

# A Publication of The Dayton Primary Care Practice Based Research Network

## THE NETWORK NEWS

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### 2005 Events

- ◆ Ohio Pediatric Research Consortium (OPRC) - March 16, Columbus
- ◆ Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS)- May 14-17, Washington DC
- ◆ Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) PBRN Annual Meeting - July 21-22, Washington DC

## Alphabet Soup: What is a PBRN?

Over the past decade, primary care practice-based research networks (PBRNs) have emerged as a promising approach to the scientific study of primary care. A PBRN is a group of ambulatory practices devoted to the primary care of patients, affiliated with each other (and often with an academic or professional organization) in order to investigate questions related to community based practice. Typically, PBRNs draw on the experience and insight of practicing clinicians to identify and frame research questions whose answers can improve the practice of primary care. By linking these questions with rigorous research methods, the PBRN can produce research findings that are immediately relevant to the clinician and, in theory, more easily assimilated into everyday practice.

Many findings from PBRNs have changed clinical practices for such diverse

medical issues as the need for D&C following a spontaneous abortion; the role of antibiotics in children with Otitis media; and primary care interventions that can reduce problem alcohol use.

The Dayton Primary Care PBRN was first formed in the Fall of 2002 with the aim of answering clinically based research questions through the cooperative effort of a number of local family care and pediatric practices. Our group has been involved with a unique mix of issues including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, childhood obesity and handgun safety.

Look further into this newsletter for more information! You are invited to join your colleagues already in the network. Please call **Susan Howard at (937) 641-3277** to sign up!

## The National Children's Study

The National Children's Study will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21. The goal of the study is to improve the health and well-being of children.

The study defines "environment" broadly and will take a number of issues into account, including:

- Natural and man-made environment factors
- Biological and chemical factors
- Physical surroundings
- Social factors
- Behavioral influences and outcomes
- Genetics
- Cultural and family influences and differences
- Geographic locations

Researchers will analyze how these elements interact with each other

Continued on Page 3



## Completed Projects

### Firearms Survey:

This survey study addressed issues of gun safety and the role of physician counseling regarding gun safety. A total of 17 practices participated and over 450 surveys were analyzed. Eighteen percent of respondents had guns in the home, which is less than the national average of 38%. However, only 11% of respondents indicated that their child's healthcare provider had discussed issues

of gun safety with them. Interestingly, 88% of the respondents felt that physicians should provide information regarding safe gun storage. With over 2,500 children being injured or killed by firearms in the US each year and 1/3 of children living in a home with at least 1 firearm this is an issue that child health providers need to address. This abstract has been submitted to the Pediatric Academic Society Meeting.

### In Progress

The Dayton Primary Care PBRN is currently working on the following projects:

#### ADHD Toolkit Survey:

This survey will help determine the usage of the American Academy of Pediatrics ADHD Toolkit by both pediatricians and family practitioners in the state of Ohio.

#### Primary Care Network Survey 1 and 2

Work on PRINS 1 and 2 is complete and currently in analysis. These surveys are used to characterize the demographics of the patient population and providers that participate in Dayton Primary Care PBRN studies. An abstract based on these findings was accepted for presentation at the May 2005 Pediatric Academic Societies meeting. This is the first accepted abstract based on the research of our PBRN.



*“The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that physicians discuss gun safety with their patients but only 11% of survey respondents report receiving such counseling during a visit.”*

## Proposed Projects

### Social Capital Scale:

A new social capital scale for families has been developed by Wendy Looman, PhD, (Univ. of Minnesota School of Nursing) with support from faculty at Univ. of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. The Dayton Primary Care PBRN is developing a study to examine the scale's internal reliability and predictive validity in primary care practice.

### Maternal Depression / Mom's Resource Guide:

Amy Heneghan, MD (Rainbow Children's Hospital, Cleveland) is collaborating with the Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and fellow members of the OPRC (see page 3) to craft a statewide community-based project that will assess mothers' and health providers' attitudes regarding usefulness of the “The Mom's Resource Guide”. The guide will be customized for each participating member of OPRC.

