How WReN became WREN
the Wisconsin Research and Education Network

Jon Temte MD/PhD
Former WReN Medical Student
Former WReN Resident
Former WReN > WREN Director

A brief history of WReN

- From 1987 through 2000, WReN functioned well
  - Well attended annual meeting
    - Presentations
    - Business
  - Westwood Conference Center
    - Wausau, Wisconsin
    - Home base for meeting
  - Lots of Productivity

Transitions

- 2000
  - Due to funding changes and the departure of key personnel, WReN entered a quiescent phase for 18 months

- October 2000 – March 2001
  - UW-DFM created a Task force to make recommendations for the future of WReN
    - Increase funding for 3 years
    - Specific expectations and metrics
    - Recommendations were rejected
Near-death experience
- A small group of WReN clinicians attended the March 2002 Convocation of the American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network
  - David Hahn
  - Terry Hankey
  - Leon Redant
  - Paul Smith
  - Jon Temte
- Decided to reconstitute WReN
  - applying for an AHRQ PRBRN infrastructure grant
  - application funded in September 2002
  - allowed restructuring, re-engineering, rejuvenation

Resuscitation
- 2001: Jon Temte — PI on the grant — was named WReN Director
- The infrastructure support funded the recruitment of a network coordinator
  - PRINS_1: Network Clinician Profile (n=61)
  - PRINS_2: Network Patient Profile (n=75)
- WReN was able to successfully compete for a second AHRQ grant
  - evaluate the recruitment and performance of primary care clinicians for sentinel surveillance
- This grant allowed the hiring of a part-time research specialist
  - Michael Grasmick, PhD

Re-Emergence
- April 2004: At the WReN Convocation of Clinicians, the organization was renamed to emphasize a commitment to the translation and dissemination of primary care oriented findings to primary care practices, clinicians and patients
  - WREN – Wisconsin Research and Education Network
- May, 2004: WAFP Executive Committee voted to sever their financial relationship with WREN
  - wished to “get out of the business of doing research”
- Due to historic ties and a convergence of priorities, WREN was integrated into the UW Department of Family Medicine
Re-Structuring

- July 2006:
  - Jon Temte (over-committed), stepped down as WREN Director
  - Paul Smith assumed the reins with new vigor
- 2007: CTSA – need I say more

WREN
The Rapid Growth Years

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Supported by the University of Wisconsin Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR), funded through an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), grant number 1 UL1 RR025011

The ICTR Effect

- Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR)
  - Increase in WREN funding 1/07
- Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA)
  - Awarded 10/07
Rapid Growth

• Added staff
  ▪ Administrative assistant
  ▪ Regional Research Coordinators

• Developed Committees
  ▪ Steering Committee
  ▪ Advisory Committee

Rapid Growth

• Strategic investment of time/funding
  ▪ Giving away skills and time is not a sustainable strategy

• Strategic plan

• Advertise ourselves
  ▪ Newsletter
  ▪ National presentations

Rapid Growth

• Nurtured existing relationships
  ▪ UW Department of Family Medicine
  ▪ WI Academy of Family Physicians
  ▪ UW Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering

• Outreach for funded projects
  ▪ New PIs
  ▪ Other PBRNs
  ▪ Other UW groups and organizations
WREN Evolved

Brand New Logo

WREN Evolved

Brand New Bird

WREN Evolved

WREN →