



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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OREGON RURAL PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK (ORPRN)

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The Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network is now operational and has a broad base of community partners and multiple research projects underway. Below are some highlights of recent ORPRN activities, existing community partnerships, and current and planned research studies.

STATE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There is ongoing ORPRN recruitment of interested practices and clinicians throughout Oregon. We currently have approximately 90 clinicians, 20 practices, and 15 communities that want to be a part of the Network. Participating Oregon communities include: Coos Bay, Reedsport, Lincoln City, Pacific City, The Dalles, Hood River, Union, Elgin, Halfway, Baker City, John Day, Burns, LaPine, Lakeview, and Klamath Falls.

ORPRN held a successful Convocation of Practices in Newport, OR in October that was attended by 20 rural participants. The Convocation engaged rural practitioners in discussions of how ORPRN can be most effective in serving as a center for rural medical research, as well as many other topics related to practicing medicine in rural settings.

ORPRN is establishing relationships with key departments in the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) in chronic illness, preventive health, and epidemiology, as well as key contacts within the state Office of Health Policy and Research (OHPR). These relationships will lead to joint project development efforts.

The ORPRN Steering Committee is established and functioning with broad statewide rural voting representation. Members include: Jeanne Bowden, RN, PhD (LaGrande), Jon Schott, MD (Baker City), David Graham, MD (John Day), Tom Fitzpatrick, MD (Burns), Robbie Law, MD (Reedsport), Karl

Ordelleide, MD (Lincoln City), and Albert Thompson, MD (Pacific City).

ORPRN has recently established a Scientific Review Committee (SRC) that will be made up of ORPRN community partners, investigators and staff. The SRC will conduct scientific and feasibility review of proposed projects, assist ORPRN members with research proposal development and help the Steering Committee with oversight of the scientific portfolio of ORPRN.

The Network Director is traveling throughout Oregon to give community service and informational presentations in direct support of Oregon Opportunity objectives. Sites visited so far include: Baker City, Yachats, Lincoln City and Coos Bay.

ORPRN has initiated a discussion of a community-based participatory research (CBPR) model with several ORPRN communities. CBPR includes a community focus and encourages an equal collaboration between community and academic partners. An ORPRN goal is to create "real world" research settings with the participation of rural communities and practices.

ORPRN's new website, www.ohsu.edu/orprn, was launched in the fall of 2003. Phase II of the website will include further resources for community partners as well as forums for community dialogue.

OHHSU INTERDEPARTMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS AND RESEARCH DATA CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE

ORPRN has advanced collaborative relationships with the Department of Family Medicine, Department of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Public Health, School

of Nursing, School of Dentistry, Office of Rural Health, and the Oregon Cancer Center.

ORPRN is playing a key stakeholder role in the proposed collaborative Center for Clinical Research Data (CCRD). The center will offer a clinical research “menu” of services and help to develop delivery models for ORPRN. These services will integrate closely with OHSU’s Center for Bioinformatics and Biostatistics.

ORPRN will work with the CCRD to develop and implement network research data collection tools, procedures, policies, and methods. Three projected components of service for the Center include: 1) support of patient registries or databanks, 2) collection of research-quality data from clinical sources, and, 3) randomized clinical trial coordination.

ORPRN RESEARCH PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

ACTIVE RESEARCH STUDIES

Practice-based Research Network (PBRN)

Infrastructure Development

Funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Project period: 10/02 - current

Rural Oregon Immunization Initiative – Phase 1

Funded in part by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

Project period: 4/04 – 10/04

An ORPRN collaboration with the State of Oregon Immunization Program

Study design includes the use of the immunization registry (ALERT), provider and parent focus groups, chart review, implementation of AFIX, a quality improvement intervention.

Setting: all interested ORPRN practices using or willing to use ALERT and participate in the intervention.

Osteoporosis Survey-Phase 1 and 2

Project period: 3/04 to 7/04

Study design includes a survey of all ORPRN clinicians caring for adults and a survey of selected women, 65 years and older, in ORPRN communities.

