

Dartmouth CO-OP

Project News

Fall/Winter 2010



Dartmouth CO-OP Project, Dartmouth Medical School

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The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Awards Grant to CO-OP for "Teen Mental Health Project."

Depression in adolescents is under recognized and under-treated despite its poor long-term outcomes, including risk for suicide. The US Preventive Services Task Force has recently recommended depression screening of all adolescents by primary care providers. The research evidence base is strong that adolescent depression screening at health visits is effective when accompanied by a systematic office approach with assessment, treatment and follow up. There is a large gap between these recommendations and usual practice with over two thirds of depressed teens not being identified during the health visit.

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SAVE THE DATE
Friday, December 3, 2010
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
CO-OP Interim Meeting

Please plan to join us for our first CO-OP Interim Meeting, scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2010. The meeting will be held in the Lebanon/Hanover, NH area. Full meeting details coming soon!

The LOOK and SHARE Project - Opportunity to Participate

Autism is emerging as a major debilitating childhood condition where early detection and referral to services by primary care is very important for optimal outcomes. One in 70 boys and one in 315 girls develop autistic spectrum disorders. New research shows that key social interaction signs involving reciprocal eye contact and gesturing are already different in older infants who are later diagnosed with autism. Dr. Stephen Mott, Pediatric Neurologist and Medical Director of the Child Development Program, Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD) presented this research at the 2010 CO-OP Annual Meeting. He has developed a simple screening tool primary care clinicians can employ during 6, 9 and 12 month "well checks" to identify the first signs of autism.

A new pilot project is beginning with Dr. Mott, and under the leadership of Dr. Rebecca Yukica and Dr. Ardis Olson. The pilot project asks CO-OP clinicians to determine the ease of assessing infants by using the "Look

and Share" screening tool and assessing the normal age that reciprocity develops.

We are seeking clinicians who see infants for "well visits to participate in this new pilot project over a 1-2 month time frame. First, clinicians will learn how to observe and assess infants 6-12 months of age to determine if this reciprocity develops from a 5-minute video available on the CO-OP web site. Then, using the CO-OP Codman card* each clinician will record the age and interactions observed on infants 6-12 months seen in their office. This will be the first step of developing and testing a clinical tool for early signs of autism. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Deborah.J.Johnson@Dartmouth.edu.

** a pocket card, used to easily record observations of interactions for a series of patients.*

Falls Prevention and Safety Project

More than one-third of community-living adults older than 65 years fall each year. Approximately 10% of falls results in a major injury such as a fracture, serious soft tissue injury, or traumatic brain injury. Falls also are major contributors to functional decline and health care utilizations. In follow-up to the 2010 CO-OP Annual Meeting, a "Falls Interest Group" was formed and is being chaired by Dr. Peter Mason.

Over the last few months, a few CO-OP practices have been collecting Falls Prevention and Safety data on patients older than 65 years, using the Codman Card data collection. Data is currently being analyzed and we will report on in the next CO-OP Newsletter.

New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians 2010 Family Physician of the Year—Dr. Dennis McCullough



Author of two books: Blackwell's Primary Care Essentials (now in its 2nd edition) and My Mother, Your Mother: Embracing "Slow Medicine," The Compassionate Approach to Caring for Your Aging Loved Ones, published in 2008. On a speaking tour since then, presenting at hospitals, colleges, libraries, churches, Rotary clubs and retirements communities, to name a few. Interviewed on PBS, CNN, ABC News and NPR, including All Things Considered

and The Diane Rehm Show.

We honor this exemplary family physician for his commitment to patients, family, community, students and the discipline of Family Medicine. Furthermore, we celebrate a career which demonstrates compassion, curiosity, careful observation, and out-of-the-box thinking.

UVM Medical Alumni Association Award Winner

Congratulations to Dr. Melanie Lawrence on being selected as one of the 2010 UVM Medical Alumni Association Award winners. The Early Achievement Award is presented to alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years (1996 through 2010) in recognition of their outstanding community or College service, and/or scientific or academic achievement.

Melanie currently serves as the CO-OP Medical Director and recently opened her own practice on Main Street

in Newbury, VT. Congratulations, Melanie!



The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Awards Grant to CO-OP for "Teen Mental Health Project."

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The goal of the Teen Mental Health Project is to translate the research findings on effective systems of depression care into a practical, pragmatic program of adolescent depression care that is successfully used by a diverse group of pediatric and family medicine practices. The change process will be led by the Dartmouth CO-OP Project and Clinicians Enhancing Child Health (CECH) practice-based research networks (PBRNs) located in rural northern New England. These activities will result in a package of practice tools that will be disseminated both regionally and nationally to enable other clinicians to change to a pro-active effective system of adolescent depression care.

Dr. Fay Homan Gets Pilot Study Funded



The Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (AAFP/F) and the Research Committee (RC) have funded Dr. Fay Homan's PBRN Stimulation Grant – "A Comparison of Cesarean Section Outcomes for Rural Obstetricians and Family Physicians." The hypothesis of the pilot study is that there are similar complication rates in Ce-

sarean sections performed by rural family physicians as in those performed by obstetricians. Concerns regarding patient safety and management of surgical complications are often cited by those opposed to family physicians performing Cesarean sections. A pilot study confirming equivalent outcomes would be useful to support family physicians who are applying for C-section privileges. If higher complication rates were found, this could inform targeted improvements in family medicine residency and fellowship curricula. Either result would guide the development of a larger multisite follow up study. We look forward to seeing the results!

Dr. Ardis Olson Nominated for NH Pediatrician of the Year 2010

For the past several decades Ardis Olson has been a champion for pediatricians, family practitioners, and their practices.

Ardis is involved in multiple leadership roles in regional primary care research. She leads CECH (Clinicians Enhancing Child Health), the Dartmouth practice-based pediatric research network. She is also a state co-coordinator for AAP PROS network. She is now the research director for the Dartmouth COOP project that involves both adult and pediatric

health care providers in New England.

In addition Ardis remains active in pediatric clinical practice at Dartmouth Hitchcock Lebanon in both primary care and the care of children with spina bifida.



Dartmouth's Team Helps in Haiti

Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency sends a team of residents and faculty to Haiti every 6 months. This May, Bill Alto, Coop Board Member, was fortunate enough to join a team consisting of Chi Jokonya (faculty), two residents, a medical assistant, a psychiatrist, and two former residency graduates in a trip to Port-au-Prince. They conducted several clinics in the Cite Sole, a sprawling slum in the capital city. Other clinics were held ad lib while we were walking through tent cities; people would bring their sick family member to us for examination and treatment. Follow-up to insure that they improving was provided by local staff. At the pace of current recovery efforts, it will take a generation be-

fore the citizens of Port-au-Prince have electricity, potable water, and are able to move out of their tents. It is the worse situation I have ever seen since working in a Cambodian refugee camp in 1980, reported Alto who has worked in 13 other foreign countries.



Haitian Child With Kwashiorkor



Dartmouth COOP Project, Dartmouth Medical School

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38th North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Annual Meeting.

*Share your best.
Learn the latest.*

November 13-17, 2010

in Seattle, Washington