Dear Rubie and NIMSS Reviewers,

Please accept our revised proposal for consideration.  This proposal has been significantly revised in response to the comments we received.  We appreciated the prior endorsement of our submission as an Education/Extension and Research Activity.  However,  we feel our team’s collective impact will be significantly enhanced if we proceed instead as a standard multistate activity.  We have taken the comments of the MAC to heart (“Proposal is well developed with strong membership but still lacking details in research activities. MAC expects that as group starts working together that research and methodology will be better defined.") in our revisions and have significantly changed the proposal to add a much clearer, and we think stronger,  research section.  Our changes include three major elements.   First, we have included the explicit hypotheses which the research will address.  Second, we have developed a major new and specific empirical research agenda employing   social networking analysis methodologies that are well suited to test our hypotheses in the first instance and help crystallize future research agendas as well.   We have phased the data collection activities across the life of the project so that we will be able to make comparisons over time to track changes in the network structures we will be measuring.  Third, we have worked with most of the membership of our multistate group to more fully coordinate their work with ours within a coherent framework for research.  Because our multistate team will take complementary approaches to the broad and complex research question that forms the basis of our common interest, we will be able triangulate as a group on results that provide a richer perspective than any of us would be able to arrive at on our own.

Sincerely, John

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