

OREGON RURAL PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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There are many exciting new developments in the Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network:

ORPRN SELECTED FOR NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY PILOT

ORPRN was chosen in late April to participate in a pilot for the National Children's Study, coordinated by Indiana University and funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Institute of Child and Human Development.

The pilot is a feasibility study to determine if PBRNs are a good model for conducting the full National Children's Study, which will look at the impact of environmental factors on the health of 100,000 children from prior to birth to age 21.

ORPRN was selected in a highly competitive process. Our acceptance letter revealed that the review panel was "impressed by the enthusiasm and interest of (ORPRN) members in the study and ORPRN's access to diverse, rural populations."

The six PBRNs chosen to participate in the pilot are located in Oregon, Michigan, North Carolina, Minnesota, California, and Ohio. Each PBRN will obtain data on 90 pregnant women and 90 children ages 1 and 5. At the time we submitted the proposal, 15 ORPRN practices had provided letters of intent to participate in the study. Since ORPRN is only allowed to have 9 sites, we are in the process of determining which clinics will take part in the study.

More information about the National Children's Study can be found at: <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov>

ORPRN REGIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATORS HIRED

ORPRN has just hired two regional research coordinators for the Oregon Coast and Northern/Eastern Oregon. The Coordinators will provide research, quality improvement, and technology expertise to practices and clinicians. They will also provide direct links between participating practices and University investigators to help to facilitate research. We are interviewing for the third position, located in Klamath Falls, for the Southern/Central Region.

Oregon Coast Coordinator- *Pacific City, Lincoln City, Siletz, Reedsport, North Bend, Coos Bay*

Monica Goubaud, MA, LPN is a Licensed Practical Nurse, with a BA in Latin American Studies, and an MA in Medical Anthropology. She is currently a hospice nurse in Newport and was previously on staff at the Siletz Community Health Clinic. Monica worked as a clinical research coordinator for 10 years, managing research trials of investigational drugs in family and psychiatric practice settings. Her office will be in Lincoln City.

Northern/Eastern Coordinator- *Hood River, The Dalles, LaGrande, Elgin, Union, Condon, Baker City, Halfway*

Julie Reynolds, MS, PhD has BAs in Anthropology and in Psychology, an MS in Psychology and a PhD in Systems Science: Psychology. She is also completing course work for a Masters in Public Health. She is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at OHSU and the Kaiser Center for Health Research. Julie has been active in ORPRN already as an investigator for the Clinical Information Study that is taking place in ORPRN practices. In addition to her Coordinator duties, Julie will also be an investigator and educational program developer for ORPRN. Her initial project in the latter capacity is to develop a curriculum for ORPRN on qualitative research. Her office will be in LaGrande.

DR. LARRY GREEN TO SPEAK AT THE ORPRN CONVOCATION

Larry Green, Dr.P.H. will be the keynote speaker at the **ORPRN Convocation**, October 7-9, at the Doubletree Lloyd Center Hotel in Portland. Dr. Green was the first Director of the Office of Disease Prevention & Health Promotion in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services under President Carter. He is currently the Director of the Office of Science & Extramural Research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Washington D.C. He will be speaking on community-based participatory research.

This year's Convocation will take place in conjunction with the 21st annual Oregon Rural Health Conference. Information and registration forms will be mailed to ORPRN practices in July. For more information on Dr. Green or the conference, see the ORPRN website: www.ohsu.edu/orprn.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS COMING TO ORPRN COMMUNITIES

If your practice is interested in participating in any of these studies, please contact Jim Wallace, ORPRN Project and Site Manager, 503-494-1585.

National Children's Study Pilot

Project period: current-12/04
Funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the National Institute of Child and Human Development. The 9 ORPRN sites for the study will be selected in early May.

Osteoporosis Survey-Phase 1

Project period: current- to 9/04
Collaboration with the Bone and Mineral Density Unit at OHSU. Study design includes a mailed survey of clinicians at 12 ORPRN sites and a mailed survey of approximately 6,000-8,000 women, 65 years and older, in 9 ORPRN communities. More information on participating in this study will be provided to ORPRN practices in May.

2 Summer Studies- Colorectal Cancer & Obesity Screening

Project period: Summer 2004
These studies will be conducted in 3 ORPRN practices by two medical students. The students will be on-site for 1-2 weeks in 3 practices. Preference will be given to sites where housing is available. Both studies involve chart reviews and brief interviews with providers and staff. These pilot studies will gather data that will be used to support grant proposals for larger funded projects. In both cases, the objective is to discover ways to improve care for these two important conditions.

CONTINUING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Rural Oregon Immunization Initiative – Phase 1

Project period: current – 12/04
Funded in part by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) A collaboration with the State of Oregon Immunization Program. The study design includes the use of the State immunization registry (ALERT), focus groups, chart reviews, and implementation of AFIX, a quality improvement intervention.

PRINS: Primary Care Network Survey 1 and 2

Project period: 4/03 - current
PRINS I is a clinician/practice demographic survey and PRINS 2 is a record of the content of 30 non-consecutive patient visits per ORPRN clinician.

Clinical Information Study (CIS)

Project period: 12/03-6/04
A qualitative research study, using semi-structured interviews, in six ORPRN clinics to develop an

understanding of information flow into, within, and out of these practice settings.

OPIOID Pilot: Chronic Opioid Therapy and Preventive Services

Project period: 3/04 to 9/04
This study is 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.

KEY RESEARCH PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

ORPRN is working on collaborating with numerous investigators and state agencies in the areas of cancer, children's health, chronic disease management, health information technology, and others. The following is a summary of some key research studies in development.

CHOICE: Exercise/MI, an RCT

Project period: 12/04 to 4/05
An ORPRN collaboration with the OHSU School of Nursing. This study is a randomized pilot trial of using motivational interviewing in 4 ORPRN sites to increase lifestyle physical activity in under-active adults in rural communities. Currently under review by the National Cancer Institute

Health Information Technology (HIT) Implementation Grant

Sponsor: AHRQ
A collaboration with the Department of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology (DMICE) and the Oregon Graduate Institute of Technology to establish an internet-based Master Medication List for residents of assisted living facilities in Lincoln City and their physicians' clinics, hospital, and pharmacies. Currently under review by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Colorectal Cancer Screening in Primary Care Practice

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 in development