Twenty First Annual

Primary Care Research Methods & Statistics Conference

November 30 – December 2, 2007
The Menger Hotel
San Antonio, Texas

Conference Theme: "Social Epidemiology and Multilevel Effects Research"

Sponsored by:
The Department of Family & Community Medicine
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Endorsed by:
North American Primary Care Research Group
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Ambulatory Pediatric Association

This conference is supported by a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (grant no. 1 R13 HS016444-01).
Social Epidemiology and Multilevel Effects Research
The theme of this year's conference is “Social Epidemiology and Multilevel Effects Research”.

Plenary Speakers
- Ichiro Kawachi PhD, Harvard School of Public Health
Dr. Kawachi will speak on the topic of “The Search for Contextual Effects in Social Epidemiology: Challenges and New Directions”. There is growing interest in understanding the influence of neighborhoods and other social contexts (e.g. schools, work-places) on health. For example, researchers have sought to understand the impacts of the built environment, local food environment, and social environment in explaining the recent obesity epidemic. This presentation will focus on current challenges in this area, including the use of multi-level study designs to investigate contextual influences on health; the use of systematic social observation to characterize neighborhood built environment and social environment; as well as challenges in causal inference.

- J. Michael Oakes, Ph.D., McKnight Presidential Fellow and Associate Professor, Division of Epidemiology, University of Minnesota. Multilevel regression models (MLM) are currently viewed as useful if not critical to analyses at multiple levels of inquiry and/or when using hierarchical data. Yet little attention has been paid to the ability of the model to infer causal relationships. This talk will present the MLM from the perspective of causal inference. The history, strengths, weaknesses and potential for the MLM to advance our understanding of multilevel phenomena will be highlighted.

Dissection of Innovative Studies – Paul A. Estabrooks PhD
“Using the RE-AIM Framework to Enhance Effectiveness Research”
This conference has always highlighted new and emerging methodologies. This year’s innovative studies workshop will be presented by Paul A. Estabrooks PhD, Research Scientist, Kaiser Permanente Colorado. The plenary session will cover barriers to research translation, and illustrate use of the RE-AIM framework (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance) to anticipate and address such barriers. Examples of current applications of RE-AIM and future directions for translation research will be discussed. The workshop will provide practical instruction on use of the RE-AIM model and practical trial designs for primary care research. It will feature common challenges encountered in applying RE-AIM, issues in selecting practical measures of behavior change, and allow participants to apply the framework to help plan and evaluate a project.

Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality: Review of Concept Papers
David Meyers MD – Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships
Conference participants will be invited to submit Concept Papers for proposed research projects. These Concept Papers will be reviewed by an experienced researcher and reviewer from the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ). A discussion of the research projects and feedback from the AHRQ will be conducted in a workshop format during the conference. This session will benefit both participants whose concept papers are critiqued, as well as less-experienced researchers who
observe the process. Proposed Concept Papers from conference participants must be received no later than **November 9, 2007**, and should follow the format posted on the AHRQ website at [http://www.ahrq.gov/about/coer/concept.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/about/coer/concept.htm). Please email Concept Paper proposals to: David A. Katerndahl MD, email: katerndahl@uthscsa.edu

**Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality Forum – David Meyers MD**

The AHRQ Forum provides conference participants with the opportunity to meet with a representative from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). During this forum, Dr. Meyers will discuss with participants the Agency's current funding opportunities and priorities. In addition, future Agency directions will be presented as well as Agency requests for assistance from participants. The forum represents a unique opportunity for AHRQ to share information with participants and to receive input from participants for Agency initiatives.

**Conference Goals**

In order to meet the increasing demands for high-quality research in primary care, this unique conference focuses on the development of research skills. It is designed to
1) encourage novice researchers to develop basic skills for primary care research; and
2) allow experienced researchers to expand and refine their repertoire of appropriate research techniques.

**Novice Researchers**

Novice researchers will be interested in several sessions on this year’s Methodology Track. Lawrence L. Gabel will present his highly-rated workshop on “Increasing the Odds for Research Funding”. John Bennett will present a seminar on “From Hypothesis Generation to Refinement: The Linking of Datasets”. Sandra Burge and colleagues will present a session on “Expanding Research Involvement in Community Residency Programs: Building a Residency-based Research Network”. David Schneider, James Tysinger, and Ashok Kumar will present a seminar on “Planning and Implementing Educational Research Projects in Medical Education Settings: An Introduction”. Finally, the conference will present an Academic Panel Discussion on the topic of “Mentoring”.

**Featured Seminars**

Two seminars will be of special interest to novice researchers. Domhnall MacAuley from the British Medical Journal will conduct a session on “The Secret of Getting Your Research into Print”. And Linda Nebeling PhD MPH, Chief, Health Promotion Research Branch, Behav. Research Program, National Cancer Institute, will present a seminar on “NIH Funding Opportunities”, with a special emphasis on opportunities and tips for new investigators.

**Experienced Researchers**

Experienced researchers will be challenged by a wide range of topics and techniques available at the conference. The pre-conference workshop for experienced researchers will be led by Garrett Fitzmaurice D. Sc., from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Fitzmaurice will conduct a workshop on “Applied Longitudinal Analysis: Contrasting Marginal and Mixed Effects Models”. Andrew Bazemore, from the AAFP Robert Graham Center, will present a seminar on “Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Primary Care Research”. And Robert Bowman will conduct a session of Using GIS to Categorize Physician Locations by Physician Concentrations”.


