

COMMUNITY NEWS

WEST VIRGINIA PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

SARS CoV-2 TESTING PROJECT LAUNCHES AT WVPBRN SITES

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently awarded the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute (WVCTSI) a \$4.78 million grant to increase testing for the novel coronavirus (SARS CoV-2) across the state. The NIH launched the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostic (RADx) program in April to address development of effective strategies for diagnosis of SARS CoV-2. The awarded grant falls under the RADx-Underserved Popula-

tions (RADx-UP) subsection which aims to develop strategies to reduce disparities in testing, while working with established community partners.

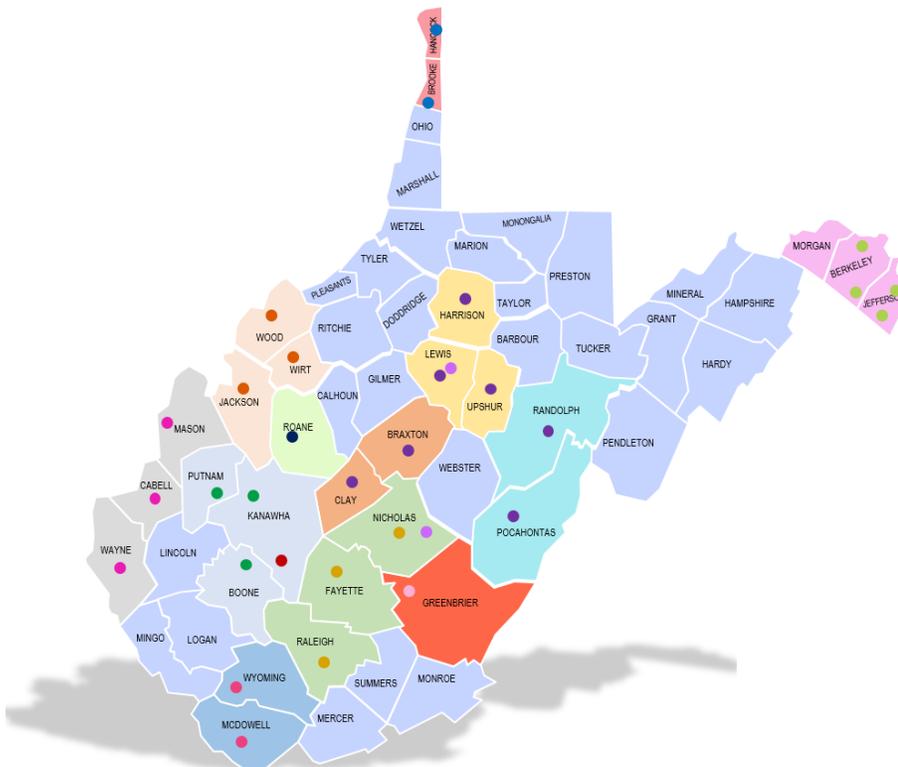
A main focus for WVCTSI's project is to partner with certain WVPBRN sites to increase testing capacity. This support comes in the form of additional staff, supplies, and funding for related expenses. West Virginia's Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) will also match funds for those who are underinsured or uninsured.

The second aim of the project involves supplying the WV Na-

tional Guard with two additional mobile testing units that will be traveling to areas with high incidence of SARS CoV-2.

The last aim focuses on targeting African-American communities, who have shown higher mortality rates. The collaborating with the Partnership of African-American Churches to make home tests available for those interested and also providing a mobile testing unit.

To learn more about the initiative, please visit <https://www.nih.gov/radx>.



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WVPBRN SPOTLIGHT: NICOLE STOUT



“The PBRN is an important avenue in helping to guide the development of community-based care models.

**Nicole Stout, DPT,
FAPTA**

The WVPBRN would like to congratulate Nicole Stout DPT, FAPTA and her project team for their recent publication, “A systematic review of rehabilitation and exercise recommendations in oncology guidelines.” This publication was a part of a large project being conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO). Her technical working group conducted a systematic review of oncology guidelines, from professional societies around the world, to identify recommended evidence-based rehabilitation interventions for individuals with cancer.

“Rehabilitation is not commonly a standard intervention used during cancer treatments, despite a large and growing evidence base that demonstrates rather substantial positive impact on outcomes like return to work, improved quality of life, lower symptom burden, and overall better physical, cognitive, and emotional wellbeing,”

Dr. Stout said. “In fact, less than 10-15% of individuals with measurable functional deficits are commonly referred to rehabilitation. This large systematic review identified 69 oncology treatment guidelines that do, indeed, identify many recommendations for referral to rehabilitation and offer suggested interventions. Therefore, we have a rather substantial practice gap between guideline concordant evidence-based practice and real-world clinical practice.”

The team’s work can guide future practice changes that emphasize implementation of assessing function and functional changes during and after cancer treatment and using that assessment to standardize rehabilitative interventions as a part of cancer care. Special attention also needs to be focused on changing systems to support access to these services (e.g. improving workforce knowledgebase, changing payment and reimbursement schemes, and—especially for rural areas like WV—building community-based services specifically to meet the needs of individuals with cancer).

