

OPTI-West Research Bulletin

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 27, 2007

Greetings OPTI-West Research Community!

Good News! OPTI-West member programs are now officially registered as a PBRN! With that announcement, you will have several immediate questions. This is an exciting development, so here are some answers:

What is a PBRN?

A PBRN is a "Practice-Based Research Network." It is a group of practices devoted principally (although not exclusively) to the primary care of patients, but also committed to studying and improving patient care through research at the practice level. These practices affiliate with each other (and often with academic or professional organizations) to investigate practical clinical issues in an organized manner.

What does "registration" mean?

Registration is with the PBRN Resource Center located at the Indiana School of Medicine. The PBRN Resource Center uses a team of experts from IU and from the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) to provide technical assistance and resource support to networks. The goal of the PBRN Resource Center is to build research capacity within the participating sites. The PBRN Resource Center is funded by the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) as part of a collaborative initiative with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Both organizations have provided grants to various PBRNs comprised of members who use the Resource Center. NORC expertise includes (but is not limited to):

- Information Technology (IT) and Electronic Medical Record (EMR) structure and function
- Research involving diverse populations
- Institutional Review Boards (IRB)
- Engaging community representatives in research
- Translating research into practice
- Conceptualization, design, and implementation of effective research methods
- Instrument testing and development
- Data management and analysis
- Health Informatics

What resources are now available from AHRQ's PBRN Registry?

We will automatically receive the following:

- E-mail correspondence from AHRQ on funding opportunities
- PBRN news and information from both AHRQ and the National PBRN Resource Center (including receiving the Resource Center's PBRN Newsletter) - Note: This will come through me (Dr. Cairney) and will be distributed throughout OPTI-West).

- A copy of the monograph titled "Contemporary Challenges for Practice-Based Research Networks" from the *Annals of Family Medicine* (Supp), 3 (Supp 1)
- Messages sent to the PBRN listserv (We will be sending out a message inquiring whether you would like to be on the direct message list.)
- Invitations to participate in PBRN webinars

In addition, we will receive:

- Our network's own room on the PBRN extranet
- Access to *Ultimate Survey*, a web-based survey software
- Access to literature databases for PBRN research and behavior interventions in primary care
- Notification to participate in various learning opportunities provided by AHRQ and the National PBRN Resource Center
- Access to other PBRN registry information (-we will know who else is out there and some of their capacity-)

You will undoubtedly have many more questions about what this may mean to your program. Please feel free to contact me. I can guide you through contact with the Resource Center and point you in whatever direction your program requires. Please contact me at (719) 648-3652 or at wcairney@westernu.edu.

For the Research Committee:

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