

NAPCRG *newsletter*

December 2007

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NAPCRG 2007 Annual Meeting: The Biggest Yet

Vancouver and its changing bright autumn colors provided the perfect setting for the NAPCRG 2007 Annual Meeting. This year's conference, held October 21–23, brought together many familiar and new colleagues from around the globe for a record number of 720 conference attendants, the biggest yet in NAPCRG history. Throughout the meeting, participants were infused with knowledge and enthusiasm from this year's outstanding set of concurrent sessions, workshops, forums, and posters and from the networking that resulted in shared ideas, the forming of new relationships and the nurturing of existing ones. It was another splendidly successful Annual Meeting indeed!

In the opening plenary, "Facing Death; Embracing Life: Understanding What Dying People Want," **David Kuhl, MD, PhD**, University of British Columbia, taught us important lessons derived from stories of patients at the end of life that reminded us that the practice of medicine is an art not a trade and that if we are to be artful in our approach we should take time to understand our patients' stories, as such he invites primary care clinicians to ask one personal story at every patient visit. He pointed to the long-standing relationships that are necessary to elicit and understand these stories and the unique privilege and opportunity this represents for primary care doctors and researchers.

In the second plenary, "The Precede-Proceed Model as a Framework for Practice-based Research and Health Promotion," **Lawrence Green, DrPH, DSc (Hon)**, University of California at San Francisco, asserted that "if we want more evidence-based practice we need more practice-based evidence." Through examples of applications of his model in primary

care settings combining the right blend of evidence, theory, clinical experience, and indigenous wisdom, Dr Green made the case for a new approach to conducting research that is less obsessed with internal validity to the detriment of external validity. An obsession, which he indicated, has left us "lost in translation," and further pointed to the work of practice-based research networks as a potentially important part of the solution.

In the last plenary, "Secrets Your Chair, Research Director, and Dean Never Told You: Getting Going, Getting Better, and Getting Your Research Story Right," **Jeffrey Borkan, MD, PhD**, Brown Alpert Medical School, took an interactive approach to continue to explore the importance of stories, in this case our own, by soliciting that we think about our own personal and professional narrative and ask ourselves: What is it that you don't know that might make a difference in your career, in your research team, division, department, or discipline? How might you keep your passions alive and harness them for discovery and improving the lives of others? What range of methods might you employ to help you on your quest, including medical narratives? What is your own story that you are writing, what chapters are waiting to be written, and what ending or endings do you want?

Carol P. Herbert, MD, CCFP, FCFP, past NAPCRG president and distinguished family medicine researcher, was this year's recipient of the 2007 Wood Award for Lifetime Contribution to Primary Care Research. Also honored at the meeting with President Awards were **Bruce Arroll, MBChB, PhD**, University of Auckland, for his leadership in creating the first NAPCRG New

Zealand regional meeting; **Jim Puffer, MD**, American Board of Family Medicine, for his long-standing support of NAPCRG and its mission; and **Roger Sherwood, CAE**, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, for his tremendous contributions to NAPCRG and his leadership in the field of family medicine.

Please take a few minutes to let us know what you thought of this year's meeting and what we can do to make next year's even better by completing your online meeting evaluation at <http://napcrg.org/evaluation.htm>.

The Program Committee is already at work planning next year's Annual Meeting to take place November 15-19, 2008 in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. Mark your calendars and start generating ideas for your proposals. Only proposals submitted in English will be accepted for review and presentation. More details regarding the 2008 meeting will follow in the coming months.

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NAPCRG's President Vision for the Future

It's an exciting time for NAPCRG. The organization has reached new heights thanks to the leadership of **Perry Dickinson, MD**, as NAPCRG president, and the NAPCRG Board of Directors. Under Perry's leadership, NAPCRG membership has grown and our annual meeting has become a networking magnet. Our organization has become ever more recognized and engaged within the family of Canadian and US primary care academic and clinical organizations while forging closer relationships with the family medicine world organization, WONCA.

