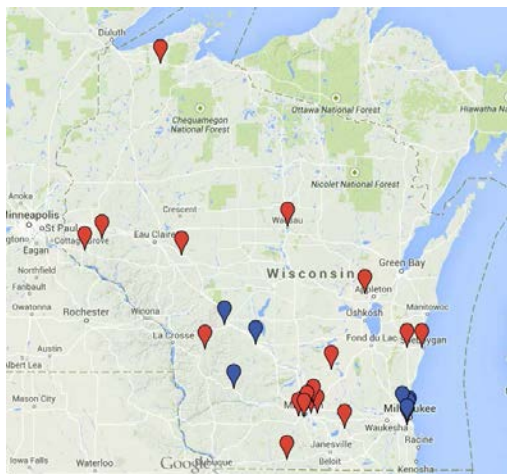


# A Researcher's Guide to Working with WREN

## Who we are

The Wisconsin Research and Education Network (WREN) is a statewide practice-based research network of hundreds of members, most of whom are primary care practitioners conducting translational research projects in “real-world” family practices across Wisconsin.



Current Clinics Participating in WREN projects

**Vision:** WREN will improve health outcomes for the people of Wisconsin and beyond as a model practice-based research network.

**Mission:** WREN’s mission is to promote and conduct primary care research and education in partnership with primary care clinicians and the communities they serve.

## For Investigators

WREN welcomes inquiries from researchers interested in collaborating on primary care research topics. This page can serve as a “roadmap” for investigators.

### What kinds of projects?

WREN is interested in the entire gamut of primary care research, particularly that which engages practicing clinicians in the research process, as we believe that participation in practice-based research enhances critical thinking skills and quality of patient care.

Examples:

- Disease surveillance/natural history/etiology
- Clinical research/clinical trials
- Health care delivery
- Public health/Clinician/Patient engagement

### What is the process?

Investigators interested in exploring WREN collaboration are encouraged to contact the WREN Director at the earliest possible time in the research process. The Director will be able to give investigators immediate feedback about WREN interest, feasibility and funding requirements.

For more information, contact: Dr. David Hahn  
dlhahn@wisc.edu

- **Interest:** Is the topic relevant to primary care practice? Will the research results add value to the practice of primary care medicine?
- **Feasibility:** Can the project be carried out without disrupting the care process? Is the burden on the practices light enough to guarantee successful completion?
- **Funding:** All projects must have funding adequate to the completion of all WREN-related research activities.

*The best time to contact WREN is during formulation of the research question. The worst time to contact WREN is two weeks before a grant is due, asking for a letter of support.*

## What WREN Offers

**Dedicated primary care clinics & physicians across Wisconsin**

A listserv reaching over **1000** practicing clinicians.  
**80** different clinic sites from **37** healthcare organizations.  
**5** “core clinics”, **2** serving urban under-served communities & **3** serving rural populations.

**Staff resources**

WREN has staff dedicated to facilitate research and QI projects across the state.

**Research support services**

IRB consultation, proposal review and preparation, manuscript consultation, and more.

**Networking**

WREN facilitates collaborations between researchers, clinicians, administrators, organizations and communities with similar research and QI interests.

## Tips for investigators:

Investigators should address the following issues when formulating their primary care research questions and designing research projects to answer them.

- Is this study appropriate for practice-based research?
- Will the results promote the WREN mission to improve the health of the people of Wisconsin?
- WREN encourages collaboration with one or more WREN members to contribute to:
  - the research question
  - the study design, conduct, analysis and interpretation
  - authorship
- Consider issues of generalizability, patient-centeredness and sustainability of research results.
- Describe how your study will impact practices.
- Describe your funding source, award size, and resources available for WREN.