

WVPBRN

Community Newsletter

West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network



SUMMER 2023 EDITION

- WVPBRN Retreat
- Member Spotlight:
Matthew Christiansen,
MD, MPH
- Network Highlights
- Project Opportunities
- Announcements

WVPBRN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS DURING ANNUAL RETREAT

The West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary with its annual retreat. This day-and-a-half event allowed network members from 131 sites to connect, network, and share highlights from the various impactful research projects taking place across West Virginia.

This year's event kicked off with a networking cruise around Stonewall Jackson Lake aboard Stonewall Resort's "Little Sorrel" cruise boat. The following morning opened with a "State of the Network" address from WVPBRN co-directors Dr. Bill Lewis and Jennifer Boyd.

"It's always great to get this group of people together," said Lewis. "The amount of interaction and collaboration that is fostered any time this group is able to come together is really a benefit to practice-based research all across the state."

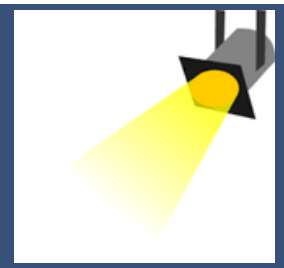
Following these opening remarks, attendees listened to updates on projects selected for the WVPBRN CORE Survey that was presented by Dr. Jack Gelman, assistant professor and associate program director of plastic surgery with the WVU School of Medicine, and Dr. Dannell Boatman, research associate with the WVU Cancer Institute.

Interested in attending next year's retreat?
Let us know your thoughts of the best time
and locations for upcoming events!



Cont. on pg 3

Member Spotlight



MATTHEW CHRISTIANSEN, MD, MPH

Commissioner and State Health Officer
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources,
Bureau for Public Health

As a family physician and public health expert, Dr. Matthew Christiansen is passionate about working with West Virginians. His goal is to create real, positive, lasting change in the health of West Virginia's communities that spans into future generations.

In January 2023, Dr. Christiansen was named State Health Officer and Commissioner of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' (DHHR) Bureau for Public Health after effectively leading DHHR's West Virginia Office of Drug

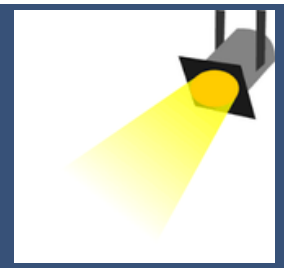


Control Policy (ODCP) since October 2020. His recent promotion includes but is not limited to, oversight of the Bureau's nine offices and two centers.

Dr. Christiansen, who is dual board certified in Addiction Medicine and Family Medicine, brings a plethora of experience to the leadership of the Bureau. Prior to his appointment as ODCP Director, he was an Associate Professor at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Department of Family & Community Health, and presented both across the tri-state region and in other states from a primary care perspective. Dr. Christiansen also practiced primary care and addiction medicine, with a focus on treatment of dependence throughout a person's lifespan, at Marshall Health and at PROACT (Provider Response Organization for Addiction Care & Treatment), a collaborative effort of Marshall Health, Cabell Huntington Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center, and Thomas Health System.

Dr. Christiansen earned his Bachelor of Science at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and his medical degree and a Master of Public Health from Marshall University. Dr. Christiansen also serves as the Medical Director and Board President of Ebenezer Medical Outreach, a free clinic in Huntington.

Member Spotlight



MATTHEW CHRISTIANSEN, MD, MPH

Dr. Christiansen became a member of the WVPBRN in 2017. As an active primary care physician who is trained in public health and addiction, he is a valuable member of the WVPBRN's Protocol Review Committee, ensuring network-level projects are relevant and feasible for the primary care setting and our members.

Outside of work, Dr. Christiansen enjoys taking his four year-old twins boys Henry and Theodore to the pond to go fishing for bass, catfish, and sunnies. Ask him to show you a picture next time you see him!

WVPBRN Annual Retreat continued from pg 1

Dr. Emma Eggleston, from the WVU Eastern Division, also facilitated a panel on translating research into practice before the group broke for poster session and lunch.

During lunch, participants took time to honor the WVPBRN's tenth anniversary by celebrating network partners who have been involved since the beginning.

"The network has only been able to grow and experience the level of success it has thanks to the dedication and hard work of our members from all across the state," said Stacey Whanger, WVCTSI director of implementation research and WVPBRN associate director.

After this celebration, Whanger and Evonne Richards, research director with the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's Center for Rural and Community Health, led a discussion titled, "Translation and Dissemination of Research to Primary Care."

The event concluded with a group activity and discussion where attendees broke into small groups and discussed future directions for the WVPBRN.

Network Highlights

WVPBRN Members Featured in PBS Special

In recent years, more national attention is focusing on rural America. The COVID-19 pandemic left a footprint on much of the world, and rural communities are no exception.

Dr. Madison Humerick, a physician at Harpers Ferry Family Medicine, and others were recently featured on a Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) Special to highlight the unique programs in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia that are specially geared toward serving rural communities in West Virginia. This special showcased the amazing work being done to address the rural health disparities.

