

## Community Newsletter

West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network

### RURAL HEART FAILURE CARE PROJECT IS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Kazuhiko Kido, PharmD, and an interdisciplinary team at West Virginia University were selected to receive a grant in December of 2022 in response to the Million Hearts® Health Equity Implementation Project. The WVPBRN has partnered with this team to support heart failure care in primary care sites across the state. The main purpose was to evaluate the clinical impact of a multidisciplinary telemedicine-led heart failure medication optimization clinic in medically underserved populations, primarily those adult patients with heart failure requiring blood pressure cuffs and at-home scales, better reaching rural areas.

The funded project consisted of two cohorts, including patients identified and enrolled through WVPBRN site

Community Care of West Virginia, covering many communities in central West Virginia. Additionally, the project included inpatients through WVU Medicine who were admitted to the hospital, heart failure clinics based in Morgantown, and outreach clinics in Summersville and Bridgeport.

Community Care of WV participating sites in the Million Hearts Health Equity Implementation project.



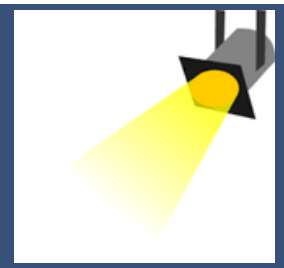
Cont. on pg 3



### FALL 2023 EDITION

- Million Hearts Project Recap
- Member Spotlight: Sarah Hansen
- Network Highlights
- Project Opportunities
- Announcements

# Member Spotlight



## **SARAH HANSEN, AGNP-BC, RN**

**Adult-Geriatric Nurse Practitioner  
Cabin Creek Health Systems**

Sarah Hansen, AGNP, serves as the Advanced Practice Provider Primary Care Fellowship Director at Cabin Creek Health Systems. Sarah is set to complete her Doctor of Nursing degree from the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing in December 2023. She earned her Nursing MS as an Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner in 2015 and Nursing BS, both from Emory University. Additionally, she holds a BS in Biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology. In 2014, Sarah received national recognition by way of the Health Resources and Services (Administration) (HRSA) National Health Service Corp Scholar designation.



A long-standing and valued member of the WVPBRN Protocol Review Committee, Sarah helps to meticulously review, analyze, and make recommendations for next steps of proposed Network-level project applications and potential collaborations. She also serves on the executive board for the West Virginia Alliance for Creative Health Solutions, promoting community-based research efforts to address the health needs of our area. Sarah is truly talented in her abilities to evaluate primary care research efforts and make recommendations with regard to feasibility and relevance based upon her various experiences in the field providing accessible, patient-centered care to rural and underserved communities.

Sarah joined Cabin Creek Health Systems in 2016, as a Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and strives to provide comprehensive, holistic, patient-centered care to the patients she serves. She also works as the lab director and manages a CLIA-certified moderate complexity lab. In addition, she is an adjunct clinical faculty at Emory University School of Nursing and facilitates and coordinates a clinical immersion experience in West Virginia for nursing students each year.

Sarah has been instrumental in developing and managing the Advanced Practice Provider Primary Care Fellowship over the past several years at Cabin Creek Health Systems.

Cont. on pg 3

# Network Highlights

## ***Spotlight: Sarah Hansen....continued from pg 2***

Since the program's inception in 2021, they have graduated two family nurse practitioners who are currently working in underserved areas, filling in key gaps to access to quality care for our community. In 2023, they received grant funding from HRSA to enhance and expand the program curriculum and the number of fellows. Outside of work, Sarah enjoys rock climbing, whitewater rafting, and skiing, as well as spending time with her incredible husband, Kyle, and son, Finn.

---

## **WVPBRN 2024 Annual Retreat: Save the Date**

The WVPBRN is already looking ahead to the 2024 Annual Retreat! We are very excited to start to plan this exciting event for the 11th year. Registration will open in early 2024.

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



---

## ***Heart Failure project....continued from pg 1***

With the recruitment period ending in July, Dr. Kido presented during the Million Hearts Health Equity Implementation Celebration held on July 26th, which included six Million Heart project awardees. Dr. Kido beautifully represented the Network, sharing the development process, most current results, and discussed efforts that will be ongoing with the continued evaluation and analysis forthcoming, as follow-up efforts move forward for a few more months. Other avenues for dissemination of interim results have included a poster presentation about this collaborative model with the WVPBRN at the 2023 WVCTSI Level Up Annual Meeting, the state ACC meeting, and the Regional Research Meeting. Dr. Kido and his team are actively working on manuscript development and collaboration with WVU SOP & SOM Communication Teams for the future dissemination of final results expected later this fall semester.

