

# COMMUNITY NEWS



WEST VIRGINIA PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH



## *Healthcare workers and researchers from across WV reconnect at annual WVPBRN Retreat*

The [West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network](#) (WVPBRN) recently hosted its first in-person annual retreat since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This day-and-a-half event allowed members from across the 108-site network to reconnect, collaborate, and share the research they have been conducting all across the Mountain State.

The retreat kicked off with a networking dinner cruise around the Stonewall Jackson Lake in Roanoke, West Virginia. The following day opened with an update

“More than ever, it was great to gather with all of our members and reconnect to share all the amazing and meaningful work that everyone is doing across the state,” said Stacey Whanger, WVPBRN assistant director and director of the RADx-Up Initiative and implementation research with the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Other sessions included a rural health and implementation science panel discussion, an update on the [WVCTSI Clinical Trials Mobile Unit](#), and a poster session highlighting WVPBRN projects on topics including obstructive sleep apnea, medication-assisted treatment, substance use disorder, chronic pain, diabetes, COVID



and physician well-being.

“These past years have been very challenging for everyone, but especially for healthcare providers. This made provider resiliency and well-being more important than ever,” said Whanger. “Since we have the WVPBRN we were able to help out by providing resources and support that allowed them to continue doing their incredible work treating

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on progress made in the network and information on WVPBRN projects from network co-directors Dr. Bill Lewis and Jennifer Boyd.



-19, and more. Following lunch, Dr. Mathew Weimer from Valley Health Systems and Jennifer Boyd provided the keynote address on healthcare provider resilience

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***WVPBRN SPOTLIGHT*****Mary Emmett, PhD, FACHE**

Corporate Director

Center for Health Services &  
Outcomes ResearchCharleston Area Medical Center  
(CAMC)CAMC Institute for Academic  
Medicine

Mary Emmett, PhD, serves as the Corporate Director for the Center for Health Services & Outcomes Research at the Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) Institute for Academic Medicine/Health Education & Research Institute.



She graduated from Marquette University with a bachelor's in medical technology, obtained a master's

in special studies, specifically business, from the University of South Dakota, and a Doctorate in Hospital and Healthcare Administration from the University of Iowa. She is a registered medical technologist and holds credentials as a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives.

Mary joined the CAMC Institute for Academic Medicine in 1997. Her experience as Corporate Director of the Center for Health Services and Outcomes Research covers a span of 25 years. She has 56 continuous years of experience in health care practice, administration, education, and research. This included practice in hospitals, serving on hospital boards, corporate health system

boards, and teaching in universities. She has conducted retrospective and prospective research and served as a mentor to those conducting research. Collaboration with Public Health on chronic disease management, specifically heart disease, asthma, diabetes, and cancer.

Mary is a long standing, and valued member, of the WVPBRN Steering Committee. She serves on the Professional Development Core Team. Mary is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives, the Academy for Health Policy and Research. She serves on the Board of the Center for Rural Health Development and co-chairs the Advisory Committee for Wild, Wonderful and Healthy West Virginia.

Mary is truly talented in her abilities to analyze research and make recommendations for best practice, based upon her experience in the field, valuable insights, and attention to detail.

Mary has been instrumental in contributing to 30 publications while affiliated with CAMC. She is proud of the team of researchers, statisticians and data engineers that form the Center for Health Services and Outcomes Research. As a unit they are collaborating with clinical providers on 168 approved studies. She is particularly proud of their engagement with WVCTSI, N3C, State Opioid Response Grant (SOR), and work with Rural Mothers Obstetrical Maternity Services (RMOMS). Outside of work, Mary enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, music and piano practice.

## Studying Lyme Disease in West Virginia

Lyme disease in West Virginia is on the rise, and appropriate diagnosis and treatment is more important than ever within primary care. Our most recently submitted Network-level project entitled, "Lyme Disease: Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Among Healthcare Workers in West Virginia," will help us gain a better understanding of adherence to Lyme disease treatment guidelines and gaps in knowledge, with regard to best practices throughout West Virginia.



