Welcome to the Great Plains IDeA-CTR inaugural newsletter. This is a primary care-focused Practice-Based Research Network that represents the upper plains states and is housed at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This center was established to promote research and improve healthcare resources across the Great Plains. The ultimate mission of this PBRN is to engage clinicians, investigators and patients through research, collaboration, and community involvement to improve the health and quality of life in the Great Plains.

As you read this newsletter please note the many opportunities outlined to assist you. Current continuing education topics include COVID 19, addiction treatment, and dementia management. Current ongoing patient-based research studies involve childhood development, use of technology to enhance quality of life in dementia patients, and creating a better understanding of caregiver fatigue. These opportunities exemplify current issue facing plains communities, providers and patients. I encourage you to avail yourself to this PBRN and the resources it offers. Please send your feedback and requests such that this PBRN can better serve your patients and community.

Jeffrey D. Harrison, MD
Chair
Department of Family Medicine
UNMC
The Great Plains Primary Care PBRN provides links to professional development opportunities, in the form of seminars and webinars, that enhance clinical expertise, reveal best care practices, promote clinical research, and deliver cutting-edge research findings. Continuing education credits are available for in-person and distance participation. For a complete list of professional development opportunities, visit https://gpctr.unmc.edu/ctr-resources/pbrn/education/.

COVID-19: LEARNING AS WE GO SEMINAR SERIES

The University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Center for Continuing Education is coordinating a COVID-19 webinar series intended for physicians, nurses and other health care professionals across Nebraska and the region who care for COVID-19 patients. Webinars are presented by UNMC’s experts in a variety of specialties, including Dermatology, Neurology, Radiology, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Oncology, and others. Each COVID-19 webinar has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit. Webinars are available on-demand one-week after the live streaming event. To access the live streaming schedule and on-demand webinars, visit https://www.unmc.edu/cce/catalog/clinicmed/covid19/index.html.

PROJECT ECHO

“Moving Knowledge, Not Patients”

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) was established in 2003 to increase education and training for the treatment of Hepatitis C in New Mexico. Since its inception, over 800 Project ECHOs have been established in 39 countries, spanning 74 health topics. Project ECHOs typically involve a one-hour session divided into two parts, a brief didactic presentation and a case-based discussion.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) hosts the Pain and Substance Use Disorders ECHO. This program connects addiction and pain management specialists with providers across the region to discuss de-identified cases related to substance use disorders. Members of the Great Plains
Primary Care PBRN who are interested in learning how to effectively treat patients with pain and substance use disorders are encouraged to participate. CME credit is available for each presentation. To learn more about UNMC’s Project ECHO and to register for upcoming videoconferences visit https://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/education/project-echo.html.

The Alzheimer’s Association is offering a six-month Project ECHO program in the fall for Great Plains PBRN members to enhance person-centered dementia care in community-based settings. The program includes 12 one-hour videoconference calls addressing diseases causing dementia, cognitive assessment tools, referral and specialty testing, care management, and transition of care. If you are interested in participating, contact Emily Frankel at emily.frankel@unmc.edu.

RESEARCH

The following studies are recruiting participants. Please share these opportunities with your patients and healthcare community. A complete list of ongoing research can be found at https://gpctr.unmc.edu/ctr-resources/pbrn/research/.

**Nebraska Babies and Toddlers Study**

PBRN members are encouraged to invite parents and caregivers to enroll in the Nebraska Babies and Toddlers Study. Participation includes completing a brief questionnaire about a child’s development. Open to parents and caregivers of children ages newborn to three years of age. Participants will be entered into a raffle for a $100 Visa gift card. Enroll online at ecdmeasure.org. For more information, contact Dr. Abbie Raikes at abbie.raikes@unmc.edu. No IRB required.
Enhancing Senior Living, Quality of Life and Independence through Utilizing Assistive and Interactive Technology

The CAPACITY Lab at the Gerontology Department at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, in collaboration with the University of Nebraska Medical Center, is seeking participants for a research study. The purpose of the study is to learn about technology in adults’ and caregivers’ everyday lives. We want to understand what technology they know about, what they prefer, and how they use technology to improve their lives. Participants will be asked to complete a survey lasting approximately 1 hour, regarding their background, current and future ability to do tasks, technology use and preferences, overall satisfaction with life, and caregiving responsibilities (if applicable). Participants should be older adults, caregivers, or both. Older adults should be at least 60 years old and living independently in the community. Caregivers should be at least 19 years old and should be providing regular care or assistance to another person 19 years or older. For more information, email shubner@unomaha.edu or call at (402) 554-2951. In your email or phone call, please mention the Technology and Aging Study. IRB #115-20-EP

GP CogNET

Symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease may lag decades behind brain changes. We invite all adults 50 years of age and older to enroll in the Great Plains Cognitive Network, GP CogNET, a research registry linking community members to Alzheimer’s disease and brain health focused clinical research. Enroll online at https://gp.cognet.unmc.edu. For more information, contact gp.cognet@unmc.edu. IRB #214-19-EP
The Psychological, Neural, and Hormonal Bases of Caregiver Compassion Fatigue

The Aging Brain and Emotion Lab is looking for healthy adults and caregivers to an older adult with a chronic disease (e.g., dementia, cancer, cardiovascular disease) to participate in a research study at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The study involves two visits of 3.5 hours each. Compensation for study participation is available. The experiment involves completing questionnaires and computer tasks, taking samples of saliva for hormone analyses, and undergoing brain imaging. To be eligible for the study, you must be 19-75 years of age, have comprehension of written and spoken English, mobility to travel to the UNO campus, and have completed a minimum of two years of high school or higher. You are not eligible for the study if you have a diagnosis of a neurological or psychiatric disease (e.g., stroke, schizophrenia), vision, hearing or motor difficulties, or if you are currently pregnant, have metal implanted in your body, or are taking an antidepressant medication or glucocorticoid-based oral medication or cream (e.g., cortisone). For more information about the study, please contact: Janelle Beadle, Ph.D. at the Aging Brain and Emotion Lab by phone at 402-554-5961 or by email at ABElabUNO@gmail.com, IRB#384-18-EP

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Great Plains Primary Care PBRN continues to strive toward improving health and quality of life in the Great Plains and the communities we serve. Consequently, we are planning a virtual PBRN launch meeting in late summer 2020 to introduce the PBRN leadership, meet our members, and learn about your clinic’s health care needs.

To ensure you are included on all PBRN correspondences, please complete the membership survey at https://is.gd/joinPBRN

Have information, news, or an event to include in the next newsletter? Contact Emily Frankel at emily.frankel@unmc.edu
To learn more about the Great Plains Primary Care PBRN, visit:

https://gpctr.unmc.edu/ctr-resources/pbrn/

The content of this newsletter is solely the responsibility of the Great Plains IDeA-Clinical & Translational Research and does not necessarily represent the official views of UNMC.