

The Wisconsin Research & Education Network Annual Report 2009-10

The Wisconsin Research and Education Network (WREN) is a statewide practice-based research network of over 100 primary care physicians and academic researchers who conduct translational research projects in “real world” family practices across Wisconsin.



. . . for our health

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I. Mission Statement

The mission of the Wisconsin Research and Education Network is to improve health outcomes for the people of Wisconsin through education, and through promoting and conducting primary care research in partnership with primary care clinicians and the communities they serve.

II. WREN Staff

Paul Smith, MD, WREN Director

Michael Grasmick, PhD, Network Coordinator

Heidi Jackson, Administrative Assistant

Kelly Kwiatkowski, Project Manager/Technical Writer

Peggy O'Halloran, Regional Research Coordinator

Cindy Colombo, Regional Research Coordinator

Katherine Pronschinske, Regional Research Coordinator

Student hourly

III. WREN Infrastructure and Services

The Wisconsin Research and Education Network (WREN) is a statewide practice-based research network of over 150 primary care physicians and academic researchers who conduct translational research projects in “real world” family practices across Wisconsin. WREN provides investigators an established, efficiently run primary care research infrastructure that includes:

- A “real world” laboratory for conducting research that answers questions important to primary care.
- Research support services like grant proposal review and preparation, IRB consultation, subject recruitment, data collection, data analysis and manuscript consultation.
- Network facilitation of statewide collaborations between academic researchers, physicians, administrators and organizations.

IV. WREN Membership

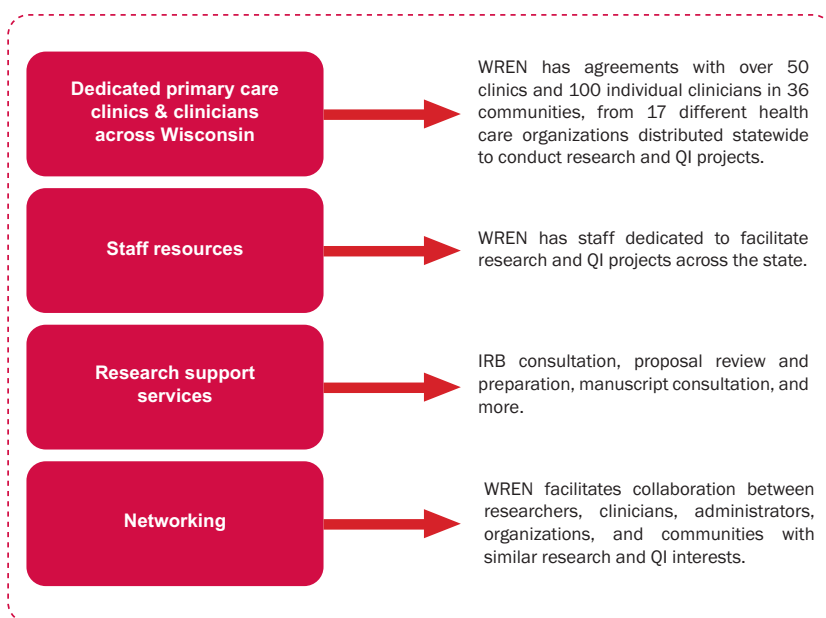
WREN membership is available to primary care clinicians who actively practice in Wisconsin or academic researchers whose primary place of employment is located in Wisconsin. WREN confirms membership annually and offers a choice of becoming a dues-paying general member, an affiliate member, or a student member. Currently WREN membership includes 26 general members, and 125 affiliate members (151 total).

V. WREN Survey Group

WREN and the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians began planning a joint venture to recruit a group of primary care clinicians to participate in a series of brief electronic surveys. Surveys will address both policy issues and research. Members of this group will have the opportunity to influence WAFP internal policies and positions on state legislative issues affecting primary care, as well as contribute to research that will create new medical knowledge.

Surveys will be sent by email 12 times or less over a year and most will take about 5 minutes or less to complete. Participants will receive preliminary results within days of closing the survey. Clinicians who join this effort will have the benefit of becoming a WREN Affiliate member, will receive a \$100 registration discount off the annual registration fee for the Wisconsin Research and Quality Improvement Forum, and will receive a report about their participation rate compared to peers’.

