

The WREN Review

A publication of the Wisconsin Research & Education Network

Winter/Spring 2010

WREN and WAFP team up to form clinician survey group

The Wisconsin Research and Education Network (WREN) and the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians are launching 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 be able to 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 of the annual Wisconsin Research and Quality Improvement Forum, and will receive an a report about their participation rate

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compared to peers'. Anyone interested in learning more or signing up can go to www.fammed.wisc.edu for more information.

Excellent response from Wisconsin clinics on patient safety survey

Last summer and fall, 47 WREN and UW Health practices worked together to complete the Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety (SOPS). The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality designed the SOPS for outpatient medical office providers and staff to assess their opinions about the culture of patient safety and health care quality in their medical offices.

Response to the survey at WREN participating practices was excellent—78% of staff and providers completed the survey across all the sites. At many clinics, response rates exceeded 90%.

Clinics recently received a report de-

tailoring results for each survey item grouped by patient safety domain—for example teamwork, patient care, perceptions of safety and quality, communication and training—for their clinic. The report also provided a comparison to the national sample of clinics that have completed the survey.

WREN will prepare and distribute a second report in March for each practice that compares site results to all of the other participating Wisconsin clinics. Practices can use both reports to evaluate their own patient safety culture and to stimulate interest and new ideas for quality improvement.

**Register online
for the
2010 Wisconsin
Primary Care
Research & Quality
Improvement Forum**

**Sep 16-17, 2010
Hilton Garden Inn
Middleton, WI**

Registration deadline:
Monday, August 16, 2010

www.wren.wisc.edu

WREN hosts reception, introduces survey group at 40th annual WAFP Winter Refresher Course

This year WREN hosted its first ever reception at the annual Winter Refresher Course (WRC) for Family Medicine. WRC is a regional conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, sponsored by the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The event attracts more than 200 family practice physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and residents.

During the reception, Dr. Paul Smith announced the Primary Care Clinician Survey Group, a joint initiative of WREN and the WAFP. The survey group will be comprised of primary

care clinicians interested in participating in a series of brief electronic surveys that address issues important to primary care practice and policy.

The reception had a great turn out and a number of clinicians new to WREN signed up to participate in this important work.

Get involved! Even if you were unable to attend the WRC event, you can still take part in the Primary Care Clinician Survey Group. Learn more or sign up now by completing an online registration form at www.wren.wisc.edu.

Feldstein's pilot study entering final phase



Dr. David Feldstein

Dr. David Feldstein's pilot study on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is entering its third and final phase: implementation of the newly-created internet-based electronic patient management tool (PMT) to help primary care clinicians care for patients with Stage 3 CKD.

Members of WREN and the Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR) will test the feasibility of the electronic tool by using it in their everyday practice over a 6-month period. The study is designed to test changes in primary care clinicians' CKD knowledge and self-efficacy toward caring for patients with Stage 3 CKD before and after using the PMT.

WREN sites involved in this phase of the project thus far include Mile Bluff Clinic in Mauston, WI, and Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. in Milwaukee, WI.

Dr. Feldstein is assistant professor of Medicine at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.



WREN members taking in a session at the 2009 Fall Forum

2010 Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum

September 16-17, 2010 | Madison, 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 Middleton, WI September 16-17, 2010.

Go to www.wren.wisc.edu for more details.
Deadline for submission: July 1, 2010.

WREN to combine Convocation and Research Forum to one meeting



As you read in the lead story of this issue, WREN and the WAFP have teamed up to put together a survey group of clinicians. We're very excited

about this joint initiative as it will give clinicians the opportunity to contribute to research and have a voice on primary care policy issues. If you're interested in joining the survey group, visit www.wren.wisc.edu to sign up.

Another new WREN initiative, the Liaisons' Retreat, will be hosted by WREN's Regional Research Coordinators on October 15 (see page 2 for more details).

