Membership

Membership in the SIPBRN is voluntary and is open to primary care physicians in ambulatory practices (family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine). Physician assistants and nurse practitioners who work in these offices are also eligible to participate.

Mission

The mission of the Southern Illinois Practice Based Research Network is to improve the health and well-being of patients in Southern and Central Illinois by applying scientific methods to questions important to primary care clinicians, their patients and their communities.

Goals

To maintain and grow the SIPBRN by creating and maintaining relationships with primary care clinicians and their practices throughout Southern and Central Illinois for the purpose of conducting practice-based research.

Membership

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Background

In 2013 the SIU School of Medicine Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development received Rural Health Initiative funding to research the feasibility of developing a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) in the southern 20 counties of Illinois. The Southern Illinois Practice Based Research Network is registered with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality PBRN Resource Center.

SIPBRN Kick Off Meeting and Network News

The kick-off meeting of the SIPBRN was held Nov. 12, 2014. The group approved the draft network policies and procedures. Volunteers for the steering committee are still being sought. The committee will meet quarterly to select and monitor research projects. The next SIPBRN Steering Committee meeting is planned for February. Please let us know if you are interested by contacting Ruth Heitkamp at (618) 453-0604 mheitkamp@siumed.edu.

SIPBRN COPD Project

The first SIPBRN project is “The Diagnosis of COPD in a Primary Care Office.” The study’s objective is to improve practitioner knowledge about screening for and diagnosing COPD in the primary care office. A survey about practitioners’ knowledge and practice patterns regarding diagnosis and management of COPD in the office has been sent to area practitioners and an educational program on COPD diagnosis and management is planned. Clinicians will be resurveyed following completion of the educational program to assess changes in practice.