

The WREN Review

A publication of the Wisconsin Research & Education Network

Summer 2009

WREN recruits forty-nine Wisconsin clinics for patient safety survey

WREN recruited 49 clinics to participate in a national primary care patient safety survey, nearly double the number of clinics requested for the study. WREN is one of 12 practice based research networks (PBRNs) and 300 practices participating in this study. The purpose of the study is to establish a national database to characterize the patient safety environment of primary care practices. The project administers a survey developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, called *The Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety*.

Clinics were recruited in the spring and received survey materials in July. WREN research coordinators are introducing the survey at some practices as well as fielding questions while clinic staff work on completing the surveys. After data collection is complete, sometime in September, practices will receive a confidential report that compares their patient safety culture with other medical offices across the state and the nation. WREN staff will visit clinics this fall to help practices interpret the results of these reports.

This project is a unique, national collaboration and presents WREN the opportunity to work with and learn from other PBRNs, as well as locally,

with UW Health family medicine, internal medicine and pediatric practices participating along with several WREN practices. Results from this study will not only establish reliable patient safety benchmarks, they will raise awareness about patient safety, health care quality, medical errors, error reporting, safety and organizational climate and culture.

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Sara Stalland, WREN student hourly, prepares massive mailing of surveys to Wisconsin clinics.

Register online for the 2009 Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum

www.fammed.wisc.edu/research/wren/meetings/2009-forum
Registration deadline: Monday, October 5, 2009

Oklahoma PBRN Director gives plenary at annual meeting, Treder and Erickson recognized for leadership

Dr. Jim Mold, Director of the Oklahoma Physicians Resource/Research Network (OKPRN), one of the leading practice-based research centers in the U.S., addressed 35 WREN members and friends of WREN at WREN's annual Convocation of Practices May 8-9, 2009 in Stevens Point, WI. Dr. Mold gave a talk on lessons learned after eight years of working with primary care clinicians to implement more effective and efficient administrative and clinical processes. He also held an informal workshop where he opened up a dialogue with participants to discuss and generate ideas on how to engage clinicians and patients to adopt a patient-centered, preventive care model in primary care practices. Dr. Mold is currently developing technology to support this model of care.

In addition to the plenary session and workshop, seven research talks were given. David Hahn, MD, presented on patient-clinician shared decision making. Howard Bailey, MD, gave a talk on cancer chemoprevention, how chemoprevention agents are discovered and developed, approved treatments and current chemoprevention

trials. David Feldstein, MD, talked about his research project *Improving Primary Care Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease*. Bentzi Karsh, PhD presented his study on hazards in the primary care of elderly patients. Leonelo Bautista, MD, PhD discussed his project on hypertensive medication adherence. Two researchers from the UW School of Pharmacy, Michele Chui, PharmD, PhD and Betty Chewning, PhD presented a talk on the Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative (WPQC), a new pharmacy practice-based research network working with WREN, and Dr. Paul Smith gave an update on his health literacy project with St. Mary's Hospital to test a collaborative model between hospital staff and adult literacy students.

During lunch the first day, WREN Director Paul Smith recognized Rod Erickson, MD from Lake Tomah Clinic and Paul Treder, APNP from Waushara Family Physicians for their leadership and commitment to WREN. Each of them received a commendation from Governor Doyle and a commemorative glycée reproduction of Laura Smith's watercolor of a wren.



Rod Erickson and Paul Treder receive commendation from the Governor's Office for their leadership and participation with WREN.



Laura Smith's *Wren*, watercolor, 2009.

2009 Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum

November 12-13, 2009 | Wisconsin Dells, WI

Call for Papers

Submit a research abstract, quality improvement project, poster or workshop for presentation at the Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum in Wisconsin Dells, November 12-13, 2009.

Go to www.wren.wisc.edu for more details.

Deadline for submission: September 4, 2009



Looking strategically toward the future and other WREN news



WREN leadership and staff have done quite a bit of planning these past six months. The leadership completed a strategic planning session in April, which you can read about on page 4. WREN staff has been busy putting meat on the plan, identifying action items and specific projects that will help WREN accomplish its 2–5 year goals.

