

Pediatric Research In Office Settings
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The Network News

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From the Director

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PROS: Live In Concert

PROS Chapter Coordinator and Steering Committee meetings are held regularly in a large cities – in the autumn, wherever the AAP National Conference and Exhibition is being held and in the spring, in the Chicago metropolitan area. These cities invariably feature good live music. In the evenings after PROS meetings, attendees whose interest in music exceeds their desire for a good night's sleep venture forth to partake of the local scene. PROS contingents have visited blues and jazz clubs and even major rock and pop venues. At the most recent PROS meetings in San Francisco, we two PROS directors sneaked off to Oakland's Oracle Arena to see a Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band concert (a first Springsteen experience for Mort). Of course, Bruce Springsteen may not be your musical cup of tea, but you might nevertheless grant that there's something special about joining up with ~20,000 highly focused enthusiasts, most of whom have been part of a decades-old larger community. If live music doesn't provide you this sort of in-person sense of community, perhaps you experience it when attending a sporting event (or even a political rally).

In many ways, PROS is another community of enthusiasts. Although the nearly 2,000-strong community of PROS practitioners and researchers don't all have the opportunity to meet together and cheer in a venue, we are an altruistic group who (pardon the pun) "band" together to improve the health of children. Those of you who have attended PROS Chapter Coordinator meetings have experienced "live" that community's coming together to review and approve new studies, hear the very first results of current studies, and celebrate achievements – often with feelings not that different from a concert or sporting event as described above. Those of you who have not had the "live" PROS experience may yet have felt a sense of the PROS community when reading the results of your work in *Pediatrics* or *JAMA* or seeing a *Time Magazine* cover on girls early puberty and thinking: "Hey, our practice/clinic collected data for that study!"

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To enhance the experience of PROS community, we remain committed to extending opportunities for you to become more involved by attending PROS national or project-specific meetings, reviewing or coauthoring manuscripts, joining the PROS-Net email list (email pros@aap.org), or suggesting an idea for a PROS study following the guidelines on the PROS website

(<http://www.aap.org/PROS/howtosuggest.htm>). Of course, the most prevalent PROS community experience is to help generate new knowledge by participating in a study. PROS is about to recruit practices for two innovative intervention studies: the first an effort to gear your practice or clinic towards reducing your patients' exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke; the second to prevent and/or treat obesity through a new way of counseling patients.

Unquestionably, the most intense way to experience the PROS community – the zeal with which the study investigators present their

ideas, the enthusiasm with which PROS practitioners dissect and improve them, or the excitement of hearing of the brand new knowledge generated by practitioners – is to attend a semi-annual PROS meeting at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition in autumn or in Chicago in the spring. These meetings are open to all members of the PROS community. But if that isn't possible, we encourage you to experience the community in what is ultimately an equally meaningful way – consider being a part of one of these upcoming studies. After all, the word *concert* refers not only to musical performance, but also to a “union formed by mutual communication.” PROS is “live in concert” when you are participating.



efforts through articles in *AAP News* (including a July 2007 article describing results of the Healthy Lifestyles Study pilot, an August 2007 article on the initial results from the Life Around Newborn Discharge study, an October 2007 update on the Secondary Sexual Characteristics in Boys (SSCIB) study, a November 2007 article profiling two practitioners who are particularly active in PROS, and an upcoming March 2008 *AAP News* feature on research networks). We continue to disseminate study findings through the Academy structure, with two Safety Check articles and articles from the Delphi and Defining Patient Visits studies sent to chapters, committees, and sections over the past several months.

After a dry period, PROS has had a number of major grant successes over the past several months! Three grant submissions have been funded: two multiyear, multimillion-dollar National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants (the projects on parental smoking cessation and obesity prevention), and a \$446,000 grant from Pfizer Inc. to fund the remainder of the SSCIB study. We have officially launched the multiyear-multimillion

PROJECT UPDATES

General information

PROS currently has 719 practices and 1,764 practitioners in 61 AAP chapters. The network continues to publicize its

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATION

The PROS bibliography again has grown considerably this year. Three articles have been published with five more accepted for publication. For more details, see the PROS web page at www.aap.org/pros/biblio.htm.

dollar study on parental smoking cessation through a study team meeting in December. The network remains productive in the area of publications and presentations. In terms of publications, over the past year, eight articles have been published and four others have been accepted for publication. The network has had six abstracts accepted for presentation at the May 2008 meetings of the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS).