So what is my vision for NAPCRG going forward as I face the impossible challenge of filling Perry's shoes? Let me share a quick story. My wife, Ardis Olson, and I arrived at Zuni IHS Hospital in 1977 as a newly married family medicine/pediatric doctor couple. While Ardis had done credible research already, research wasn't on my screen. Within months, we realized that we were not happy with the walk-in system of care. We believed deeply that more continuity was needed. Working closely with the community over the next year, we developed a continuity system, subsequently evaluated it, and wrote it up.

My interest in a research career was established, but the real impact of this came several years later. I was overseeing family medicine student education at Dartmouth and had the chance to visit one of our students doing a rotation near Zuni. The continuity teams were still in place with the blue, red, and green team doctors' pictures in the waiting room. I asked one of the doctors, who didn't know me, about the continuity system and how it came to be. The answer, "We've always done it this way."

Call it a research moment when the earth moved; my interest in research toward making sustainable improvements in primary care was

launched. I would like NAPCRG to help each one of our members find similar inspiration and affirmation in their own professional work. NAPCRG exists through its meetings, publications, work groups, advocacy, and an evolving range of tools like our Web site. This most recent period has seen organizational growth for NAPCRG to become a leader in primary care research and a player in clinical and policy domains. Going forward, we should maintain that position and at the same time help our

president's message

members have personal successes, be it in local quality improvement efforts like my story from Zuni and in receiving major federal grants and publishing papers in top-line journals as that research moves forward.

For our student, resident, and fellow members, I would like NAPCRG to help you develop a solid scientific base and get those first papers written and grant applications submitted. For our junior faculty members, I would like NAPCRG to help you establish and maintain the network of colleagues that will provide you with new ideas and intellectual support for many years to come. For our members whose main base is community practice, I would like NAPCRG to provide a forum for asking the questions and seeking the answers that would help you improve the quality of your practice and the satisfaction you get from it. For senior faculty and chairs, I would like NAPCRG to help you take that next step with your teams to advance the scientific methods and findings from your areas of interest and to support the next generation of academics as they come into their own.

My first research moment came almost 30 years ago. There have been others since. I will do my best to work with the excellent NAPCRG Board for our organization to serve you as a member and to help you experience your own research moments that sustain you in productive and satisfying careers.

—Allen Dietrich, MD
NAPCRG President

How to Form a Special Interest Group (SIG)

SIGs are wonderful incubators of new ideas and a safe and convenient way to come together with like-minded individuals to collaborate on specific topics of interest. In addition to convening at the annual meeting, active SIGs also communicate throughout the year to share experiences, resources, and future plans. As of last year, SIGs can also submit a proposal for up to \$2,000 to work on an innovative project (www.napcrg.org/innovation.htm.) For a listing of all existing SIGs and their focal topics, visit our Web site www.napcrg.org. If you don't see a SIG that meets your needs and you would like to propose a new one, e-mail Kelly Parry at kparry@stfm.org, and we will help you establish and advertise your new SIG. All you need to start a SIG is a topic of interest that relates to research and an individual willing to serve as chair. Once a new SIG is formed, it will be advertised in the NAPCRG newsletter asking interested individuals to join by contacting the SIG's chair.

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Executive Director, Angela Broderick, CAE; Member Services Director, Maribel Cifuentes, RN; Member Services Coordinator, Kelly Parry

Meet NAPCRG Executive Director — Angela Broderick, CAE

Angela Broderick, MA, CAE, began October 9 as the executive director for NAPCRG.

Angela's career includes work with a number of non-profits and entrepreneurs while she was an independent consultant, as well as tenure at the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and most recently, the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). At NRHA, Angela's accomplishments included doubling the association's membership from 9,300 members to more than 18,000 in only 1 year.

