



NYC RING Network

Institute for Urban Family Health (Manhattan & Bronx)

Beth Israel Department of Family
Medicine
Beth Israel Residency in Urban
Family Practice

Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center (Bronx)

Fulton Park Family Practice
Ogden Family Medical & Dental
Center

Montefiore Medical Center (Bronx)

Montefiore Medical Group
-Castle Hill
-Comprehensive Family Care
Center (CFCC)
-Comprehensive Health Care
Center (CHCC)
-Family Health Center
-Fordham Family Practice
-Marble Hill Family Practice
-University Ave. Family Practice
-West Farms Family Practice
-Williamsbridge Family Practice

South Bronx Health Center for Children and Families (Bronx)

North Bronx Healthcare Network (Bronx)

Health Care Center at Gun Hill
Healthcare Center at Tremont

Saint Joseph's Medical Center Family Health Center (Yonkers)

Private Practice (Bronx) Riverdale Family Practice (Morrow)

Staff

Diane McKee, MD, MS
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NYCRING Website
<http://www.nycring.org>

NYCRING NEWS

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 11

SUMMER 2007

NYC RING Update

AHRQ PBRN Conference

This past spring Diane McKee and Stacia Maher attended the AHRQ National PBRN Research Conference meeting in Washington, DC. The AHRQ PBRN meeting provided an opportunity for PRBR staff from around the country to share their successes and failures and to learn from colleagues. Workshops addressed best-practices, operations, information technology, quality improvement, and research methodology within PBRNs. The plenary speaker for the meeting was Paul Thomas from the UK. He discussed the benefits and drawbacks of the different ways in which PBRNs can be organized. Dr. McKee also gave a presentation on the adoption and implementation of the FLAIR project. You can access Dr. McKee's presentation, as well as the other presentations from this meeting, by going to the following website: http://extranet2.ahrq.gov/QuickPlace/pbrn2007/Main.nsf?h_Toc/4254551BE3BD0EE085257222005739DE/?OpenDocument. Network members who are interested in attending next year's meeting should contact NYC RING coordinator Stacia Maher at smaher@aecom.yu.edu.

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Mental Health Task Force

We recently formed the NYC RING Mental Health Task Force in order to increase collaboration among NYC RING sites and create a mechanism for initiating small projects related to mental health and primary care. The first meeting took place this past June. Members met by conference call to define a direction toward collaborative activity that we hope will eventually improve the mental health care provided at NYC RING sites and lead to funded projects. The group discussed current mental health projects that are taking place within NYC RING and brainstormed about ideas for small projects. Some of the ideas included finding out what happens to patients after they are screened for depression, the utilization of counseling referrals, and assessing mental health services that are co-located with health centers and those that are not co-located with health centers.

Since the first meeting, the task force has decided to expand a mental health needs assessment in the form of a brief card study that physicians will be asked to fill out on 10-15 consecutive patients. The card study was origi-

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Spotlight on Fellows

NYC RING is pleased to announce that Susan Rubin, MD, MPH was awarded the Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP) Fellowship. Dr. Rubin will be working closely with Dr. McKee over the next two years on various research projects regarding reproductive health. Her main focus will be assisting Dr. McKee with the formative research for a large intervention to increase the provision of confidential care and STI testing in adolescents. She also hopes to analyze data from a recent survey she completed with women undergoing first trimester abortions in the primary care setting, and to begin a new study on the use of IUDs by family physicians.

Dr. Rubin completed her medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and her residency at the Beth Israel Family Practice Residency Program in New York City. Following her residency, she completed the Family Planning Fellowship with Dr. Marji Gold at Montefiore as well as a Masters of Public Health degree at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. During her fellowship, Dr. Rubin conducted research on the acceptability and desirability of the provision of early abortion services in urban family medicine clinics. Dr. Rubin has worked as a primary care physician at Fordham Family Practice in

the Bronx, in a high school clinic in Washington Heights, and continues to work as an abortion provider and trainer of family medicine residents at Planned Parenthood of New York City. She has traveled abroad extensively and worked in El Salvador on a project that explored adult and adolescents attitudes about teenage pregnancy.