PROJECTS IN THE FIELD

Data collection

Secondary Sexual Characteristics in



The Secondary Sexual Characteristics in Boys (SSCIB) study continues to realize significant progress. To date, 601 PROS practices have received recruitment materials, and 309 practitioners initially agreed to participate. Of those 309, 174 practitioners in 109 practices are actively participating. At this time 66 practitioners have completed data collection. Overall, data have been collected on 2,898 boys. The PROS team

continues to collaborate with CORNET (the continuity clinic research network of the Academic Pediatric Association) and the practice-based research network of the National Medical Association (NMA) – NMAPedsNet. We continue to seek high-minority-patient practices for enrollment in SSCIB!

The Clinical Effort Against Secondhand Smoke Exposure (CEASE) pilot project has completed data collection in nine practices located in MA and NY, and has begun data analysis/dissemination, including one successful abstract submission to the 2008 PAS meetings. The main study, which is funded by the National Cancer Institute, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, was officially launched with a December study team meeting.

The Adolescent Smoking Cessation in Pediatric Practice (Smokebusters) project continues data collection. To date, 209 practitioners from 74 practices have received study recruitment materials. A total of 255 data collection forms for the full study have been submitted by 10 practices, with one

practice completing enrollment.

The Translating Violence Prevention Evidence Into Practice (TVPEP) pilot study, which is a study of evidence dissemination based on the findings of the recent PROS Safety Check study, has completed data collection. This study was designed to test the feasibility of employing principles of systems-based practice change from a distance to promote the application of violence prevention evidence to clinical care. Of the 41 practices recruited, five agreed to participate in five coaching calls. The TVPEP research team has gleaned valuable information from this pilot effort, and has been coordinating with consultants from the Distributed Asthma Learning Initiative (DALI) project on the possibility of combining coaching calls with asynchronous approaches (e.g., brief web-based didactic sessions) in a second pilot effort. Funding is being sought to move these efforts along.

The network has successfully completed work on the development and fielding of a pilot survey in 14 pediatric practices, examining the patient safety culture in ambulatory practice. The

work was done in conjunction with a larger effort fielded by Westat (a for-profit group) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The network's collaboration will allow the final survey tool to better represent pediatric concerns, will allow us to analyze data from our own practices, and to have access to the final survey tool, which we plan to use as an outcome measure in a future study to test interventions to improve pediatric patient safety. Thanks to all our high-performing practices for getting this done in quality fashion and in RECORD time!

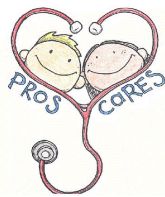
Data analysis/dissemination

Current Activities:

We continue to actively work on dissemination of findings from the Safety Check study (a test of an office-based violence prevention intervention) and Child Abuse Recognition Experience Study (CARES) project (examining the management of children with injuries suspicious for abuse).

Overall, six articles from the Safety Check study have

been published. The most recent additions to this list over the past year include a January 2008 article in the Maternal and Child Health Journal on the impact of pediatricians' self-efficacy and confidence in violence-prevention counseling, as well as a January 2007 article in Clinical Pediatrics on determinants of parental discipline practices and a June 2007 Pediatrics article on firearm ownership and storage patterns among families with children presenting for well-child care. Another manuscript, describing the main study results



(effectiveness of an office-based violence prevention intervention on patient families' behaviors), was recently accepted at Pediatrics. An abstract describing the degree to which initial parent interest in changing violence prevention-related behavior was associated with subsequent change was accepted as a platform presentation to the 2008 PAS meetings. Preliminary analyses suggest that at least two aspects of the intervention – screening questionnaire and the provision of gun locks through pediatricians' offices – result in positive outcomes

WEB SURFERS -- TAKE NOTE!

Please visit the recently updated Web site, located on the AAP Web page at www.aap.org/pros.

There is a members only section of the PROS Web page. To access it click on PROS Members Only Area and type in your last name and your PROS ID # or your AAP ID #.

