PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK (PBRN)

Objectives

- Develop the capacity, relationships and capabilities of a participatory research culture.
- Integrate PBRN activities with other participatory clinical and translational research resources.
- Catalyze the generation and application of new knowledge on important problems in health and health care.

Table of terms

- AHC – Academic Health Center
- BHGC – Better Health Greater Cleveland
- BRIM – Biomedical Research Informatics Mgmt
- CBPR – Community-Based Participatory Research
- CRP – Community Research Partnership
- CRUS – Clinical Research Unit Services
- PBRN – Practice-Based Research Network
- RKC – Regulatory Knowledge Core

Personnel

Core Staff:
Core Director: James J. Werner, PhD, CWRU
Research & Development Mentor: Kurt C. Stange, MD, PhD, CWRU
Manager & Research Facilitator: Michelle Hamilton
Research Facilitators: Judith Weiss, Dena Fisher

PBRN Directors (Currently Receiving Salary Support):
Randall Cebul MD, MHS
Robyn Strosaker, MD, Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital (RB&C)
Sharon Meropol, MD, PhD, RB&C
Catherine Demko, PhD, CWRU Dentistry

Special projects

- PBRN Micro Grant program
- Integration with CRUS and CRP
- Better Health Greater Cleveland data sharing and collaboratives for research & quality improvement
- Public health research collaborative with the RAPHI Public Health PBRN, SNPSA Safety Net PBRN, and CDC Prevention Research Center
- PBRN learning collaboratives, quality improvement to translate research into practice, and research recruitment facilitated by Maintenance of Board Certification projects
- ResearchMatch.org promotion in PBRNs
- AWARE for All, a nationwide effort to increase public awareness of the benefits of clinical research

Notable Accomplishments (2007-2011)

- PBRNs and community research have identity in the Cleveland, AHC and CWRU communities
- Growth, stability of practice-based research networks in a challenging environment
- Growing number of collaborative, participatory clinical & translational research projects initiated by community PBRN practices (55 projects since 2007) and by AHC investigators (60 projects since 2007) as shown in the graph above
- Trained 18 PBRN investigators in 1-3 year NIH-and HRSA-supported fellowships
- Developed new public health, safety net and cross-system primary care data-sharing PBRNs to meet community needs, and system affiliated PBRNs to engage system resources
- Better Health Greater Cleveland PBRN’s cross-system and community data sharing and learning collaboratives improved outcomes for people with chronic conditions in 48 primary care practices
- Integration and shared staffing with CTSC Community Engagement Core and CRUS Core

INTRODUCTION

Practice-based research networks (PBRNs) are organizations of community practices that collaborate with academic and community partners to facilitate scientific discovery(108). The participatory engagement of real world practices in research (56, 109-111) has great potential to overcome one of the most intractable problems diminishing the impact of NIH research, namely the limited translation of research into clinical application. (112-116) PBRNs are a vital community “laboratory” for linking research to patient care, and to bring the