Participation is easy, by way of a brief survey for outpatient primary healthcare providers. This important research into assessing knowledge, attitude, and practices concerning Lyme disease treatment, is truly beneficial to rural patients and providers alike throughout the state, who may not have access to such specialty care. Results will be submitted to Infectious Diseases Week.

Use the links/QR code below to access the materials and complete the short survey today! Feel free to contact the study team and PI Dr. Kurt Suter at: [ksuter1@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:ksuter1@hsc.wvu.edu) if you have any questions!



If the link above does not work, try copying the link below into your web browser:

<https://redcap.wvctsi.org/redcap/surveys/?s=KPXT4CAK8C77WE7H>

patients in the state while also being able to participate in impactful research projects."

The event concluded with attendees breaking into small groups to discuss future directions for the network and a summary led by Dr. Bill Lewis.



The WVPBRN is already looking toward next year's retreat planning and is slated to take place in early May of 2023.



If you are interested in serving on next year's planning team, please contact Jen Lukas, [jg0138@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:jg0138@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.



## *The Adira Foundation*

Adira Foundation (Adira) and Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation (BMSF) are partnering together to improve health care services and capacity for people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) in rural areas of Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Residents in rural areas face many challenges when accessing specialty care services. These barriers are particularly challenging for people most impacted by MS and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Adira would like to partner with the WVPBRN to address these

challenges through community engagement, increased access to trained health care providers, and comprehensive navigation tools.

Rural populations face unique challenges such as geographical distances to services and limited specialty care. Additionally, there are a variety of factors that lead to poor health outcomes such as limited job opportunities and a sedentary, leisure lifestyle.

Ultimately, 32 counties from the four states were selected as the target areas for intervention. These counties are in rural areas with some access to clinical care and have associations with larger, comprehensive care systems

which can be built upon to strengthen community networks and effectively address social determinants of health. WV counties are listed below:

Fayette County  
Marion County  
McDowell County  
Mercer County  
Monroe County  
Preston County  
Raleigh County  
Summers County  
Wetzel County  
Wyoming County

For more information, contact Sarah Ward, Community Outreach Manager (313) 896-6820 | [adirafoundation.org](http://adirafoundation.org).

## *WVPBRN Open Projects*

### **Cancer Survivorship Project**



Dr. Nicole Stout and team from the West Virginia University Cancer Institute are conducting a study to learn more about the needs of cancer survivors and the healthcare professionals that treat them in our communities across the state.

All healthcare professionals are encouraged to share their experiences through a brief virtual call. Scheduling is easy and flexible to accommodate busy patient schedules. A \$50

gift card incentive is also given upon completion.

If you are willing to participate, please reply to this email ([Nicole.stout@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:Nicole.stout@hsc.wvu.edu)) with any preferred dates and specific times, you are available. You will receive a confirmation and a link to a virtual conference call line.

### **Virtual Q&A sessions: Buprenorphine Implementation Research & Community Health (BIRCH) project**

The BIRCH project is a collaboration between the WV

Primary Care Association (PCA) and the WV Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) and the Yale and WVU Schools of Medicine. BIRCH is designed to integrate and scale up treatment services for people with opioid use disorder, HIV and HCV throughout West Virginia. To date, 18 of the 20 slated clinics have been recruited and have begun preparations for participation in early August 2022.

Contact Stephanie Hutter-Thomas, PhD, Research Program Director, BIRCH Project, 304-288-8483 [stephanie.hutterthomas@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:stephanie.hutterthomas@hsc.wvu.edu) with any questions.

WVCTSI PROJECT  
**ECHO**  
**CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE**  
1ST & 3RD MONDAYS 8-9 A.M.