On the research project front, I'm delighted to tell you that WREN is in the home stretch of a project called The Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety or SOPS as we like to call it (read more on page 1). This is our first joint project with the UW General Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Department. I have to tell you that clinic recruitment for this project was a huge success. We were able to nearly double the number of clinics we were asked to recruit. You'll be hearing more about this project when we start looking at the data.

We are also wrapping up a health literacy project we conducted with St. Mary's Hospital. We tested a collaborative model between hospital staff and adult literacy students. Nine adult literacy students were trained as consultants to help improve the hospital's health literacy environment. We're in the process of presenting results to St. Mary's leadership as well as writing up results.

On page 3 you can read about WREN's new collaboration with PEARL (Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning). This is a network of dentists doing research to solve problems routinely confronted by general dental practitioners. The

project is concerned with the use of analgesics to treat acute pain. We're shooting to recruit for this study in the fall.

In other news, the results of Dr. Jon Temte's study, *Recruiting primary care clinicians for public health and bioterrorism surveillance* were published in the April edition of the *Wisconsin Medical Journal*. In February we published a commentary in the *Annals of Family Medicine* entitled *Do We Need to be Screening for Health Literacy?* which can be found online at www.annfammed.org/cgi/eleter/7/1/24#10600.

This fall the Research & Quality Improvement Forum will feature Jon Temte, MD, PhD, who will speak on influenza, pandemics and medicine; Tom Sinsky, MD and Chris Sinsky, MD, who will present on the patient-centered medical home; and Leigh LoPresti, MD, Medical College of Wisconsin, who will discuss genetics and primary care. We have a call for papers out and registration is available online. We hope to see you there November 12–13!

Paul Smith
WREN Director



Paul Smith presents commemorative wren print at 2009 WREN Convocation.

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WREN presents projects at national PBRN meeting for second year in a row

WREN was well represented at the 2009 Annual Practice-based Research Network Research Conference. The conference, put on by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Practice Based Research Network, was held June 24-26.

Two of WREN's research coordinators presented talks on WREN projects. Katie Pronschinske presented on Dr. David Feldstein's study *Improving and Expanding Primary Care Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)*. The CKD study is designed to develop and test an Internet based electronic patient management tool to help primary care physicians care for patients with stage 3 CKD. Cindy Colombo presented Dr. Leonelo Bautista's project *Quality of Life and Depression in Newly Treated Hyper-*

tensive Patients. Network coordinator Mike Grasmick presented on Dr. Jon Temte's study, *Assessing Primary Care Workload Using the NASA-TLX*.

Dr. Paul Smith, WREN Director, co-presented a workshop with Frederick A. Curro, director of PEARL, a network of private-practice dentists, on infrastructure support for recruitment, retention, and conduct of PBRN clinical studies.

The conference was a great opportunity for WREN to highlight its work and network with other PBRNs from across the country. WREN staff returned energized with the potential of new collaborations and project ideas for the coming year, as well as ideas for improving network infrastructure and operations.

WREN leadership creates strategic vision for WREN

Several WREN leaders convened April 17 to participate in an all-day strategic planning session to discuss a vision for WREN and to identify the kind of impact WREN can have over five years.

Mike Grasmick began with results of a WREN member survey asking about WREN's strengths, challenges and opportunities. Members identified excellent staff, research facilitation, and engagement of physician members in a research network that is deep and wide as strengths. Challenges included sustainable funding and recruitment, while securing funding and increasing collaboration were identified as opportunities.

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, and
- measure the effectiveness of activities.

Utilizing these initiatives as their guide, WREN staff is working on a comprehensive, detailed plan that will identify action items and prioritize objectives to determine what can reasonably be accomplished over the next two years.

A strategic planning document will be made available and distributed widely this fall.

WREN collaborates with Dental Research Network

This fall, WREN will begin a new partnership with PEARL (Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning), regional network of almost 200 private-practice dentists in 23 states who conduct clinical studies to solve problems routinely confronted by general dental practitioners.



WREN and PEARL will work together on a project to compare the attitudes and opinions of primary care clinicians and dentists on the use of analgesics to treat acute pain. Members of the

WREN and PEARL networks will participate in the study.

PEARL launched in 2005 when the NIH awarded New York University College of Dentistry \$26.7 million award to establish one of three regional practice-based research networks. The network aims to expand the research evidence base in dentistry.

To learn more about PEARL visit their website at: <https://web.emmes.com/study/pearl/index.htm>.