

The SOARNet Sentinel



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Family Medicine Department Moves To New Home



Caroline McNicholas, Jack Pascoe, Greg Eberhart and Bill Spears stand outside the new Ollie Davis Center following meeting with family medicine faculty (photographer: Miryoung Lee)

The Department of Family Medicine, Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine has moved many of its academic offices and outpatient clinical services to the new 21,000 square foot Ollie Davis Medical Arts and Education Center on Darst Road just off Indian Ripple Road. The move occurred in January 2009 and an Open House was held May 27, 2009.

On March 17, 2009 several SOAR-Net leaders (Greg Eberhart, Miryoung Lee, Caroline McNicholas, Jack Pascoe, Bill Spears) were invited by David Little, SOAR-Net Co-Director, to meet with family medicine faculty at the new Center. SOAR-Net Leadership Group members were welcomed by Dr. Mark Clasen, Chair, Department of Family Medicine and there was an opportunity during the visit for a dialogue among family medicine faculty and SOAR-Net leaders regarding past and future research projects.

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Asthma Action Plan Project

Written asthma management plans (WAMP, also known as asthma action plans) are recommended as part of routine asthma care for children and adults with asthma. A survey of Ohio pediatricians suggest that this group is hesitant to routinely use WAMPS due to concerns about parental ability to correctly utilize these documents. Dr. Shalini Forbis has designed a study that will recruit pediatric asthma patients, ages 4-12 years, and their parents from local primary care practices within SOAR-Net and the pulmonary clinic at Dayton Children's. The primary objective is to determine the ability of parents to utilize a WAMP to correctly respond to asthma scenarios. The study will also determine what factors are associated with proper utilization of the plan. Details about implementation of this study will be coming soon.

2009 Events

- ◆ June 24-26, 2009 - AHRQ'S 2009 National PBRN Research Conference, Bethesda, Maryland
- ◆ October 17-20, 2009 - AAP National Conference and Exhibition, Washington, D.C.
- ◆ November 13-14, 2009 - Ohio AAP Annual Meeting, Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, Ohio

CURRENT PROJECTS

Social Capital Study

SOAR-Net clinicians have recruited over 750 parents to participate in the Social Capital Study, funded by a grant from The Children's Medical Center of Dayton Research Foundation. This study has been a cooperative effort with clinicians, office staff and research assistants working together to advance this field of research.

This study examines the relation among index children's quality of life, families' annual income, parents' marital status and their personal social support networks (e.g., family/friends) as well as their perception of social support from the community (e.g., health system, service agencies). The survey included several validated questionnaires, a new Social Capital Scale (SCS), a depression screen (Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale-CES-D) and a personal social support scale (MSSI). In addition, twelve month retrospective chart reviews are being conducted on index children to determine if there is an association between SCS and parents' child health behaviors.

Families' income and parents' marital status are strongly associated with self-reported depressive symptoms and personal social support. Unmarried parents were significantly more likely to screen positive on the CESD. Unmarried parents who were also in the below median income subgroup had much higher mean scores on the CESD and lower mean scores on the MSSI compared to married parents who were in the above median income subgroup. The mean SCS scores were similar between the same two subgroups. Therefore, community connectedness as assessed by the SCS appears to be a construct that is stable across income/marital status subgroups in this sample.

Questionnaire administration at community sites was completed in February 2009. Chart reviews continue at the Children's Health Clinic and the Rocking Horse Center through July 2009. Data collection will begin at the Pediatric Clinic at Wright Patterson Air Force Base following Institutional Review Board approval from the WPAFB IRB. If you would like to participate in this study please contact Greg Eberhart (937) 885-4475 or Jack Pascoe (937) 641-3277.



Underinsured Study to Begin

While considerable attention has been focused on uninsured children/families, there are many families who are unable to afford recommended care for their children even though they are insured. This SOAR-Net study represents a modification of a study by Colorado family physicians that was published in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FAMILY MEDICINE last year. That study focused solely on adults. The SOAR-Net study will focus on children's health care and begin in June 2009. Parents will be surveyed to assess whether (in spite of having insurance) they have delayed or avoided medical care (prescriptions, labs, x-rays, sub-specialty appointments, medical supplies, etc.) due to poor insurance coverage of these services or because of high deductibles or co-pays. The study will be completed by the end of the summer. Any clinician interested in participating in this important study should contact Greg Eberhart (937-885-4475) or Jack Pascoe (937-641-3277).

Maternal Mental Health Project



Thanks to the tremendous support from SOAR-Net clinicians and practices, over 1160 mothers have been recruited to participate in the Maternal Mental Health Resource Guide Evaluation Study. Data collection was recently completed at the WPAFB Pediatric Clinic. Akron Children's Hospital also joined SOAR-Net in the study, recruiting over 250 mothers to enable a comparison of responses in another region of Ohio.

The study invited mothers of children seen in SOAR-Net practices at Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) and in Greene, Montgomery and Clark counties to provide feedback on a maternal resource guide pamphlet (MRGP) by completing a two-page survey that included a validated depression screen. The goal of the study is to improve health care providers' awareness of maternal depression, to increase screening as well as referrals of mothers who are at risk for depression, and to compare characteristics of military and civilian mothers.

Comparisons between military and civilian mothers revealed that military mothers were older and better educated, had fewer positive depression screens, and were more likely to be married. Over 90% of mothers from both subgroups found the MRGP to be a high quality guide that was easy to read and "addresses important topics". However, civilian mothers reported being more likely to "strongly agree" that the MRGP "will be helpful to me" and "plan to call any of the numbers". Further research should examine whether this difference between civilian and military mothers is related to the variation in demographic characteristics of the two subgroups or to services already available to military mothers that make other community resources less relevant for them.

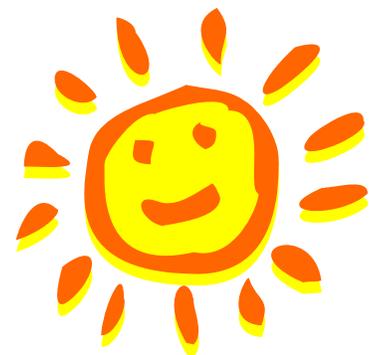
Practice Spotlight

Cornerstone Pediatrics

Cornerstone Pediatrics has been a member of SOAR-Net since it's inception 6 years ago. The physicians at Cornerstone, Dr. Greg Eberhart, Dr. Craig Chalfie, Dr. Lori Ellis, Dr. Kim Khosla, and Dr. Karen Starrett have all participated in various studies through SOAR-Net.

Cornerstone moved to its current location in Springboro six years ago. Cornerstone has been dedicated to improving the health of children and families in the Springboro area.

The physicians at Cornerstone have also been consistently involved in medical education through the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Third year medical students rotate through the office, completing their outpatient clinical pediatric experience. Residents can complete an outpatient community medicine elective experience at the practice. Dr. Chalfie and Dr. Eberhart also participate in covering the inpatient staff service at the Children's Medical Center.



**Cornerstone
Pediatrics**

Our Vision

Members of the Southwestern Ohio Ambulatory Research Network (SOAR-Net) are committed to improving the health and welfare of all children and adolescents.

Our Mission

Members of SOAR-Net collaborate 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.

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

Ollie Davis Family Health Center

Ohio Pediatrics, Inc.

SOAR-Net Sentinel Editor: Greg Eberhart M.D.

PriMed Physicians of Dayton

Rocking Horse Center

South Dayton Pediatrics

University Medicine-Pediatrics

WPAFB Pediatric Clinic

We're on the Web!

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