## PROS Update

PROS (Pediatric Research in Office Settings) is a practice-based research network that was established by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in 1986. As of January 2004, PROS consists of 1,938 pediatric practitioners from 701 practices in 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, teamed with a research staff at AAP headquarters in Elk Grove Village, IL and research consultants from around the country.

The network has experienced steady growth since its inception.

#### Current PROS Studies:

[Child Abuse Recognition Experience Study \(CARES\)](#)  
[Safety Check: Randomized Controlled Trial to Prevent Child Violence Study](#)  
[Translating Immunization Research Into Practice \(TIRIP\)](#)

For more information: [www.aap.org/pros/](http://www.aap.org/pros/)

## National Childrens' Study cont.

and what helpful and/or harmful effects they might have on children's health. By studying children through their different phases of growth and development, researchers will be better able to understand the role of these factors on health and disease. Findings from the study will be made available as soon as possible as the research progresses.

The study will also allow scientists to find the differences that exist between groups of people, in terms of their health, health care access, disease occurrence, and other issues, so that these differences or disparities can be addressed.

The National Children's Study will be one of the richest information

resources available for answering questions related to children's health and development and will form the basis of child health guidance, interventions, and policy for generations to come. It is anticipated that the preliminary results from the first years of the study will be available in 2008-2009.

## OPRC

The Dayton Primary Care PBRN does not work alone. We have close ties and collaborations with other practice based research networks (PBRNs) across Ohio. Along with PBRN's in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo, we form the Ohio Pediatric Research Consortium.

The OPRC was developed to enhance collaboration in studies important for the improvement of the health in Ohio's

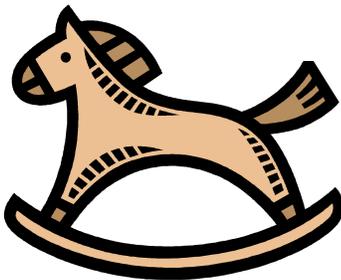
children. Meetings of the OPRC are held biannually with the most recent meeting occurring March 16, 2005 in Columbus.

The first project undertaken by the OPRC was a Pediatric Obesity Study. Its purpose was to 1) assess primary care physicians' ability to diagnose obesity in children; 2) describe the incidence of obesity in children in Ohio and 3) describe current methods for managing pediatric obesity.

The current joint project involves maternal depression and a regional "Mom's Resource Guide" for each PBRN (see page 2).

Interested? Please contact:

**Susan Howard, (937) 641-3277**



*"We believe that all children deserve to live happy, healthy lives in caring families and supportive, safe communities."*

*James Duffee, MD  
Rocking Horse Center*

## Practice Highlight: Rocking Horse Pediatrics

Since its conception in 1997, Rocking Horse Center has been a focus of cooperation and community. It was first planned by a group of concerned citizens who included two local hospital executives, the Mayor of Springfield and a pediatrician. They agreed that the barriers facing low and middle-income families to access comprehensive and preventative healthcare could only be overcome through a spirit of cooperation.

The business philosophy of Rocking Horse reflects its commitment to universal access and community responsiveness. It ensures that children receive the care they need, regardless of family income. Rocking Horse is a non-profit organization, but fiscally accountable to the public trust. All efforts seek to provide cost-effective, high quality care as well

as incorporate wise use of natural resources.

Rocking Horse's team approach addresses the complexities of the many relationships involved in effective health education. Its seamless, integrated care continuum begins with the family, through the treatment team, to other community agencies and resources.

"We will advance public policies that make the community safer and healthier for children and youth. We will continue to search for and implement best practices for health education and compassionate treatment of illness. We will provide an environment in which others can explore and learn those best practices. "

For more info call: (937) 324-1111 x141

## Our Mission

The *Dayton Primary Care Practice Based Research Network* 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](http://www.med.wright.edu/dpcbrn)

Dayton Primary Care PBRN  
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**NAME/ADDRESS**