

SF Bay Area Collaborative Research Network

*A partnership of community clinicians, practices
and UCSF*

SF Bay CRN eNews – Winter, 2016



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome again to the San Francisco Area Bay Collaborative Research Network (SFBayCRN) eNews. SFBayCRN facilitates primary health care practice-based research partnerships between researchers and clinical practice groups at UCSF, in the greater Bay Area, and beyond. We offer free initial consultations on practice-based research issues for our members. For more information about SFBayCRN, visit: www.sfbaycrn.org.

Project ECHO – An Important New Resource to Help Community Based Clinicians Provide Optimal Care for Hepatitis C: Contact us if you want to participate!

UCSF, led by hepatologist **Dr. Norah Terrault**, has launched an exciting new program called Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) to create an expanded community of healthcare providers with expertise in the care of patients with hepatitis C. Project ECHO is an interactive, knowledge-sharing network with an academic panel (hub) of experts supporting the education and training of primary care providers in their communities (spokes). The UCSF hub and community spokes form a learning network to share best practices and promote longitudinal mentoring to build provider knowledge, skills and confidence in implementing HCV screening and treatment guidelines. Bi-monthly web-based sessions include case based and didactic learning, free CME, and access to resources for patient care and to support reimbursement for evidence-based treatment. SFBayCRN is partnering with Dr. Terrault and her team to recruit community-based clinicians to participate. **Please contact SFBayCRN program coordinator, James Rouse Iniguez, for more information about participating: James.Rouse@ucsf.edu**

SFBayCRN Summit – “Partnerships for Practice Improvement and Research”

SFBayCRN was delighted to host a summit for nearly 50 UCSF researchers and community-based stakeholders at UCSF’s Mission Bay Campus on January 22nd. Highlights included a keynote from **Dr. Jennifer Devoe, Research Director of OCHIN**, a national practice-based research engaging community health centers, and status report of the **SFBayCRN Hypertension Data Collaborative**. Afternoon sessions were devoted to spirited small group discussions and brainstorming about future projects and opportunities for collaboration. Over the next few months we’ll be developing plans to capitalize on the ideas that were proposed. In the meantime, thank you to all who took the time to join us.

From Our Friends at the Asian American Research Center on Health

Asian American Health Outreach Projects Request for Application: The Asian American Research Center on Health (ARCH; asianarch.org) is soliciting applications to create and/or disseminate health information to Asian Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area. Successful applicants will receive up to \$2500 to create materials and/or conduct health promotion activities. The application deadline is 3/15/16 at 5pm. For more information and the application, please call Mr. Hy Lam at 415-476-0557 or e-mail hy.lam@ucsf.edu.

In Memoriam – Remembering Dr. Peggy Walsh, Our Dear Friend and Colleague

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our longtime friend and colleague, Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Walsh, Professor Emerita. Dr. Walsh, a former SFBayCRN Steering Committee member, contributed to UCSF’s

mission and vision for over 37 years. She was a highly distinguished international and national leader, educator, and researcher in the areas of dental hygiene, community-based oral disease prevention, and tobacco cessation. Dr. Walsh was tireless in her efforts to research the effects of smokeless tobacco on health and to find ways to decrease its initiation and use. She would provide tobacco cessation counseling to users including baseball players, allowing them to call her on nights and weekends, and traveled tens of thousands of miles to reach rural high schoolers for her research studies. During her illustrious career, Dr. Walsh received recognition for her leadership in the areas of dental hygiene and tobacco prevention and cessation. Most of all, she will be remembered for her warm, caring, and fun-loving personality. In her work with SFBayCRN, Dr. Walsh helped provide the vision that led to dramatic improvements in oral health services for medically vulnerable children in Contra Costa County. This program, recently highlighted in *Pediatrics*, is described in the abstract below.

Dooley D, Moultrie NM, Heckman B, Gansky SA, Potter MB, Walsh MM. *Pediatrics. Oral Health Prevention and Toddler Well-Child Care: Routine Integration in a Safety Net System.* 2016 Jan;137(1):1-8. doi: 10.1542/peds.2014-3532. Epub 2015 Dec 8.

BACKGROUND: Applying topical fluoride varnish (FV) to young children's teeth is an effective therapeutic strategy for preventing early childhood caries (ECC). In 2008, the pediatricians at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers became concerned that our low-income pediatric patients had high rates of ECC and very limited access to dental care. We formed an interdisciplinary safety net-academic partnership with the University of California San Francisco to implement routine FV applications, along with oral health education, screening, and referral during well-child exams for children aged 1 to 5 years. **METHODS:** Over 3 years, the team developed clinical policies, educational materials, billing, and support systems to facilitate implementation in the primary care setting. A pilot study was performed in 2 health centers; improvements to the implementation plan were made. A team of local providers and academic partners performed system-wide didactic and hands-on trainings and spread this intervention to the remaining 6 health centers. Continued improvement strategies and provider feedback were pursued with each measurement cycle. **RESULTS:** In August 2012, 95% of all children aged 1 to 5 years who were seen for well-child checkups received a FV application and oral health education during their primary care well visit. Repeat measurement in April 2014 showed a sustained rate of 97% application of FV for children in this age group seen for well-child visits. **CONCLUSIONS:** With institutional commitment and an academic partnership, a safety net institution can integrate routine FV applications and oral health interventions into well-child visits to reduce ECC.



(Photo of Dr. Peggy Walsh, second from left, with her research team)

Do you have questions or news to share?

We would love to hear from you!

SFBayCRN is a program of UCSF's Clinical and Translational Science Program and its Community Engagement and Health Policy Program. **Visit us at <http://www.sfbaycrn.org>**