WREN Infrastructure



VI. WREN Clinics

WREN's network consists of over 50 clinics in 36 communities. One key feature of the network is that WREN maintains full contractual agreements with five medical organizations. These "Full Support Clinics" are assigned a WREN Regional Research Coordinator (RRC) and receive \$10,000 per year to offset the cost of clinic staff time to facilitate implementation of WREN projects on site. In addition WREN works with the clinic to identify the Practice Liaison, an individual who serves as a conduit between the clinic administration and staff, and the WREN RRC assigned to that clinic. Full Support Clinics in 2009 included:

- Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. (Milwaukee, WI)
 - Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center
 - MLK Heritage Health Center
- Aurora Health Care (Milwaukee, WI)
 - Aurora Sinai Family Care Center
 - St. Luke's Family Practice Center
 - Aurora Wiselives Center
- Mile Bluff Clinic (Mauston, WI)
- Medical Associates (Dubuque, IA)
- Lake Tomah Clinic (Tomah, WI)

Also during the year, Osceola Medical Center no longer participates with WREN as a Full Support Clinic. Plans to bring on Richland Medical Center as a Full Support Clinic began late in the year.

VII. Projects

AZMATICS: AzithroMycin/Asthma: Trial in Community Settings

This project is funded from several sources including Pfizer and the Joint Grants Awards Program of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)/AAFP Foundation. David Hahn, MD is the principal investigator (PI) and Michael Grasmick, PhD, is the co-PI. This project is a pilot double-blind randomized controlled trial of the treatment of adult asthma with azithromycin. This project enrolled 74 patients and is slated to end summer 2010.



WREN Clinic Locations



Quality of Life and Depression as Determinants of Treatment Adherence in Hypertensive Patients

The project is funded by the American Heart Association with Leonelo Bautista, PhD, MPH, DrPH in the University of Wisconsin Department of Population Health serving as principal investigator. During the recruitment phase of this project, WREN recruited 220 patients with newly diagnosed hypertension who were newly being started on antihypertensive medications. Patients will complete a series of self-administered questionnaires about health-related quality of life and depression over a one-year period of time. Data collection for this project is ongoing.

A Human Factors Intervention to Reduce Risk In Primary Care Of The Elderly

Building upon the findings of a previous WREN study, this project seeks to evaluate an intervention to improve care



of the elderly in primary care practices. This three-year project is funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) with Bentzi Karsh, PhD in the UW Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering serving as principal investigator. This project will involve a care coordinator calling patients one week before their visit to clarify the agenda for the visit and gather all information needed to address the agenda issues and brief the care team the day of the visit. Clinic recruitment is complete and the research activities are scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Assessing Risk in Ambulatory Medication Use after Hospital Transitions

This project is part of a training grant for new researcher career development for Tosha Wetterneck, MD. Dr. Wetterneck and her research assistant are evaluating three Wisconsin practices to assess and identify hazards during the transition from hospital care to ambulatory care. This project has completed data collection at two practices and continues data collection in the third and final practice. The findings will provide pilot data for a future federal grant.

Improving and Expanding Primary Care Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease

This one-year pilot project is funded by the UW Institute of Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) with David Feldstein, MD in the UW Department of Medicine as principal investigator. This study used a needs assessment (Phase 1) to develop a web-based patient management tool to track the treatment of patients with Stage 3 chronic kidney disease (Phase 2). This electronic tool will now be used in clinics to test its feasibility in an everyday primary care setting (Phase 3). Twenty physicians throughout the state have been recruited to test the tool over a six-month intervention period. Data collection is currently underway.

Establishing Benchmarks for the Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety

This project is funded by an AHRQ contract. Lyle J. Fagnon, MD from the Oregon Practice-based Research Network is the principal investigator. Paul Smith, MD, WREN Director, serves as the local PI. This is a collaboration of 12 practice-based research networks and 300 practices to establish a national benchmarking database for an AHRQ developed survey about the patient safety environment of primary care practices. WREN conducted the survey in 47 general pediatric, general internal medicine and family medicine practices and is in the data entry and analysis phase.

Improving the Health Literacy Environment of Wisconsin Hospitals - A Collaborative Model

This project is funded by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Paul Smith, MD, serves as the principal investigator. This project trained 15 adult students enrolled in the GED program at Omega School in Madison, WI to be consultants to St. Marys Hospital to improve the hospital's health literacy environment. Data collection and the final project report are complete.

Acute Pain Dental and Medical Treatment Survey, A PEARL and WREN Study

This project is a collaboration with New York University's Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning (PEARL), and seeks to survey dentists and physicians about attitudes and practices related to treatment of acute pain. This project is in the survey development phase.

Interaction Analysis as a Novel Approach to Understanding Patient Trust in Physician and Patient Outcomes.

This project is funded by a training grant awarded to the principal investigator, Enid Montague, PhD. The factors that influence the development of a trusting relationship between a physician and his or her patients will be evaluated through analysis of video recording of doctor-patient interactions and a post visit patient interview. Twenty clinicians and 100 patients will be recruited. This project is in the development phase.

