IMPACCT Kid’s Care awarded $1.8 million

OCHIN Inc. has been awarded $1.8 million over three years for a research project aimed at improving children's health care.

Jennifer DeVoe, MD, DPhil, associate professor, physician at Family Medicine at Gabriel Park and OCHIN’s Research Director, is the principal investigator for OCHIN’S research project, “Innovative Methods for Parents and Clinics to Create Tools (IMPACCT) for Kids’ Care.” Deborah Cohen, PhD, will serve as the OHSU site lead for the project. John Heintzman, MD, MPH, Family Medicine at South Waterfront is a co-investigator.

OCHIN Inc. was one of 25 institutions awarded a total of $40.7 million by Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). OCHIN, a 14-state, non-profit health center controlled network (HCCN), and OHSU Family Medicine are frequent research collaborators.

PCORI’s Funding Announcement issued on May 22 resulted in 448 submissions. The PFA sought proposals for patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research. OCHIN’s project was the only one funded in Oregon, and is one of only two in the Northwest. IMPACCT Kids’ Care works to provide patients and those who care for them with evidence-based information needed to make better-informed health and health care decisions. The study, which originated with community stakeholders, has the potential to greatly impact how clinics and families engage to improve children’s health insurance coverage and receipt of recommended care.

IMPACCT Kids’ Care has three proposed aims:

1. Creation of a partnership with stakeholders to develop computer/on- line tools to support Community Health Centers (CHCs) in children’s health insurance outreach efforts, adapted from tools proven to support chronic disease management.

(Continued on page 5)
Register for the Laurel Case Lecture

The Laurel Case Visiting Professor Lecture will be held at noon, Wednesday, Jan. 9, in the Old Library Auditorium. Dr. Frank Verloin deGruy, III, MD, MSFM, will speak on “Behavioral Health in the PCMH: Why and How.”

Register here

DeGruy is the Woodward-Chisholm Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado. He is currently on the editorial boards of Families, Systems and Health, the Annals of Family Medicine and the Primary Care Companion to the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry. A member of the Institute of Medicine, he is past president of the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association (CFHA), chair of the Board of Directors of the Family Physicians’ Inquiries Network (FPIN), and president of the North American Primary Care Research Network (NAPCRG).

His areas of research include mental disorders in the primary care setting; primary care medical home transformations; unexplained physical symptoms; and multilevel, multimodal evaluation of practice change interventions.

Richmond’s FQHC Designation on Target

Though all of the components are not yet in place, Family Medicine at Richmond has doubled its service area and is seeing more patients as part of its designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

In June, the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) approved Richmond’s FQHC grant application. The grant provides $650,000 per year for two years, or 5 percent of the total projected operating cost of $12,921,212, which includes current operations. The remaining $12,271,212, or 95 percent, will be paid through non-governmental funds, such as earned program income from fees paid for the services provided.

The service-area expansion is a key element in the program’s goal of generating up to a 45% increase in primary care for low-income, uninsured, Medicare and Medicaid patients by 2014, said Ern Teuber, PhD, Family Medicine at Richmond Executive Director.

Richmond’s service area now extends from the Willamette River on the west to parts of 82nd Avenue on the east. It is bounded on the north by Stark Street and goes south almost to Johnson Creek Blvd. The boundaries zig and zag somewhat, Teuber said. Patients who are unsure if they are within the new boundaries should call the clinic to clarify the specifics. All uninsured and/or low-income patients within the area are eligible, as are patients who have insurance. Medicare and Medicaid patients may be from inside or outside the area.

The project has two components: expanding capacity at the existing clinic at 3930 SE Division St. and the opening of a new walk-in clinic three blocks to the east within the Cascadia Behavioral Health Clinic building.

“We’ve really made quite good progress on meeting our expanded capacity,” Teuber said. “We have hired two new full-time physicians—Sonja Sousa, MD, and Emily Myers, MD,—who will start in March. Both will be at .8 FTE so we have one more .4 FTE position to fill. We’re optimistic that we’ll have that position filled in the very near future.”

In the meantime, the clinic has been using locum tenens physicians—including those already on staff who have picked up additional shifts and some recent OHSU residency graduates—to fill in.

