

KENTUCKY AMBULATORY NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

Matt Kelder, KAN Administrator

Phone: (866) 305-3592

<http://www.mc.uky.edu/kan>

WINTER 2004



The **Fourth Annual KAN Convocation** is being held on Friday, March 26th and Saturday, March 27th in conjunction with the UK Community-Based Faculty Conference at the Lexington Hyatt Regency Hotel. Special guest speaker topics will include the added value of real time practice enhancements for clinicians engaged in practice-based research and reducing medical errors and improving safety in health care.

Registration information and program agenda have been mailed. If you have not received your registration information please contact Matt Kelder at 859-323-3592 or 866-305-3592. You can also register online at <http://www.mc.uky.edu/cbfi/> All KAN members' attendance at this annual meeting is vital to the success of the network.

KAN Adds New Staff Members

KAN has recently added new staff members to help the network grow in its new research endeavors. You will start to encounter some of these new names and see some of these new faces when you are contacted about your interest in new network activities. New staff members are:

Kathleen Boggs - KAN Staff Support

Tina Brooks, RN - KAN Research Nurse Coordinator

January Breedon, MPH Student - KAN Research Assistant

Casey Powell, MPH Student - KAN Research Assistant...since September 2000

Amber Riba, MPH Student - KAN Research Assistant

Ann Williamson, RN - KAN Research Nurse Coordinator

KAN Project Updates

Thanks to the active participation of our members in projects, we continue to attract federal funding to do research by and for primary care providers. Project updates follow.

Cardiovascular Risk Education and Social Support (CaRESS)

This three-year study of a practice-based intervention designed to improve adherence to prescribed treatments among diabetic patients using social support is underway. We now have 4 practices involved in the study with 62 patients enrolled. The study is going well. Practices and patients have had positive comments about the study. KAN is actively recruiting clinicians to participate in this study. If you are interested in being considered for this study or would like to learn more about it, please contact Ann Williamson, RN at (859) 323-0314.

Bringing the Integrative Health Improvement Plan to Rural Kentucky From Paul Dassow, MD, MSPH, Principal Investigator

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation *Prescription for Health* project is now in its 3rd month. Fourteen KAN practices have consented to participate and are actively referring patients to the Health Improvement Plan's telephonic counseling program. This program links a lay health counselor with patients wanting to quit smoking or increase their exercise activity. Initial data collection involves a Stages of Change assessment as well as current smoking or exercise activity. Individual goal setting is then initiated and regular telephonic follow-up is scheduled. Outcome data will include patients' readiness for change, individual goal attainment, and patient satisfaction with the service. Continued patient recruitment will occur through August of 2004 with data analysis in September. A special thank you to all involved in this project.

KAN Project Updates cont'd

Complementary and Alternative (CAM) Use Among Primary Care Practitioners and Patients in KAN from Maureen Flannery, MD, MPH, Principal Investigator

Last winter, KAN community clinicians responded to a survey asking about their experience with complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) and inquiring about their communication with patients about CAM use. A follow-up to this survey project (Phase II) is now underway. This study involves surveys of patients in four KAN member practices to determine the extent to which patients in these practices report that they utilize CAM, what types of CAM they use and why they use them, and how they describe their communication with their health care providers about their use. Phase II of this project is a pilot study for a future larger study of patients in KAN member practices. Thanks to all KAN clinicians who responded to the initial survey and to the practices who have agreed to be the pilot sites for the second phase of this project.

Informatics Technology Assessment of the Kentucky Ambulatory Network (IEKAN)

KAN just completed this survey study of all network clinicians. The survey was the first step in a comprehensive plan to facilitate the use of electronic information among KAN members for the purposes of patient care and/or research. This survey data is currently being compiled and KAN is working with the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) medical librarians to further this comprehensive plan. As a part of the grant that funded this project KAN is also forming a patient community advisory board to the network. Please call Mary Barron at (859) 323-4889 if you would like to nominate a patient or patients for this board. Thank you to all clinicians who participated in this survey study.

Fecal Occult Blood Testing, a Practice-Based Intervention from John M. Bennett, MD, Principal Investigator

Data collection for this pilot study to assess the impact of an office-systems intervention in enhancing screening for colon cancer has been completed. Eight KAN primary care sites participated in the data collection. Data analysis is currently being conducted. Thank you to all of the sites who participated in this pilot study.

Upcoming Research Funding Opportunities

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Cancer Institute have published a call for proposals that fit into KAN's goals and mission. The first is for Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP). This project would seek practice strategies to help clinicians put proven strategies for chronic disease prevention and management into action in practice. The second proposal is a call for improving our understanding of how colon cancer screening is completed (including its follow-up) in primary care practice. The third one seeks research on the costs and benefits associated with using computerized information systems in practice. Please contact KAN faculty if you are interested in these topics. They will also be discussed at the upcoming convocation.