Monday Memo – April 1, 2019

Publications


A note from Dr. Carole Upshur, Principal Investigator on the multiyear Kidsteps project:


Also, our doctoral student at UConn School of Education, Anthony Gambino, presented a poster about statistical methods in implementation fidelity at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Annual Meeting, March 6-9, in Washington DC: Evaluating implementation fidelity's role in the Kidsteps II intervention study via multilevel mixture mediation modeling. Gambino, Rhoads, Upshur & Wenz-Gross

Announcing the first recipients of the Mick Huppert Community Health Scholar Award

We are pleased to announce the first recipients of Mick Huppert Community Health Scholar Awards. We instituted the Awards to honor the memory of Mick Huppert and his commitment to improving community health. In the fall, during the Population Health Clerkship, second year medical students interested in primary care and community health were encouraged to submit proposals to advance work on community projects reflecting community priorities. A review committee including Warren Ferguson, Hugh Silk, Suzanne Cashman, and Linda Cragin, as well as members of Mick’s family, has selected the following students each for $2500 in funding:

- Vanessa Villamarin and Emily Nuss: Worcester’s Baby Box Project (Sara Shields, faculty advisor)
- Divya Bhatia: UMass Student-Run Asylum Clinic (Lucy Candib and Satu Salonen, faculty advisors)
This will be an annual award, so please help us get the word out in the fall to second year students. Applications will be solicited in October in conjunction with the Population Health Clerkship and will be due the first week of January.

New Behavioral Health Fellow

Our Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology in Primary Care has recruited a new Fellow for the upcoming academic year: Sarah Pearson is currently completing her pre-doctoral internship in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine where she is completing a major rotation in primary care psychology. She earned her BA in Psychology from Stonehill College (Easton, MA) and is earning her PsyD in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University New England. Her clinical interests include providing brief, evidence-based interventions in integrated primary care, chronic pain, health behavior change and chronic disease management, anxiety, and acceptance-based therapies. Outside of work, she enjoys riding her horse, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Chair’s Corner

Recently, I asked Joy O’Brien, a Nurse Practitioner based at the Hahnemann Family Health Center, to take on a part-time role as a Practice Improvement Facilitator (PIF) to support our approach to the treatment of substance use disorder across the Department. Joy comes to the role with years of experience in settings including Family Health Center of Worcester, Reliant Medical Group, and our academic practices. She has already visited most of our practices, and they have shared their approaches, their questions and their challenges with her. With her help, we aim to spread our best practices, which many have identified as being on the cutting edge of integration of SUD treatment into primary care.

Joy recently was asked to serve as our Department’s liaison with EPIC; her experience with EPIC predates our adoption at UMass Memorial. She is incorporating this work into her circuit-riding activities.

For history buffs who are wondering about the origin of the “PIF” title: One of the most successful models for promoting the adoption of innovation across a community was the Cooperative Extension, established in 1914. The program supported community-based change agents serving as links between agriculture departments at land grant universities (including the University of Massachusetts) and local farmers, spreading innovation and best practices. In his 2008 Putterman Lecture, James Mold, MD told us how the model has been applied to the dissemination of innovation across primary care practices, and in 2009, he and Kevin Grumbach, MD (2007 Putterman Lecturer) called for the establishment of a national model to support practice transformation (see Grumbach, K, Mold, J. A Health Care Cooperative Extension Service – Transforming Primary Care and Community Health. JAMA 2009; 301 (24); 2589-91.) As they wrote, “adoption of innovations often depends on individualized support provided within the context of trusting relationships.”
Several years ago, we used this model to create the first “Practice Improvement Facilitator” (PIF) at UMass Memorial. This was a circuit-riding individual who visited our practices, bringing – and seeking – the best approaches to practice transformation. The success of the project was based on the building of trusting relationships, designed to break down the barriers inherent in town/gown interactions. We established our first patient registries, developed a series of Patient Centered Medical Homes, and experimented with open access as we rapidly learned from one another. Several years later, the concept was adopted by UMass Memorial’s Office for Clinical Integration (OCI), which today supports a network of primary care Pod Leaders working with PIFs on a regular basis to support performance under risk-based contracts.