VIII. Strategic Planning

WREN leaders convened in the April 2009 to participate in an all-day strategic planning session to discuss a vision for WREN and to identify the kind of impact WREN would like to have over the next five years. The session resulted with five overarching initiatives:

- Continue to increase the number of research projects and capacity to do research
- Sustain current and develop new collaborations
- Increase the number of new clinician members
- Increase dissemination of research findings
- Measure the effectiveness of activities

Using these initiatives as their guide, WREN staff developed a comprehensive, detailed plan complete with action items and objectives for the next two years.

IX. Annual Meetings

WREN's annual Convocation of Practices was held May 8-9, 2009 in Stevens Point, WI. Thirty-five WREN members and friends of WREN attended. Dr. Jim Mold, Director of the Oklahoma Physicians Resource/Research Network (OKPRN), one of the leading practice-based research centers in the U.S. conducted a plenary session on lessons learned after eight years of working with primary care clinicians. He discussed ways to implement more effective and efficient administrative and clinical processes. In addition to the plenary session seven research talks were given.

In fall of 2009, forty-six WREN members and friends of WREN attended the Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum on November 12-13, 2009 in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Plenary presenters included Jon Temte, MD, PhD, who spoke about influenza, pandemics and medicine; Tom Sinsky, MD and Chris Sinsky, MD, who presented on the patient-

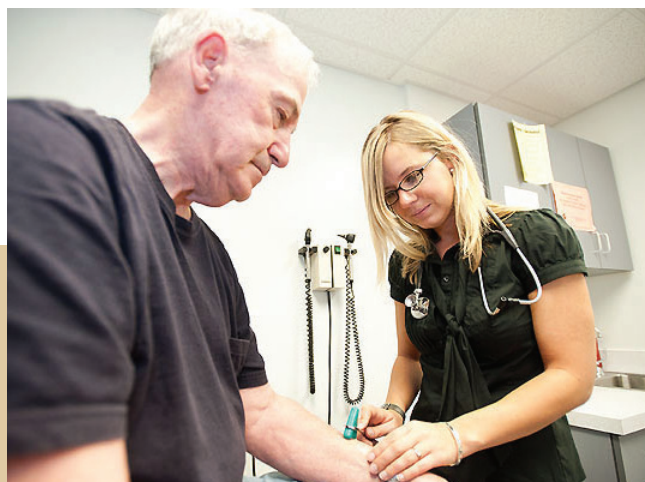
tered medical home; and Leigh LoPresti, MD, who discussed genetics and primary care. Additionally, a wide range of presentations were given, including primary care treatment of chronic kidney disease, orthopedic surgery and venous thrombosis, rotavirus vaccine use, hazards in the primary care of elderly patients, and lifestyles of the poor and underserved.

In late 2009, the WREN Steering Committee approved combining the Convocation of Practices and the Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum into one annual meeting per year. In September 2010, the Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Middleton WI.

Also new for 2010, WREN will hold its first annual Practice Liaisons' Retreat to improve communication and support for Full Support Clinics. WREN Practice Liaisons work very closely with the WREN Regional Research Coordinators to manage WREN projects at the Full Support Clinics in Wisconsin and Iowa. The one-day retreat will provide a forum for liaisons and WREN staff to discuss current projects, to meet others doing this work, and to learn more about practice-based research.

X. Communications

This year WREN produced and widely distributed a WREN brochure that describes WREN, its services, and how stakeholders can get involved. WREN also published two WREN newsletters, an annual report, and several posters as well as updated membership materials for both print and the web. The regional research coordinators developed a Regional Research Coordinator (RRC) manual as well as a new publication, called the Liaison Quarterly.



X. Presentations

Colombo C, Bautista L, Vera Calla L. Preliminary Results from the Quality of Life and Depression as Determinants of Treatment Adherence in Hypertensive Patients Study. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality National Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Conference June, 2009.

Pronschinske K, Feldstein D, Jaffery J, Rieselbach R, Grasmick M, Smith P. Improving and Expanding Primary Care Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease. Agency for Health Research and Quality National Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Conference June, 2009.

Smith PD, Curro FA, Thompson VP, Craig RG. Determining the Infrastructure Support for Recruitment, Retention and Conduct of PBRN Clinical Studies. Agency for Health Research and Quality National Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Conference June, 2009.

Temte JL, Grasmick ME, O'Halloran P, Kietzer L, Karsh B, Potter B, Beasley J, Smith P, Doherty B. Assessing Primary Care Workload using the NASA-TLX. Agency for Health Research and Quality National Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Conference June, 2009.

