Primary Care MultiEthnic Network (PRIME Net)
Center in Practice-Based Research and Learning

NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS IN RESEARCH, TRAINING, DISSEMINATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION

AHRQ Centers for Primary Care Practice-Based Research and Learning (P30 Grants)

The AHRQ Centers for Primary Care Practice-Based Research and Learning nurture partnerships, conduct research, and disseminate knowledge with the ultimate aim of improving patient care. By connecting several Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs) and other research partners under a single Center it is possible to engage in sophisticated projects in a collaborative environment.

This summary is an invitation to learn about the Center's research areas of interest, experts, and strategies for enhancing primary care. We hope the information fosters pursuits of shared interest and new quality improvement partnerships, perhaps with you.

PRIME Net is a consortium of eight geographically diverse PBRNs that have a shared commitment to improve clinical care for and conduct research with traditionally underrepresented, and often underserved, populations. PRIME Net strives to engage diverse primary care patients in practice-based research, cultivate a cycle of trust through ongoing, language-appropriate communication and a feedback loop, and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate research results. For example, several member networks came together to partner with their communities to develop best practices for participation in research and PRIME Net member, San Francisco Bay Collaborative Research Network (SF Bay CRN) led a project to develop multilingual prescription instructions for patients with limited English proficiency.

Partnerships & Collaborations

PRIME Net fosters relationships within and outside of the network to prioritize research, engage participants, and encourage development of new ideas. The diversity of PRIME Net's clinician and patient population and member locations across the United States provides a unique advantage and positions the Center to have a track record as a successful research collaborative.

- **Collaborative research process to prioritize research projects**: This process consists of iterative meetings held with community representatives from diverse member networks to determine priorities, designate project topics, and decide on project design and budget. The first project prioritized using this process was the Hepatitis C Clinician Survey.

- **Partnering with communities to develop best practices for participation in research**: Five of the eight PRIME Net networks came together to identify strategies for recruiting and retaining diverse racial/ethnic minorities for research activities. Through key informant interviews and focus groups, they realized a cycle of trust must be developed and sustained throughout the study. An article highlighting the findings was published in November 2013.

- **Providing support and consultation for new research:** PRIME Net member San Francisco Bay Collaborative Research Network (SF Bay CRN) provides consultation services to all members of the public with questions related to practice-based research. SF Bay CRN director Mike Potter encourages researchers to use the services and appreciates that it allows his team to collaborate on and foster a broader portfolio of projects.

> *"PRIME Net regards primary care clinicians as a vulnerable and underserved community-based group and values working together as a form of community engagement. As a Center, PRIME Net provides a venue and personnel for primary care clinicians to participate in and disseminate practice-based research."*
>
> *Anne Victoria Neale, PhD, MPH*
> *Director, PRIME Net*

Training & Education

Peer Learning

Enrichment of its members and other researchers is a priority for PRIME Net. In 2013 to 2015, they held seven peer-learning Webinars focused on topics such as branding, funding from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and meaningful use. Webinar slides are made available on the PRIME Net website in the resources section.

Distillation of Real World Experience and Sage Advice: "PBRN Research Good Practices (PRGPs)" Guide
Project Number: 5R18HS019601-03

Through an AHRQ funded R18 project, the PBRN Research Good Practices (PRGPs) Guide was developed by an extensive team of PBRN researchers and members of the P30 community. The Guide builds on previously completed work in which PBRN leaders identified a core set of best practices for PBRN research and was developed using a highly participatory process.

This easy-to-follow, 100+-page resource provides succinct and actionable guidance across four chapters:

- Building a PBRN infrastructure
- Study development and implementation
- Data management
- Dissemination policies

The PRGP Guide details recommendations and strategies to support the primary care research enterprise and is the culmination of a four-year mixed-methods research effort in which dozens of researchers, including two other P30 networks (CoCoNet2 and Meta-LARC), seven PBRNs (IRENE, OKPRN, ORPRN, MetroNet, RIOS Net, and WREN) developed, tested, and disseminated the Guide under the leadership of PRIME Net principal investigator Dr. Anne Victoria Neale.

Dr. Neale and colleagues presented the PRGP Guide on a PBRN Resource Center-sponsored national Webinar in September 2014. The PBRN workgroup of the North America Primary Care Research Group's Committee on Advancing the Science of Family Medicine is advocating for several spin-off projects including translation into French, development of an implementation self-assessment checklist, and performing regular updates to content. Dr. Neale and her team are also planning to develop a new section on Stakeholder Engagement.

