

Christina Hester, PhD, MPH

Research Director, National Research Network
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Christina M. Hester, PhD, MPH, is the Research Director of the National Research Network through the American Academy of Family Physicians. Christina joined AAFP in August of 2017. She leads the development and conduct of practice-based research and dissemination and implementation studies fielded within the AAFP NRN. Dr. Hester has a PhD in microbiology and has been performing primary care research since 2010. She has established a translational research program incorporating her skills in basic and behavioral science and has expertise in implementing research in the primary care clinical setting.

As part of her translational research program, Dr. Hester has built behavioral interventions for patients and has experience incorporating new processes into practice workflow for clinicians and clinic staff. Much of her work has focused on understanding and reducing health disparities and on overall improvement of public health and the delivery of care in the primary care setting.

Before coming to the AAFP, Christina served as faculty in the Family Medicine Department at the University of Kansas Medical Center and Assistant Director for Research in their Family Medicine Residency Program where she led translational, community-based, and practice-based projects and mentored all family medicine residents through inception, implementation, and completion of primary care, community health, and health disparities related research projects.