

LA NET Newsletter

*Los Angeles' First Practice Based Research Network
devoted to the reduction of health care disparities*

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Welcome to LA Net

by Lyndee M. Knox, Ph.D. & Ignacio De Artola, M.D.

As many of you are aware, a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) is a consortium of primary care clinics devoted to translating research into practice. Our network's mission is to apply feasible and relevant research to reducing health and health care disparities. To make the effort truly collaborative, the studies conducted within the network are ones suggested or modified by the practice sites based on their needs and interests.

We are excited to provide you with the first LA Net newsletter. You will receive a newsletter from LA Net on a quarterly basis. We also will be sending you program announcements for federal funding and any other issues concerning the network.

These past months have been extremely exciting as we are expanding the network. South Central Family Health Center, Herbert Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center, and Mercy Methodist Family Practice Center in Sacramento have joined our network. These practice sites are committed to the reduction of health care disparities and are excited at the prospect of applying feasible interventions to assist in the delivery of care in their clinics. On behalf of LA Net members, we want to welcome the physicians and staff at our new sites. We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Our network has 7 practice sites currently and our goal is to reach 8 by the end of 2003. We anticipate a network of 20 practice sites by the year 2006.

A Word from the Department of Family Medicine Chair Dr. Ricardo Hahn

I am pleased to welcome you to the first issue of the LA Net Newsletter a quarterly publication that hopefully will be of interest to you and bring you up-to-date with our activities. The Department feels singularly honored to have received the start-up funds from the Federal Government to start this Practice Based Research Network with a specific intent to address the issue of health disparities in our communities. We are uniquely positioned to contribute significantly to the translation of basic science as well as practical clinical discoveries that would significantly improve the health of those most in need. We are starting with seven practice sites in the network composed of academic practices and community clinics with the expectation that we will be adding many community-based sites in short order. Our first study began in May and will be followed hopefully with a number of clinical trials of significant practical import in cardiovascular illness as well as cancer.

We welcome any and all suggestions and contributions. Your comments are welcomed and appreciated.

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PRINS Data Collection

by Carmela Lomonaco

We are currently conducting the Primary Care Network Survey (PRINS) in each of our practice sites. The survey will provide a profile of our network, including clinic, patient and provider characteristics. We will use this profile to guide the development of research that is relevant to our patient populations and provider concerns. We will also have the opportunity to compare our network to nationwide data.

The USC HSC IRB approved our study and we began data collection in May 2003. We will conclude in May 2004. My assistants and I will be working with you to set up data collection periods for PRINS II as well as set up meetings for you to fill out PRINS I. Thank you for your assistance in this project and we are confident that the information generated will foster potential areas for future studies. We plan to give the network sites an update on PRINS through our newsletter and at our yearly forum (set for Saturday, October 11, 2003).

Announcements:

. Please check out LA Net's webpage at http://www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/family_medicine/research/grants/pbrn/index.htm

. Our **yearly forum** will be held on **Saturday, October 11, 2003**. As more information becomes available, we will update you.

Questions? Comments? Topics you would like to have covered within the next newsletter? Please contact Carmela Lomonaco at clomonac@usc.edu.