



# PBRNews

Issue 3  
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A Quarterly Newsletter from the AHRQ PBRN Resource Center

## Join us for the AHRQ PBRN Annual Research Conference June 22-24, 2011 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bethesda, MD

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### REMINDERS:

- **Proposal Submission Deadline:** February 22, 2011  
Submissions in the following topic areas are of special interest: Multi-disciplinary Collaboration; Translation; and Implementation Science.
- **Conference Registration Opens:** March 1, 2011
- **Travel Stipend Deadline:** April 1, 2011



Please visit our website, <http://pbrn.ahrq.gov>, for details on registration, proposal submission, travel stipends, and other information.

### PLENARY SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED:

We are pleased to announce two of our plenary speakers for the conference:

**Brendan Delaney**- Guys' and St Thomas' Charity Chair in Primary Care Research, Department of Primary Care and Public Health Sciences, King's College London- Professor Delaney is the lead for Primary Care and leads the Medical Decision Making and Informatics Research Group in the Department. He is Clinical Lead for the Primary Care Research Network for Greater London. His research interests have spanned a wide range of quantitative methods in Health Services Research, including meta-analysis, modeling, randomized controlled trials and interventions to decrease diagnostic error. Over recent years his work has focused mainly on clinical research informatics and the integration of clinical and research data and systems. He is coordinator of the TRANSFoRm project, an €7M (\$11 million) project funded by the EU, and has held grants from the NIHR HTA, Wellcome Trust, US NIH and MRC. Professor Delaney served as Editor in Chief of *Family Practice* from 2005 until February, 2011.

**Eric Dishman**- <http://www.intel.com/pressroom/kits/bios/edishman.htm>

Mr. Dishman is an Intel Fellow and director of Health Innovation in the Intel Architecture Group, responsible for driving Intel's cross-business strategy, research, and policy initiatives for healthcare information technologies. He founded Intel's first Health Research & Innovation Lab in 1999 and was a founding member of Intel's Digital Health Group in 2005, which recently formed a joint venture called "Care Innovations—An Intel GE Company ([www.careinnovations.com](http://www.careinnovations.com))" where he is also the Director of Health Policy. Mr. Dishman is widely recognized as a global leader in health care innovation with specific expertise in home and community-based technologies and services for chronic disease management and independent living. He is also known for pioneering innovation techniques that incorporate anthropology, ethnography, and other social science methods into the design and development of new technologies. Mr. Dishman co-founded some of the world's largest research and policy organizations devoted to advancing the cause of independent living, including the Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL) Centre, the Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST), the Everyday Technologies for Alzheimer's Care (ETAC) program, and the Oregon Center for Aging & Technology (ORCATECH). Dishman has received numerous awards for his work in helping to shape the future of health care.



Contact Us

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## Secure Portal Resources and Features

Access to the PBRN Research Portal is one benefit of registering your PBRN with AHRQ. The portal houses a variety of research resources and provides tools to enhance communication and collaboration among PBRN members. A few of the portal's many resources and features are highlighted below.

- **Tools for PBRN research and administration:** Available resources include sample recruitment materials and bylaws, a toolkit to facilitate working with multiple IRBs, resources for new PBRNs, and the PRINS tool to characterize your PBRN.
- **Conference archives:** Visit the portal to access presentations from the AHRQ Annual PBRN Conference. Materials from 2008 and later are currently posted.
- **Peer learning group resources:** Five peer learning groups (PLGs) have a presence on the portal: Health IT, New PBRNs, PBRN Operations, Research Methods, and Comparative Effectiveness Research. Log on to check out the PLG calendar, access recordings and presentation materials from past webinars, and participate in discussion forums.

### Past PLG Sessions & Associated Resources

Date	Topic	Presenter	Resources
Oct. 20, 2010	Comparative Effectiveness Research	Paul Meissner, Steve Durako	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CER Diabetes Study</a>: The PowerPoint presentation that we discussed</li> <li>• <a href="#">Oral Diabetes Medications Executive Summary</a>: AHRQ's 2007 paper on oral diabetes medication, which was the basis for our research questions</li> <li>• <a href="#">Oral Diabetes Medications Update</a>: The protocol for a current CER review that is intended to update the 2007 AHRQ report</li> <li>• <a href="#">PCT JAMA (Tunis)</a>: An article published in JAMA on the need for practical clinical trials</li> <li>• <a href="#">PCT Annals (Luce)</a>: Another article on practical clinical trials</li> <li>• <a href="#">PCOR Summary</a>: A description of the plan for a new patient-centered outcomes research institute</li> </ul>
Jan. 11, 2011	Comparative Effectiveness Research	Steve Durako	<p>Link to webinar recording:  <a href="https://umconnect.umn.edu/p28411603/">https://umconnect.umn.edu/p28411603/</a></p>
Feb. 8, 2011	Comparative Effectiveness Research	Paul Meissner	<p><a href="#">PPT slides</a>                      Link to webinar recording:  <a href="https://umconnect.umn.edu/p65673319/">https://umconnect.umn.edu/p65673319/</a></p>

- **Collaborative spaces for networks and studies:** The portal provides spaces where network and study groups can post information, share documents, and participate in discussions. Each portal user has a unique set of privileges based on network and study affiliations.
  - ◆ **Network-specific web pages:** Each registered network has a group of web pages that can be accessed only by its network members. Each network space includes a calendar, discussion forum, and document-sharing area.
  - ◆ **Study-specific web pages:** Collaboration spaces for single- and multi-network studies can be created. Multi-network study groups have been especially active on the portal.

