

# KENTUCKY AMBULATORY NETWORK NEWSLETTER



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## Save the Date for the Sixth Annual KAN Convocation!

The **Sixth Annual KAN Convocation** is going to be held on **Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** in conjunction with the UK Community-Based Faculty Conference at the **Lexington Marriott Griffin Gate Resort**. This year's theme will be: Pay for Performance and Quality Improvement. The meeting will begin with registration at noon on Friday the 31<sup>st</sup>. Reminder postcards have been mailed. Registration information and program agenda will be mailed at a later date. KAN members' attendance at this annual meeting is vital to the success of the network. As usual, free Prescribed or Category I CME will be awarded for attendance.

## KAN Applies for NIH Funding

A proposal was resubmitted to the National Cancer Institute in October 2005 by a team of KAN community and university researchers. If funded, this project will explore ways to efficiently facilitate colon cancer screening in primary care practice. Kentucky bears the second heaviest burden of colon cancer among all states. A funding decision on this submission is expected in April 2006 with a start date of summer 2006. Please contact KAN faculty if you are interested in this topic.



### *KAN in the Medical Literature*

In the past year, five KAN research articles were accepted in scientific journals:

1. Andrews JE, Pearce KA, Ireson C, Love MM. Information-seeking behaviors of practitioners in a primary care practice-based research network (PBRN). *Journal of the Medical Library Association*. 2005; 93: 206-212.
2. Dassow P, Hoke D, Moore KA, Williamson MA, Bringing the Behavioral Health Improvement Program (BeHIP) to rural Kentucky. *Annals of Family Medicine*. 2005; 3 suppl 2:S43-45.
3. Dassow P. Setting educational priorities for women's preventative health: measuring beliefs about screening across disease states. *Journal of Women's Health*. 2005; 14(4):324-30.
4. Flannery M, Love MM, Pearce KA, Luan J, Elder WG. Communication about complementary and alternative medicine in Kentucky primary care practices. *Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine*. 2006; 12(1).
5. Love MM, Pearce KA, Williamson MA, Barron MA, Shelton BJ. Patients, practices and relationships: Challenges and lessons learned from the KAN CaRESS clinical trial. *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*. *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*. 2006; 19: 75-84 .

Thanks to the many clinicians who helped advance knowledge!

## **KAN Project Updates**

### **Cardiovascular Risk Education and Social Support (CaRESS)**

Many thanks to the 18 participating practices! CaRESS will complete data collection in the coming year. We are currently enrolling the final patient participants through several practices. A description of the CaRESS study protocol was just published in the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine. Final study results will be reported in 2007 (See "KAN in the Medical Literature").

### **Quality Improvement and Pay for Performance**

#### **KAN Practice Enhancement Assistant (PEA) Research Project**

Four KAN member practices have been working on a KAN project aimed at streamlining mammography in practice. Taking a very tailored and customized approach, each practice has been working with a practice enhancement assistant (PEA) with the common goal of streamlining their screening mammography recommendations and local referrals. The PEAs are Master of Public Health students working to fulfill graduation criteria. During the project, these practices have variously chosen to add facilitation of general health maintenance, obesity management and preparation for comprehensive clinical performance measures suggested by the Ambulatory care Quality Alliance (AQA). Each of these four KAN practices are currently completing their projects. Their strategies for streamlining prevention and chronic disease management that result from this project will be published in a subsequent KAN Newsletter.

#### **KAN, Payment for Performance, and Quality Improvement Research**

Most physicians today feel the burden of competing demands and lost opportunities for the delivery of high quality total health care to their patients. *Payment for Performance* incentives are on the horizon. In the face of mounting incentives to improve measurable quality in our practices, the Kentucky Ambulatory Network (KAN), the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians (KAFFP) and the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA) are working together on projects to help primary care physicians streamline the work that they do to prevent illness and/or manage chronic disease. We are applying for grants and developing other funds to make tools and support for quality improvement and reporting available free of charge to Kentucky primary care physicians. We seek to foster collaborative efforts that will efficiently demonstrate high quality while improving patient and provider satisfaction, and advance knowledge about the best ways to improve and measure quality in primary care.

This Spring, the Annual KAN Convocation will focus on Payment for Performance and other approaches to quality and value in practice. Over the coming year, we will be distributing information and materials to KAN members related to these goals, and inviting participation in specific collaborative projects. Please contact Kevin Pearce, MD, or Mary Barron, RN, BSN at KAN if you have questions or ideas.

#### **KAN Quality Improvement Fax Survey**

The survey is complete! You should have received your results in the mail. The item above outlines our next steps. Thanks for all of the feedback. The winners of the fax survey drawing were: Patti Tingue-Poczatek, William Melahn, and Richard King. *Congratulations!*