“By pulling in a variety of people—I think there are about 10—we’ve been able to cobble together at least one full-time position,” Teuber said. “So we have been able to increase the number of visits and the number of new patients. The understanding is that when the new doctors are on staff that they will be providing the continuity of care element that’s so important in primary care.”

Teuber had hoped to see the walk-in clinic open this fall. Negotiations to determine the funding source for the remodeling of the new site just concluded, however, with OHSU administration agreeing to pay for the remodeling.

“The alternative would have been for the building owner to pay for the remodel and then amortize that cost plus interest over the course of the lease,” Teuber said. “With OHSU’s support, our monthly lease payments will be considerably less than we anticipated. More than that, this (OHSU’s
Focus on Research

Family’s Access to Medical Care & Impact of Insurance Lapses on Children & Youth (FAMILY) Study

PI: Jennifer DeVoe, MD, DPhil
Funded by: Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)

The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has expanded public health insurance programs for children, but the parents of these children have not had the same experience. In 2003 there were cutbacks in the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), the Oregon Medicaid program, and many parents lost coverage. In 2008, a lottery system was created to offer uninsured adults a chance to apply for OHP coverage. The system provided health insurance for about 10% of those who signed up to receive it (about 10,000 adults).

The FAMILY Study is a four year project funded to understand how these changing patterns of family health insurance coverage affect children’s health insurance coverage and their receipt of health care services. In other words, do children whose parents lost health insurance coverage also experience a loss in health insurance coverage? Do these children receive less healthcare services, including fewer well-child visits and fewer immunizations? On the other hand, do the children whose parents gained health insurance coverage gain coverage themselves and receive more of the nationally recommended healthcare services? This project uses several different sources of information to help answer these questions and to get a complete picture of what happened before and after the cutbacks and implementation of the lottery system.

As we enter our final year of this study, we have learned many things. The interviews we conducted with low-income parents in Oregon to ask about their experiences with health insurance coverage and access to health care taught us about families’ actual experiences with OHP and how they were impacted by the health insurance coverage policy changes described above. Parents reported high costs and limited provider availability as barriers to accessing health care for their children, but continuity with a health care provider often helped them overcome these barriers. Parents also described difficult decisions they often made to access care for their children, choosing between maintaining continuity of care, finding available providers, and being able to afford the cost of care depending on their current life circumstances.

Another source of information used in our study is AHRQ’s Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) which includes information on access to health insurance, health care, and health care services. MEPS is collected yearly from a representative sample of the US population. From this national survey of families, we found health insurance coverage patterns for child and parent pairs have significantly changed over the last decade for low- and middle-income families, with an increase of families with public coverage for children but not for uninsured parents. In addition, we found parental health insurance continuity integral to maintaining children’s coverage.

We are currently looking at health care insurance claims and OCHIN shared electronic health record (EHR) data before and after the OHP changes in coverage happened. OCHIN is a health information network of safety net clinics with a shared EHR. These data will allow us to find out how changes in adults’ health insurance coverage have affected their children’s health care coverage as well as their receipt of health care services. To assess the receipt of health care services we have been investigating the feasibility of utilizing the Children’s Health Insurance Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) pediatric quality measures in EHR data. A few select publications from this study are listed below:


EVENTS

Grand Rounds, Jan. 16
Peter Andersen, MD, Professor Head & Neck Surgery; and Neil Gross, MD, Associate Professor, will present “Management of Neck Mass & HPV-related Squamous Carcinoma of the Head and Neck at the FM Grand Rounds Video Conference. It will be held from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, in RM 28 of Emma Jones Hall. Check the Family Medicine Personnel web page for more information.

TOP PROVIDERS OF 2013

The following were named in Portland Monthly’s Top Doctors & Nurses 2013:

- **Brett White**, MD, Family Medicine at Gabriel Park.
- **Carol E. Blenning**, MD; **Clifford Coleman**, MD, MPH; **Amanda Risser**, MD: Family Medicine at Richmond.
CLINIC AWARDS

Gabriel Park: December Employee of the Month: **Dominique Tunai, MA**
Richmond: November Employee of the Month: **Terri Chappell, PAS Specialist**.
Scappoose: November Employee of the Month: **Cynthia Paez, PAS Specialist**
November Patient-centered Choice Award: **Shawna Winter, MA**
South Waterfront: December Employee of the Month: **Justin Jullian, MA**.