Dr. Victoria Neale and her co-investigator Dr. Kimberly Campbell-Voytal (from Metro Net) shared the following description of how their study groups are using the portal.

*“We are currently using the AHRQ Portal to coordinate two federally funded studies that each involve “a network of networks.” In the first study, five members of PRIMENet (SOARNet, SPURNet, SFB CRN, RIOS Net, Metro Net) are collaborating in the study “Recruitment and Retention Best Practices in Primary Care Settings” to define effective strategies for involving underrepresented populations in clinical research. The second study involves six PBRN collaborators (WREN, RiosNet, Duke PCRC, ORPRN, OKPRN, IRENE) in a demonstration project titled, “Building Research Culture and Capacity with Quality Improvement Strategies.” The purpose of this collaboration is to formalize research standards of practice for primary care practices. In both projects, study collaborators are using the portal to house study documents, to archive and transfer data, to store digital recordings, transcripts, and demographic spreadsheets, and to engage in asynchronous, threaded discussion.*

*The portal has been particularly helpful in insuring access to current study forms and for maintaining a historical record of study process. Since access is password protected, data integrity is maintained while analysis is conducted at multiple sites. Access to and the ability to edit a single master draft makes writing and editing less of a burden when there are multiple authors on posters, abstracts and presentations. The portal has been an important resource for maximizing communication and minimizing coordination gaps common to studies across geographically dispersed networks. We have experienced the value of the AHRQ PBRN Portal in our research and expect that it will grow in importance in the future.”*

The portal will continue to evolve as more groups take advantage of its resources and provide direction for future development. Contact the Resource Center at [pbrnrc@umn.edu](mailto:pbrnrc@umn.edu) with comments/questions about becoming a portal user.

## Featured Network: San Francisco Bay Area Collaborative Research Network

Dr. Michael Potter, current director of this issue's *PBRNews Featured Network*, provided the Resource Center with information about the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Collaborative Research Network (CRN), which is now known as the San Francisco Bay Area Collaborative Research Network (SF Bay CRN). We learned about the development of the PBRN, its relationship to the UCSF Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI), and the challenges and opportunities it now faces.

The CRN was formed in 1985 and is one of the five oldest functioning PBRNs. It developed within the UCSF Department of Family and Community Medicine, under the direction of Diana Petitti, MD, MPH. At that time, members of the network were comprised primarily of research and clinical faculty, including volunteer teaching faculty from community-based clinical practices in the San Francisco Bay Area and some rural areas across Northern California. The CRN was supported with a small amount of ongoing departmental infrastructure support. In the early years, the CRN relied on a small number of research faculty to develop and implement research proposals for the network. Later, under the direction of Mary Croughan, PhD, the CRN developed practice representatives to suggest and work on research ideas and proposals for the network. Both of these strategies were successful and synergistic to some extent, with a number of funded projects. Publications and strong ties with many community-based clinical practices resulted from these efforts. However, the productivity of the CRN remained limited by lack of infrastructure and the small number of family medicine research faculty available to lead grant-writing efforts.

### The CRN's relationship to CTSI

The creation of the UCSF CTSI in 2006 provided an opportunity to revitalize the CRN. The CRN leadership team participated in writing the original CTSI proposal. Over time the network was asked to work with the leadership of the CTSI Community Engagement Program to develop the CRN into a multidisciplinary primary healthcare PBRN that could (1) serve as a resource for faculty in all of UCSF's professional schools (Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy), and (2) engage a broader diversity of community-based clinicians and practices in the San Francisco Bay Area in practice-based research activities. To adapt to this new role, a new mission statement was developed to more closely identify with the community, and the network was renamed to the San Francisco Bay Area Collaborative Research Network (SF Bay CRN). A steering committee was formed and is comprised of about 20 individuals representing all four primary healthcare disciplines, as well as community-based clinicians and clinic

leaders who are interested in practice-based research. The principal leaders of the CTSI Community Engagement Program and UCSF's Clinical Research Services also participate in the steering committee. The steering committee meets every two months and includes subcommittees that work on topics such as research consultation policies and procedures, membership requirements, and a small grants program to seed new practice-based research partnerships.

