AIM 4

The GMR staff will strengthen the Network National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan within the Region in order to limit interruption in access to information throughout the Region and nationally during disasters and other emergencies during the five years of the grant.

The GMR maintains a group of Emergency Preparedness coordinators, establishing one coordinator for each state in the region. Coordinators participate in the maintenance of a guide for Emergency Preparedness, which serves as a resource for the region. While the office promoted the use of funding for an emergency preparedness project, no submissions were received. Instead, the office has begun planning a full day of continuing education programming for the Midwest Chapter MLA meeting in October.

Year 3 objectives for AIM 4:

OBJECTIVES	
Maintain state Emergency Preparedness coordinators	Complete
Promote Disaster Information Specialization certificate to state coordinators	Complete
Maintain and promote Emergency Preparedness guide	Complete
Promote funding opportunities for emergency preparedness workshops	Complete

- Coordinator designated for each of the ten states in the region
- Sponsored the Disaster Information Specialization certificate for coordinators
- Emergency Preparedness guide maintained at <https://nnlm.gov/gmr/guides/preparedness>
- Established a work group to plan emergency preparedness continuing education

AIM 5

The GMR staff will increase the number of network members actively and effectively participating in NLM programs and services within the GMR, ensuring that a variety of users have equal access to quality biomedical and health information over the five years of the grant.

GMR staff contributed to discussions surrounding the future of Loansome Doc and supported decision making through facilitating feedback from hospital library members. Due to the decision from NLM to discontinue Loansome Doc, the office was unable to continue the next phase of assessment and promotion of the tool.

Year 3 objectives for AIM 5:

OBJECTIVES	
Promote DOCLINE to network libraries not currently using the software	In Progress
Conduct an assessment of awareness of Loansome Doc among health professionals	Incomplete
Develop and implement a plan to promote Loansome Doc providers in the region to health professionals	Incomplete
Refer members to National DOCLINE Coordinating Office (NDCO) for training and support	Complete

- Over 20 members referred to NDCO for training and support
- Accepted role of NDCO backup in the event of an emergency

AIM 6

The GMR will contribute to the NNLM RD3: *Research for Data Driven Discovery* initiative to increase the number of librarians skilled in supporting health researchers with data management.

The GMR dedicates staff time to the NNLM RD3: *Resources for Data Driven Discovery* initiative, which includes attending working group meetings, maintaining the website, and hosting webinars as a part of the RD3 series. In addition, the office supports research data through a designated award that funded four projects this year. GMR staff developed a new course, *Open Science*, which was developed with a content expert and piloted at the annual Midwest Chapter meeting of the Medical Library Association (MLA). The office continues to collaborate with other regions with teaching *Big Data in Healthcare* on an ongoing basis.

Year 3 objectives for AIM 6:

OBJECTIVES	
Contribute to the data management website	Complete
Contribute to teaching data management courses for NNLM	Complete
Develop and promote Research Data award	Complete
Develop and release introductory course on Open Science for health sciences librarians	Complete
Explore citizen science in the context of data management, fund a citizen science project	Complete
Actively participate in the charge of the NNLM RDM Working Group	Complete

- Taught two courses, *Big Data in Healthcare* and *Open Science*, and hosted one webinar for RD3
- Made four research data awards to academic and public health organizations
- Funded a citizen science project at the University of MN

AIM 7

The GMR staff will develop and implement outreach and education programs that reach health professionals in the Region with a focus on underserved health communities and health professionals that work in these medically challenging communities so that easy access to NLM resources can be obtained regardless of location or economic status, throughout the five years of the award.

The GMR offered three competitive awards this year: Health Information Outreach, Research Data, and Professional Development. Awards were marketed to health professionals and resulted in making awards directly to five health professionals' organizations. The office presents the course *Beyond Our Borders: Providing Multilingual and Multicultural Health Information* on an ongoing basis and presents webinars highlighting resources specific to this audience. This year, a monthly flyer was developed which advertises upcoming training for health professionals, which is disseminated through members of the health professionals' focus group and various listservs.

Designated Partner Outreach Libraries for the GMR exhibit and present training to health professionals to extend the reach of the office. Examples include a presentation on NLM resources for a group of residents at a rural hospital in Iowa and organizing and staffing an exhibit for the GMR at the Academy of Family Practitioners refresher meeting in Minnesota.

