

# The SOARNet Sentinel



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## National Children's Study Ready to Commence

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 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.

## Current Projects

### Social Capital Study

There have been over 600 parents recruited to participate in the Social Capital Study since the study began Fall 2006. This study has been a cooperative effort with clinicians, office staff and research assistants working together to advance this important research study area.

Parent participation involves completing a questionnaire about the health of their children, their children's quality of life, and social capital or community support available to them. Most parents report that they are pleased to be asked about their social support.

### 2008 Events

- ◆ June 11-13, 2008, AHRQ National PBRN Conference, Bethesda, Maryland
- ◆ October 10-14, 2008, AAP National Conference and Exhibition, Boston, Massachusetts
- ◆ November 7-8, 2008, Ohio AAP Annual Meeting, Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark, Ohio

Parents' Social Capital Score (SCS) are used to provide a measure of a families' social connectedness/ community support. Also measured were Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) scores. While mean SCS and CESD scores vary significantly across communities. Parents from zip codes with higher mean annual household income reported higher levels of social capital and lower levels of depressive symptoms.

Body Mass Index (BMI) measurements were collected on index children in this study. In a pilot study of factors associated with BMI >95 Percentile in primary care pediatrics there are several consistent trends. Parents reporting lower social capital or more depression symptoms had children that were more likely to be overweight (BMI>95 Percentile). Parents also report an association between childhood overweight and quality of life. Children whose health is described as "excellent" have only about one third the amount of overweight as children with "fair" health.

Data collection continues at The Children's Health Clinic (The Children's Medical Center of Dayton) and at Community Child Healthcare Centers (South office/West Carrollton). 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

Thanks to the outstanding participation among a number of SOAR-Net clinicians and practices over 700 mothers have participated in the Maternal Mental Health Resource Guide Study.

Mothers of children seen in SOAR-Net practices in Greene, Montgomery and Clark counties were invited to provide feedback on a maternal resource guide by completing a two-page survey. 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.

More than 700 mothers have been recruited to participate in the study by reviewing a resource guide and completing a questionnaire that included a validated depression screen. Almost one third of study mothers had a positive depression screen.

Preliminary results for SOAR-net clinician surveys show that SOAR-Net clinicians identified an average of 3.6 mothers with depression during the previous month (total of 37.7 the past year). Mother's mean age was 30 years with a mean of two children, 62.5% of children received Medicaid. Most mothers and clinicians indicated that the guide was helpful and easy to use. Mothers believed resources for parenting support, healthcare, and stress/depression as most valuable. Mothers were more likely than clinicians to report that healthcare and child support information was important. Future research should examine the effectiveness of resource guides in connecting mothers with supportive community services.

Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) Institutional Review Board approved the Maternal Mental Health study and data collection is underway in the WPAFB Pediatric Clinic. The project has been submitted to the Miami Valley Hospital Institutional Review Board and data collection will begin at The Berry Family Health Center upon study 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

### Disseminating a Model Intervention to Promote Improved ADHD Care In the Community



SOAR-Net will collaborate with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in a clinical research study designed to promote practice changes in pediatrician's offices for treatment of patients with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The purpose of this research study is to test the effectiveness of an intervention designed to assist physicians in adopting the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines to better assess and treat children with ADHD.

Jeff Epstein, PhD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center has developed an ADHD Collaborative intervention model to promote the adoption of sustainable evidence-based practices among community pediatricians. The Collaborative program involves didactic training sessions for clinicians and use of web-based assessment and treatment tools to assist with the patients' diagnostic process, medication management, and improved access to behavioral health clinicians.

Initially 3 practices will participate in the refinement phase beginning Fall 2008. Eight additional practices will be recruited from the Miami Valley to participate in a randomized controlled trial beginning in early Spring 2009, following approval by The Children's Medical Center Institutional Review Board.

### Cincinnati Pediatric Research Group Update

The Clinical and Translation Science Award (CTSA) is a large National Institutes of Health grant that seeks to support and transform clinical and translational research. The CTSA's stated goal is to bring research from bench to bedside, bedside to bench, and to and from the community. As part of this strategy, the Cincinnati Academic Health Center - made up of Cincinnati Children's, UC College of Medicine and the Veterans' Affairs Medical Center - will grow a practice-based research network (PBRN) in pediatric, family medicine, internal medicine, maternal fetal medicine and other disciplines.

CPRG, one of the oldest and most prolific PBRNs in the country, has been designated as the lead organization in this effort. CPRG will provide the framework for expansion into the adult world and, as such, will undergo significant expansion itself. CPRG projects have been successful when they serve as a conduit for ideas generated in practice. CPRG is looking to replicate this grassroots approach in other practice settings. This is a most exciting time for CPRG as it leads the way for the rest of Greater Cincinnati to transform clinical research, one practice at a time!



## 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

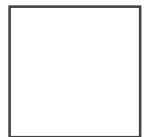
The participating practices of the Dayton primary Care PBRN have one thing in common; they are diverse.

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](http://www.med.wright.edu/dpcbrn)

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