ECRIP is a program sponsored by the New York State Department of Health. The program encourages teaching hospitals and Graduate Medical Education (GME) consortia to train physicians as clinical researchers to advance biomedical research in New York's academic health centers. Funds from the GME Reform Incentive Pool in each region are dedicated for this program to fund clinical research positions. Request for fall 2008 applications will be posted in spring 2008. If you are interested in applying for the fellowship or would like to suggest a potential candidate, please contact Stacia Maher at smaher@acom.yu.edu. We will be more than happy to guide you through the application process. For more information on ECRIP, please visit their website: <http://www.nyhealth.gov/nysdoh/gme/main.htm>.

Please share with your patients.....

The Urban Family Empowerment Center Programs The Urban Family Empowerment Center, 2705 Reservoir Avenue, Bronx is providing ESL and GED programs beginning in September, 2007. The organization is also providing an after-school program for children from 6-12 from 2:45 -6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. ESL classes will take place on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; GED classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:00- 9:00 p.m. All programs will be hosted at the Fordham Manor Reformed Church, 2705 Reservoir Avenue, across the street from the Kingsbridge Armory. Those who are interested, may call 718-796-4980 X 16 or visit the website www.empowerthefamily.org.

We're on the web at
<http://www.nycring.org>

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nally developed and conducted by Joanna Dognin, PsyD and other members of the “Mental Health Workgroup” at the Family Health Center. As it did at the Family Health Center, the card study will carefully document the mental health need and current access to services at different NYC RING member sites throughout the Bronx and Manhattan. In addition, demographics and physicians’ perceived barriers to care will be collected. We are currently revising the card and preparing IRB applications to conduct the study at health centers within Montefiore, Bronx Lebanon, Jacobi Medical Center and the Institute for Urban Family Health.

If you are interested in having your site participate in the card study or you would like to join the taskforce or suggest a colleague to be a part of the task force please contact Stacia Maher at smaher@acom.yu.edu. The co-chairs of the task force are Doug Reich and Jeff Levine from the Bronx Lebanon Health Care Center. Members of the task force include: Tony Lopez (Bronx Leb), Alison Karasz and Diane McKee (Montefiore), Diane Hauser and Virna Little (Institute for Urban Family Health), and Jean Burg (Jacobi).

IDEAS?

As always we hope to achieve a balance of projects within NYC RING- some more focused on quality improvement, some on “research”, some externally funded, some pilot-scale projects without funding, some led by researchers, others led by our clinician colleagues. Opportunities for clinicians who have a specific interest or "burning question" exist to take advantage of the resources of NYC RING. We would love to hear from you!

Please contact Stacia Maher, the NYC RING Program Coordinator at smaher@acom.yu.edu or 718-430-2749 if you have any ideas or need assistance with getting a project started.

Scheduled Highlights

DFSM Social Medicine Rounds on Tuesday, September 4 at 4:30 PM Lois Uttley, MPP, Director, The MergerWatch Project, An affiliate of Community Catalyst will speak on: 'Medicine and Morality: The Impact of Faith-based Health Restrictions on Patients' Rights and Access Care'. This presentation will describe how religiously-based health care restrictions are affecting patients' ability to obtain reproductive health services at hospitals and outpatient clinics. It will also describe the dilemmas physicians face when practicing at religiously-affiliated hospitals or treating patients whose health insurance is restricted because of the religious affiliation of the insurer or employer. Social Medicine Rounds will take place from 4:30 to 6pm in the Binswanger Auditorium located in Montefiore Hospital - Gold Zone (main floor). "CME is available for this activity."