The office developed a strategy to reach allied health students through marketing a course module, which can be embedded in various Learning Management Systems (LMS). The GMR is actively seeking a faculty member to partner with to pilot the module within a course system. In the future, the office will use this strategy to introduce future health professionals to NLM resources before they graduate.

"I cannot express what a pleasure it has been to work with the GMR. The project has been so successful that it continues to function beyond the funding cycle."

- Anna Wirta Kosobuski, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Sciences, University of Minnesota - Duluth

Year 3 objectives for AIM 7:

OBJECTIVES	
Revise and offer the <i>Nursing on the Net</i> course to engage public health nurses in the region	Incomplete
Promote awards to health professionals	Complete
Promote NLM resources at state and regional meetings of health professionals	Complete
Pilot and market newly developed NLM course for allied health students to community colleges; embeddable in LMS	In Progress
Exhibit at select regional and national meetings of health professionals	Complete

- SEA coordinator has taken on ownership of *Nursing on the Net*
- Five awards made to public health organizations
- Five training sessions were made to groups of health professionals
- Exhibited at six state and regional health professionals meetings

AIM 8

The GMR staff will ensure that health sciences librarians have the opportunity to keep current on health sciences information topics and resources such as PubMed so that health professionals receive quality support from GMR Network libraries throughout the five years of the grant.

The GMR promoted awards to health sciences librarians and funded the majority of projects to health sciences libraries and librarians. The office develops and promotes course offerings for this audience, including two new courses created for health sciences librarians, *Open Science* and *Precision Medicine*. These courses were presented as continuing education workshops at the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association meeting and are being translated into Moodle courses.

The office organized the *NNLM Journal Club*, a webinar series for health sciences librarians featuring journal articles centered on NLM resources or NIH initiatives. The office contributes to *NNLM Resource Picks*, a bimonthly webinar series featuring various NLM resources. Communication about NLM resources to this group of members is a priority, and presentations are made at health sciences library meetings across the region.

“The resources that were presented during this class will help improve my searching capabilities and expand the number of places that I can search for information for our patrons.”

- Feedback from *Food for Thought: Exploring Nutrition Information Resources*

Year 3 objectives for AIM 8:

OBJECTIVES	
Contribute to and promote course offerings for health sciences librarians through NNLM	Complete
Develop and release new <i>Open Science</i> course for health sciences librarians at Midwest Chapter meeting	Complete
Contribute to the PubMed Working Group to develop new PubMed trainings	Complete
Provide expert speaker webinars for health sciences librarians as a part of the <i>Kernel of Knowledge</i> series	Complete
Promote awards to health sciences librarians	Complete
Present at state health sciences library meetings	Complete

- Developed two new courses
- Organized three *Journal Club* webinars
- Hosted one *NNLM Resource Picks* webinar
- Presented seven webinars aimed at health sciences librarians as a part of the *Kernel of Knowledge* series
- 12 awards made to health sciences library organizations and individuals
- Presentations made at five health sciences library meetings

AIM 9

The GMR staff will increase the number of public health professionals who have new skills in accessing and searching quality health information through online educational opportunities throughout the five years of the grant so that they can easily and effectively access quality information at time of need.

The GMR partnered with the Institute for Public Health Practice (IPHP) at the University of Iowa College of Public Health to develop several online courses for public health professionals. Released last spring was *Serving Diverse Communities*, which teaches professionals how to find data on health disparities, locate information in multiple languages, and understand the importance of culture, cultural competence, and cultural humility within the workplace.

“The clinic I work at has a staff meeting each month. I plan on putting together a brief presentation on the resources we learned about, such as the health resources in multiple languages.”

- Feedback from *From Beyond Our Borders: Providing Multilingual and Multicultural Health Information*

This spring a second course was released, *Dissemination and Disasters*, which teaches professionals how to utilize tools from the National Library of Medicine to access life saving information about disasters. Both courses were added to IPHP’s learning management system, Training-Source, as well as the National TrainingFinder Real-Time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN).

Year 3 objectives for AIM 9:

OBJECTIVES	
Develop a third course for public health training via Iowa Institute for Public Health Practice (IPHP)	Complete
Deliver online courses via Iowa Institute for Public Health Practice (IPHP)’s Training Source and through the Public Health Foundation’s LMS, TRAIN	Complete
Collaborate with NTO to facilitate the inclusion of relevant NNLM courses in TRAIN	Complete
Revise and teach NNLM course, <i>Nursing on the Net</i> , for public health nurses	Incomplete
Explore opportunities to promote Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Certified Public Health (CPH) CE for relevant courses	Complete

- Released two courses developed with IPHP, *Serving Diverse Communities* and *Dissemination and Disasters*
- Participated in establishing CHES accreditation of public health courses
- Contributed to establishing a process for depositing courses in TRAIN

AIM 10

The GMR staff will improve GMR consumer’s understanding of quality health information resources available on the Internet so that they make better informed health care decisions throughout the five years of the award.