Patient Engagement

PRIME Net conducts collaborative research projects to improve the health and well-being of multiethnic patients in communities that are traditionally underrepresented in health research. Highlights of PRIME Net's research include:

> *"The PRGPs have received an enthusiastic reception from practice-based researchers." Dr. Neale*

Drs. Andrew Sussman (RIOS Net PBRN) and Barcey Levy (IRENE PBRN), participate in a group session to develop the Research Good Practices Guide.

- "Impact of Meaningful Use Patient Engagement Objectives in a Multicultural PBRN" is an AHRQ-funded project involving PRIME Net members SPUR Net and MetroNet that builds on a prior one, Evaluation of Computer Generated After-Visit Summaries to Support Patient-Centered Care. The original project examined how to compose an after visit summary (AVS) through an electronic health record (EHR) – a task identified as an objective in Meaningful Use. The follow-up study analyzes the utilization of patient engagement features in an EHR in primary care settings. Data from these projects could be useful in defining and selecting Stage 3 Meaningful Use criteria.

- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and Stakeholder Engagement: PRIME Net Member SF Bay CRN offers guidance on how to maximize stakeholder engagement in PCORI research. This brief video lecture stresses the importance of including the right stakeholders from a project's inception.

Getting to Know PRIME Net's Key Personnel

Anne Victoria Neale, PhD, MPH
Director, PRIME Net
"The P30 Federal funding mechanism that created eight Centers for Primary Care Practice-Based Research and Learning provides the opportunity for our members and networks to reconnect and reenergize. Working together as a P30 Center allows us to meet monthly, partner on diverse research projects, develop member-led learning communities, and educate new staff about the value of a consortium. PRIME Net members share a common interest in reducing health disparities and in engaging with underserved populations."

Valory Pavlik, PhD
Director, PRIME Net Research Core, Southern Primary-care Urban Research Network (SPURNet)
"The organization of PRIME Net brings investigators from across the country together and gives researchers a better idea of the cross-cutting issues that are important to primary care. The relationships formed have allowed us to compare what is important in our community to others, identify common needs and research ideas, and foster broad dissemination of information gleaned from projects. We are representing populations of people who are underserved and need answers. The P30 mechanism creates Centers that enhance the ability to apply for large grants, such as the meaningful use project, that can provide this information."

Mike Potter
Director, San Francisco Bay Collaborative Research Network (SF Bay CRN)
"The best part of working with PRIME Net is learning about what other networks are doing and identifying opportunities for collaboration, particularly around disparities research. There are projects that benefit from a broader scope, team, and reach and PRIME Net allows different research groups to come together and do that. SF Bay CRN especially enjoys understanding what community health centers can do related to patient engagement and practice transformation and the opportunity to do that on a larger scale. If we had more funding to come together in more ways, it would be beneficial to practice-based research."

What is next for PRIME Net?

Advancing and Growing the Practice-Based Research Field

PRIME Net wants to ensure future members and networks understand the importance of applying best practices in running a PBRN and performing practice-based research. To further that idea, the group is developing a concept to provide a training program to PBRN coordinators that would comprise many resources, including the PBRN Research Good Practices (PRGPs). A PBRN coordinator is responsible for managing the daily operations of a PBRN, including hiring, training and oversight of staff, and assignment of staff to research projects. The training will address topics such as: What is a PBRN?; What do PBRN coordinators do?; Introduction to PBRN research; Study management and supervision; Data management; and Dissemination.
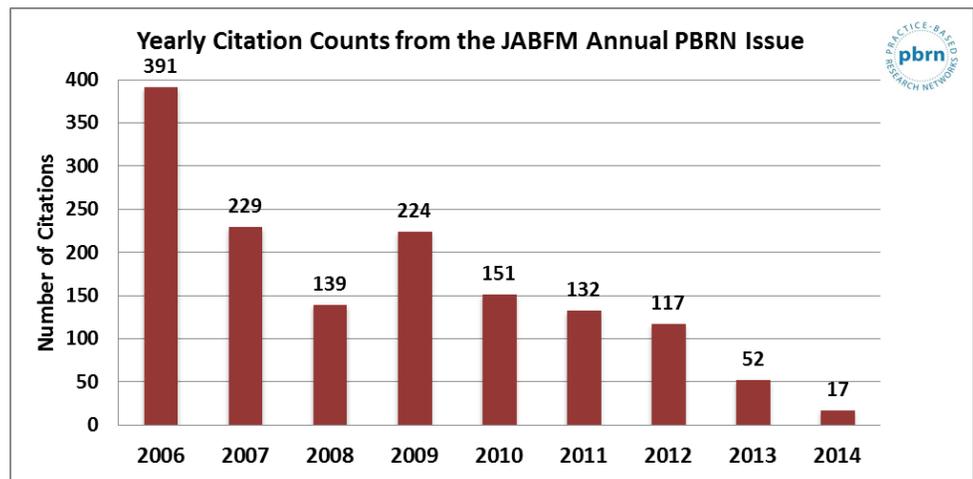
Expanding Understanding of PBRNs and the Research They Perform:

For almost a decade, PRIME Net director Dr. Victoria Neale has worked with Dr. Marjorie Bowman at the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine (JABFM) to facilitate the publication of an annual Practice-Based Research theme issue. Dr. Neale reaches out to all PBRNs to submit work and once per year an issue of JABFM is dedicated to articles highlighting research done by PBRNs. In the nine years since the first issue was published (2006) the articles have been cited over 1,450 times!