In her first few months as NAPCRG Executive Director, Angela



has been working on updating the NAPCRG brand (including a new logo and membership collateral pieces—both coming soon) and planning the 2008 Annual Conference in Puerto Rico. She is working on tools to help NAPCRG members connect outside the annual meetings and researching ways to implement one of President Allen Dietrich's priorities: supporting junior researchers.

She will also serve as deputy executive director of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM). At STFM, Angela will be responsible for marketing, membership, and oversight of the Education Committee. You can reach Angela at NAPCRG@stfm.org or at (913) 906-6000, ext 5406.

Nominations Requested for NAPCRG Leaders

The leadership of NAPCRG is critical to NAPCRG's future and to that of primary care research.

Each year, the Nominations Committee presents a slate of candidates for the officers who will lead NAPCRG.

As a function of our member-driven organization, the committee invites you to help identify nominees for leadership positions within NAPCRG. The Nominations Committee requests your input on names of individuals you would like to have considered as candidates for Board positions or other leadership positions within NAPCRG. Opportunities include serving as a special interest group chair, becoming a member on a committee, representing NAPCRG on an Academic Family Medicine Organization subcommittee, or serving on the NAPCRG Board.

Information about current NAPCRG leaders is listed at www.napcr.org/org.html. If you are interested in serving in a leadership position within NAPCRG, don't be shy! Let us know of your interest. Submit suggestions to Sandra Burge, PhD, nominations committee chair, at burge@uthscsa.edu, or to Angela Broderick, NAPCRG executive director, at napcr.org@stfm.org.

Photo Top Left: (from left to right) Inese Grava-Gubins, MA; Michele Aubin, MD, MSc; Francine Lemire, MD; and Maurice Wood, MD, visit at the opening reception.

Photo Bottom Left: John (Jack) Westfall, MD, MPH (left) takes a moment to catch up with Lyle Fagnan, MD.

Photo Bottom Right: Carol Herbert, MD, CCFP, FCFP, past NAPCRG president, was honored with the Wood Award at this year's Annual Meeting. Dr Herbert is pictured here (holding award) with her family.



Board Meeting Highlights

The following actions resulted from discussions held during the NAPCRG Board of Directors meetings held on October 18 and October 23 in Vancouver, BC.

- Approved the year-end finance reports for the 2006–2007 fiscal year.
- Approved the Nominations Committee's recommendations to select **Michelle Greiver, MD, CCFP**, from North York General Hospital in Toronto, to replace Dr Tatemichi as the clinician representative to the Board, and **Sandra Burge, PhD**, from the University of Texas HSC in San Antonio to replace Dr Valerie Gilchrist.
- Approved nominations to select **Anton Kuzel, MD, MHPE**, the NAPCRG Communications Committee chair, and **Daniel Vinson, MD, MSPH**, University of Missouri-Columbia, to fill positions as NAPCRG representatives to the Family Medicine Academic Advocacy Committee.
- Reviewed an update on the indicators of success for the organization, including status of each of the indicators.
- Approved the guiding principles of the Council on Academic Family Medicine.
- Discussed the public relations proposal and how to meet NAPCRG's objectives within fiscal parameters of the organization.

Canadian Institute for Health Information Launches New Primary Health Care Information Initiative

In 2005 the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) facilitated the development of a set of 105 agreed-upon indicators, by a broad range of Primary Health Care (PHC) experts from across Canada, to compare and measure PHC at multiple levels within jurisdictions across Canada. A second report was also developed to provide options for enhancing the PHC data collection infrastructure to report on these PHC indicators. During 2006, CIHI built on this work by exploring the feasibility of various options to collect more data on PHC and worked with its National Physician Survey partners and others to expand data collection for the indicators.

We are pleased to announce that CIHI has launched a new PHC information initiative, comprised of three core projects.

The first project combines existing data and information to report on PHC in Canada in 2008. The report will include both a broad pan-Canadian perspective and highlights of regional initiatives. This report would also collect and analyze data on the PHC indicators that are currently available looking at both current information and historical trends where possible. It will make both inter-provincial comparisons and international comparisons where possible. The report will also highlight relevant PHC data gaps.

