

KENTUCKY AMBULATORY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Matt Kelder, KAN Administrator Phone: (866) 305-3592 <http://www.mc.uky.edu/kan> SPRING 2003

~ *Third Annual Convocation A Success* ~

The third annual convocation was a success. Despite bad weather, 65 members attended the meeting in Lexington. Planning for next year's convocation has already begun. Increased interest and attendance at this year's annual meeting is anticipated due to KAN membership growth in the last few months. Membership has grown to 127 community-based clinician members, plus 73 university-based faculty members and statewide partners, plus all of the Kentucky Family Practice residency programs.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities for KAN:

KAN has applied for federal grants to pursue the following projects:

- A 16-month project evaluating the use of an established telephone health promotion service to help patients in KAN member practices quit smoking and/or improve their exercise habits (no cost to patients). If funded, the project would start in July 2003.
- A three-year project aimed at enhancing collaboration among KAN, the UK Center on Aging and the UK Center for Rural Health; focusing on projects chosen by practitioners, with the goal of enhancing the care of elderly patients in our practices. If funded, these activities would commence in October 2003.

Research at the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians (KAFF) Annual Scientific Assembly:

The University of Louisville, the University of Kentucky and the KAFF are working together to establish annual presentations of original primary care research in which Kentucky family physicians play major roles. Three presentations are scheduled for Thursday May 15th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the KAFF

~*KAN Goes National*~

KAN investigators recently presented on a national level at the annual assembly hosted by the AAFP for the *National Network for Family Practice and Primary Care Research* and the *Federation of Practice-Based Research Networks*, in Arlington, VA. Investigators from the national network, individual state networks, and international networks come together at this meeting each year to share ideas with their colleagues about ways for members of practice-based research networks to discover new and better ways of caring for their patients. KAN is a member of the Federation and is represented on its steering committee.

[\(http://www.aafp.org/research/fpbrn/\)](http://www.aafp.org/research/fpbrn/)

Kevin Pearce, MD, MPH presented "Characterizing the Practice Content of Your PBRN: Some "Whys", a "How", and a little "So What?" His presentation outlined KAN's purposes and methods for conducting the

~*New PBRN Resource Center*~

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is one of the largest funding resources for primary care based research networks, including KAN. One of AHRQ's main objectives is to help PBRNs build primary care research capacity and to improve the quality of primary care practice. To meet this objective AHRQ has recently funded a PBRN Resource Center based at Indiana University. Services that will be provided to KAN through the new Resource Center include 1) informing KAN of opportunities available through AHRQ 2) performing an assessment of KAN's resource needs 3) providing technical assistance and consultation to KAN 4) identifying agencies, individuals, or research programs that are willing and able to provide expertise and research tools to PBRNs embarking on new projects and 5) facilitating the sharing of information, ideas, and expertise among all existing PBRNs (KAN, other US PBRNs, and international PBRNs).

~NAMCS-Plus Study Data Collection Complete~

Community data collection for KAN's first study, NAMCS-Plus (a replication of the CDC's National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey) is complete. Preliminary results were presented at December's convocation. Final data analysis is currently taking place and will be shared with practices as individual practice reports throughout the summer. The first article about the NAMCS-Plus study is also being prepared for publication, which will be KAN's first results publication. A presentation of the results will also be made at the Annual KAFP Scientific Assembly in Louisville at 7:00 PM on Thursday May 15th.

THANK YOU to all KAN members who have helped to make this first study a SUCCESS!

-Current KAN Research Activities-

If you know someone who would be interested in participating in one of these studies, please share this information with them. KAN welcomes your ideas for identifying interested practices and maximizing the value and efficiency of each study for participating practices.

Cardiovascular Risk Education and Social Support (CaRESS)

Three-year study of a practice-based intervention designed to harness the power of social support to improve adherence to prescribed treatments among diabetic patients, with the ultimate goal of reducing their risk of heart attack and stroke.

Fecal Occult Blood Testing, a Practice-based Intervention

Pilot study to assess the impact of an office-systems intervention to enhance screening for colon cancer.

Informatics Technology Assessment of the Kentucky Ambulatory Network

Survey of all KAN clinicians which is the first step in a comprehensive plan to facilitate the use of electronic information management among KAN members, for the purposes of enhancing original research *and* the translation of research findings into

Barriers to Prescribed Medical Treatments and Services

An investigation of clinician's perceptions of what prevents patients from accessing prescribed medical treatments, tests or services in rural communities.

Improving Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates Among Kentucky's Women

A study of the effectiveness of printed education materials for improving colon cancer screening

Primary Care Provider Perspectives on Government-Sponsored Health Insurance for Children

Survey of primary care clinicians; aimed at studying their perspectives about Medicaid and the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program in relation to access to care.

~Recently Completed Research Activities~

Data collection for these studies has recently been completed. Data analysis is currently taking place. Study results will be shared with KAN members upon completion of the analysis.

Prevalence of Chlamydia Infection in KAN Practices

A pilot study employing a urine test to screen for chlamydia infection, with the goal of measuring (and ultimately reducing) the prevalence of this sexually-transmitted infection among young adults in Kentucky.

Communication about Complimentary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) in Kentucky Primary Care Practices

Detailed survey of primary care clinicians about their attitudes, knowledge, beliefs, and communications with their patients related to CAM; results will be used to guide educational programs for medical students and physicians.

THANK YOU to all KAN members participating in these studies