

Children's Health Clinic to Participate in CORNET



Dr. Maria Nanagas, Director of Dayton Children's Health Clinic, has been invited to become a member of a new national practice based research network. CORNET (**CO**nntinuity **R**esearch **Ne**twork) has been asked to help collaborate with PROS (Pediatric Research in Office Settings) on a research project that examines secondary sexual characteristics in boys throughout the United States. Over 6,000 boys ages 6 through 16 years will be assessed to assure and age range likely to capture the full range of sexual development from the pre-pubertal state to sexual maturity. This study seemed to be an ideal fit from the perspective of resident clinical education as well as resident exposure to clinical research in an outpatient setting.

CORNET is a national practice-based research network of pediatric resident continuity practices. Its mission is to establish a self-sustaining collaborative research network among pediatric continuity clinic clinicians who will produce quality research in primary care, health care delivery and education. CORNET's findings will be disseminated in order to improve the health care of underserved children and the training of future pediatricians.

CORNET's goals are:

- To study health and healthcare issues of minority and underserved children.
- To compare health care issues of minority and underserved populations to those of other populations, especially examining healthcare disparities.
- To study resident education.
- To compare practice behavior between residents in their continuity practices and pediatricians in their practice settings.
- To increase resident exposure to and involvement in primary care research

We are excited about this opportunity for Dr. Nanagas and the Children's Health Clinic residents and look forward to potential collaborations in the future.

Contents

CORNET	1
2007-2008 Events	1
Social Capital Study	2
Maternal Mental Health	2
MRSA Study	3
CPRG Update	3
OPRC Update	3
Mission Statement	4
Our Members	4

2007-2008 Events

- ◆ October 27-30, 2007 AAP National Conference and Exhibition, San Francisco, California
- ◆ February 8, 2008, Ohio AAP Open Forum, Athens, Ohio
- ◆ May 2-6, 2008, PAS Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii

CURRENT PROJECTS

Social Capital Study

SOAR-Net clinicians from community pediatric offices have recruited over 500 parents to participate in the Social Capital Study. Primary care offices that have already recruited families are located throughout the Miami Valley and include: The Rocking Horse Center (Springfield, OH), Cornerstone Pediatrics (Springboro, OH), Ohio Pediatrics, Inc (Kettering and Huber Heights, OH locations) and the Developmental Pediatric Clinic at The Children's Medical Center of Dayton.

Parents of children receiving care from SOAR-Net primary care clinics are invited to answer questions about the health of their children, their children's quality of life, and their community support or social capital. The overwhelming response from parents concerning content of the questionnaire has been positive.

A twelve-month review of the "index" child's medical chart will be done to determine parents' child health behaviors (e.g. office phone calls, immunizations, well and acute visits). A Body Mass Index (BMI) will also be collected for each index child.

Chart reviews will continue at Ohio Pediatrics, Inc. and data collection is in progress at The Children's Health Clinic (The Children's Medical Center of Dayton) through the fall 2007. If you would like to participate in this study please contact Greg Eberhart (937) 885-4475 or Jack Pascoe (937) 641-3277.



Maternal Mental Health Study

SOAR-Net clinicians have participated in the Maternal Mental Health study along with members of the Ohio Research Consortium. SOAR-Net has collected 700 responses from area mothers whose children were treated at primary care offices in the Miami Valley. The response from participating mothers has been overwhelmingly positive. The mothers of SOAR-Net patients were asked to complete a two-page survey providing feedback on maternal resource guides for patients seen in practices in Greene, Montgomery and Clark counties.

The goal of the study is to improve health care providers' awareness of maternal depression and to increase screening as well as referrals of mothers who are at risk for depression.

Preliminary data analysis has shown that about 30 percent of the surveyed moms had a positive depression screen. While almost all mothers found the resource guide to be helpful and easy to use, mothers with a positive depression score were more likely to report the resource guide was helpful for them personally and that they were likely to call "any of the numbers."