The second project seeks to influence and help shape the electronic medical records (EMRs) being adopted in PHC settings and related administrative data sources with the goal of strengthening future PHC data sources. As part of this initiative, CIHI will provide leadership and coordination and work with key partners to increase the availability of comparable clinical quality measures from PHC-based EMRs.

The third project will develop a PHC database and analytical team so that interested PHC providers can send CIHI PHC clinical quality data on a voluntary basis and in a secure manner. This data will then be used by PHC providers and CIHI to measure PHC quality across Canada. A key success factor for this type of project is support for participation in a reporting system. With this in mind, the database will be designed to provide participating PHC providers with several types of useful information. If PHC providers indicate strong support for this project in 2007–2008, a PHC Provider Voluntary Reporting System will be pilot tested and ready to receive initial data by March 2009.

For more information, please visit www.cihi.ca/phc or e-mail the CIHI PHC team (Greg Webster, Judith MacPhail, and Vicky Walker) at phc@cihi.ca.



Poster sessions provide attendees great networking opportunities. Two poster sessions were held during the Annual Meeting in Vancouver.



Communications Committee Update

Our biggest news is an initiative to raise awareness among policymakers for the value of primary care research so they will increase funding for it. We see NAPCRG as uniquely positioned to help in this cause and want to bring the work of NAPCRG members into the public media, knowing that this will in turn help those who lobby elected officials or agencies, such as the CIHR or NIH, to be aware about the importance of funding primary care research. The Communications Committee, with the able assistance of the AAFP PR office, has spent considerable time considering practical and effective options for achieving this goal and will be submitting a proposal and bids for the NAPCRG Board's consideration within the next few months.

We also want to encourage NAPCRG members to make use of

the Family Medicine Digital Resource Library at www.fmdrl.org. Although this resource was set up by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine thanks to a grant from the National Library of Medicine, it is intended to be a resource for academic family medicine—both teachers and researchers. Many NAPCRG presentation handouts and slideshows have already been uploaded to the site, and many more will follow. Let us know your ideas for ways the site could be made even better for NAPCRG members.

Our committee will continue to write or solicit topical pieces related to primary care research and publish them in the organizational update pages of the *Annals of Family Medicine*. Our next contribution will be a policy-oriented piece, with Rick Glazer writing about the implications

of the recently released “Mapping the Future of Primary Healthcare Research in Canada: A Report to the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation.” We welcome your suggestions for future topics, and volunteers or nominations for authors of future articles. Please send your suggestions to akuzel@mcvh-vcu.edu.

—Anton Kuzel, MD, MHPE,
Communications Committee Chair

CFPC 2007 Research Awards

The 2007 Family Medicine Researcher of the Year Award was presented to **Dr Moira Stewart**, director of the Centre for Studies in Family Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, University of Western Ontario.

Recognized worldwide for her scholarly research on the delivery of patient-centred care and doctor-patient communication, Dr Stewart's work has formed the basis for resident training programs, accreditation standards, and the approach to care delivery in the practice of family medicine in Canada in recent years. She has authored/coauthored numerous textbooks, including the series *Foundations of Primary Care Research* and *Patient-centered Medicine*, as well as many articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr Stewart has demonstrated exemplary leadership in many health care organizations, including the NAPCRG presidency (2003–2005), in addition to involvement with numerous review boards/granting agencies. Her dedication also extends to teaching, training, and mentoring students—the next generation of primary care researchers.

The award for the Outstanding Family Medicine Research Article (2007) was presented to its lead author, **Dr Jacqueline Lewis**, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Calgary. This award acknowledges the work of Dr Lewis and coauthors **Leslie Nickell, Lilian Thompson, John Szalai, Alex Kiss, and John Hilditch**, whose rigorously designed study challenged the belief that quality of life improvements are experienced by pre/immediately post-menopausal women as a result of consuming soy and flaxseed. This excellent article, published in *Menopause: The Journal of the North American Menopause Society* 2006;13(4):631–42, reported results that didn't provide support for isoflavones and lignans being natural sources of relief for vasomotor symptoms, but both the study and article are stellar examples of family medicine research.