The GMR connects with consumers by engaging public libraries across the region and nationally. In May, the office supported the Public Libraries Symposium at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association, providing funding for public library attendees and assisting in organizing speakers for the program.

This fall, the office offered a full day preconference session of *Stand Up for Health* at the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) in Illinois, which attracted over 70 participants. Letters were mailed to state libraries offering to present the *Stand Up for Health* workshop for public librarians in each state, which resulted in workshops coordinated in partnership with state libraries in Illinois and Iowa.

“I was a participant in the ARSL Stand Up For Health Pre-Conference this past September in Springfield, IL. I am excited to share that I have [obtained] CHIS Level I and I will be sharing much of what I learned with 20 public library staff in our region this month at a workshop.”

- Feedback from *Stand Up for Health* at ARSL

The GMR office coordinates the national CHIS sponsorship program and developed new marketing materials and a webpage with an online application for the program. In addition, GMR staff participated in the CHIS working group, mapping NNLM courses to new competencies.

Year 3 objectives for AIM 10:

OBJECTIVES	
Promote Consumer Health Information Specialization sponsorship program	Complete
Deliver newly revised course for public librarians online on an ongoing basis	Complete
Deliver courses on health information to public librarians and public library patrons through partner outreach libraries	Complete
Promote awards to public librarians	Complete
Provide expert speaker webinars for public librarians as a part of the <i>Kernel of Knowledge</i> series	Complete
Present at select national, regional, and state meetings for public librarians	Complete
Exhibit at select regional and national meetings of public librarians through partner outreach libraries	Complete
Disseminate results of Healthy Communities initiative and assessment and participate in planning for future partnership with PLA	In Progress
Plan and initiate a consumer health information bootcamp at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries	Complete

- *Stand Up for Health*, offered online quarterly, has reached over 500 participants
- Partner Outreach Libraries completed six training sessions for public library staff
- Made five awards to public library organizations
- Presented four webinars aimed at public libraries as part of the *Kernel of Knowledge* series
- Presented training at five regional and national public library meetings
- Exhibited at three regional public library meetings
- Preconference at ARSL reached over 70 participants



NNLM All of Us National Program

The GMR contributes to the mission of the NNLM *All of Us* National Program in “supporting consumer access of high quality health information to Underrepresented in Biomedical Research communities throughout the United States while raising awareness of precision medicine and the importance of the NIH *All of Us* Research Program.” The office supported the mission through organizing a national launch, facilitating member organizations to host a traveling education center, funding health information outreach projects in public libraries, and collaborating on a book club and consumer health information kiosk.

“We are so grateful for your generosity in sending these books since we are a rural, small library without resources to have such an informational and instructive discussion. It was just right for our group and we hope to participate again in the future with another book.”
- Priscilla Backstrom, Library Director, Maddock Community Library

Collaboration with the research program involved organizing an *All of Us* National Launch event on behalf of the National Library of Medicine and its co-host, the Delta Research and Educational Foundation. Working with national marketing and production companies, the GMR organized a community health fair in Kansas City, Missouri in May which reached over 700 attendees. Additionally, to support the *All of Us* Journey, the national Mobile Education and Enrollment Center, the GMR facilitated connections with member organizations to host the exhibit as it traveled through the region.

The GMR activated public libraries in the region through funding health information projects, which included materials on the *All of Us* Research Program in order to increase awareness of the program. The GMR also collaborated with other NNLM regions on this project; one of the most successful activities was a collaboration with the Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) in developing the popular NNLM *Reading Club*, based on health topics which are a priority in the *All of Us* Research Program. The reading club launched in November, and shipped over 50 kits to public libraries in the region, totaling nearly 500 books. A second collaboration was initiated this year with the South Central Region (SCR) in planning consumer health information kiosks for installation in public libraries. The kiosks, which will be centrally managed through the National Web Services Office (NWSO) are to ship out to approximately 30 public libraries in the region during the summer of 2019.