

# 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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## REMINDER: New Study Seeking Primary Care Providers' Opinions about Universal Suicide Screening

Mary LeCloux, PhD, assistant professor in the WVU School of Social Work, is seeking primary care providers to participate in a study regarding the practice of routine suicide screening in partnership with the WVPBRN.

While new universal screening protocols in primary care are being tested, few studies have sought the opinions of the providers themselves regarding the value and feasibility of this practice. Primary care providers from any discipline are invited to meet with Dr. LeCloux for a 30-45 minute interview regarding current suicide screening practices at WVPBRN sites, potential barriers to implementing universal suicide screenings, and policy/resource interventions that might make this practice more feasible. Interviews will be conducted at the providers' sites at a time that is convenient to them.

All participating sites will be eligible to participate in a follow-up training webinar that will discuss suicide risk assessment, screening, and management in primary care. Additionally, all sites who participate will receive a resource packet with links to additional resources regarding suicide prevention and management practices in primary care.

**If interested in participating, please contact Stacey Whanger, WVPBRN Network Coordinator ([swhanger@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:swhanger@hsc.wvu.edu)) at 304-581-1821 by **June 10, 2016**.** IRB approval for this study is on file at the West Virginia University Office of Research Integrity and Compliance.

## SPOTLIGHT: Cabin Creek Health Systems partners with WVU Occupational Medicine

Cabin Creek Health Systems has pioneered many efforts to provide services and resources to patients with black lung disease in the coal fields of southern West Virginia. They were one of the original groups to be funded under the 1979 Black Lung Clinics grant that enabled black lung services to be offered for nearly a decade. In 2013, the Grace Anne Dorney Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center opened as a rehabilitation facility in Dawes. Chaffee Tommarello, RRT, and Dan Doyle, MD, of Cabin Creek Health Systems, recently partnered with the WVPBRN on a pulmonary research project to examine the effects of rehabilitation in a rural population.

Cabin Creek Health Systems is now partnering with the West Virginia University Occupational Medicine Clinic to offer on-site black lung evaluations from a specialist. Anna Allen, MD, is a certified occupational medicine physician at WVU and has been working with the WVU Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health's Federal Black Lung Program in Monongalia County for several years. Dr. Allen will be traveling to the Dawes rehabilitation facility to test patients and conduct black lung evaluations twice a month.



"Susie Criss is our black lung counselor at Cabin Creek Health Systems and has tried for many years to get an examiner to come and evaluate black lung patients within our facility. Until now, the idea had not come to fruition," states Tommarello. "The WVU Occupational Medicine staff has helped to make this a reality. This new program will be able to help patients in the area suffering from black lung disease and provide the resources they need without the several hour drive to reach the nearest facility."

Cabin Creek Health Systems has been tirelessly working to prepare the facility for Dr. Allen to begin evaluating patients this summer. They have purchased new equipment and are currently in the process of obtaining a moderate complexity lab certification in order to provide a full range of evaluation elements.

This program is projected to begin this summer. For more information, contact Susie Criss, [scriss@cchcwv.com](mailto:scriss@cchcwv.com), 304-595-5006, ext 1254.

## Influenza immunization project wraps up

WVPBRN Member, Treah Haggerty, MD, WVCTSI research scholar, clinician, and assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine at WVU, recently partnered with the Health Sciences and Technology Academy (HSTA) program to conduct a survey evaluation of perceptions of influenza vaccine among high school students.

Influenza and pneumonia ranked eighth as a leading cause of death in the US in 2013 leading the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to recommend annual vaccinations in all persons over 6 months



and leads to lower vaccination rates.

The study was conducted in eleven Appalachian high schools grades 9 through 12 with 2559 participants completing the survey. The survey collected demographic information and specific vaccine acceptance questions gauged on a likert scale.

The results of this survey will be shared with the HSTA students and will guide the design of future interventions aimed at increasing vaccination rates among high school students.

## Save the date for the 2016 ATRN Summit

Mark your calendars for the 2016 Appalachian Translational Research Network (ATRN) Summit. This group meets annually to address significant health disparities and challenges specific to Appalachia by enhancing research collaborations to improve the translation of scientific discoveries into health improvements for the region. ATRN institutional partners include East Tennessee State, Marshall University, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky and West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

This year, the event will be held November 17-18 and is being hosted by the University of Cincinnati Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training. The summit will feature Judith Feinberg, M.D., from the West Virginia University Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Feinberg will present her seminar "Drug Use and Intervention in Appalachia."

Information regarding event registration will be released shortly.

## West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network Community Engagement and Outreach Core

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## Have any thoughts/comments/ideas? Contact:

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