Date	Topic	Presenter
7/4/2022	Cancelled: Independence Holiday	N/A
7/18/2022	Prevention & Management of COPD	Vida Falahatian
8/1/2022	Outpatient Pulmonary Rehab	Allison Cihla
8/15/2022	Antifibrotics and Progressive Fibrotic ILD	Rahul Sangani
9/5/2022	Cancelled: Labor Day	N/A
9/19/2022	Interpreting Challenging Spirometry	Carl Wertz
10/3/2022	COVID-19 and the Lungs	Allison Cihla
10/17/2022	Thoracic Manifestations: Heart Disease	Richard Morehead
11/7/2022	Causes & Management of Pleural Effusions	Sarah Hadique
11/21/2022	The Best of ATS 2022	Robert Stansbury
12/5/2022	Pulmonary HTN in ILD: <i>The kid on the block</i>	Sunil Sharma
12/19/2022	Lung Cancer Screening	David Weissman

WVCTSI PROJECT  
**ECHO**  
**ENDOCRINE**  
2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS 12-1 P.M.



Date	Topic	Presenter
7/13/2022	Osteoporosis	Jessica Perini
7/27/2022	Hypoglycemia	Jennifer Giordano
8/10/2022	Hyperparathyroidism	Renee Schwertfeger
8/24/2022	Diagnosis & Mngmt of Diabetic Neuropathies	Adnan Haider
9/14/2022	Common Medication Classes & When to Use	Hugh Quinn
9/28/2022	Goiter Management	Jennifer Turner
10/12/2022	Hyperthyroidism	Nadia Barghouthi
10/26/2022	Insurance	Hugh Quinn
11/9/2022	CGMs	Melissa Phillips
11/23/2022	Cancelled: Thanksgiving Holiday	N/A
12/14/2022	Thyroid Diseases and Treatments	Smita Kumar
12/28/2022	Male Hypogonadism	Nadia Barghouthi

WVCTSI PROJECT  
**ECHO**  
**HCV/HIV**  
2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS 12:15-1:15 P.M.



Date	Topic	Presenter
7/14/2022	HIV and HCV	John Guilfoose
7/28/2022	Session of Cases	Case Presenters
8/11/2022	Psych Medications & Drug Interactions	Rachel Mitchell
8/25/2022	Adherence	Samantha Manson
9/8/2022	Hepatitis C in Pregnant Patients	Judith Feinberg
9/22/2022	Liver Lesions and HCC	Jean Kernal
10/13/2022	LGBTQ & Adolescent Populations	Carolyn Kidd
10/27/2022	Autoimmune Hepatitis	Craig Lammert
11/10/2022	PrEP	Judith Feinberg
11/24/2022	Cancelled: Thanksgiving Holiday	N/A
12/8/2022	Hepatitis B Vaccinations	John Guilfoose
12/22/2022	Cancelled: Winter Holiday	N/A

WVCTSI PROJECT  
**ECHO**  
**PSYCHIATRY**  
1ST WEDNESDAYS 12-1 P.M.  
3RD WEDNESDAYS 12:30-1:30 P.M.



Date	Topic	Presenter
7/6/22	Evaluation & treatment-bariatric surgery	Laura Aylward
7/20/22	Cell Phone /Screen Time Addiction	Amanda Newhouse
8/3/22	Child Psychiatry/Emergency Room	Lauren Swager
8/17/22	Treating Non-Compliance in pediatrics.	Stephany Lora
9/7/22	Family Dynamics in Treatment	Amanda Newhouse
9/21/22	TBD	TBD
10/5/22	Motivational Interviewing	Lauren Swager
10/19/22	Pediatric GI Psychology	Jennifer Ludrosky
11/2/22	Treatment Planning-kids coping	Amanda Newhouse
11/16/22	Forensic Psychiatry	Colleen Lillard
12/7/22	Pharmacology-in Tobacco/Vaping Use	Lauren Swager
12/21/22	TBD	Colleen Lillard

WVCTSI PROJECT  
**ECHO**  
**SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**  
2ND & 4TH MONDAYS 4-5 P.M.



