

Australian Paediatric Research Network (APRN)

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CENTRE FOR
Community
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Murdoch Childrens
Research Institute



Outline

- Background & rationale
- Other paediatric research networks
- Proposal
- Model
- Project types



“Practice-based research networks”

- *Sustained collaborations* between practitioners & academics
- Dedicated to developing *relevant research questions*
- Working together on *study design & conduct*, and
- *Translating* new knowledge into practice



Rationale

- ‘Real life’ research questions
- Involve private practitioners
- Relevant to community practice
 - *“This study had some limitations. As the sample was recruited from a tertiary referral centre we cannot be certain the results would be generalisable to ...”*
- Recruiting subjects
 - *“Furthermore, the sample size was relatively small.”*
(Some studies abandoned)



Other paediatric research networks

Australia / NZ

- Neonates – ANZ NN Network, IMPACT
- PICU
- Emergency – PREDICT (www.pems.org.au)
- GP
- Condition specific eg paediatric stroke network (internat.), ACORN (obesity); temporary (eg ITP)

Overseas

- PROS



PROS

(Pediatric Res in Office Settings)

- Amer Acad Pediatrics 1986 - admin support
- Steering cmtee
 - chairman, research staff, regional coordinators
- Paeds recruited (personal contact, prof newsletters, meetings)
- Network members invited to submit proposals
- External funding sought for PROS-approved studies
- Project team: academics and non-acad. clinicians



PROS projects published

- immunisation in paediatric practice
- management of acute illnesses
 - asthma, gastroenteritis
- management of behaviour problems
- intervention studies
 - reducing children's exposure to violent media
 - promoting healthy lifestyles



Proposal: benefits

- Engage paediatricians 'on the ground' to drive research agendas
- Promote PD in research skills
- Collaborate with colleagues
- Learn new clinical skills
- Test and disseminate evidence about interventions in community settings
- Intellectual stimulation



Proposal: Demands

Workload

- 0, 1 or 2 projects/year (voluntary)
 - refer pts
 - collect data
 - learn a new intervention
- Work up a proposal, ethics submission, establish / join a study team



Model

- Membership
- Local champions
- Steering committee
- Communication
- Research teams
- Funding



Funding

- Needs
 - IT support
 - Admin
 - Projects
- Sources
 - College
 - Competitive grants
 - drug company
 - philanthropic



Potential project types

Type	Pros	Cons	Examples
Survey	Quick Runs on board Info for new studies	Generalisability Often low impact	2° sexual characteristics and menses in young girls (PROS)
Audit	Actual practice Models: BEACH (GP)	As above More resource-intensive	Barwon practice (Hewson) Behaviour probs (PROS) Vision screening (PROS) Febrile infants (PROS)
Longitudinal	Prognosis Prediction / outcomes CQI	Need good IT Resource-intensive Can't assume causality	Neurodev ELBW infants with normal U/S (Neonatal Research Network, US)
Intervention (RCTs)	How else in 2° care? Evidence for practice Training, resources	Resource-intensive Readiness to change Time, expense	Vitamin A for ELBW babies vs BPD (Neonatal Research Network, USA)
Translational / health services	Improving health care in real world situation	Conceptualisation Resources	



What next?



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