Our congratulations to Dr Moira Stewart, and to Dr Jacqueline Lewis and her coauthors!

—Inese Grava-Gubins
CFPC Director of Research

conference calendar

NAPCRG Annual Meetings:

36th NAPCRG Annual Meeting
(Additional day added to meeting)
November 15–19, 2008
(Saturday-Wednesday pattern)
Wyndham Rio Mar (formerly known as the Westin Del Mar)
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

37th NAPCRG Annual Meeting
November 14–18, 2009
(Saturday-Wednesday pattern)
Le Centre Sheraton
Montreal, Quebec

38th NAPCRG Annual Meeting
November 13–17, 2010
(Saturday-Wednesday pattern)
Westin Seattle
Seattle, Wash

39th NAPCRG Annual Meeting
November 12–16, 2011
(Saturday-Wednesday pattern)
Fairmont Banff Springs
Banff, Alberta

Other Conferences of Note:

2008 STFM Annual Spring Conference
April 30-May 4, 2008
Baltimore, MD
www.stfm.org

Post Your Annual Meeting Presentations and Handouts on FMDRL

At the invitation of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM), and with the NAPCRG Board's blessing, NAPCRG Annual Meeting attendees are invited to share your conference handouts by posting them on STFM's Family Medicine Digital Resources Library (FMDRL).

In late 2004, STFM was awarded a grant by the National Library of Medicine to develop FMDRL. The mission of FMDRL is to support and enhance the sharing and collaborative development of educational resources among family medicine educators through a digital library that will include resources for all levels of family medicine education. There is no charge to post or view materials in FMDRL.

NAPCRG members benefit by having your presentation materials distributed to an audience beyond NAPCRG members, and, in turn, offer you access to an educational resource broader than primary care research. NAPCRG original research handouts are a welcomed addition to FMDRL and add richness to the academic materials on the site. By STFM and NAPCRG working together, we can develop a stronger repository of curricular materials than we could otherwise do working independently.

FMDRL Includes:

- Conference presentations/handouts
- PowerPoint lectures

- Learning modules for all levels of learners
- Digital images, audio and video Files
- Standardized patient cases
- Recommended Web sites and PDA programs
- Other curricular materials

FMDRL Features:

- Content for all levels of family medicine education.
- Expert peer review. Materials are peer reviewed and archived with user-friendly search functionality.
- Editorial and administrative oversight for FMDRL is provided by a steering committee of educators, informaticists, researchers, and librarians.

You'll find that uploading your conference materials is quite simple: just click on the "upload" tab, and you'll be asked to register or log in, then follow quick, step-by-step instructions.

Visit the FMDRL Web site at www.fmdrl.org to upload your conference presentation materials, learn more about this valuable resource, and sign up to serve as a content reviewer for FMDRL if you are interested.

Contact FMDRL staff liaison Traci Nolte at tnolte@stfm.org with questions.

Participate in NAPCRG's Student Research Award Program

To encourage departments of family medicine to recognize primary care performed by students, NAPCRG offers a research award for students called the NAPCRG Student Family Medicine/Primary Care Research Award. This award is intended to recognize outstanding family medicine/primary care research performed by a medical student. One award may be made by each department of family medicine. NAPCRG suggests that each department create a committee to review medical student applications and make the award recommendation to the department chair. Note that NAPCRG does not select the honorees; departments tell NAPCRG headquarters who should be honored from their school. NAPCRG will supply the certificate that may be framed by the department, if it elects to do so. Please submit the name of your honoree to Kelly Parry at kparry@stfm.org for preparation of the certificate. While some departments prefer to present these certificates at graduation ceremonies in the spring, you may honor your student at the time that makes the most sense for your department. The award criteria and application form are posted on the NAPCRG Web site at www.napcr.org/ResearchProcess.html. Please contact Kelly Parry with additional questions.

mission & goals

Formed in 1972, the North American Primary Care Research Group is a multidisciplinary organization for primary care researchers in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and throughout the world, with a mission to develop, disseminate, and promote new knowledge regarding primary care.

