

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



Wisconsin
Research &
Education
Network ... for our health

WREN


The Rapid Growth Years

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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



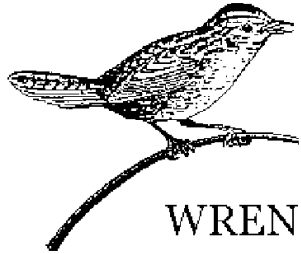
Rapid Growth

- 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

Original Logo



WREN Evolved

Newer Logo

WREN



WREN Evolved

WRENs on steroids



WREN Evolved

Brand New Logo



WREN Evolved

Brand New Bird



WREN Evolved