The members only section of the PROS Web page currently includes:

- 1) An online PROS Directory
- 2) Coordinator, co-coordinator, and steering committee contact information
- 3) The latest in PROS research findings
- 4) An informational PROS slide presentation that can be downloaded for your use.

Is there anything else you'd like to see in the PROS Members Only Area? We'd enjoy hearing your comments!

(specifically, reduced media exposure and safer gun storage). Analysis also continues for other aspects of the intervention.

The two primary study manuscripts for the CARES project have now received word of final acceptance for publication in the print edition of *Pediatrics*. The results (which have been scrutinized and rechecked over many months) have remained the same and indicate pediatrician underreporting of children with injuries suspicious for abuse. Decisions about reporting to CPS appear to be associated with child and family characteristics, injury circumstances and history, knowledge of and experiences with the family, consultation with others, and past experiences with CPS. Upon developing the initial findings, the study team, with the support of former AAP President Carol Berkowitz, MD identified a need for a conference to begin to address issues that the CARES project identified. The meeting, the Child Abuse Recognition, Research, and Education Translation Conference - was organized by the AAP and was held in San Diego in January of 2007 and included participants reflecting a variety of stakeholders (eg, the legal profession, social work,

medicine, public policy). Key themes included emphasis on the need for education, as well as recognition of the problem as systemic. Papers from the conference are being finalized and are planned for a supplement to *Pediatrics* later this year. An internal AAP group is planning for the timed roll-out of findings from both the study and the conference, along with commentaries from the AAP leadership addressing the issue.

A manuscript describing the results of the inter-rater reliability phase of the SSCIB project has been drafted and is being routed through the network review process.



Findings for the Translating Immunization Research Into Practice (TIRIP) study (which assessed the feasibility of a distance-based QI model and compared its effectiveness to the paper-based traditional education model in improving practice immunization rates, behaviors, and attitudes) were published in the January 2008 issue of *Clinical Pediatrics*.

The Secondary Sexual Characteristics in Boys

(SSCIB) study team submitted an abstract for the 2008 PAS meetings, which has just been accepted as a platform presentation. The abstract examined the prevalence of psychotropic medication prescription in school-age boys presenting for a well-child check.



Three manuscripts from the Life Around Newborn Discharge (LAND) study have been published. The most recent manuscript, describing methodological barriers and evaluating the effectiveness of selected recruitment and methodological strategies implemented in allowing LAND to meet its ambitious recruitment goals, was

Upcoming Events

May 3-6, 2008
Honolulu, HI
Pediatric Academic Societies' Annual Meeting

October 10-12, 2008
Boston MA
PROS Steering Committee and Coordinator Research Program

recently published in the January 2008 issue of *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*. A fourth manuscript from the study, describing results of the second primary aim, has been drafted.

A secondary manuscript has also been developed by the Febrile Infant Study (FIS) team. The manuscript describing the management and outcome of febrile infants with clinically diagnosed bronchiolitis was recently accepted, pending revision, for publication in *Pediatrics*. An abstract describing these results was accepted for presentation at the 2008 PAS meetings at the Academic Pediatrics Association presidential plenary session!

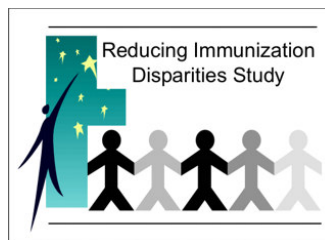


An abstract from the CEASE pilot study, an analysis of beliefs held by parents about their children and themselves, and the association between those beliefs and parental readiness to quit, has been accepted for presentation at the 2008 PAS meetings.

Another major project about to be launched is entitled

Brief Motivational Interviewing to Reduce Body Mass Index (BMI²). This effort, funded by the National Heart, Lung, And Blood Institute, will be a three-armed trial to assess the effectiveness of brief motivational interviewing in the management of overweight children.

As part of the Increasing Pediatric Clinical Research Capacity project (a relatively new project that involves our identifying ways that PROS and the AAP can assist in enhancing the pediatric clinical research infrastructure), two abstracts were accepted for presentation at the 2008 PAS meetings, one describing practitioners' interest in participating in office-based clinical trials, and a second describing expert views on pediatric research capacity in the area of drug trials. The latter abstract was accepted for platform presentation.



