The Women’s Health Initiative: History, Contributions and Ongoing Research

Abstract:
The Women’s Health Initiative was launched in 1992 following some years of developmental work. It enrolled 161,808 healthy postmenopausal women at 40 U.S. clinical centers. A randomized, controlled trial among 68,132 such women examined the health effects of postmenopausal hormone therapy, a low-fat dietary pattern, and calcium and vitamin D supplementation, in a partial factorial design. The remaining 93,676 women enrolled in a prospective cohort study. The hormone therapy component led to a greatly reduced use of these preparations, nationally and internationally, especially combined estrogen plus progestin therapy and can be projected to have resulted in 15,000 to 20,000 fewer women/year developing breast cancer in the United States alone. Reduced breast cancer was also suggested for the low-fat dietary intervention, and that trial has stimulated much additional research on the use of dietary exposure biomarkers to strengthen nutritional epidemiology research. These topics will be summarized, along with brief comments on ongoing WHI research, and on needs and opportunities in population science research more generally.

Monday, April 18, 2016
4:00 PM

Lawrence P. & Ann Estes Klamon Room, 8030
Rollins School of Public Health
Claudia Nance Rollins Building, 8th Floor
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(Reception immediately following the lecture)

http://www.sph.emory.edu/cms/departments_centers/bios/brogan_lecture.html