Sentinel Articles Include:

- *A Short History of Primary Care Practice-based Research Networks: From Concept to Essential Research Laboratories*, written by Drs. Larry A. Green and John Hickner in 2006

- *Increasing the Role of Practice Networks in Medical Research*, a commentary by Drs. Philip D. Sloane, Rowena J. Dolor, and Jacquie Halladay in 2009

- *Chronic Non-Cancer Pain: A Siren for Primary Care – A Report From the PRImary care MultiEthnic Network (PRIME Net* written by Dr. Robert R. Leverence et al in 2011

- *Building Research Infrastructure in Community Health Centers: A Community Health Applied Research Network (CHARN) Report*, a special communication piece written by Dr. Sonja Likumahuwa et al in 2013

Yearly Citation Counts from the JABFM Annual PBRN Issue

Year	Number of Citations
2006	391
2007	229
2008	139
2009	224
2010	151
2011	132
2012	117
2013	52
2014	17

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Get to Know Members of PRIME Net

Who, Where, When	How	What	
		Key publication	Recently funded project
Colorado Research Network (CaReNet) www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/departments/familymed/research/PBRN/CaReNet/Pages/CaReNet.aspx			
Director: Donald Nease **Location: Colorado** **Founded in 1998** **400 Clinicians in 42 clinics**	CaReNet works to improve health by the application of scientific methods to questions important to primary care clinicians, their patients, and their communities. CaReNet examines questions with the potential to understand health, disease, and illness, and the roles and values of primary care, with a focus on disadvantaged populations.	Vande Griend JP, Saseen JJ, Bislip D, Moore G, Conry C. An off-site clinical pharmacy service in family medicine: development and 1-year outcomes. Fam Med. 2014;46(5), 348-53.	An Evaluation of Innerview™, Web-Based Tool to Support the Integration of Mental Health in Primary Care: Test the ability of a web-based tool to support the integration of mental health and primary care by accurately and reliably collecting, organizing and automating mental health evidence and activities.
LA Net Community Health Network (LA Net) www.lanetpbrn.net			
Director: Lyndee Knox **1,000 Clinicians in 100 Clinics** **Location: California** **Founded in 2002**	LA Net works to improve primary health care services and quality of life for low-income minority and underserved families living in Southern California.	A listing of current publications from PubMed: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Lyndee+Knox An overview of practice facilitation programs in Canada: current perspectives and future directions	Barriers/facilitators to obstructive sleep apnea care in safety-net settings: Testing new theories and devices for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) management among safety-net practices: Improving screening for patients at risk for COPD

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Who, Where, When	How	What	
		Key publication	Recently funded project
MetroNet (Metropolitan Detroit Network) www.med.wayne.edu/fam/research_scholarship/metronet.asp			
Director: Kendra Schwartz **70 Clinicians in 18 Clinics** **Location: Michigan** **Founded in 2001**	MetroNet is committed to the health care needs of metropolitan Detroit's underserved populations and the development of evidence-based clinical practice through clinical research.	Visit the MetroNet Web site for a full list of publications, including: Spears W, Tsoh JY, Potter MB, Weller N, Brown AE, Campbell-Voytal K, Getrich, CM, Sussman AM, Pascoe, Neale AV. Use of community engagement strategies to increase research participation in practice-based research networks (PBRNs). Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine, 27 (6): 763-771, 2014.	Visit the MetroNet Web site for a full list of projects, including: Neale AV (PI). Building Research Culture with Quality Improvement Strategies. US Agency for Health Research & Quality (AHRQ) R18 HS019601, 09/2010 – 09/2013 Neale AV, Pavlik V (Co-PIs), Campbell-Voytal KD (Co-I). "Impact of Meaningful Use Patient Engagement Objectives in a Multicultural PBRN". U.S. Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ). 09/01/2013 – 08/31/2014.
Research Involving Outpatient Settings Network (RIOS Net) http://fcm.unm.edu/research/rios-net/index.html			
Director: Andrew Sussman **275 Clinicians in 70 Clinics** **Location: New Mexico** **Founded in 2000**	RIOS Net is a voluntary collaboration of clinicians serving the Southwest's low-income, medically under-served and culturally diverse communities.	Rhyn R, Sussman A, Fernald D, Weller N, Daniels EL, Williams RL. Reports of persistent change in the clinical encounter following research participation: a report from PRIME Net. J Am Board Fam Med. 2011;24(5):496-502.	Partnerships to Reduce Disparities in Substance Use Screening and Treatment (in progress) The Marriage of Community-Based Participatory Research and Practice-Based Research Networks: Can it Work? – A Research Involving Outpatient Settings Network Study: PBRNs potentially provide a bridge between the research endeavor and communities, and have been identified