Analyses continue for the Reducing Immunization Disparities Study (RIDS). A future hard-copy article in *Clinical Pediatrics* (published online in

December of 2007) discusses the merits of various methodologies for measuring immunization rates in the office setting, based on results from RIDS.

One project of the recent past has also yielded articles over the past year. An article discussing findings of the Healthy Lifestyle Study pilot appeared in the September 2007 issue of *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*.

A campaign to increase the number of PROS articles in AAP chapter newsletters continues, under the direction of staff and Oklahoma Chapter Coordinator J.W. Hendricks, MD. The campaign has been very successful. Previous submissions have averaged 10 per year. Over the past year, 60 such articles have been published!

PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

Work continues on initial development of projects on a teen-driving-contract intervention study, done in collaboration with the AAP Division of Safety and Health Promotion and Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention (COIVPP), along with principal investigator Jean T. Shope, PhD of the University of Michigan. An

October 15th R21 exploratory/development grant was submitted to NIH. We are exploring the possibility of other funding through AAP Development. A project to improve the prescription of controller medications in childhood asthma via distance learning – a study entitled Distributed Asthma Learning Initiative or DALI, has been pilot-tested outside of PROS and results will be used to submit an R01 project grant to NIH in the spring. Nascent developmental work continues on potential projects addressing oral health and mental health. With respect to oral health, a program of research to enhance provider knowledge of early childhood caries, translate that knowledge into practice change, and improve outcomes is being developed. Regarding mental health, a program of research is being considered to examine a provider-driven approach to screening, treatment, and referral of children with psychosocial problems, using “common factors” set of generic practitioner mental-health skills. Finally, the network continues to seek opportunities to fund a project to assess the effectiveness of an office-screener-based, telephone-administered parenting program, which has gone through three unsuccessful,

though highly scored applications.

From The Steering Committee Chair

By Stephen Pearson, MD

Greetings, Friends and Colleagues,

Having lived in an agricultural area for a number of years, I continue to be impressed by the seasonal changes and their impact on those around us. While we in medicine strive for diagnostic certainty and predictable outcomes, the only certainty for the farmer is uncertainty. I learned this year that when the fruit trees come out of dormancy, the ambient temperatures will predict one of two paths for the orchards. If the spring temperatures are cool and a little stressful for the trees, the response is vigorous budding and flowering, leading to a robust harvest. However, should the temperatures be unusually warm, more leaves are produced at the expense of flowering. Last spring (2007) was particularly warm on our hill, thus we had lush foliage but few fruits. In fact, the cherries were so thin that the commercial harvest was not economically viable; but we, the neighbors, gained a year’s worth of frozen cherries.

It has been a relatively cool time period for PROS, in terms of new and /or funded studies. Manuscript publications and posters at the PAS meeting have been gratifying, but it has been some time since a new study has been fielded. However, as in the orchard, this cool period heralded a robust time of productivity.

Due to the patience and persistence of principal investigators, the creative grantsmanship of PROS Central, and a snowball (ask Mort), three major studies have been funded--BMI², an obesity prevention effort; Secondary Sexual Characteristics in Boys (the orchidometer beads are washable); and CEASE, a study to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. The importance of these studies is obvious, and it is truly exciting that PROS will now be actively engaged in providing evidence-based data.

A number of new study proposals winding their way through the PROS process. I encourage PROS practitioners, to stop read through the entire *PROS Network News* to get a taste of the PROS process. I think you will find it as compelling as a sweet cherry.

WELCOME!!!

We'd like to extend a very warm welcome to the coordinators and co-coordinators who have joined PROS since the time of the last newsletter.

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We extend special greetings to the many practitioners

who have recently joined the PROS network or relocated to another state! They are:

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The Network News

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The Network News is a newsletter produced annually by the Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS) network. We welcome comments on the newsletter or any other PROS activities. Please feel free to write with suggestions or comments to: PROS, American Academy of Pediatrics, 141 Northwest Point Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098, or call PROS Assistant Norma De Santiago at 800/433-9016, extension 7623.

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