# Open Project Opportunities

**Below are two new project opportunities for patients to be involved! Please feel free to share these opportunities with patients as appropriate.**

## **RECOVER VITAL:**

**A Platform Protocol for Evaluation of Interventions for Viral Persistence, Viral Reactivation, and Immune Dysregulation in Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection (PASC)**

The study focuses on determining if a study drug can reduce ongoing symptoms from the virus that causes COVID. We are recruiting adults who have had a COVID infection and do not currently have an active case of COVID along with one of the ongoing symptoms: exhaustion or low energy that interferes with daily activities, trouble thinking clearly or brain fog, dizziness, fast heart rate, upset stomach, shortness of breath or other changes in body functions that happen automatically.

Patients interested in learning more can contact:

Jada Heath-Granger, 304-293-3634 / [jada.bailey@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:jada.bailey@hsc.wvu.edu) OR Kelly Meno, 304-293-1436 / [kelly.meno@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:kelly.meno@hsc.wvu.edu).

## **RECOVER-NEURO:**

**A Platform Protocol for Evaluation of Interventions for Cognitive Dysfunction in Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection (PASC)**

The study focuses on how brain training can improve ongoing symptoms from the virus that causes COVID. We are recruiting adults who have had a COVID infection and do not currently have an active case of COVID along with 1 or more of the following symptoms: brain fog or trouble thinking clearly or trouble paying attention or remembering things.

Patients interested in learning more can contact: Erica Blystone, 304-293-3415 [erica.blystone2@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:erica.blystone2@hsc.wvu.edu) OR Rachael Alderson, 304-293-2149 [rachael.alderson@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:rachael.alderson@hsc.wvu.edu).



# Network Highlights

## **BIRCH Project is Enhancing OUD Services across WV**

The Buprenorphine Implementation Research & Community Health (BIRCH) Project is a partnership between the West Virginia University School of Medicine, the Yale University School of Medicine, the West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network (WVPBRN), and the West Virginia Primary Care Association (WVPCA). BIRCH has the main goal of integrating opioid use disorder (OUD) services and HIV and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) treatment in primary care settings throughout West Virginia. There are twenty federally qualified health centers and look-a-likes that have been recruited for involvement over a five-year period. Engagement with these sites launch in a stepped-wedge design where five sites are launched every six months.

Through coaching sessions, sites have worked on improving process flows dealing with infectious disease care, infectious disease screening, OUD treatment and OUD screening. These improvements to process flow were made through a joint effort between sites and coaching staff to identify and implement change projects. A recent change project has involved the bundling of HCV and HIV screening with patient labs. This was done to meet CDC recommendations that all adults be screened for HCV and HIV once per lifetime. The adoption of bundling labs has allowed facilities to increase their effectiveness in infectious disease care and OUD treatment. One site identified 31 patients who screened positive for HCV within one month (1000% increase in patient identification) through bundling HCV screening. Another site is in the process of launching their own medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) services. This will expand access to MOUD for patients that might not receive these services otherwise while simultaneously removing the waiting period a patient may experience through a referral process.

All engaged sites have been receiving training through West Virginia Hepatitis Academic Mentoring Partnership (WVHAMP), West Virginia HIV Academic Mentoring Partnership (WVHIVAMP), and Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO). Through this training, one site has been able to treat 10 patients for HCV and cure one patient of HCV. These changes and recommendations are paramount in improving healthcare access and services throughout West Virginia, ensuring patients receive the necessary care they need.

# Announcements

## Upcoming Design Studio Sessions:

- November 3, 2023 - ***How to find funding opportunities that are right for you***
- February 2, 2024 - TBD
- April 26, 2024 - TBD \*Date Change

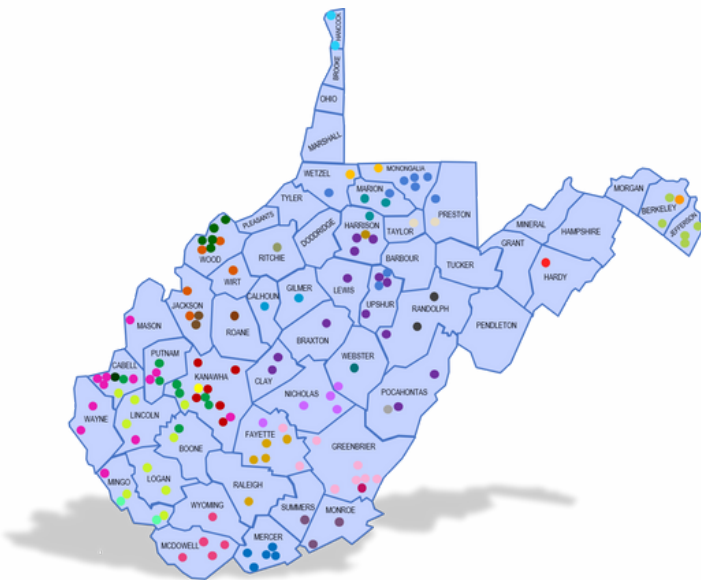
\*These sessions are from 12-1p.m. via Zoom.

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:** [bit.ly/WVCTSI-WVPBRN](https://bit.ly/WVCTSI-WVPBRN)