The Hispanic Center of Excellence and The Bronx Creed to Reduce and Eliminate Ethnic and Racial Health Disparities (Bronx Creed), September 18, 2007 from 8-12pm Debbie Salas-Lopez, MD, MPH, Chief Division of General Internal Medicine, Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network, Associate professor of Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine will facilitate: “Using Cases to Teach Cross-Cultural Patient Care Train-the-Trainer Workshop: The Sequel”. This session will take place at Jacobi Medical Center Corporate Training Center 2 North 1. For more information contact Hope Spano at (718) 430-2749 or via email at bxcreed@acom.yu.edu.

35th North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Annual Meeting, October 20-23, 2007 Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia. This conference provides an opportunity for camaraderie with colleagues from around the world with an interest in primary care research through sessions, informal gatherings, and social events. For more information and online registration please visit their website at <http://www.napcrg.org/meeting07info.htm>.

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P4H Innovators Meeting

Representatives from the FLAIR team, co-principal investigators Diane McKee and Darwin Deen and program coordinator Stacia Maher, attended the Prescription for Health (P4H) Innovators Meeting in Colorado Springs this past spring. NYC RING was one of ten PBRN's across the nation funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Prescription for Health Program. Our project, Family Lifestyle Assessment of Initial Risk (FLAIR) assessed whether a brief practice-based initiative could be effective in producing meaningful lifestyle change among families of young children. We reframed the two year old well child visit to enhance the focus on family lifestyle risk assessment and behavior change by: 1) identifying family risk behaviors as a routine part of preventive care for 2 to 3 year olds; 2) targeting brief evidence-based behavior change messages to coincide with parents' concerns; 3) training clinicians in a patient-centered approach to help families set behavior change goals; and 4) extending clinicians effectiveness by providing access to a lifestyle counselor, trained in culturally sensitive behavior change counseling. Participating practices were Tremont, Castle Hill, Fordham, Marble Hill, University Ave. and West Farms.

The P4H Innovators Meeting gave the ten funded PBRN's an opportunity to come together in person to discuss their findings. Most of the meeting was devoted to hearing about the ten projects' preliminary results and to foster continued discussion among the ten projects. The National Program Office and the analysis team also provided updates and opportunities for discussion about the common measures that were collected from all of the projects. Dr. McKee gave a presentation of the preliminary results of the FLAIR project. We are currently in the final stages of data collection for the FLAIR project and will begin final analysis of the data soon. We plan to disseminate our results to the sites that participated in the project and the NYC RING community this fall. We also plan to publish the results from the FLAIR project in peer reviewed journals. For information about the FLAIR project and the other P4H projects that were funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation you can visit the P4H website at <http://www.prescriptionforhealth.org/>.

NYC RING Research Liaisons

Institute for Urban Family Health

Andreas Cohnsen, MD & Wendy Barr, MD

Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center

Doug Reich, MD & Tony Lopez, MD, MPH

Montefiore Medical Group Castle Hill

Darwin Deen, MD, MS

Comprehensive Family Center Practice (CFCC)

Peter Bernstein, MD & Andrew Racine, MD

Comprehensive Health Care Center (CHCC)

Iman Sharif, MD & Galit Sacajiu

Fordham Family Practice

Marianne Dietrich, MD

Marble Hill Family Practice

Family Health Center

Zack Rosen, MD & Matt Anderson, MD, MS

South Bronx Health Center for Children and Families

Peter Meacher, MD

University Ave. Family Practice

Robert Clarick, MD

West Farms Family Practice

Clement Landanno, MD

Williamsbridge Family Practice

Diane McKee, MD

North Bronx Healthcare Network Health Center Tremont

Jean Burg, MD

Saint Joseph's Medical Center

Our Mission

To define and strengthen the knowledge base and improve the practice of urban primary care by:

- 1. Identifying and addressing research and quality improvement questions important to primary care providers, patients, families, and their communities*
- 2. Defining and pursuing a research agenda focused on the specific health, disease, and health services issues of urban underserved patients and communities, and*
- 3. Providing a research resource for undergraduate and graduate medical education in primary and community health.*