

# What is SNOCAP?



## Why Participate?

# SNOCAP

State Network of Colorado Ambulatory Practices & Partners

### What is SNOCAP?

The University of Colorado's Department of Family Medicine has supported Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) research since the 1970s when two regional networks started in the United States: the Family Medicine Information System in Colorado (FMIS) and the Cooperative Information Project (COOP). Current PBRN research efforts began around 2004 are all organized under the umbrella of the State Network of Colorado Ambulatory Practices & Partners (SNOCAP). SNOCAP is the overarching name for the collaborative affiliation of practice-based research networks in Colorado that joined together to improve communication, facilitate joint research projects, and share research staff and resources. Because of the variation in size, location, populations served, and organizational structure, research conducted across SNOCAP is more generalizable than that conducted in more uniform networks.

### Who is apart of SNOCAP?

SNOCAP is led by a Director and Associate Director, and each individual network is led by a Director and often also an Associate Director. SNOCAP has the support from others with expertise in IRB/HIPAA regulations and compliance, research methods, study design and implementation, project management, communication, data analyses, biostatistics, focus groups and interviewing, grant and technical writing, and web design. Additionally, the engagement method known as Boot Camp Translation (BCT) originated in the High Plains Research Network, one of the SNOCAP networks.

### Networks

The five SNOCAP member networks collaborate on projects and studies, share resources, and jointly sponsor an annual meeting of member practices and clinicians. SNOCAP works closely with practices across the state to develop and answer research questions that are relevant to primary care clinicians in the communities across the entire state. SNOCAP networks include:

#### BIGHORN

**Building Investigative practices for better Health Outcomes Research Network (BIGHORN):** a network of private primary care practices in Colorado.

**Director:** Doug Fernald

##### About:

BIGHORN's mission is to transform a network of private practices into a community of reflective, investigative practices and their patients, thereby enhancing the quality, safety, efficiency, and accessibility of primary health care through practice-based research. This network comprises practices representative of busy community practices in both urban and rural areas across Colorado. BIGHORN has completed studies on patient safety, underinsurance, direct-to-consumer advertising, health information technology, and chronic pain with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, AHRQ, and NIDDK.



#### CaReNet

**Colorado Research Network (CaReNet):** a network of practices that care for disadvantaged populations, including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), FQHC look-alikes, and residency practices.

**Director:** Don Nease, **Co-Director:** Matt Simpson, **Manager:** Mary Fisher

**About:** CaReNet is a network of nearly 450 clinicians (family physicians, general internists, general pediatricians, and nurse practitioners) in both urban and rural practices (federally qualified health centers, community health center clinics, residency training sites, and university affiliated private practices). CaReNet practices are located along the front range, as well as in the San Luis Valley (SLV) in south central Colorado. To note: the SLV has <50,000 residents in 6 counties, 8,188 sq mi, has a rich Hispanic heritage and residents are primarily non-Hispanic white (54%) and Hispanic (46%). Four of the six counties are designated 'Frontier' and 3 are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas and a Medically Underserved Area. CaReNet was created in 1998 with a mission to improve health and well-being by the application of scientific methods to questions important to primary care clinicians, their patients, and their communities, with a particular focus on disadvantaged populations. CaReNet has completed studies on patient safety, practice redesign for chronic disease, mental health issues, self-management support, and healthy behaviors. The network has received funding from AHRQ, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, HRSA, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), PCORI, and local foundations.

