

# The SOAR-Net Sentinel



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## Medical Students Make Vital Contributions to SOAR-Net

Alyssa Gans and Kate Joyce are medical students from the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine who have been working with SOAR-Net members on research projects. Alyssa was asked about her experiences with SOARNet.

“I heard about SOAR-Net from a physician I worked with at Case Western while I was doing my undergraduate work. She told me to contact Jack Pascoe about research opportunities. I started working with SOAR-Net after the first few months of my first year of medical school. I have largely been working with SOAR-Net’s research coordinator, Sandy Specht, on the Maternal Mental Health project. I have been helping with data entry, and also helped develop the code book used to score all of the survey results.”

As a result of her work on the Maternal Mental Health project, Alyssa will present an abstract at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality National PBRN meeting in May 2007.

Kate Joyce worked with Dr. Shalini Forbis to develop a SOAR-Net research project regarding mothers’ perception of childhood fever. Kate completed the IRB proposal, recruited SOAR-Net practices, completed data entry and analysis as well as the abstract and poster for the PAS meetings. She plans to complete the first draft of the manuscript before she begins her pediatric residency

Alyssa reports many benefits from working with SOAR-Net. “One of the biggest benefits of my experience has been the ability to see a project through from the start to the finish. Many projects that students get involved with take many years to complete and they may never see the project end. I have been able to experience the complete cycle of research in just over a year.”

“I have also been able to meet many physicians, both hospital and community based, during this experience. This networking should prove to be invaluable in the future.”

We have been fortunate to have enthusiastic and hard-working students assist us in our research projects and look forward to more student research assistance in the future.

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## Congratulations

Jack Pascoe, Adrienne Stolfi and Mary Ormond were the recipients of the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care’s* Ellen Rudy Clore Excellence in Research Writing Award for 2006. Their article “Correlates of Mothers’ Persistent Depressive Symptoms: A National Study” was selected as the journal’s outstanding research article of the year.

Congratulations to Shalini Forbis and Adrienne Stolfi on the publication of the Firearms paper. It is the first SOARNet paper accepted for publication.

## 2007 Events

- ◆ May 16-18, 2007, AHRQ National PBRN Conference, Bethesda, Maryland
- ◆ May 18, 2007, Ohio AAP Open Forum, Akron, Ohio
- ◆ June 2, 2007, Child Health Services Research Meeting, Orlando, Florida
- ◆ October 27-30, AAP National Conference and Exhibition, San Francisco, California

## CURRENT PROJECTS

### Social Capital Study

Members of SOAR-Net have completed the first 6 months of data collection in the Dayton Children's Developmental Pediatric Clinic (with participation from Dr. Eileen Kasten, Dr. Cecelia Amisola-Rivera and their staff) as well as in several community pediatric offices, such as Cornerstone Pediatrics (Springboro, OH) and Ohio Pediatrics Inc (OPI) (Kettering and Huber Heights, OH locations).

Over 80 mothers of children receiving care in the developmental clinics of The Children's Medical Center and over 200 mothers of children receiving primary care from Cornerstone or OPI have completed surveys. The questionnaire asks parents about the health of their children, their community support or social capital and includes questions regarding their children's quality of life. The overwhelming response from parents has been positive, regarding questions asked of them in the survey.

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). Chart reviews have been completed at Cornerstone Pediatrics with the help of Dr. Taunya Jaspas, M.D. a second year resident at Wright State University.

Chart reviews will continue at OPI and data collection will begin at The Rocking Horse Center (Springfield, OH) through the spring/early summer 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 participation in the Maternal Mental Health study as a member of the Ohio Pediatric Research Consortium has been a great success due to outstanding participation from practitioners throughout the Miami Valley in recruiting moms for the study. To assess clinician practices with regard to maternal depression, almost 20 clinicians completed questionnaires and recruited 30 moms from each of their practices to review a maternal resource guide and complete a mother's version of the questionnaire. Almost 700 mothers have participated in the study by completing a questionnaire.

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.

Analysis of the data has shown that almost 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 upon receipt of base IRB approval. 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

*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.

SOAR-Net is completing 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., SOAR-Net 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 these data are collected, SOAR-Net 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 Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections in an office setting. Ongoing surveillance will document physicians' behavior when confronted with these patients in the office setting.

### Western Ohio Pediatric Society Meetings

The Western Ohio Pediatric Society with the administrative assistance of SOAR-Net, has held two meetings this year. The first meeting, in February 2007, featured Rick Tuck, M.D. His talk, **Improving Reimbursement in the Office Setting**, was one of the most well received and well attended in the Society's recent history. Dr. Joseph Biederman, Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School nationally known for his research on ADHD, was present for a talk on the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD, and was similarly well received by members.



### Cincinnati Pediatric Research Group Update

#### Office-Based Low Carbohydrate Diet Intervention in Adolescents

The efficacy of a Low Carbohydrate Diet (LCD) has been demonstrated in both children and adults. The success of instituting the LCD in a primary care setting, however, has not been shown. The object of this study is to demonstrate the effectiveness of a LCD in obese adolescents in a pediatric primary care setting. In this study we will identify 70 obese children 12 years of age or older (BMI > 95%) and place them on the LCD of < 50 grams of carbohydrate per day and followed at regular intervals. A dietician and a pediatrician will see the children at regular intervals. A lipid profile, dietary intake, urine ketone status and physical activity will be monitored. The weight and BMI of study children at entry and at study visits will be compared.



## 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 SOAR-Net 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)

Southwestern Ohio Ambulatory  
Research Network (SOAR-Net)  
c/o John Pascoe, M.D., M.P.H.  
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