NAPCRG's goals are to:

- Serve as an incubator for ideas.
- Increase capacity for conducting research.
- Provide appropriate forums for presentation of original primary care research.
- Enhance communication among primary care researchers.
- Connect primary care research, patient care, and education.
- Advocate for policies that support primary care research.

Evaluation of the NAPCRG Consultants Directory

The Membership Committee recently completed an evaluation of the consultants participating in the Consultants Directory. In its first 6 months of use, the directory was visited by 386 members and its database was used by 256 members. Unfortunately, the directory does not allow us to identify which NAPCRG members have used the consultants directory, so they could not be surveyed directly.

However, its consultants were asked to complete an evaluation of their experience with the directory. Of the 59 consultants, 24 completed the evaluation. They reported a total of 33 consultations across 15 of the 81 topics. The topics most frequently consulted were “survey research” (n=5), “PBRNs” (n=5), “individual practice-based research” (n=4), and “participatory research” (n=4). In the majority of cases, members sought either resource

information (n=15) or teaching (n=7) from consultants.

When asked to rate the appropriateness of the consultants directory process, consultants rated their time involvement, expectations of members, member-consultant communication, and level of compensation over 4.0 (mean) on a 5-point scale. Only one consultant reported an inappropriate use of the directory by a member due to a lack of understanding of the expectations of the process.

In addition, we asked consultants to rate the benefits that they had received through their participation. The following benefits received mean ratings over 3.5 on a 5-point scale: “sense of satisfaction in helping others” (3.69), “networking with other researchers”

(3.75), “esteem from sharing my expertise with others” (3.50), and “learning from those requesting consultation” (3.64). None of the consultants reported negative experiences from their involvement.

The Membership Committee expresses its gratitude to the consultants and extends an invitation to members to use the directory. It can provide methodological assistance from simply providing you with references for reading to reviewing of grants or manuscripts to identifying consultants or co-investigators for grant applications. Use this resource to further your skill development!

—David Katerndahl, MD,
Membership Committee Chair

WONCA Offers Daily News Alerts on Medical Topics

Global Family Doctor—the Web site of Wonca, the World Organization of Family Doctors—is offering practical help to family doctors in the form of its Daily Alerts, which are sent every weekday by e-mail.

Wonca staff scan more than 60 family medicine, general, and specialty journals and news services, and prepare synopses of the latest information on clinical research and reviews, disease outbreaks, and medical news, which are posted on Global Family Doctor every weekday. Daily Alerts advise what has been posted that day.

To enrol for Daily Alerts, go to <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/enrollment.htm> enter your e-mail address, and click ‘Submit’.

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Mark Your Calendar—36th NAPCRG Annual Meeting

November 15—19, 2008
Vyndham Rio Del Mar Beach Resort & Spa
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico



Only 100 miles long and 35 miles wide, the Island of Puerto Rico has beautiful beaches, tropical landscapes, and 500 years of Spanish cultural influence. Experience it all. Puerto Rico is historic and cosmopolitan, exotic and accessible. Formed by Spanish, African, Indian, and US influences, the island offers a central location where North American, Caribbean, Latin American, and European visitors will feel equally at home.

Puerto Rico's average temperature is 82° F (28°C). Trade winds keep coastal towns cool and the temperature decreases as you travel higher into the mountains.

To learn more about Puerto Rico visit www.meetpuertorico.com

Watch the NAPCRG Web site, www.napcrg.org for additional details.

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