

Impact of Twinning between HTC's: Incremental Gain with Longitudinal Experience

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Introduction

- The role of twinning programs between Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs) has already been firmly established as a fruitful endeavor for both parties
- Twinning is a program that partners two HTCs in order to improve hemophilia care between the two centers, specifically focusing on the developing countries
- This undertaking is completely voluntary, the concerned parties spend time and effort outside of their normal routine
- Purpose:** To investigate whether the goals of twinning programs are catered specifically to each center's needs rather than a repetition of a prior twinning project

Methods

- This project focused on the twinning programs between the Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, USA with two separate hemophilia centers in India (KHS Davangere and CMC Ludhiana)
- The aforementioned joint programs were compared in terms of their outlined goals prior to the start of the program and the actual outcome after 4 years
- With KHS Davangere, the initial goals focused on streamlining patient registration, providing input into basic clinical patient care, coordinating educational updates and lectures, and providing factor support
- Regarding CMC Ludhiana, the goals were to help create a comprehensive HTC, focus on establishment of a specialty laboratory, exchange educational discourse, provide factor support, and create a referral center within its geographical region

Results

| Major Goals & Outcomes | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-----|
| Type | Measures | Centers | | | |
| | | KHS '05-'09 | CMC '12-'16 | AHS '18? | |
| Administrative | Registry set up | + | + | | N/A |
| | Creation of comprehensive clinics | + | + | | |
| | Visits by personnel | + | + | | |
| | Spearhead future growth | + | + | | |
| Clinical & Educational | Factor Support | + | + | | |
| | Didactics | + | + | | |
| | Rx algorithms | - | + | | |
| | Case discussions | + | + | | |
| Lab | Assays | - | + | | |
| | Devise/Instruments | + | - | | |

Table 1: Comparison of the goals and outcomes between HFHS and KHS with HFHS and CMC