Improving the Health Literacy Environment of Wisconsin Hospitals - A Collaborative Model. Poster presentation at Health Literacy Annual Research Conference, Washington, DC, October, 2009.

John W. Beasley, MD, Ben-Tzion Karsh, Jon Temte, Jamie A. Lapin, Tosha Wetterneck, Paul Smith, A. Joy Rivera-Rodriguez. Information chaos in primary care: Implications for patient safety. Abstract accepted for 2010 World Organization of Family Doctors, May 2010.

Hahn D, Grasmick M, Colombo C and Pronchinske K. AZMATICS – AZithroMycin Asthma Trial In Community Settings. Poster presentation at the Department of Population Health Sciences 50th Anniversary Symposium, August 27-28, 2009.

Grasmick M. Improving the Health Literacy Environment of Wisconsin Hospitals-A Collaborative Model. Poster presentation at UW Health Quality Week, October 19 – 23, 2009, Madison, WI.

Smith P, Gaard S, Erikson M, Mireles O, and Grasmick. Improving the Health Literacy Environment of Wisconsin Hospitals - A Collaborative Model. 2009 Wisconsin Primary Care Research and Quality Improvement Forum, November 12 - 13, Wisconsin Dells, WI (poster).

Hahn D, Grasmick M, Colombo C and Pronchinske K. AZMATICS – AZithroMycin Asthma Trial In Community Settings. 2009 Wisconsin Primary Care Research and Quality Improvement Forum, November 12 - 13, Wisconsin Dells, WI (poster).

Grasmick M. Taking WREN Surveys: An Uncomplicated , Fast and Rewarding Approach to Contribute to Primary Care Research and Quality Improvement. Wisconsin Primary Care Research and Quality Improvement Forum, November 12 - 13, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Pronschinske K. Building WREN's Capacity Through Strengthening Relationships with Full Support Practices. Wisconsin Primary Care Research and Quality Improvement Forum, November 12 - 13, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Smith, P. "Health Literacy: The Missing Demographic." 36th Annual Meeting of the North American Primary Care Research Group (workshop).





XII. Publications

Rabago D, Zgierska A, Peppard P, Bamber A. "The prescribing patterns of Wisconsin family physicians surrounding saline nasal irrigation for upper respiratory conditions." WMJ. 2009 May;108(3):145-50. [PMID: 19552352]

Temte JL and Grasmick ME. "Recruiting primary care clinicians for public health and bioterrorism surveillance." WMJ. 2009 Apr;108(2):104-8. [PMID 19437937].

XIII. Fund raising

Last year, WREN established a University of Wisconsin Foundation WREN Endowment fund. During our first appeal in the fall of 2008, WREN received \$24,268. In fall of 2009 WREN completed mailing of second annual appeal and has to date received \$2100 in private donations. As part of the annual appeal WREN developed and distributed its first stewardship report. Gifts from private donations have made it possible for physicians and researchers in training to attend the Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum. This year WREN sponsored three trainees and one medical student to attend via sponsorship by one generous donor. WREN is also expanding its development efforts to organizational sponsorship for the WREN annual meeting.

The WREN Fund

Private donations 2009 appeal \$2,100

Private donations 2008 appeal \$8,245

The Wisconsin Academy
of Family Physicians (WAFP) \$8,023

UW-Madison Department
of Family Medicine \$8,000

WREN Fund Total \$39,942*

XIV. Budget

During 2009-10 WREN had a total operating budget of \$474,438. This funding was from a diverse mix of sources including Intstitute for Clinical and Translational Research-Community Academic Partnership (ICTR-CAP), Department of Family Medicine, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), American Academy of Family Physicians-Foundation (AAFP), Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP), Intstitute for Clinical and Translational (ICTR) Research Type 2 Pilot Grant, American Heart Association and the Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR). The table below illustrates the funding source as percent of the total.

FY 2009-10 Funding Sources	Amount Funding	Percent Total
ICTR-CAP	\$293,375	62%
Dept of Family Medicine	\$51,416	11%
American Heart Association	\$48,714	10%
AHRQ (PRA2)	\$35,222	7%
PEARL	\$14,483	3%
AHRQ (SOPS)	\$11,962	3%
AAFP Foundation (Azomatics)	\$7,458	2%
AAFP Foundation (Health Literacy)	\$4,400	1.0%
ICTR Pilot (CKD)	\$3,278	1.0%
Donations/Gifts	\$2,100	0.4%
WiNHR	\$2,030	0.4%
Total	\$474,438	

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Nancy Nankivil

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Zorba Paster, MD

Dean Health System

Larry Pheifer

WI Academy of Family Physicians

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Wisconsin Hospital Association

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