The project has been submitted to the Wright-Patterson AFB (WPAFB) Institutional Review Board and data collection will begin at the WPAFB Pediatric clinic this fall. If you would like to participate in this study please contact Greg Eberhart (937) 885-4475 or Jack Pascoe (937) 641-3277.



Upcoming Projects



Current Practices in Treating Empiric Staphylococcal and Streptococcal Skin and Soft Tissue Infections in Children

SOAR-Net is finishing up development of a web-based survey that will assess how pediatricians throughout the state of Ohio are recognizing and treating routine skin infections in their offices. With the support of the President of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Bill Cotton, M.D., SOARNet will survey all Ohio AAP members (those who have an email address on file) to gather data on their perceptions of these infections in their communities.

After this data is collected, SOARNet will be collaborating with the Cincinnati Pediatric Research Group and the Ohio Pediatric Research Consortium on a study analyzing the *actual practice patterns* of clinicians in dealing with potential MRSA infections in an office setting. Ongoing surveillance will help to better identify not just what clinicians perceive is happening in their communities, but what they are actually doing when confronted with these patients in the office setting.

Staphylococcus Aureus and Group A Streptococcus are the most common pathogens in skin and soft tissue infections in children. In the past, empiric treatment for these infections was relatively straightforward. More recently, emerging resistance and increased virulence of *S. Aureus* has led to increased severity of disease, more hospitalizations and led practitioners to change their empiric treatment of these infections. There is little information, however, on how practitioners are actually treating these infections in children and how various empiric regimens affect outcomes.

Cincinnati Pediatric Research Group

Symptom Surveillance Project (SSP)

This project was developed to create and evaluate a web-based symptom surveillance tool to facilitate real-time, two-way communication between community providers as clinicians and researchers and government agencies charged with monitoring epidemiology and/or potential bioterrorism-caused symptoms. The surveillance system and portable and desktop access devices will be evaluated for their utility, efficiency, and sensitivity and will contribute to the infrastructure used to enhance CPRG activities.



Ohio Pediatric Research Consortium Update

Leaders Meet in Columbus to Discuss Upcoming Projects

Members of OPRC (Ohio Pediatric Research Consortium) met in Columbus in August to update members on their current projects and to discuss future collaborative efforts. Representatives from the Rainbow Research Network (Cleveland), Cincinnati Pediatric Research Group, SOARNet (Dayton), and Columbus were present at the meeting. Member groups of OPRC have been collaborating on the Maternal Mental Health guide and hope to all participate in the upcoming MRSA study that is in its final stages of development in Cincinnati.

Members of OPRC will meet again in December to finalize collaborative efforts on this project and potentially collaborating on a statewide developmental surveillance project.



Our Mission

SOAR-NET is a young and growing group of pediatricians and family medicine practitioners associated with Wright State University and Children's Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio. Our mission is to support our members to design and carry out office based clinical research of importance and interest to our members, and in turn we believe to other primary care providers and those involved in formulating health policy. As primary care providers at the forefront of clinical medicine,

participating pediatricians and family physicians are in a unique position to formulate and research clinically relevant questions about diagnosis, prevention and intervention strategies in common childhood illnesses. Currently there is a lack of evidence and wide knowledge gaps regarding many facets of medicine that can be easily examined by broad based clinical networks of offices such as ours, located throughout

Dayton in a variety of socioeconomic areas (urban, suburban, rural and military-based).

Our research network supports its members in formulating clinical questions and provides support in study design and statistical analysis of data.

Interested in more information?
Call:

*Susan Howard at
(937) 641-3277*

Our Members

The participating practices of the Dayton primary Care PBRN have one thing in common; they are diverse.

Children's Health Clinic
Community Child Health Centers
Cornerstone Pediatrics
Indian Ripple Family Health Center

Ohio Pediatrics, Inc.
PriMed Physicians of Dayton
Rocking Horse Center
South Dayton Pediatrics
University Medicine-Pediatrics
WPAFB Pediatric Clinic
Yellow Springs Family Health Center

We're on the Web!
www.med.wright.edu/dpcbrn

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