NEW EMPLOYEES

**Maria Huspek** is the new Administrative Assistant in the Residency Section. She will be providing support to the program director, residency coordinator, faculty and residents within the residency program. Huspek has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Oregon. She was most recently the office manager for a software training company. Her hometown is Portland. She enjoys hiking, camping and running. She recently completed the Holiday Half Marathon. She enjoys spending time at her family’s house at Crooked River Ranch in Central Oregon.

**Cydette Marshall** is the new Revenue Cycle Manager in Administration. She is responsible for overseeing and coordinating improvements to billing, compliance and revenue-related activities. She is facilitating collaboration between OHSU Managed Care Contracting, OHSU Hospital, University Medical Group (UMG), OCHIN, Skylakes Cascades East, clinicians, residents, residency and medical directors, practice managers, billing staff, clinic staff, and coders in areas in which revenue cycle procedures impact and overlap with clinical operations in all practice locations. She has a Master of Associated Medical Sciences degree in Biomedical Visualization (focus in Medical Illustration, Computer Imaging, and Maxillofacial Prosthetic Restoration) from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting and Printmaking from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her hometown is Honolulu. She lives in Portland with her husband, Terry, and two children, Cienna (14) and Xavier (11), a dog and a cat. She jogs, creates Ukrainian pysanky eggs, sews Hawaiian missionary quilts, cooks, hikes and camps.

**Ryan Palmer** is the new Instructor/Director of Curriculum Evaluation and Development. He will partner with the medical directors of the Family Medicine and Rural Community clerkships to provide leadership and innovation in planning, curriculum design, teaching and evaluation for students completing these courses. He will also serve as co-advisor to the Family Medicine Interest Group, will serve as a primary faculty member with the Oregon Rural Scholars program and will conduct educational research for the department. Palmer has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts from California State University Chico; a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting from DePaul University and is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership: Postsecondary Education at Portland State University. Prior to joining Family Medicine, Palmer was the Administrative Director for the Principles of Clinical Medicine course at OHSU. His hometown is Santa Rosa, CA. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Maggie, and children, Dylan and Marion, as well as rooting for the San Francisco 49ers.

APPOINTMENTS

**Robert Sears**, MD, Instructor, Cascades East Family Medicine Residency, Klamath Falls, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Klamath Falls City School Board.

SOCK IT TO ME

**Family Medicine**’s administrative staff delivered boxes of socks, clothing, shoes, linens and more on Dec. 19. CityTeam Ministries received 18 boxes; Family Medicine at Richmond, 26 boxes; and Family Medicine at Scappoose, 17 boxes. Special thanks to those who collected and sorted donations including **Leneva Spires**, Publications Manager; **Coelleda O’Neil**, Administrative Coordinator; **Chi Naruse**, Administrative Assistant; **Doreen Wood**, Administrative Coordinator; **Janice Hohnstein**, Grants/Contracts Coordinator, and **Faye Kramer**, Executive Assistant. Thanks to all who donated and assisted with this successful clothing drive!
CAROL SHERBENOU RETIRES FROM FAMILY MEDICINE AT RICHMOND


“OHSU has treated me very well,” Sherbenou said. “It’s hard to leave. Family Medicine is wonderful. It’s a great place to work. I have loved all the collegiality and learning opportunities.”

John Muench, MD, Director of Behavioral Medicine, Richmond, said Sherbenou was instrumental in helping Family Medicine learn how to best integrate behavioral medicine into primary care clinics.

“She has been a joy to work with and will be sorely missed,” he said. “While we can certainly fill Carol’s position, she can never be replaced. She is always on the move and ready to help out in clinic. She has the energy of 10 people and the resilience needed to work with some of our most difficult patients day in and day out.”

Sherbenou said she will definitely miss Family Medicine.

“But I’m leaving at a good time,” she said. “There are a lot of new things starting up and I’m an old dog who is finding learning new tricks harder. There are younger social workers out there who are looking for work and will be lucky to work with Family Medicine. The department needs new people who are ready to give their all.”

