

WVPBRN & COMMUNITY NEWS

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Community Engagement Core of the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute

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ATRN strengthening collaborative research

The Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN) addresses significant health priorities and disparities that are relevant to this region. The network fosters community-engaged approaches to enhance the relevance and feasibility of its research to policy and practice partners. This increases the speed at which research findings translate into improved patient and population health. ATRN partners include East Tennessee State, Marshall University, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky and the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute.



The ATRN holds an annual Health Summit that will take place this year on October 15 and 16 in Charleston, W.Va. The keynote speaker for the Summit will be Dr. Glen Mays from the University of Kentucky. There will be workshops, a panel discussion by organizations that fund research in Appalachia, and an ATRN leaders panel that will discuss future directions of the ATRN.

Link to the ATRN newsletter: <http://www.appalachianresearch.org/content/newsletters>

SPOTLIGHT: Developing the West Virginia/Kentucky Health Data Learning Network

West Virginia and Kentucky rank 46th and 45th, respectively, in overall health status and are home to many counties with some of the most severe health disparities in the nation. Collaboration across state organizations, institutions, networks, and funded efforts is essential to address these challenges and achieve the Triple Aim of enhanced patient care, improved population health outcomes, and lower health care costs. Electronic health record (EHR) data-driven efforts hold great promise to achieve this Triple Aim, but the questions and challenges surrounding EHR data integrity, quality, and stakeholder access remain.

A West Virginia/Kentucky health data learning network was formed to address these challenges. The University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the WVCTSI provided the support for this network. The network is comprised of partners with a shared vision to advance practice transformation and practice-based research for improved health outcomes. Dr. Jeffery Talbert, co-director of the Biomedical Informatics Core, UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science, and Cecil Pollard, director of the Office of Health Services Research in the WVU School of Public Health and member of the WVCTSI Community Engagement and Outreach Leadership Team co-lead the network.

The Informatics for Integrating Biology and the Bedside (i2b2) system, part of a national informatics infrastructure, serves as the basis for transforming EHR data into knowledge that informs practice transformation, quality of care improvement, and action-oriented research. These transformations help bridge the research to translation gap. De-identified data from the Robert C. Byrd Clinic at the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine and St. Claire Regional Medical Center will be melded in i2b2 to better address health priorities on individual patient, provider-panel, clinic, and ultimately regional levels in a learning network of primary care, academic, and public health partners.

This project team continues to make great strides toward addressing these challenges and finding effective solutions.

WVU and Marshall partner for three-year \$1.5 million health care and research funding program

West Virginia University and Marshall University have each pledged \$250,000 annually for a three-year combined effort to support innovative clinical projects and translational research that will ultimately help faculty members at both schools serve West Virginia patients and communities, while attracting future external funding.

The collaborative group met in August to discuss the program that focuses on the biggest health issues facing W.Va. Applications will be accepted for initiatives up to \$50,000 that include project leaders from both WVU and Marshall. Letters of Intent are due by October 16, followed by proposal submissions due November 6. Awards will be announced in late 2015.

To see the full story, visit [WVU and Marshall partner funding program](#).

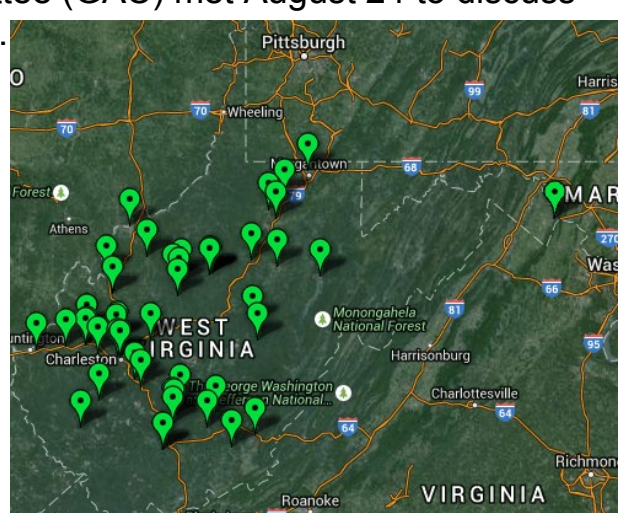
For more information, contact the [WVCTSI Pilot Core](#).

GAC guides future WVPBRN progress

Members of the WVPBRN General Advisory Committee (GAC) met August 24 to discuss current progress and future directions of the network. The GAC provides guidance on infrastructure and development of the network. The committee aims to continue that guidance and propel the network agenda.

The committee also began to outline future plans and goals for the network. This discussion will continue with the entire network group at the upcoming WVPBRN Retreat during the Rural Health Conference on October 15 at Stonewall Resort.

The WVPBRN continues to grow and be successful among partnerships and practice and policy changes. The network achieved our 2015 goals of having three network-level and have exceeded our goal of three mid-level (pilot) and three site-level projects with six mid-level and nine site-level projects currently under way.



Community Engagement Small Grant Funding Opportunity

The Community Engagement and Outreach (CEO) Core of the WVCTSI is offering a small grant pilot funding opportunity of up to \$2500 that is available to practice and community partners. Funding of \$5000 may be considered if justifiable. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

This funding can support development or implementation of evidence-based, evidence-informed, research, dissemination, or quality improvement clinical and community projects.

For more information and to see the complete RFA, please visit [CEO Small Grants](#) or contact Wes Kimble wkimble1@hsc.wvu.edu.

For community engagement assistance, please contact Jay Mason jdmason@hsc.wvu.edu

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Have any thoughts/comments/ideas?

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