Seventeenth Annual
Primary Care Research Methods & Statistics Conference
December 6 – 8, 2002
The Menger Hotel
San Antonio, Texas
Conference Theme:
Health Disparities Research

Sponsored by:
The Department of Family and 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 project is supported by grant no. R13 HS08775-08 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Health Disparities Research
The theme of this year’s conference is “Health Disparities Research”.

Plenary Speakers
Dr. Starfield is a physician whose work is devoted to understanding and improving the impact of health services on health and on equity in distribution of health throughout the population. She is University Distinguished Professor at the Johns Hopkins University and internationally known for her work on primary care. Dr. Starfield will speak about some of the challenges of research regarding disparities in health and present data on the role of primary care in reducing these disparities.

Dr. Starfield will also take part in a panel discussion on on “Health Disparities Research”.

Research Methodology
In addition to presentations on “Health Disparities Research”, several other tracks are also presented: basic quantitative research methods for primary care researchers, Statistics, Use of Geographic Information Systems, and both Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods.

Dissection of Innovative Studies
This conference has always highlighted new and emerging methodologies. In order to further encourage the presentation format of innovative methods at the conference, this year’s conference will include a session on “Dissection of Innovative Studies.” Benjamin Crabtree, PhD, a medical anthropologist and widely published primary care researcher, will present the methods and results of the AHQR-funded “Prevention & Competing Demands in Primary Care” study, on which he was the Principal Investigator. He will discuss the rationale of understanding competing demands in the context of primary care practices as complex systems and describe the multi-method comparative study techniques that were used to investigate practices. He will also present results from some of the more than 15 published manuscripts from the study. Dr. Crabtree is Professor, Director of Research, and NRSA Fellowship Director in the Department of Family Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. He is also Associate Editor of the Annals of Family Medicine.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Review of Concept Papers
Conference participants will be invited to submit Concept Papers for proposed research projects. These Concept Papers will be reviewed by Peter Gergen MD from the Agency for Healthcare Research and 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 15, 2002. Please send Concept Paper proposals to: David A. Katernahl MD, Department of Family & Community Medicine, 7703 Floyd Curl Dr., suite 610-L, MSC 7795, San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900; fax number: 210-223-6940; email: katernahl@uthscsa.edu

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.

Pre-conference Workshops
“Structural Equation Modeling”
James Arbuckle PhD,
Associate Professor of Psychology, Temple University
This workshop is an introduction to structural equation modeling (SEM) for researchers who are new to SEM, but familiar with multiple regression. Its purpose is to help participants determine whether SEM is relevant to their research, and to enable researchers to perform their own SEM analyses. The workshop includes hands-on data analysis with the SEM program, AMOS.

“Methods Workshop for the Novice Researcher”
John G. Ryan DrPH
Director, Division of Primary Care/Health Services Research and Development
Department of Family Medicine & Community Health, University of Miami
Dr. Ryan will present a workshop designed to help novice researchers identify and develop a research question. He will facilitate a series of small-group work sessions, each with a specific goal, to help participants implement the process outlined in the didactic portion of the workshop. Enrollment is strictly limited to 30 novice participants.

Methodologic Think Tank
This year’s conference will include a one-day “Think Tank” designed to develop research approaches for methodologically-difficult research 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 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 8th.

Plenary Speaker
Barbara Starfield MD, MPH
Department of Health Policy and Management
School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

Credit
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Medical School is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio medical school designates this continuing medical education activity for 14.75 hours in Category 1 of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. Either Pre-conference workshop is designated for 3.5 hours in Category 1 of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

This program has been reviewed and is acceptable for 14.75 Prescribed hours by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Either pre-conference workshop is acceptable for 3.5 Prescribed hours.

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 of $109 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 10, 2002. Reservations received after this cut-off date will be accepted on the basis of availability, but the conference rate cannot be assured after November 10, 2002. 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)
(210) 223-4361 ( (800) 345-9265

Registration
The registration fee is $235 if postmarked by November 15, 2002, or $275 after November 15, 2002. Special fees have been established for Fellows at $140/$180 and Residents at $100, 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 “UTH-SCSA Continuing Medical Education.” 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 15, 2002. Continuing Medical Education reserves the right to cancel any course no less than one week prior to the course should circumstances make it necessary. In that event, tuition will be refunded in full.

Acknowledgment
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