Dr. Stout hopes to partner with WVPBRN sites and members in the future to understand the perspectives of primary care providers and the challenges they face in treating individuals living with and beyond cancer. “I envision future collaborations with PBRN sites to improve processes of care delivery for cancer survivors, to foster



education through remote learning and peer-to-peer support so that we expand knowledge about managing cancer care follow up, and really to advise communities on programs and services that are needed to support the cancer survivor population,” Dr. Stout stated. “The PBRN is an important avenue in helping to guide the development of community-based care models.”

To read the full publication, please visit <https://bit.ly/3sfch6b> and for more perspective, visit <https://bit.ly/2LBK5JJ> to read Dr. Stout’s recent invited editorial for the American Society of Clinical Oncology which expands on the community-based system of care for survivorship.

WVPBRN ACTIVE PROJECT RECRUITMENT

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). Participants will receive

additional support and resources to supplement their provider’s treatment plan. This is very important and impactful work benefiting West Virginia patients, particularly given the mental health challenges this pandemic has brought. The project team has recorded a special webinar for interested providers this past week. Please contact Jen Lukas at jg0138@hsc.wvu.edu for the recording or for more information on the study.

Infant Mortality Project

Lauri Andress, PhD is currently recruiting female adults between the ages of 18 and 45 years old who are physically able to bear a child OR have lost a child less than 12 months of age in hopes of better understanding factors influencing infant mortality. Interviews will take approximately 60-90 minutes and participants will receive a \$40 gift card. Please email laandress@hsc.wvu.edu if you know anyone interested.

International Medical Graduates Study

Researchers from Davidson College and University of Chicago are interested in learning from international medical graduates (IMGs), health system administrators, and community leaders to participate in interviews on the experiences of IMGs and the ways that health and immigration policies affect their ability to work in underserved areas, particularly in WV. Please contact Tracy at tracy.sun@hsc.wvu.edu if you are interested.

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.



WVPRBN PROJECT UPDATES (CONT.)

Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN) Survey

In collaboration with the ATRN, the WVPBRN is looking for community members interested in completing a brief, but thorough survey regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on their lives. The survey is completed through REDCap and takes no more than 15-20 minutes. Please feel free to share the link with

anyone who may be interested: <http://bit.ly/3nvlP9y>.

RE-COVID

The WVPBRN has partnered with Drs. Rob Bossarte, Sara Warfield, and Cara Stokes in their efforts to evaluate the impact of the professional and personal impact of the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic on our healthcare workers. They would like to invite providers to participate in a series of 3 brief surveys over the course of 6 months, estimated to last about 25

minutes each, offered via an easily accessible online platform. The project team appreciates how precious time is here and now and does not want to place any additional burden on clinical sites and plans to be as accommodating as possible.

For more information and to access the first survey, please visit <http://bit.ly/3oDcAVW>. Please feel free to share with anyone who may be interested in participating.

ANNUAL CORE SURVEY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

CORE

COLLECTIVE OUTREACH AND RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

SURVEY



The WVPBRN has opened submissions for the annual Collective Outreach and Research Engagement (CORE) Survey. The CORE Survey is a compilation of survey questions from multiple clinicians and/or investigators relating to a variety of primary care topics in WV. Clinicians and/or investigators may apply to the WVPBRN to

have their questions included in the survey, which is released in the spring. The WVPBRN will select the top questions that are most relevant and of interest to Network members.

The deadline for this year's submission has been extended to accommodate for the burden of the ongoing pandemic. Please submit your proposals to Jen Lukas at jg0138@hsc.wvu.edu by February 9th 2020 at 5pm EST.

Proposals must include the following:

- Title of the proposed project
- Contact information for PI (name, address, phone, email)
- Project team names listed
- Health care issue addressed by the proposed

project

- Brief description of how this information is relevant and useful to primary care clinics in West Virginia
- List of intended questions (up to 10 questions, including all sub-parts to questions)

A committee will evaluate each proposal on relevance to primary care, potential of dissemination, and overall quality of the submission. The winning recipients will be able to have their questions distributed and answered by providers from 108 health sites across the state. The survey will be open to sites for at least one month.

For more information or questions, please feel free to reach out to Jen Lukas at jg0138@hsc.wvu.edu or visit <http://bit.ly/3mrvbk5t>.

WV PROJECT ECHO COLLABORATES WITH WVHCA

WV Project ECHO has partnered with the WV Health Care Association (WVHCA) on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network. This Network provides free training and mentorship to nursing homes across the country to

increase the implementation of evidence-based infection prevention and safety practices to protect residents and staff. As of fall 2020, nearly one-quarter of the known COVID-19 deaths in the United States have been nursing home residents and staff. Advanced age, underlying frailty, and communal living conditions make nursing home residents especially vulnerable, and their reliance on nursing home staff members put these essential workers at

high risk.

The WVHCA is the lead Hub organization for this project while WV Project ECHO will be mentoring, providing administrative support, and Hub member recruitment for the WVHCA.

