PBRN Organization and Governance to Promote Practice, Clinician, Researcher, and Patient Engagement

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Brigham and Women’s Primary Care Practice-Based Research Network

David L. Hahn, MD, MS
Wisconsin Research & Education Network

Zsolt Nagykaldi, PhD and James Mold, MD, MPH
Oklahoma Physicians Resource/Research Network
Challenges

• PBRNs are challenging to
  – Develop
  – Organize
  – Maintain
Forum Goals

1. Understand how PBRNs of different size and composition have organized themselves

2. Understand the governance structure of different PBRNs

3. Understand the processes that 3 different PBRNs have in place to:
   • recruit and retain practices
   • take requests from outside researchers or internal clinicians
   • engage with practices, clinicians, researchers, and patients
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outline</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Overview and agenda</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>BWPC PBRN</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>WREN</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>OKPRN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization, strengths and weakness of your PBRNs</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions, answers, discussion</td>
<td>25 minutes</td>
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**BWPC PBRN**

**WREN**

**OKPRN**

Organization, strengths and weakness of your PBRNs

Questions, answers, discussion
Brigham and Women’s Primary Care Practice-Based Research Network (BWPC PBRN)

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Associate Physician, The Phyllis Jen Center for Primary Care
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Harry Reyes Nieva
Network Manager, BWPC PBRN
Predoctoral Research Fellow, BWH/HMS
PBRN Mission and Purpose

The PBRN ensures that research, quality improvement projects, and scholarship:

– Are **consonant with mission, values and priorities** of the BWH Primary Care Practices

– Are **relevant and valid** to the diversity of our practices, patients, and communities

– **Do not place an undue burden** on our practices and ideally provide resources to the practices

– **Bridge the divide** between researchers and clinicians to the benefit of researchers, clinicians, the work in question, our staff, and our patients

– **Encourage front-line clinicians’ early involvement in project development** to foster promotion, job satisfaction, and the quality and relevance of the work.
BWPC PBRN

- 8 community-based practices, 5 hospital-based practices, and 2 community health centers across Eastern Massachusetts
- Our practices are part of a single health system serving 150,000 patients with 250,000 visits/year
- Mostly composed of adult general internists
  - 160 PCPs, 14 PAs, 6 NPs
- Training sites for residents and medical students
- Common electronic health record
- Affiliated with Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital, and Harvard Medical School
- .25 FTE Network Manager funded BWH DOM/DGIM
15 participating practices and steering committee members:

**Brigham and Women’s Family Care Associates**
Frances Catherine (Kitty) O’Hare, MD

**Brigham & Women’s Physician Group**
Jean N. Yeung, MD, MSc

**Brigham & Women’s Primary Care Associates of Brookline**
Cecilia F. Sarkissian, MD*

**Brigham & Women’s Primary Care Associates of Newton Corner**
Heng Soon Tan, MD

**Brigham and Women’s Primary Care Associates at Norwood**
Mitchell A. Medow, MD, PhD

**Brigham & Women’s Primary Care at Foxborough**
David W. Faling, MD

**Brigham Circle Medical Associates**
Nora Y. Osman, MD

**Phyllis Jen Center for Primary Care**
Jeffrey A. Linder, MD, MPH
Joseph P. Frolikis, MD, PhD

**Brigham Primary Physicians at Faulkner**
Michael J. Healey, MD

**Brigham & Women’s Advanced Primary Care Associates, South Huntington**
Stuart M. Pollack, MD

**Brookside Community Health Center**
Barbara R. Gottlieb, MD, MPH

**Faulkner Community Physicians**
Glenn Allison, MD

**Gretchen and Edward Fish Center for Women’s Health**
Louise I. Schneider, MD

**Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center**
Gonzalo J. Graupera, MD

**Spanish Clinic**
Cecilia F. Sarkissian, MD*  
*represents 2 practices
Responding to Requests

- Investigators requesting support from PCP with recruiting patients and physicians
- Junior staff with interest in joining pre-existing projects
- Practices and providers looking to provide opportunities for medical students and residents
- Requests for practice information and full provider lists
- General requests for network statistics
- Investigators requesting preliminary proposal application approval

Preliminary proposal review provides a mechanism for issuing letters of support to potential investigators
Application Review Process

- Applications assigned to Network Director and at least 2 Steering Committee members
- Total turnaround time from application submission to decision is ideally 3 weeks
- Proposal reviewers send review forms to Network Manager
- Selected reviewer comments are shared with applicants to strengthen projects
Application Review Process

• The BWPC PBRN reviewers and Steering Committee consider:
  – Significance of study proposal
  – Alignment with the mission of the BWPC PBRN
  – Relevance to our practice and patients
  – Feasibility
  – Potential to improve primary care practice or community health
  – Approach
  – Innovation
  – Qualifications of the investigator(s)
  – Resources
  – Conflicts with other active projects.

• Priority given to projects that with BWPC PBRN Clinician as Co-Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator

• Minimum of 3 weeks for review and Steering Committee initial endorsement

• Applications are available via BWPC PBRN website.
Network Templates

- Preliminary Proposal Application
- Notification Letters
  - Full Approval
  - Conditional Approval
  - Revise and Resubmit Request
- Letter of Support for grant applications
  - Some modification for each application
BWPC PBRN Website

Current Sections
- Mission and History
- Message from the Director
- Leadership
- Participating Practices
- Information for Investigators (preliminary application)
- Active Research Projects
- Quality Improvement Tools
- News and Events
- Training Opportunities
- Contact Information

http://www.brighamandwomens.org/pbrn/
Message from the Director
Mission Statement
Practice Spotlight
Project Spotlight
List of PBRN-Approved Projects
Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities
PBRN Activities and Events

From Passion to Project to Promotion: How Busy Clinicians Can Improve Care and Pursue Scholarship
Info on how to get involved in QI, research, or scholarly projects with support from PBRN. Panel of physicians share experiences turning ideas into full-fledged projects.

QI, Research, and Scholarship Poster Spaces
Emphasis on small and in highly visible, dedicated areas of practices

DGIM Research Day
-Forum to showcase contributions and promote personal career development
-Facilitate better sharing of information and cross-fertilization of ideas
-Live webcast for practice staff unable to attend in person
Thank You

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http://www.brighamandwomens.org/pbrn

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Harry Reyes Nieva
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Extra Slides Follow
BWPC PBRN Resources and Services

BWPC PBRN investigators and staff are available to assist researchers with a wide variety of study-related activities, including:

- Study design
- Clinic, clinician and patient recruitment
- Grant writing and editing
- Budget and contracts development
- Grants account management
- IRB application and assurances
- Research/project coordination and research staff management
- Data collection
- Data entry and data management
- Data analysis and statistics
PBRN Sharepoint Site and Shared File Area
Quality Improvement Toolkit

Introduction: Improving Patient Safety
1. Leading a Patient Safety Program
2. Leadership Case Study
3. Improving Your Primary Care Practice #1
4. Improvement Case Study
5. Improving Your Primary Care Practice #2

Communication
6. Communication Case Study
7. Improving Communication

High Priority Processes
8. Test and Referral Management Follow Up
9. Test Results Case Study
10. Referrals Case Study
11. Medication Management

Continuous Improvement
12. When Things Go Wrong in the Ambulatory Setting
13. Sustaining Improvement
14. Learning from Patients and Families

www.brighamandwomens.org/pbrn/