### Opportunities and Challenges

This network has gone through several iterations. For many years the network was sustained by a few highly committed faculty members, often focusing on just one or two research projects, and often volunteering their time to develop strong relationships with community members. Capacity to respond to new research ideas from network members was limited, and the long term survival and viability of our network has been in question for most of its 25-year history. Currently, as CTSI's PBRN, our infrastructure is stronger, our visibility is higher, and our potential to grow and achieve our mission is enhanced.

SF Bay CRN is now positioned within CTSI as a core resource to facilitate mutually beneficial partnerships between UCSF researchers and community-based primary health care practices. The network is currently receiving more requests for technical assistance than ever from UCSF researchers and from community-based practices. The policies for consultation and collaboration are constantly evolving. One challenge that the network faces is the need to develop new mechanisms and resources to support the increasing demand for our services.

### Succession Planning Strategies

Leadership transitions and the ebb and flow of funded research projects can provide significant challenges for sustaining a network, and the SF Bay CRN has been no exception. The infrastructure funding that has been provided by CTSI has been very helpful to build administrative support and steering committee membership, though it is still very limited. SF Bay CRN hopes that over time they will have the critical mass of projects, leaders, and administrative support to minimize disruptions to their work and mission when leadership or administrative support transitions occur.

### Future Direction

The SF Bay CRN now has over 500 academic and community members. Membership is defined at the level of the individual, but the network is increasingly working on a membership structure based on the level of individual clinics

## Featured Network: San Francisco Bay Area Collaborative Research Network (Cont'd)

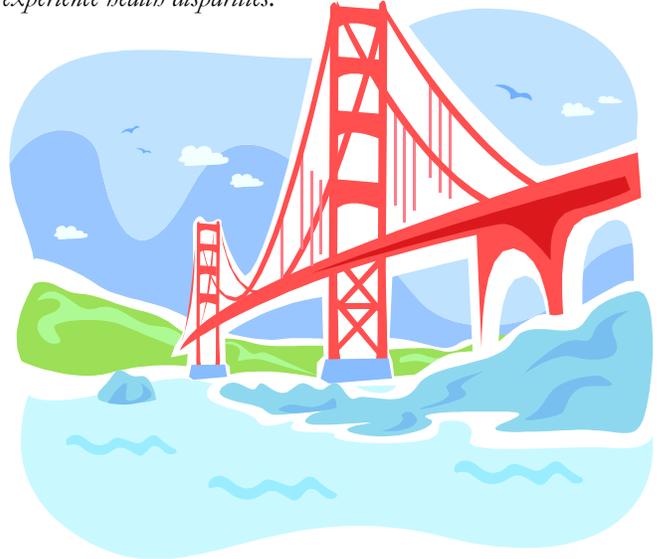
and healthcare organizations. It is believed that this structure will enable SF Bay CRN to work more efficiently with the community members and will increase the capacity of the network. There are many UCSF researchers that have developed their own practice-based research programs without being a part of SF Bay CRN. We are in the process of encouraging these projects and programs to affiliate with SF Bay CRN so that we can build continuity of relationships and shared resources that can be mutually beneficial for all involved.

### **PBRN Collaborations**

SF Bay CRN is a member of PRIME Net (Primary Care Multiethnic Network), which is a national consortium of PBRNs with a large number of practices serving populations that experience health disparities. Membership in PRIME-Net has led to productive research collaborations that have been strengthened by access to the diverse communities, practices, and research expertise represented in the member networks.

When evaluating new projects and priorities, SF Bay CRN is guided primarily by its mission statement:

*The mission of SF Bay CRN is to encourage, facilitate, and lead mutually beneficial practice-based research partnerships between community-based primary health care organizations, practices, and clinicians in the San Francisco Bay Area, in Northern California, and at UCSF. SF Bay CRN promotes translational research incorporating the priorities and perspectives of diverse clinical service providers and their patients, with a vision of accelerating improvements in primary care outcomes in diverse communities that frequently experience health disparities.*



## PBRN Registry Update

Thank you to the 132 PBRNs who completed the 2011 Registry, as of February, 2011! To view the list of networks registered for 2011, please visit the PBRN Registry page at <http://pbrn.ahrq.gov>.

Please keep in mind that registered networks receive priority for AHRQ PBRN Annual Conference travel stipends and participation. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Conference!

## Peer Learning Groups

The PBRN Resource Center continues to host a series of Peer Learning Groups (PLGs) for PBRN researchers and network members.

Regularly scheduled sessions now also include a Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) PLG— To be included in the CER specific listserv, please contact the Resource Center at [pbrnrc@umn.edu](mailto:pbrnrc@umn.edu).



### ***Upcoming Events:***

- March 8: CER
- March 9: Research Methods
- April 14: New PBRNs
- May 11: Health IT

For more information about these events, please visit the PBRN website (<http://pbrn.ahrq.gov>) and select the “Peer Learning Groups” tab. Members with access to the PBRN portal (<https://portal.pbrn.ahrq.gov>) can view PowerPoint presentations and webinar recordings by selecting a specific PLG under the “Peer Learning Group” tab and choosing Past PLG Sessions & Associated Resources.