

Wisconsin Public Health Research Network: Improving Public
Health Practice Through Research

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Background

The Wisconsin Public Health Research Network (WPHRN) was formed in 2009 to support public health systems and services research driven by the needs and interests of Wisconsin’s health departments. WPHRN was created with the support of an infrastructure development grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2009-2011). WPHRN is currently funded by the University of Wisconsin Institute for Clinical & Translational Research-Community Academic Partnerships Program (ICTR-CAP) and additional research grants. WPHRN has much to offer public health professionals and researchers from health departments, and academic and professional organizations. WPHRN has had several successful initiatives including completion of a strategic planning process, the submission of fourteen new research project proposals (seven funded, two in review), and the Translating Evidence to Public Health Practice (TEP-PH) Internship Program.

WPHRN Services and the Benefits of Membership

WPHRN Services

- Facilitate connections between public health practitioners and researchers
- Provide funding opportunities and resource notifications
- Support, endorse, generate, and implement research projects
- Translate and disseminate findings from public health research done in collaboration with WPHRN

Benefits of Membership



“Being involved in the WPHRN is extremely valuable to me as a provider of public health services. It provides a means of asking systems and services research questions and connection to researchers who have the ability to design and conduct studies to actually answer those questions. It’s also extremely rewarding to be involved in expanding our scientific knowledge needed for evidence-based decision-making.”

Sue Kunferman, Wood County Health Officer, WPHRN Co-Chairperson

Acknowledgements

WPHRN Steering Committee: Melody Bockenfeld, University of Wisconsin Institute for Clinical & Translational Research; Linda Conlon, Oneida County Health Department; Susan Kunferman, Wood County Health Department (Co-Chair); John Meurer, Medical College of Wisconsin; Angela Nimsgern, State of Wisconsin Division of Public Health; Darren Rausch, Greenfield City Health Department; Julie Willems Van Dijk, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute; Nancy Young, Institute for Wisconsin’s Health, Inc.; Susan Zahner, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Co-Chair)

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Network Changes Resulting from Strategic Planning

<h3>Network Strategic Plan</h3>	<h3>New Network Name and Logo</h3>	<h3>New Organizational Structure</h3> <p>Multiple Group Network Structure</p> <p>New Network Structure</p>	<h3>New Website</h3> <p>http://www.wphrn.org/</p> <p>Join the Network</p> <p>Membership is free!</p> <p>http://www.wphrn.org/join.html</p> <p>Promote public health services and systems research (PHSSR) within your practice setting or organization.</p>
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Research Studies in Progress

- Cross-Jurisdictional Shared Service Arrangements in Local Public Health (2014-2015)**
(Co-Investigators: Susan Zahner, DrPH, RN and Kusuma Madamala, PhD)
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (\$198,749)
- Measuring Variation in the Integration of Primary Care and Public Health: A Multi-State PBRN Study of Local Integration and Health Outcomes (2013-2016)**
(PI: Elizabeth Gyllstrom, PhD, MPH; Co-Investigators Susan J. Zahner, DrPH, RN and David Hahn, MD)
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (\$450,000)
- The Future of Teaching in Local Health Departments (2013-2014)**
(PI: Scott Frank, MD, MS; Co-PI: Susan Zahner, DrPH, RN)
Funder: Institute for Clinical and Translational Research Community-Academic Partnership (ICTR-CAP)
- An Analysis of the Quality of Wisconsin’s Community Health Improvement Plans and Processes (2011-2013)**
(PI: Julie Willems Van Dijk, PhD, MSN; Co-PI: Bridget Catlin, PhD, MHSA)
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks Research Implementation Award Enhancing Evidence-Based Practice (\$149,999)

Translating Evidence to Practice in Public Health (TEP-PH) Intern Project

The Translating Evidence to Practice in Public Health (TEP-PH) Intern Project is an initiative of the UW-Madison School of Nursing and WPHRN. The work of TEP-PH Interns is focused on translation and dissemination of evidence generated through public health services and systems research projects conducted in collaboration with the WPHRN into public health practice in Wisconsin and beyond.



“This TEP-PH Internship experience is a great way to learn more about public health in Wisconsin. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with pharmacists, university professors, and other pharmacy students.”

Ivana Micanovic, BSN, RN, TEP-PH Intern



“This internship is a great opportunity to make connections with local health departments, understand their needs, and connect them with researchers for meaningful studies.”

Lilia Fernandes, MSN, RN, TEP-PH Intern