The WVHCA and WV Project ECHO have recruited 70 nursing homes to participate in the 16-week project, with two cohorts of 35 nursing homes each. The project launched both cohorts on November 30.

CEO CORE WELCOMES STAFF AT WVSOM

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's (WVSOM) Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH) have welcomed new members to their team who will be working closely with the CEO (Community Engagement and Outreach) core of WVCTSI.

Jenna Hinkle, MPS Education Specialist



Following graduation from WVU (undergraduate) and West Liberty University (graduate), Jenna has worked with a diverse population in West Virginia, namely individuals with substance use

disorder. Her work environment has been broad, ranging from a healthcare environment for individuals in crisis to working with at-risk youth. Over the years, Jenna has been committed to providing guidance with regard to behavioral health services, employment/educational opportunities, and various trainings to criminal offenders. Through these endeavors, she found her passion for promoting health and safety in West Virginia. In her current position at WVSOM, she assists with the coordination of State Opioid Response Grant programs as well as the Community Health Education Resource Person (CHERP) program through the WVCTSI CEO.

Evonne Richards, M.Ed. Health Education Specialist

Evonne holds a public relations degree from WVU, a M.Ed., in learning & technology from Western Governors University and is

currently completing an MPH from West Coast University. She has been with WVSOM for



over 11 years in technology, educational assessment and the CRCH. She worked briefly with the WV Department of Health and Human Resources where she realized the need for public health professionals who understand the unique challenges of rural health. Evonne's passions are advocacy for the disadvantaged and lifelong learning. Affectionately known as Mimi to 10 of the best human beings under the age of 16, she practices (and wins) being the worst singer in the family. She lives in Beaver, WV, with her husband Rob and three schnauzers.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next **Design Studio** will be March 5 from 12-1 pm. Please submit any ideas for the project discussion portion to Tracy Sun at tracy.sun@hsc.wvu.edu.
- The WVCTSI's **Females Advancing Clinical and Translational Sciences Group** will feature Rena Seltzer, MSW, founder of Leader Academic, presenting "Building Networks in an Online Remote World. This event will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27. RSVP [here](#) to receive Zoom connection information.
- Beginning in March, **WV Project ECHO Memory Health** will shift to the 12 to 1 p.m. timeslot. Sessions will still take place on the first Tuesday of every month.

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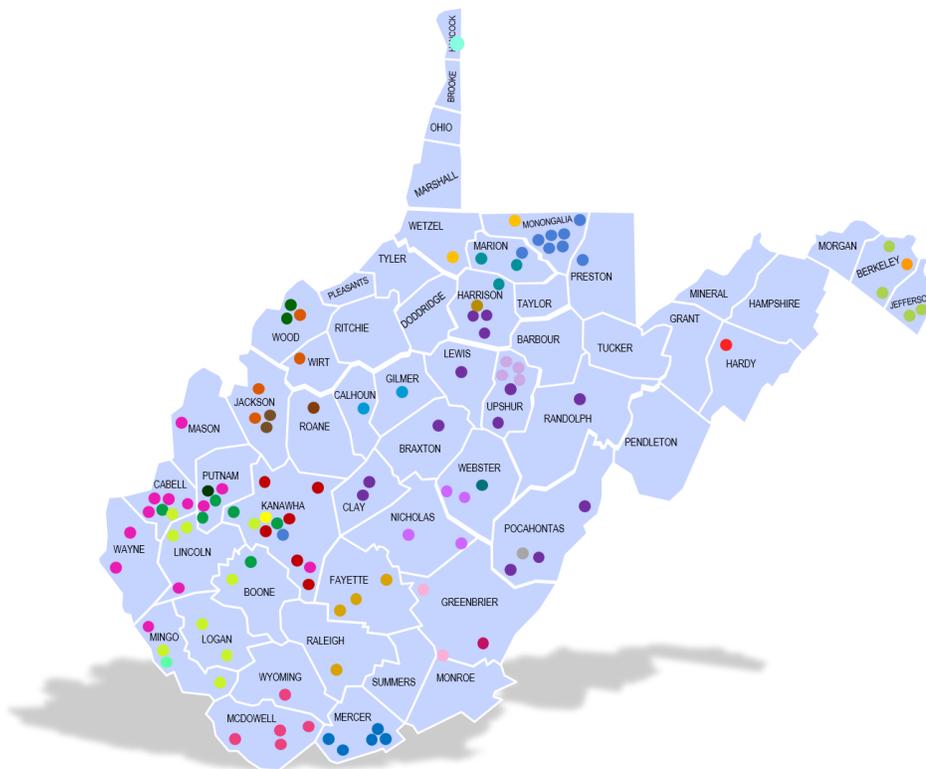
Find us online at
www.wvctsi.org



COVID-19 Research Open House Week

Join WVCTSI and National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) members from across the country for a COVID-19 Research Open House Week from January 19 - 25. This event will kick off with a 1-hour symposium followed by a week of open Clinical Domain Team Meetings to welcome new collaborators and help them launch their research questions. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

OUR NETWORK



West Virginia Practice-Based
 Research Network

West Virginia Clinical and
 Translational Science Institute

Community Engagement and
 Outreach Core