PRINS: Primary Care Network Survey 1 and 2

Project period: 4/03 - current

PRINS I is a clinician/practice demographic survey

PRINS 2 is a record of the content of 30 non-consecutive patient visits per ORPRN clinician

The purpose of PRINS 1 & 2 is to establish the generalizability of research occurring in the ORPRN laboratories (practices).

Clinical Information Study (CIS)

Project period: 12/03-6/04

Qualitative research study, using semi-structured interviews, in six Oregon primary care clinic practices to develop an understanding of information flow into, within, and out of community practice settings.

OPIOID Pilot: Chronic Opioid Therapy and Preventive Services

Project period: 3/04 to 9/04

Study is a retrospective cohort design with the aim of investigating a possible association between chronic opioid therapy in the primary care setting and the performance of preventive health services.

Rural Health Clerkship Project Inventory

Project period: 8/03-7/04

A systematic review and data inventory of 880 rural clerkship projects (1992-2002)*

*Third-year medical students complete a required population-based project during their six week rural clerkship rotation.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS IN DEVELOPMENT

CHOICE: Exercise/MI, an RCT

Project period: 12/04 to 4/05

An ORPRN collaboration with the OHSU School of Nursing.

Study is a randomized pilot trial of using motivational interviewing to increase lifestyle physical activity in underactive adults in rural communities.

NIH/NINR RO3 submission

Health Information Technology (HIT)

Implementation Grant

Sponsor: AHRQ

RFA-HS-04-011

A collaboration with the Department of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology (DMICE)
A partnership with ORPRN & DMICE with rural communities to implement HIT and determine the impact on patient safety, costs, and overall quality of care. Health care settings include primary care, ambulatory care, long-term care, home health, hospital inpatient care and pharmacies.

Proposal due: April 2004

Colorectal Cancer Screening in Primary Care Practice – LOI

Sponsor: NIH/NCI/AHRQ

Purpose is to improve the delivery and uptake, and evaluate the short-term outcomes of colorectal cancer screening in primary care practices.

Proposal development: February 2004

Prescription for Health

Sponsor: Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ)

A five-year initiative to fund practice-based research networks to evaluate interventions to change two or more health behaviors, (unhealthy diet, sedentary lifestyle, tobacco use, and alcohol abuse,) in routine primary care. Round 1 funded 17 proposals. ORPRN submitted a proposal and was not funded. Call for Round 2 proposals will be in December 2004.

Practice-based Research Networks and the Translation of Research into Practice

Sponsor: AHRQ/NCI

PA Number: PAR-04-041

Seeking proposals from new or established PBRNs to: (1) evaluate scientifically-based strategies for translating evidence into sustainable improvements in clinical practice and outcomes, and/or (2) develop, improve, and/or validate research dissemination methods applicable to cancer control in primary care practice.

Proposal development: February 2004; application due April 13, 2004 and January 11, 2005

National Children's Study

The National Children's Study will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health

and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them before birth and until age 21. The goal of the study is to improve the health and well-being of children. Preliminary discussions of ORPRN role with the OHSU proposal development team.

STAFF RECRUITMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The following administrative staff have been recruited for ORPRN: LJ Fagnan, Network Director; Anne King, Network Manager; Jim Wallace, Site/Project Manager; Mary Masterson, Research Associate/Project Manager; Jan Blank, Consultant; Margaret Christensen, Administrative Coordinator; Natasha Ingsvaldstad, Student RA.

Research investigators on the staff of ORPRN include: David Buckley, MD, Valerie King, MD, MS, Scott Shipman, MD, MPH, Heather Young, PhD, GNP.

ORPRN is beginning to deliver on Oregon community and network infrastructure personnel positions. In the first quarter of 2004, ORPRN will advertise and recruit three "Node Coordinators" who will reside in rural Oregon. These positions will provide research and technology expertise to the practices and clinicians as well as help strengthen relationships between the communities and the OHSU academic research community. These staff will serve the ORPRN communities from "hub" locations (Lincoln City, Klamath Falls, and La Grande) and will provide direct services to ORPRN practices throughout their respective areas.

ORPRN is in the process of relocating staff to the fourth floor of Emma Jones Hall, February 2004. ORPRN is grateful to the Department of Family Medicine for making this possible.

Submitted by

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