Information for Investigators
Working with the
Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN)

Mission
The mission of the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN) is to improve the health of rural populations in Oregon through conducting and promoting health research in partnership with the communities and practitioners we serve.

About ORPRN
ORPRN is a statewide network of primary care clinicians, community partners, and academicians dedicated to studying the delivery of health care to rural residents and research to reduce rural health disparities. ORPRN is headquartered at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland and has regional offices in Lincoln City, Prineville and La Grande. ORPRN works with researchers from many disciplines to develop and implement clinical research studies in rural areas of Oregon. ORPRN’s experienced researchers and staff can provide assistance to outside investigators on all aspects of rural research, from developing study aims to recruitment and on through publication.

Founded in 2002, ORPRN is one of only six primary care PBRNs in the U.S. with a rural focus and is the only all-rural network. ORPRN is a nationally recognized practice-based research organization, and in 2007 became one of ten “Master PBRN Contractors” in the United States. ORPRN is a statewide network of 171 clinicians and 50 primary care practices located in 39 rural Oregon communities which serve approximately 240,000 patients.

As with most rural health settings, family medicine clinicians (80%) comprise the majority of the network with representation by practitioners of general internal medicine (8%), pediatrics (10%) and other specialties. The network is multidisciplinary with a 66%/34% mix of physician and non-physician clinicians (e.g. nurse practitioners, physician assistants). Fifty-four percent of the practices are private businesses and 62% currently have electronic medical records. The practices include patients of all ages with 31% age 18 years or younger and 23% age 65 or older.

ORPRN practices are located throughout the state in regions that have been designated as either “rural” or “frontier” according to federal and state standards. (See map below)
ORPRN Services

ORPRN has an experienced staff of investigators, project managers and research coordinators. ORPRN’s Practice Enhancement Research Coordinators (PERCs) are available to implement studies from their rural locations throughout the state. Their already-established relationships with rural clinics and clinicians and their shorter-driving distances to rural sites increases the productivity and reduces the costs associated with rural-Oregon research. ORPRN’s OHSU-based faculty, project managers and research coordinators are also well-acquainted with the network clinics and clinicians and are available to assist with research design, implementation and analysis.

Overall, ORPRN investigators and staff are available to assist researchers with a wide variety of study-related activities, including:

- Study design
- Clinic, clinician and patient recruitment
- Grant writing and editing
- Budget development, grants account management, contracts development
- IRB application and assurances
- Research/project coordination and research staff management
- Data collection, including implementing clinical subject-related protocols, focus groups, key informant interviews, chart abstraction, and surveying
- Data entry and data management
- Data analysis and statistics
**Research Scope**

ORPRN’s diverse research portfolio covers a wide range of health topics, including: care management, shared medical decision making, evidence-based prescribing, colonoscopy, access to cancer screening, medication safety, child behavioral health, adult mental health, pregnancy and nutrition, dementia, osteoporosis, exercise and nutrition counseling, clinician workforce issues, emergency care, provision of preventive services and immunization practices. ORPRN has partnered with outside investigators on projects funded by federal, state, foundation and individual sources. Investigators and staff from ORPRN’s offices take on a variety of responsibilities depending on the needs of the project. The network places a high value on using participatory research methods in both community and practice settings. The network steering committee consists of 9 rural clinicians who provide input, help develop research ideas and approve all research and quality improvement studies. ORPRN has a successful track record in obtaining research funding for rural Oregon studies, receiving $9.7 million in over 40 funded grants.

ORPRN conducts a bi-annual survey of all of the network’s practices and clinicians. The survey includes clinician and patient demographics, practice scope, service availability, practice technology and clinician satisfaction. This data and written materials on the network are available to investigators to allow them to describe the research setting and to assess the feasibility of their research plans within the network.

**Next Steps**

We would be pleased to talk with you about your research project. Please contact us at:

- **Director**, Lyle Fagnan, MD 503-494-1582 fagnanl@ohsu.edu
- **Research Director**, Cynthia Morris MPH, PhD 503-494-3262 morrisc@ohsu.edu
- **Network Manager**, LeAnn Michaels, 503-494-1583, michaell@ohsu.edu

Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network  
Mail Code: L222  
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road  
Portland, Oregon 97239  
(503) 494-0361  
Fax: (503) 494-1513  
www.ohsu.edu/orprn