To view the special visit <https://www.pbs.org/video/rural-rx-1679521243/>

Open Project Opportunities

Dental project on Medicaid changes

An interdisciplinary team of WVU investigators was awarded funding from the CareQuest Foundation for Year 1 of a proposed 5-year research study to conduct a comprehensive review of the Adult Dental Medicaid program's implementation and impact in West Virginia. This multi-year project will assess the true need and unmet demand for services. It will characterize individuals and providers utilizing the benefit and evaluate the program's impact on emergency room visits by Medicaid recipients. For information, contact Jen Lukas jg0138@hsc.wvu.edu.

Services for Kids in Primary-care (SKIP) project

This project is in partnership with a team from UPMC in Pittsburgh, on the Services for Kids in Primary-care (SKIP) Project. The study was funded to support a practice's capacity to implement an evidence-based collaborative care intervention for childhood behavior problems and comorbid ADHD in children 5 to 12 years of age. To learn more, contact Jen Lukas, jg0138@hsc.wvu.edu, for more information.

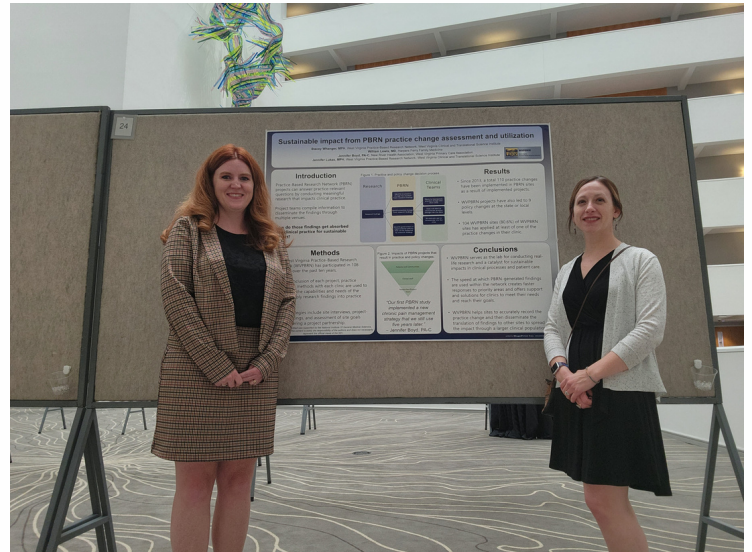
Network Highlights

WVPBRN presented at a national conference

The WVPBRN team presented during the North American Primary Care Research Group's (NAPCRG) Practice-Based Research Network's (PBRN) annual conference in Bethesda, Maryland on May 31-June 1, 2023.

The NAPCRG PBRN conference is a great opportunity for members of the WVPBRN to network and engage with other PBRNs around the globe, and beyond country borders. Sessions focused on PBRN infrastructure support and programming, project engagement, and translation and dissemination strategies. All of these topics fall in line with the priorities and activities of our network.

The WVPBRN presented a poster titled *Sustainable impact from PBRN practice change assessment and utilization*. This poster focused on sharing strategies developed by the WVPBRN for identifying and disseminating practice and policy changes that have resulted from PBRN work.



Announcements

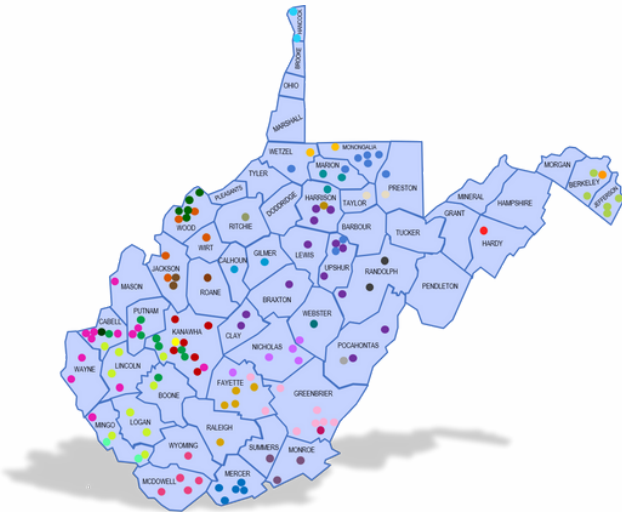
Upcoming Design Studio Sessions:

August 4, 2023 - "PBRN Support and Services Overview"

November 3, 2023 - TBD

These sessions are from 12-1p.m. via Zoom.

Please remember to cite the IDeA CTR support - NIH/NIGMS award number 5U54GM104942-04 in publications and presentations that are in collaboration with the West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network.



Contact us:

Stacey Whanger, MPH
Assistant Director
swhanger@hsc.wvu.edu

Jen Lukas, MPH, CHES
Operations Manager
jg0138@hsc.wvu.edu

Facebook: @wvpbrn

Twitter: @wvpbrn

Webpage:

<https://www.wvctsi.org/programs/community-engagement-outreach/practice-based-research-network/>

