Organizational Update from the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG)
January 2019

**NAPCRG’s 2019 Annual Meeting**

NAPCRG hosted its 46th Annual Meeting, November 9-13, 2018, in Chicago. The official total number of participants was 1,093 attendees from over 17 nations. The feedback from the meeting has been very positive, one member summed up their experience by saying “It was a great opportunity for me to realize the vision of my career in primary care research and understand the impact that so many studies are having on improving the delivery of care.”

On November 13, 2018, NAPCRG installed Judy Brown, PhD, as President and welcomed Jack Westfall, MD, MPH, as the incoming Vice-President. Dr. Brown holds a doctorate in Social Work from Smith College and is a Professor in the Centre for Studies in Family Medicine, the Department of Family Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University and the School of Social Work at King’s University College, London, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Brown is the Chair of the MCISc and PhD program in Family Medicine at Western. Dr. Westfall is the Chair of Family Medicine and Medical Director for Whole Person Care at Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System, the county safety-net hospital and clinics in San Jose, California.

Several highlights from the 2018 Annual Meeting include:

- Plenary speakers featured Danielle Martin, MD, CCFP, FCFP, MPP, Women’s College Hospital Institute for Health System Solutions and Virtual Care; Stacy Lindau, MD, University of Chicago; and Bernard Ewigman, MD, MSPH, FAAFP; Pritzker School of Medicine, NorthShore University HealthSystem
- 2018 Maurice Wood Award Recipient: Kurt Stange, MD, PhD
- Over 800 poster, oral, workshop and forum presentations

The 2019 NAPCRG Annual Meeting will be held November 16-20, 2019 in Toronto, Ontario.

**2018 NAPCRG International Conference on Practice Facilitation**

NAPCRG hosted its 2nd International Conference of Practice Facilitation (ICPF), December 10-11, 2018, in Tampa. The official total number of participants was 145 attendees from the US, Canada, and Australia. Conference co-chairs, Zsolt Nagykaldi, and Melinda Davis provided the welcome and orientation for this AHRQ-sponsored conference. The featured plenary speakers included Alison Kitson, RN, BSc, PhD, FRCN, a world-renowned translational science researcher and nursing leader with expertise in fundamental care and healthy aging. As well as, JoAnn Kirchner, MD, a Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs QUERI for Team Based Behavioral Health.

The 20-member steering committee reviewed 66 abstracts leading to 20 poster presentations, 14 skill labs/workshops and 29 oral presentations.
The 2019 ICPF will be held June 26-27, in Bethesda, Maryland.

2018 PBRN Meeting
The 2018 NAPCRG Practice-Based Research Network Conference brought together the energy of 160 participants from the US, Canada, Haiti and the UK in Bethesda, MD on June 25-26. Conference co-chairs, Donald Nease, Jr. and Denise Campbell-Scherer provided the welcome and orientation for this AHRQ-sponsored conference. In addition, Robert McNellis, MPH, PA, Senior Advisor for Primary Care at AHRQ highlighted AHRQ’s Primary Care areas of interest and achievements to keep patients safe, improve quality, and data development to observe deviations in the health care system.

Plenary speakers included:
- Dayna Bowen Matthew, JD, PhD, Professor of Law, University of Virginia; entitled “Who and What We Study Affects Who and How We Heal”.
- Donna Manca, MD, MCISc, FCFP, Director of Research, Department of Family Medicine Research Program, University of Alberta and Program Lead, The BETTER Program; entitled “A BETTER Way of Addressing Disparities in Primary Care Research”
- Dedra Buchwald, MD, Director of the Initiative for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH) entitled “Catalyzing Change in Underserved Communities in Washington State and Beyond”.

The 2019 PBRN Conference is set for June 24-25 in Bethesda with the theme, How do we keep prevention on the table in face of disease management incentives?

Grant Generating Project (GGP)
For the 2018-2019 academic year, NAPCRG welcomed 20 fellows, seven of which are Canadian, into the redesigned GGP program. Five of these fellows were awarded full tuition scholarships thanks to the generosity of the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation, the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and The College of Family Physicians of Canada. The 2018-2019 GGP fellowship year started in August of 2018 and the first in-person session was held in November 2018 at the NAPCRG Annual Meeting. The updated program uses a state-of-the-art blended learning approach with only two in-person meetings instead of four. Fellows complete online modules supported by expert mentors at their own pace before each of the in-person sessions that give them detailed and extensive feedback on their grant application and concept paper. This “fellowship without walls” continues to adapt the curriculum to the current funding environment and strives to provide a useful learning and networking platform for the GGP fellows.

Building Research Capacity (BRC) Initiative
The Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM) and the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) continue sponsor BRC. This past year, plans have been put in place for a BRC session aimed at residency program directors with a proposal submitted for the 2019 Program Directors Workshop. This step forward with residency Program Directors was facilitated by the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) joining BRC as a supporting organization, in addition to STFM. Additionally, BRC has broadened its reach to patients as an important stakeholder for research and scholarship, through collaboration with NAPCRG’s Patient and Clinician Engagement (PACE). BRC is
exploring mechanisms of engagement from “the ground up” as in the case of a need for mentorship and a budding BRC taskforce on this topic.

**Patient and Clinician Engagement Initiative (PaCE)**

NAPCRG’s Patient and Clinician Engagement (PaCE) program held its 7th conference in Chicago on Nov 9, 2018 in conjunction with the 2018 NAPCRG Annual Meeting. To date, over 300 patients, clinicians, researchers, and stakeholders have attended these PaCE conferences, resulting in a robust community of patients and primary care providers with knowledge and understanding of patient-centered outcomes research. These PaCE members are now available to consult on research projects, advisory councils, and steering committees. This past year, PaCE participants have been invited to share their knowledge at several venues:

1. PaCE members were invited to present at several conferences including the AAFP-NRN Engagement Conference, SGIM 2018 and 2019, PCORI 2018, NAPCRG, and Dalhousie University Engagement Conference

2. Twelve PaCE members reviewed learning modules for Cochrane’s crowd sourcing project

3. Many PaCE members sit on local and national patient advisory councils, including PCORI and the American College of Physicians

NAPCRG is currently seeking funding to continue its work of recruiting and training patients and clinicians to become involved in primary care research.