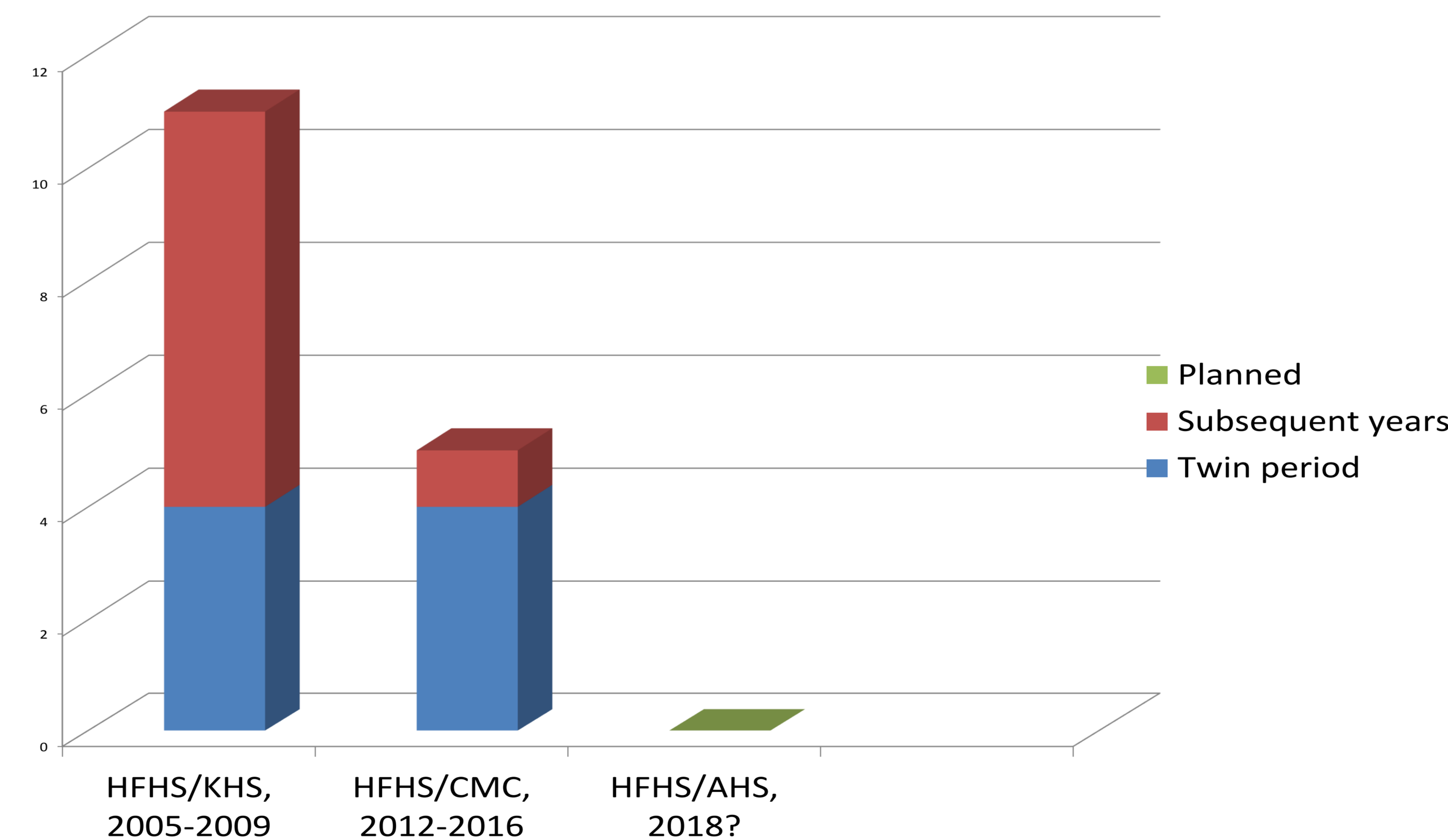


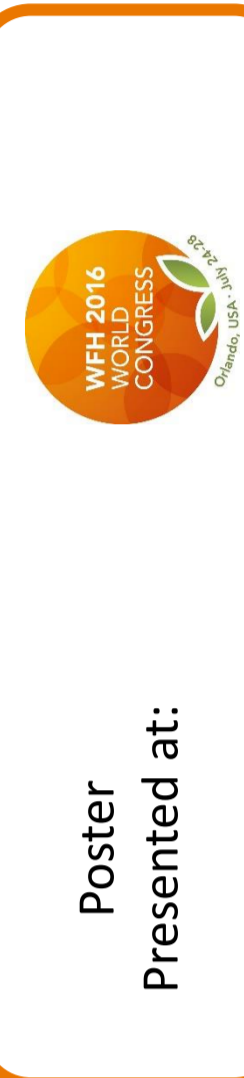
Figure 1: Number of years each center has worked together during and after the twinning program

Results

- Each of the twinning projects had a common core of goals, including development of patient registries, setting up of comprehensive clinics, transfer of factors, and mutual discussion of management of clinical cases as seen in table 1
- Each twin had unique requirements that was customized around the specific needs of each twin, such as creation of treatment algorithms in the HFHS/CMC twin, and laboratory instrumentation set up in the HFHS/KHS twin
- Although a twinning project is created to span a period of 4 years, interaction between the twinning personnel has continued well after the end of each twin period (Figure 1) and has led to ongoing growth of the respective centers
- CMC Ludhiana also collaborated with the state government to become a center for spearheading the development of other HTCs
- The HFHS and CMC twinning program was recognized as Twins of the Year in 2013

Conclusion

- Twinning between different HTCs is not only successful but also allows for specific desired goals and final outcomes
- The goals of any two twins don't have to necessarily be the same and should be customized around the needs of the concerned organizations
- Experience gained in a prior twinning program can even be harnessed to better improve potential, future twinning endeavors
- A center that has once twinned (HFHS/KHS) can have a fruitful partnership with a subsequent twin (CMC)
- Future work:** Currently, the Aluva HTC and HFHS are seeking a customized plan in which educational standards and strategic planning may be improved at Aluva
- Long-term Goal for all HTCs:** Establish a system such that HTCs that were formerly twinned may pass on their experiences to new twinning programs that struggle with similar issues



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