

RESEARCH FORUM SERIES

Core Curriculum Module G

Primary Care Practice-Based Network Research

Part 1: "Practice-Based Network Research:

A Primer for PIs in Successful Collaboration"

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Part 2: Using Qualitative Evidence to Guide Practice and Policy

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I. Background

Research in collaboration with Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs) can be viewed as a process in which opportunities for improvements can be identified in the formulation of research questions, the implementation of study methodologies and the incorporation of findings into practice.

The purpose of the PBRN module is to promote the conduct of applied primary care research in practice settings and practice-based research networks by training primary care researchers: (1) applicable to the conduct of studies in individual practice and network settings; and (2) in the creation, development, maintenance and sustaining engagement of relationships with practices and networks in the research enterprise.

First, this module presents the concepts, the methods, and the studies associated with PBRNs. Second, by traversing the research cycle, the skills required for the principal investigator to successfully collaborate with PBRNs are presented. Third, the contributions of qualitative vs. quantitative evidence to guide practice and policy are discussed.

II. Aim

In this 2-part workshop, Fellows will be introduced to PBRN research, its history, and selected examples of primary care and prevention studies that have been carried out.

III. Learning Objectives

Part 1 – Practice-Based Network Research: A Primer for PIs in Successful Collaboration

- Describe the rationale for practice-based research and PBRN networks.
- Name the central characteristics of PBRNs.
- Provide the reasons for primary care researchers to collaborate with PBRNs.
- Describe the type of research studies.
- Identify the skills necessary to successfully collaborate through the research cycle with PBRNs.

Part 2 -- Using Qualitative Evidence to Guide Practice & Policy

- Understand the complexity of clinical care and practice and some of the limitations of the current evidence to develop practice guidelines and policy.
- Understand a broader framework based on an ecological-transactional model for thinking about the evidence needed to guide practice.
- Become familiar with a multimethod, collaborative model of research that can enhance practice-based research.

IV. Teaching Method(s)

The faculty will present two 1.5 hour seminars that will employ lecture presentations and group discussion.

V. Content Outline

Part 1 – Practice-Based Network Research: A Primer for PIs in Successful Collaboration

(see attached powerpoint [slides](#))

Part 2 -- Using Qualitative Evidence to Guide Practice & Policy

(powerpoint slides - not available)

VI. Application to Actual Research Projects by Fellows

Dr. John Orzano, one of the NRSA Fellows, shared his research experiences working with the ASPN Network, and discussed the development of the new American Academy of Family Physicians,

VII. References

American Academy of Family Physicians. Practice-Based Research Networks in the 21st Century. The Pearls of Research. Proceedings from the Conference Convened by the AAFP Task Force to Enhance Family Practice Research, Leesburg, VA, September 27-28, 1998.

Institute of Medicine. Primary Care: America's Health in a New Era. Chapter on Research Agenda. National Academy Press, Washington, DC. 1996.

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Nutting PA. "Practice-Based Research Networks: Building the Infrastructure of Primary Care Research," *Journal of Family Practice* 1996; 42:199-203.

Nutting PA, Beasley JW, Werner JJ. "Practice-Based Research Networks Answer Primary Care Questions," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 1999; 281:686-688).

Green LA, Nutting PA. "Family Physicians as Researchers in Their Own Practices," *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice* 1994; 7:261-263.

Crabtree BF, Miller WL, eds. *Doing Qualitative Research*, Second Edition, Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 1999.