



For our health

A Strategic Plan for the Wisconsin Research & Education Network



2010-2012



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Letter from Paul Smith, MD, WREN Director



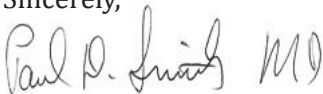
Dear WREN members, friends, and supporters of WREN,

As primary care clinicians take on an increasingly greater role in providing health care for our nation's citizens, it is more important than ever to enhance and preserve the high quality of our primary care research and quality improvement efforts. The Institute of Medicine recognizes primary care as "the logical foundation of an effective health care system" and research demonstrates that utilization of primary care leads to improved patient outcomes, lower health care costs, and increased patient satisfaction.

The Wisconsin Research & Education Network (WREN) is one of the oldest practice-based research networks (PBRNs) in the country whose mission 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. PBRNs are groups of family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatric clinicians devoted to identifying and answering research questions to improve the care of their patients. WREN draws on the experience and insight of practicing clinicians to conduct quality improvement and research projects using rigorous research methods. The research results are often immediately relevant to the clinician and ultimately improve the health of patients.

The Strategic Plan that follows is the result of the work of a diverse group of primary care stakeholders. It shows the kind of impact WREN can have on health care outcomes as it aims to be a model practice-based research network. I look forward to working with you and all WREN stakeholders to make WREN a highly recognized model for research and quality improvement in primary care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Smith MD". The signature is written in a cursive, professional style.

Paul D. Smith, MD
WREN Director

Our Vision

WREN will improve health outcomes in Wisconsin as a model practice-based research network.

Our Mission

WREN's mission 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.

WREN draws on the experience and insight of practicing clinicians to conduct quality improvement and research projects using rigorous research methods. The results are often immediately relevant to the clinician and ultimately improve the health of patients.

Criteria for Focusing WREN's Efforts

In order to ensure that WREN's work has the greatest impact, we consider the criteria listed below to focus staff time and resources, and to guide us in selecting projects.

- Determine the potential impact of a research project, quality improvement project, or other activity.
- Consider topics of importance to practicing primary care clinicians.
- Consider projects that focus on improving the quality of primary care.
- Evaluate how activities link to WREN strategic priorities.
- Identify how WREN is uniquely positioned to do the work.
- Appraise the "grassroots" nature of the project/activity (i.e., is the investigator a WREN member or a Wisconsin primary care researcher?).
- Evaluate how quickly practices would benefit from results or be able to implement recommendations.
- Consider the potential for future projects and collaboration with the organization or investigator.
- Weigh the cost of the project to the available funding sources.
- Prioritize projects and activities affiliated with the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine.

Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

Conduct patient-centered, practice-based primary care research that improves the quality of care, improves communication between patients and clinicians, and moves research findings into general clinical practice.

- Increase the number of research and quality improvement projects.
- Increase skills to conduct the highest quality research and quality improvement projects.

Educate clinicians and their staff, patients, Wisconsin citizens, legislators and other policy makers about practice-based research and evidence-based practice.

- Develop and implement an outreach/communications plan to build awareness about WREN and engage existing and new stakeholders.
- Increase publication and presentation of research results.
- Improve annual meeting and increase participation.
- Identify actions to influence policy and medical education.
- Identify and share best practices.

Recruit and nurture a network of primary care clinicians and practices in Wisconsin.

- Increase membership.
- Increase number of full support clinics.
- Create a survey group of primary care clinicians.

Collaborate with clinicians, researchers, public and private health care organizations, patients, communities, and other people and organizations with common interests to advance our mission.

- Strengthen existing and develop new collaborations with researchers across the University and within the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.
- Identify and pursue practice-based research network (PBRN) collaborations with a special emphasis on Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) affiliated PBRNs.
- Identify and pursue collaborations with Medical College of Wisconsin and Marshfield Clinic.
- Identify and pursue collaborations with other Wisconsin organizations.

WREN Leadership

Advisory Committee

Howard Bailey, MD

Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR)

Marc Drezner, MD

UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

Linda McCart

WI Department of Health Services

Cheryl McIlquham

WEA Trust

Kristin McManmon

St. Mary's Hospital

Nancy Nankivil

Wisconsin Medical Society

Zorba Paster, MD

Dean Health System

Larry Pheifer

WI Academy of Family Physicians

Chuck Shabino, MD

Wisconsin Hospital Association

John Shutske, PhD

UW College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Greg Simmons

MetaStar, Inc.

Kathleen O. Smith

UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Paul Smith, MD

UW Department of Family Medicine

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City of Milwaukee Health Department

Bruce L. Van Cleave, MD

Aurora Health Care

Steve Yale, MD

Marshfield Clinic

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