After she’s done cleaning closets and catching up with friends, Sherbenou’s retirement plans include doing a “very tiny bit” of on-call work for a home-health agency in Vancouver and traveling. Her first trip will be to Washington D.C. in April; she’s hoping to head to Australia in the fall.

“It was a pleasure and privilege to work with everyone,” she said.

IMPAACT Awarded $1.8 million

2. Testing of the tools on-site with two pilot groups of families and CHC staff, modifying as needed, before implementing them throughout two CHCs.

3. Assessing the impact on children’s insurance coverage continuity, the quality of evidence-based pediatric care provided and the implementation process in the two CHCs compared to the usual care in two CHC control groups.

“If computer tools built in this study are proven to work well, they will help clinics and families improve health insurance coverage and health care for children,” DeVoe said. “This study will take place in a large network of community health centers, so we will be able to quickly spread the tools to more than 500,000 families in our network. We will build the tools in a way that they can be used by many other clinics with computer capabilities.”

The projects were approved by PCORI’s Board of Governors through a competitive, multi-stage review process that incorporated patients, caregivers and other stakeholders in the evaluation of proposals. Applications were evaluated on scientific merit, engagement of patients and other stakeholders, methodological rigor and fit within PCORI’s research priorities and research agenda.

FQHC Designation on Target

financial contribution) symbolizes that OHSU leadership is strongly supportive of this project.”

The walk-in clinic not only improves patient access to primary health care, but provides it in a convenient manner, in that no appointments are required. The clinic will share a lobby/reception area and staff break room with Cascadia Behavioral Health Clinic, which also offers walk-in care.

“We know that many people who come in seeking behavioral health services also need primary care services,” Teuber said. “So the staff at Cascadia is also enthusiastic about us being there.”

Architectural drawings for the clinic, which include six exam rooms, are complete. Building permit and state licensing processes will begin shortly. One physician assistant has been hired and will begin work at Richmond before transitioning to the walk-in clinic, which is expected to open in early summer.
PRESENTATIONS

Heather Angier, MPH; Jen DeVoe, MD, DPhil


Steffani Bailey, PhD; Jen DeVoe, MD, DPhil; John Heintzman, MD

Clifford Coleman, MD, MPH

Courtney Crawford, BS; Heather Angier MPH; Jen DeVoe, MD, DPhil


Jen DeVoe, MD, DPhil


Jen DeVoe, MD, DPhil; Christine Nelson, RN, PhD

Rick Deyo, MD, MPH


John Heintzman, MD; Jen DeVoe, MD, DPhil
Heintzman J, DeVoe JE, Puro J, Cowburn S. Latino Immigrants and Preventive Service Utilization in Oregon Community Health Centers. Accepted for Poster on Research in Progress at the 40th Annual Meeting of the North American Primary Care Research Group, New Orleans, LA, December 2012.

Sonja Likumahuwa, MID, MPH; Christine Nelson, RN, PhD
Regulatory Success In Community Health Research." Poster on Completed Research accepted to the 40th Annual Meeting of the North American Primary Care Research Group, New Orleans, LA, December 2012.

Sonja Likumahuwa, MID, MPH; Christine Nelson, RN, PhD; Steffani Bailey, PhD

Sonja Likumahuwa, MID, MPH

PUBLICATIONS

Jen DeVoe, MD, DPhil

Richard A. Deyo, MD, MPH
Martin BL, Ger Kovitch M, Deyo RA, Sherman K, Cherkin D, Lind BK, Goertz C, Lafferty W. The association of complementary and alternative medicine use and health care expenditures for back and neck problems. Medical Care 2012; 50 (12): 1029-1036. PMID: PMC3494804

John Muench, MD, MPH; Jen DeVoe, MD, DPhil; Christine Nelson, RN, PhD

John Muench, MD, MPH; John Heintzman, MD; Sonja Likumahuwa, MID, MPH

John Muench, MD, MPH; Jim Winkle, MPH; Jarvis, K; Meg Hayes, MD

Amy Ko bus, PhD; Richard A. Deyo, MD, MPH

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

LJ Fagnan, MD; Melinda Davis, PhD

John Saultz, MD
Saultz J. Surveying the territory. Fam Med 2012 Nov;44(10):689-690. PMID: 23147998