CaReNet has an active Patient Partners Research Council, in existence since 2004, which consists of 11 patient partners who live, work, and play in the Denver/Aurora metro area of Colorado. This group is staffed out of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in the Department of Family Medicine



#### COCONet

**Colorado Children's Outcomes Network (COCONet):** a network of pediatric and child health focused practices.

**Director:** Sean O'Leary, **Associate-Director:** Sarah Brewer

**About:** COCONet is a network that works with pediatric medical practices to improve the health and well-being of Colorado Children and families. The mission of COCONet is to conduct collaborative practice-based research and quality improvement that informs real-world clinical practice to improve the health and well-being of Colorado children and families. COCONet supports and conducts studies and projects to improve children's health. Projects have included topics such as improving immunization coverage, physician communication with patients and parents, referral systems, and mental health integration. COCONet is committed to connecting practicing physicians and researchers to examine the most pressing questions facing pediatric providers in Colorado. COCONet has a Network Advisory Board (NAB), as well as a Steering Committee, that both meet as-needed to discuss priority topics and to participate in projects and grant writing. The COCONet NAB meets each quarter and focuses meetings on current and developing projects. COCONet has received funding from PCORI, NIAID, and elsewhere.



Colorado Children's Outcomes Network

#### HPRN

**High Plains Research Network (HPRN):** a geographically based network of health care providers in rural eastern Colorado.

**Director:** Tamara Oser, **Co-Director:** Linda Zittleman

**About:** Established in 1997, HPRN is an integrated rural network of clinicians and health care facilities located in the 16 counties of eastern Colorado. The HPRN region covers 30,000 square miles and is home to approximately 150,000 people, 30% of whom are Hispanic. HPRN includes 16 hospitals ranging from six to 40 acute care beds all between 50 and 180 miles from the closest tertiary care center, 53 primary care practices, 15 nursing homes, 3 home health agencies, 4 public health departments, and 3 hospice organizations. Eight of the Colorado counties served by HPRN clinics have been officially designated Health Professional Shortage Areas, and 4 are Medically Underserved Area. HPRN's mission is to provide excellent rural health care by translating the best scientific evidence into every day clinical practice. Since its first study which assessed the use of new medical technology in rural hospitals, HPRN's studies have studied new interventions that support colon cancer screening; chronic disease diagnosis, treatment, and management (asthma, cancer survivorship care, opioid use disorder, hypertension); test diagnostic tools in primary care (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease); and insurance, practice staff, and clinicians knowledge and attitudes on a range of topics (underinsurance, behavioral health integration, patient centered medical home). HPRN research has been funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Cancer Institute, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, The Colorado Health Foundation, Caring for Colorado Foundation, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The HPRN has an active Community Advisory Council (C.A.C.) that was established in 2003 and consists of 12 local residents of eastern Colorado, including farmers, ranchers, teachers, para-health professionals, small business workers, office workers, students, and retirees. By joining the best science with the best community knowledge, HPRN and the C.A.C. can produce something better than either could alone.



#### PEACHnet

**Partners Engaged in Achieving Change in Health (PEACHnet):**

a geographically-based network of health care providers along the Western Slope of Colorado.

**Director:** Anne Nederveld, **Assistant Director:** Elena Broaddus

**About:** Starting in 2017, interest for starting a new PBRN on the Western Slope grew as a few practices became involved in PBRN projects and recognized that very few others were involved. In addition, there are issues specific to the geographic region that likely require asking different questions and potentially using different research strategies to answer them. The model for this PBRN is one that includes health care related organizations as well as practices and practitioners, as well as several different organizations ranging from academic institutions to Health Information Technology companies. Due to this scope of involvement, the network is called PEACHnet, which stands for Partners Engaged in Achieving Change in Healthcare Network. Currently, a small steering committee has been formed and staff has been starting to reach out to practices and organizations across the Western Slope. They are actively working to develop project ideas to attract practices and help to increase understanding of the incredible benefits PBRN projects can bring to communities. Funding for PEACHnet has come from PCORI and the American Cancer Society. PEACHnet is actively working to create a Regional Advisory Board (RAB) as of 2019. The RAB will be composed of stakeholder groups including patients, health care workers, and community members from various organizations. This group will include 10 to 12 people and will meet monthly starting in July 2019. The name, "Regional Advisory Board," is being used to emphasize that PEACHnet includes practices and communities across a geographic region.



Partners Engaged in Achieving Change in Health