

COMMUNITY NEWS

WEST VIRGINIA PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

WV PROJECT **ECHO** COVID-19 Response

THURSDAYS 12:15-1:15P

Date	Topic	Presenter
May 14th	WV State Updates	Lisa Costello
June 4th	Vaccinations	Chris Martin
June 18th	Updates	Clay Marsh
July 2nd	Cancelled	-
July 16th	Pediatric Focus	Kathryn Moffett
August 6th	TBD	TBD
August 20th	TBD	TBD

All Topics and Presenters are subject to change as the situation evolves.

IN THIS ISSUE

COVID-19 Projects

WVPBRN Spotlight

Project Updates

Announcements

COVID-19 PROJECT UPDATES

As the progression of COVID-19 intensified and eventually spread to West Virginia, the WVPBRN and partner institutions began a variety of projects and initiatives to address the health of the Appalachian community.

WVCTSI CEO CORE

1. WV Project ECHO: At the request of many providers—both primary care and specialists—WV Project ECHO began a special series dedicated to the latest updates, best practices, and

research related to COVID-19 in March.

The ECHO team has worked tirelessly to provide a valuable and collaborative platform for health professionals around the state. These sessions are held twice a month, on Thursdays at 12:15 pm.

2. CORE Survey: As part of the Collective Outreach and Research Engagement (CORE) Survey this year, questions evaluating provider preparedness for public health emergencies were added in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The WVPBRN team is currently working on the

dissemination of these results.

3. ATRN Survey: WVCTSI's CEO Core is a participant in the Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN), a collaboration between research institutions to improve the translation of scientific discoveries to better health outcomes in Appalachia. The ATRN is working on releasing a survey to capture the impact of COVID-19 on Appalachian communities. The survey will be released in the next few weeks and assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of community members.

COVID-19 ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

To find out more information about these initiatives, please visit wvpbrn.wordpress.com

West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Creation of COVID-19 Registry
 Funding Opportunities (Pop-Up and Data Projects)
 COVID-19 Website Creation
 Special WV Project ECHO Series
 Support of Clinician-Led Research Projects



Marshall University

COVID-19 Information Hotline
 Drive Thru Test Sites
 Tele Town Hall Meetings (over 5,000 participants)
 Hand Sanitizer Prep and Distribution
 N95 Sterilization with Cabel
 Huntington Hospital
 Community Food Drives
 3-D Mask Printing
 COVID-19 Website



West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM)

3D Print Mask/Assembly
 County Schools Feeding Program
 (3,000 multi-day meal boxes per week)
 Feeding Seniors/Saving Businesses
 (over 6,600 meals were prepared by local take-out restaurants and delivered to 307 senior families)
 Trucker Safety and Food Bags
 PPE Order



Charleston Area Medical Center

Creation of COVID-19 Registry
 COVID-19 Website
 Drive Thru Testing Sites
 24/7 Care App
 Publication of Clinician-Led Research



WVPBRN SPOTLIGHT: OBESITY MEDICINE

The WVPBRN would like to congratulate Dr. Joanna Bailey (Tug River Medical Association, pictured right) and Dr. Treah Haggerty (WVU Medicine, pictured below) on their recent certifications in obesity medicine. To become



American Board of Obesity Medicine (ABOM) certified, physicians must complete 60 hours of CME in qualifying obesity courses, with 30 hours being live. Drs. Bailey and Haggerty completed part of their coursework through Harvard Medical School last summer. They both passed the certification exam, which took place in February.

Both physicians were motivated to broaden their knowledge and skills in order to better care for their patients struggling with the disease. “I was looking toward board certification after seeing multiple patients ‘fail’ at losing weight and others succeed and then I watched a family member

take their A1C from 11.8 to 5.0 within 9 months. I was hooked on there being a better way to understand the hormones and body response to obesity that would allow for better care of my patients, and also my family member,” Haggerty said. “I learn by working with my family member and honestly, did not know how I could ask a patient to do the same thing when it took my knowledge bank of disease process and pathophysiology to understand what the steps to take as we moved through the lifestyle change within my family. I also realized in this experience that obesity is hard to address in a clinic visit between all the other issues to discuss and my training to that point had told me to have them ‘move more and eat less’. Through the training, I learned that obesity treatment is much more than that and by only advising to move more



and eat less, we were not “treating” obesity. Those these are important components.”

Drs. Bailey and Haggerty hope to improve obesity treatment not only for their patients but for West Virginians as a whole. “First off I hope to be able to

“I also hope to educate community members and colleagues that obesity is a disease, not a short coming of the patient.”

Joanna Bailey, MD
Tug River Medical
Association



provide treatment for the chronic disease of obesity to the patients of Wyoming and McDowell County who have higher rates of obesity than anywhere else in the country,” Bailey stated. “I also hope to educate community members and colleagues that obesity is

a disease, not a short coming of the patient. Finally, I hope to advocate for policy change that will reduce the burden of obesity which is caused by overconsumption of sugar and highly processed foods in our communities.”

WVPRBN PROJECT UPDATES

NIOSH Occupational Fentanyl Exposure

Fentanyl is not only dangerous for people who use the drug but also healthcare workers who are exposed to the chemical when taking care of patients in a clinic or hospital setting. The WVPBRN has partnered with National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to learn more about occupational fentanyl exposure and adherence to NIOSH’s guidance for “Preventing Fentanyl Exposure in Hospitals and Clinics” in West Virginia. We are still recruiting administrators and managers for interviews. Please contact Jen Lukas at jg0138@hsc.wvu.edu if you are interested.

Appalachian Mind Health Initiative (AMHI)

AMHI is a pragmatic clinical trial of internet-based psychotherapy (eCBT) for patients being treated for Major Depressive Disorder funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Patient recruitment was originally scheduled to begin in the spring, but the

COVID-19 pandemic caused a delay. The study team is currently reaching out to sites that have previously agreed to participate in order to review and sign the Memorandum of Use (MOU). If you are still interested in participating, please contact Michelle Tonkin at michelle.tonkin@hsc.wvu.edu for more information. Patient recruitment begins this month.



Wearable Technology Study

The WVPBRN has partnered with the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute on a study designed to monitor the health and wellness of health care workers as they carry out their duties and deal with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, this study examines the ability to predict onset of COVID-19 symptoms through the use of a wearable smart ring.

Healthcare workers have already been recruited for this study and should have received their rings. If you have agreed to participate and have not yet received your ring, please contact Tracy Sun at tracy.sun@hsc.wvu.edu.

The mission of the WVPBRN is to improve the health of West Virginians by collaborating with primary care practices to conduct translational practice-based research.



WVPBRN

West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network

