

## Response to Reviewer Questions - NN/LM MidContinental Region

J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library  
Columbia, MO  
Proposal No. 4-M-04

### Criterion 1: Technical Approach

The purpose of the RFP was to solicit projects. Please explain how the credentialing program relates to the purpose of the RFP.

The credentialing program we want to develop for the Family Practice Inquiries Network librarians would be part of the infrastructure for the librarian group. There are two fundamental purposes that underlie the desire we have to create a credentialing program.

1. The level of knowledge required by librarians who contribute to the evidence based literature needs to be sufficiently sophisticated for the level of work we are asking them to do. The credentialing program will acknowledge their completion of the training program and allow them to use other evidence-based training, teaching, publishing, or other work to validate that they have the understanding to perform at the level that we must have in order to meet the expectations of the physician authors and editors. We seek experienced librarians, and the credentialing program would give us a pathway for validation of knowledge and skill in evidence-based medicine principles and techniques.
2. The work is viewed as an addition to the normal librarian workload. This work is generally done for professional development, credit for publication that becomes part of a promotion/tenure portfolio, points toward an AHIP portfolio, or some other reason other than being their primary work. We are working to create ties that would build a service relationship between the local residency program and its supporting library, but in some cases, the library has chosen not to become involved, or there is no library group strong enough to support the work without additional outside librarian assistance. In these instances, we must recruit librarians from outside of the physician author's institution to perform the work of the consortium. There needs to be a professional reward for librarians who are willing to do this work. We feel that a recognized credentialing program would provide an avenue for this kind of professional recognition.

In relating this credentialing program back to the RFP, we realize that it may be more basic in nature than was intended for these projects to address. While we feel that we do need to do this as part of our general activity, we recognize that it may truly be out of scope for this project. We are willing to drop this goal from the project if the reviewers feel this would be appropriate.

There are no questions for Criterion 2 or Criterion 3.