

5.3. WISCONSIN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK



FY17 KEY FACTS

- Over 1200 clinicians, staff and trainees engaged
- 15 active research projects, including intra- and inter-state projects
- Nearly 500 clinicians and clinic staff participated in WREN research projects during FY17

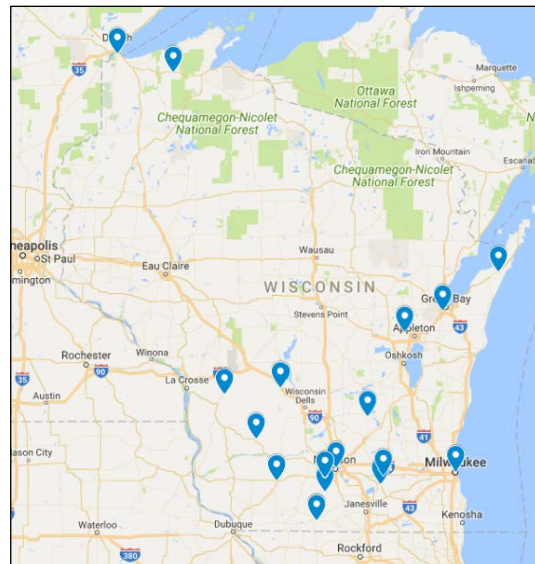
LEADERSHIP

- **David Hahn, MD**, director
- **Regina Vidaver, PhD**, program manager

The Wisconsin Research and Education Network (WREN) is a statewide practice-based research network (PBRN) of primary care clinicians and academic researchers. Its vision is to improve health outcomes for the people of Wisconsin and beyond as a model practice-based research network. Its mission is to promote and conduct primary care research and education in partnership with primary care clinicians and the communities they serve.

Highlights

- **Sustainability.** WREN has been in continuous operation since 1987, making it one of the oldest PBRNs in the country.
- **Increased funding.** WREN has continued to attract high-quality, high-caliber projects supported by federal and local funding, including private foundations.
- **Engagement.** WREN disseminates practical and research information to more than 1200 individuals, including clinicians, researchers and staff across the state of Wisconsin and beyond.
- **Statewide research.** During FY17, WREN was engaged in 15 clinical and practice improvement research projects. Topics included shared decision-making, health literacy training for elderly caregivers, opioid use in chronic pain, opioid addiction, public health-primary care collaboration, developing a rapid Lyme disease detection test, and the cognitive workload of clinic teams.



Location of clinics participating in WREN studies during FY17

- **National association.** WREN is a member of two AHRQ-funded Research Centers in Practice-based Research and Learning consortiums. These consortia accelerate the generation of new knowledge and a community of learning for primary care practices to improve quality, patient safety and effectiveness of care. PBRNs are designed to accomplish clinically relevant, real-world research in primary care practices.
- **Patient outcomes oriented.** WREN is currently working on two PCORI-funded projects related to opioids. Patients, clinicians, researchers and other stakeholders are intimately engaged in project development and communication. Shared decision-making has also emerged as a key area of emphasis for WREN, with multiple projects completed and ongoing around how to improve the way patients are provided information, and clinic teams are prepared to discuss that information with their patients.



Left: WREN Research Coordinators Amanda Hoffmann and Alice Yuroff practice using a voice recorder in preparation for intake visits with participants in a PCORI-funded study.

Right: WREN Director David Hahn, MD, and Research Coordinator Amanda Hoffmann, MPH, accept the award for the David Lanier Top Poster Presentation at the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) annual meeting from conference co-chairs Donald Nease and Denise Campbell-Scherer.