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Who, Where, When	How	What	
		Key publication	**Recently funded project**
			as a promising venue for CBPR. This marriage of CBPR and PBRNs, however, faces challenges, such as locus of project idea generation, time constraints, and funding limitations
San Francisco Bay Collaborative Research Network (SF Bay CRN) http://www.sfbaycrn.org/			
Director: Michael Potter **Location: California** **Founded in 1985** **1,500 Clinicians in 200 Clinics**	SF Bay CRN works to facilitate connections between UCSF's academic researchers and community-based clinicians to create mutually beneficial research partnerships. Ultimately, SF Bay CRN believes such partnerships can speed the development of practice-based evidence that supports better health care outcomes in our diverse communities.	Visit the SF Bay CRN Web site for a full list of publications, including: Bailey SC, Hasnain-Wynia R, Chen AH, Sarkar U, Lindquist LA, Schillinger D, Wolf MS. Developing multilingual prescription instructions for patients with limited English proficiency. J Health Care Poor Underserved. 2012 Feb;23(1):81-7.	Visit the SF Bay CRN Web site to learn about practice-based research at UCSF and in diverse communities

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PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORKS

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Who, Where, When	How	What	
		Key publication	Recently funded project
Southeast Regional Clinicians Network (SERCN) http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/southeast-regional-clinicians-network			
Director: George Rust **1,670 Clinicians in 1600 Clinics** **Location: 9 states in the Southeast** **Founded in 2000**	SERCN improves the quality of care for persons in the Southeastern US, focusing on the elimination of disparities in health status.	Rust GS, Murray V, Octaviani H, Schmidt ED, Howard JP, Anderson-Grant V, Willard-Jelks K. Asthma care in community health centers: a study by the southeast regional clinicians' network. J Natl Med Assoc. 1999;91(7):398-403.	Visit the PRIME Net Web site for highlights of SERCN's research, including: Colorectal cancer: Focus groups among African Americans in Georgia were conducted to assess their knowledge, attitudes and beliefs towards Colorectal Cancer Screening (CRCS).
Southwest Ohio Ambulatory Research Network (SOAR Net) http://soar-net.org/			
Director: John Pascoe **80 Clinicians in 15 Clinics** **Location: Ohio** **Founded in 2002**	SOAR Net is committed to improving the health and welfare of all children and adolescent and to collaborating within our unique collection of primary care practices (urban, suburban, rural, and military). We share new knowledge from our studies among network members and others. We aim to make important contributions that enable primary care clinicians to provide high quality, culturally competent care to their young patients.	Spears W, Pascoe J, Khamis H, McNicholas CI, Eberhart G. Parents' perspectives on their children's health insurance: plight of the underinsured. J Pediatr. 2013;162(2):403-8.	Visit the SOAR Net Web site for a list of projects and presentations, including: The Maternal Mental Health study: Improve heath care providers' awareness of maternal depression and to increase screening as well as referrals of mothers who are at risk for depression.

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Who, Where, When	How	What	
		Key publication	**Recently funded project**
Southern Primary Care Urban Research Network (SPUR-Net) http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/southern-primary-care-urban-research-network			
Director: Anthony Brown **300 Clinicians in 32 Clinics** **Location: Texas** **Founded in 2000**	SPUR-NET works to improve the quality and safety of health care in primary care settings. Clinician-members of SPUR-Net's constituent organizations engage in research projects that seek to identify and solve problems commonly encountered in their practices.	Visit the SPUR Net website for more information on data, projects, publications, and presentations, including: A Vaccination SOP Toolkit in Diverse Practices Implemented & Tested with RE-AIM: The objective of this proposed study is to demonstrate the scalability, fidelity, and maintenance of Standing Orders Programs (SOPs) for increasing adult immunization rates in physician office settings particularly those serving disadvantaged populations. Getrich CM, Sussman AL, Campbell-Voytal K, Tsoh JY, Williams RL, Brown AE, Potter MB, Spears W, Weller N, Pascoe J, Schwartz K, Neale AV. Cultivating a cycle of trust with diverse communities in practice-based research: a report from the PRImary Care MultiEthnic Network (PRIME Net), Ann Fam Med. 2013;11(6):550-8.	

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