Date	Topic	Presenter
7/11/22	Narcain Availability in the State	Lindsay Acree
7/25/22	MAT State Laws Pre-COVID vs. COVID vs. Now	Matthew Christiansen
8/8/22	Hallucinogens, Stimulants, Cannabis, etc.	Mark Garofoli
8/22/22	Urine Drug Testing /drug screening	Mark Garofoli
9/12/22	Standards of Practice	Katle Chlasson-Downs
9/26/22	SUD Trigger Strategies/Preventing Relapse	Laura Lander
10/10/22	Communication Methods	Olivia Higdon
10/24/22	CPS involvement w/ Patients	Laura Lander
11/14/22	Drug Interactions, variety/severity	Jeremy Husted
11/28/22	Medication Management	Jeremy Husted
12/12/22	Compassion Fatigue	Katle Chlasson-Downs
12/26/22	Cancelled: Christmas Holiday	N/A

## Special Announcements

NOW OPEN: Registration & Call for Abstracts has been opened for the virtual 2022 Symposium on Substance Use Research. The event will be held on November 8-10, 2022, virtual via Zoom. Abstracts are being accepted for short research presentations and the rapid-fire poster session. All abstracts are due by Wednesday, August 31, 2022.

There is no cost to attend or participate, and it is open to the public.

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Find us online at  
[www.wvctsi.org](http://www.wvctsi.org)

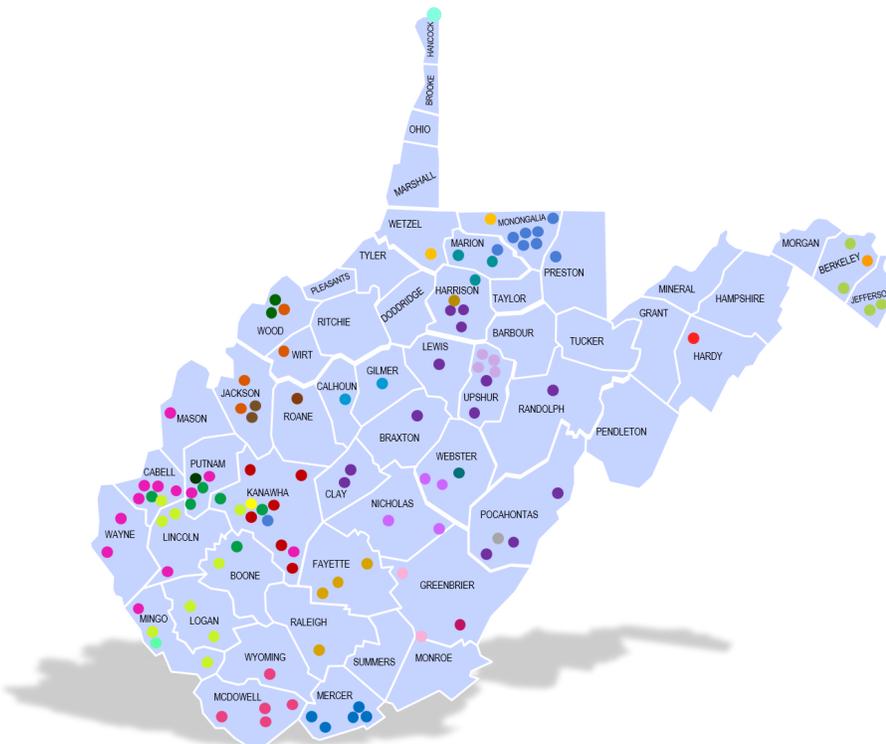


Do you have an interest in metabolic health and want to learn more?

The WV Metabolic Health Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 12 – 1 p.m. The group is open to all levels of providers and primary care organizations. The goal is to gather interested providers to partake in didactic-like discussions on the latest guidelines, medications, policy, and practice topics. Additionally, de-identified case can be discussed to better help primary care providers in the area of metabolic health. If you are interested in joining the group, please reach out to Mithra Salmassi at [mm0175@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:mm0175@hsc.wvu.edu) for more information.



## OUR NETWORK



West Virginia Practice-Based  
 Research Network

West Virginia Clinical and  
 Translational Science Institute

Community Engagement and  
 Outreach Core