In other meeting news, the WREN Steering Committee has approved combining the Convocation of Practices and the Research Forum into one annual meeting per year which will typically be held in September. This fall the annual Research & Quality Improvement Forum will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Middleton WI on September 16-17, 2010. Plenary speakers will include Bill Costerton, PhD, Center for Genomic Sciences, Allegheny-Singer Research Institute and Bruce Barrett, MD, PhD, UW Department of Family Medicine, and Maureen Smith MD, MPH, PhD, Director of the Community Academic Partnership Core of the Insti-

tute for Clinical and Translational Research. Dr. Costerton will speak about biofilms—how slime enclosed bacteria cause chronic infections in humans and how we may be able to prevent biofilm formation in order to mitigate the inflammatory processes.

Dr. Barrett will use examples from his research in respiratory infection to illustrate the concept of "minimal important difference" for risks and harms of medical interventions as they relate to shared decision making.

I'm delighted to tell you that two new staff members have joined our team. Heidi Jackson is working as WREN's new Administrative Assistant and Carybeth Reddy is WREN's new student hourly.

In development related news, WREN completed its annual fund raising appeal this year and thus far has received \$2000 in donations. WREN is also expanding its development efforts to organizational sponsorship to the WREN annual meeting.

More details about the forum held September 16-17 will be forthcoming, until then, save the date and we hope you'll join us.

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Poster session at the 2009 Fall Forum

The WREN Review is published biannually. If you have questions or article suggestions please contact Kelly Kwiatkowski at kelly.kwiatkowski@fammed.wisc.edu or Peggy O'Halloran at peggy.ohalloran@fammed.wisc.edu.

Talks on influenza and pandemics, the patient-centered medical home, and genetics given at annual forum

Forty-six WREN members and friends of WREN attended the fall forum November 12-13, 2009 in Wisconsin Dells, WI. There was a great line-up of speakers for its annual Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum including plenary talks from Jon Temte, MD, PhD, who spoke about influenza, pandemics and medicine, Tom Sinsky, MD and Chris Sinsky, MD, who presented on the patient-centered medical home, and Leigh LoPresti, MD, who discussed genetics and primary care.

A wide range of presentations were given from primary care treatment of chronic kidney disease to orthopedic

surgery and venous thrombosis, rotavirus vaccine use, hazards in the primary care of elderly patients, to lifestyles of the poor and underserved, and more. Two workshops were offered includ-

ing Sally Kraft's session on "Building Leadership Teams in Primary Care Clinics" and Aleksandra Zgierska's session "Mindfulness Meditation for Professional and Personal Growth."



2010 Calendar of Events

MAR 3 WREN Steering Committee Teleconference

MAY 5 WREN Steering Committee Meeting
Wisconsin Medical Society
Madison, WI

MAY 20 WREN Advisory Committee Meeting
Wisconsin Medical Society
Madison, WI

JUL 7 WREN Steering Committee Teleconference

SEP 16-17 Wisconsin Primary Care Research & Quality Improvement Forum
Hilton Garden Inn, Middleton, WI

SEP 17 WREN Steering Committee Meeting
(in person at the Forum)

OCT 15 WREN Liaison Retreat
Health Science Learning Center
UW-Madison, Madison, WI

NOV 3 WREN Steering Committee Teleconference

New initiatives aimed at WREN practice liaisons

Since 2007, WREN has worked with several Full Support Practices across the state. As part of this model, practices receive funding to pay for the time of a staff person to assist with WREN project implementation. This person is known as the WREN Practice Liaison and works very closely with the WREN Regional Research Coordinators to manage WREN projects.

WREN will begin two new efforts this year to improve our communication and support for this important role. This spring, WREN will begin a new publication, called the Liaison Quarterly, and in October of this year, WREN will hold its first annual Practice Liaison Retreat. The purpose of both the Liaison Quarterly and the Retreat are to provide a forum for Practice Liaisons to share success stories for specific projects, learn from each other, and learn more about the resources available to them from both WREN and the UW Madison to support high quality research.