**Multilevel Modeling**
Norman Oliver will present a peer session on “Multilevel Modeling of Racial Disparities in Prostate Cancer”. Martey Dodoo and Xingyou Zhang will present a session on “Using Multilevel Logistic Modeling and GIS to Identify Census Tract Populations at Risk of Health Care Access Deprivation”. And Ray Palmer will present a workshop on “Using Multilevel Factorial Analysis to Evaluate Organizational Characteristics of Primary Care Practices”.

**Qualitative Methodology**
Charles Mouton will conduct a seminar on “Using Qualitative Methods in Mixed Methods Clinical Research: Making Count What Can Not Be Counted”. Lynn Meadows will discuss “Writing Qualitative Research Proposals with Integrity”. Bryan Bayles will present a session on “Bridging the Qualitative-Quantitative Divide: Lessons from Anthropology”. And Ron Chenail and Alyssa Weiss will present a workshop on “Utilizing Qualitative Meta-Synthesis to Conduct Systematic Reviews of Primary Healthcare Research”.

**Methodological Think Tank**
The 2007 conference will include a one-day “Methodological Think Tank” designed to develop novel approaches for difficult methodological issues facing primary care research. This year's study will be explored over a 1-day period by a content expert and four qualitative and quantitative methodologists. At its completion, the Methodological Think Tank will complete the design of a study or program of research to answer the research question. The Think Tank will report its results to the plenary session Sunday morning, December 2, 2007. (For more details see: Katerndahl DA, Crabtree BF. Creating innovative research designs: the 10-year methodological think tank case study. Ann Fam Med 2006; 4: 443-449.)

**Experienced Researcher Workshop**
“Applied Longitudinal Analysis: Contrasting Marginal and Mixed Effects Models”
Garrett Fitzmaurice D.Sc., Harvard School of Public Health
The past 25 years have seen considerable progress in the development of statistical methods for the analysis of longitudinal data. When the response of interest is categorical (e.g., binary or count data), a number of extensions of generalized linear models to longitudinal data have been proposed. We present a broad overview of two main types of models: “marginal models” and “generalized linear mixed models”. While both classes of models account for the within-subject correlation among the repeated measures, they differ in approach. Moreover, these two classes of models have regression coefficients with quite distinct interpretations and address somewhat different questions regarding longitudinal change in the response. In this workshop we highlight the main distinctions between these two types of models and discuss the types of scientific questions addressed by each. [Prerequisite Knowledge: Attendees should have a strong background in linear regression and some prior exposure to generalized linear models (e.g., logistic regression)].

**Novice Researcher Workshop**
“Increasing the Odds for Research Funding”
Lawrence L. Gabel PhD, The Ohio State University
The purpose of this workshop is two-fold. The workshop will help participants 1) Plan and design a research project; and 2) Prepare a written description of a project with the intent of seeking funding. Dr. Gabel will review the value of credible research, and help participants understand the research process. Workshop participants will explore those areas of research
which are important to pursue and understand the flow of a research proposal. During this workshop, participants will analyze and refine the construction of a research proposal. 

Enrollment is strictly limited to 30 novice participants.

Thematic Track: “Social Epidemiology and Multilevel Effects Research”

The conference theme for 2007 is "Social Epidemiology and Multilevel Effects Research"

CME Credits

This conference has been approved for 17.75 credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Physicians may claim and identify on their AMA Physicians Recognition Award application, credit earned within the following CME credit systems: American Academy of Family Physicians' Prescribed credit; claim on a one-to-one basis for AMA PRA Category 1 credit.

Location and Accommodations

The “Primary Care Research Methods & Statistics Conference” will be held in San Antonio’s Menger Hotel, located at 204 Alamo Plaza. The Menger is a member of the Historic Hotels of American and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is located next to The Alamo.

A block of guest rooms has been reserved at The Menger at a special conference rate for single or double accommodations. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel and identify yourself as an attendee of the Primary Care Research Methods & Statistics Conference to be guaranteed the special rate.

The block of rooms and rate will be honored until November 18, 2007. Reservations received after this cutoff date will be accepted on the basis of availability, but the conference rate cannot be assured after November 18, 2007. Since December is a delightful and popular time to visit San Antonio, we urge you to make your reservations early. All reservations will be held only until 4:00 p.m. on the specified day of arrival unless guaranteed by a major credit card or first night’s deposit. It is imperative to make your reservations early!

Call or write: The Menger Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, Texas 78205

Phone (210) 223-4361 Toll-free (800) 345-9285

Registration

The registration fee is $275 if postmarked by November 18, 2007, or $325 after November 18, 2007. Special fees have been established for Fellows at $185/$235 and Students at $125/$175, with written verification. All presenters must be registered to attend the conference and pay the full registration fee.

To enroll, send the attached registration form with credit card information or a check made payable to “UTHSCSA, Dept. of Family & Community Medicine” If you must cancel your registration, tuition will be refunded with a deduction of a $40 administrative fee provided notice is received prior to November 18, 2007. The conference organizer reserves the right to cancel the course no less than one week prior to the course should circumstances make it necessary. In that event, tuition will be refunded.

Acknowledgment

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