

**ESTABLISHMENT OF DC PRIMCARE: *From Vision to Vitality***

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.

**-Henry Ford**

*January*

Greetings! The DC PrimCaRe Staff is grateful for the role you have played as a practice member. We would like to share some of this year's highlights...

A commencement dinner was held on January 13th to kick off the "Effects of Cognitive Impairment and Low Health Literacy on Medication adherence" pilot study at 25 primary care practices in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. All patients 50+ years of age are evaluated for cognitive function and health literacy using the CLOX test and Rapid Estimate of Adult Literacy in Medicine (REALM) respectively. The patient interview also includes a survey to assess medication compliance and verification of self-report adherence information with stimulated chart reviews.



*March*

The DC PrimCaRe Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) held elections in March to fill five of the eight seats on the Board of Directors (BOD). The Board is comprised of five individuals selected from the member physicians and practices, the PBRN Director and the PBRN Co-Coordinator. This 8 member board will guide the selection of additional practices, review research designs and study protocols, determine the appropriateness of study protocol for the network, evaluate the feasibility of study protocols and set the overall research direction of the network. The Board will meet for two hours quarterly.



Congratulations to our 5 practice BOD members:

Francyne Anderson, MD • Judith Dixon, MD • Alejandro Duarte, IMG • Jamal Gwathney, MD, MPH • Robert Williams, MD

*May*



The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) hosted its second Annual Primary Care Research Conference in Bethesda, Maryland May 15-17, 2006. AHRQ is a federal research institution that supports the growth and development of primary care practice-based research networks across the U.S. Ms. Finie Hunter, Research Coordinator represented DC PrimCaRe and presented preliminary findings from the cognitive function pilot study. The presentation elicited a great deal of interest in the instruments utilized to assess cognitive impairment and health literacy in the primary care setting. The plenary sessions focused on applying health information technology to PBRN research, engaging community clinicians in research, quality improvement, and opportunities for funding PBRN research.

*June*

The network is taking advantage of several upcoming funding opportunities to support the future research endeavors. AHRQ has released a new solicitation for task order contracts. Specifically, 5-10 PBRNs selected from those submitting bids will be awarded master contracts and will become eligible for task orders with estimated budgets of \$100,000-\$300,000 over the next five years. Partnerships with the University of Louisville and Georgetown University are confirmed. We are also submitting a proposal to the **HBCU Health Services Research Grant Program** to implement a developmental intervention study. The proposed study will utilize a pharmacist driven medication education program to facilitate adherence among low literacy patients served by DC PrimCaRe practices. In addition, we will partner with the Howard University Cancer Center to increase cancer screening and management.

*In Memory of Dr. Barbara Van Horn*



We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of Dr. Barbara Van Horn, a member of the DC PrimCaRe Network and Board of Directors. She was a lovely woman who touched so many lives and will truly be missed. Dr. Van Horn's obituary is published in the June 8, 2006 Washington Post and an online guestbook is available to express condolences. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made in her name to the charity of your choice.

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