

POSTER ABSTRACTS

15th Annual HMO Research Network Conference
April 26-29, 2009 – Danville, PA

11:30 am–Noon & 1:30–2:00 pm
Monday, April 27th • Lobby

PS1 – 03

Gauging Interest and Experience in Research Among Healthcare Providers at Group Health

Katherine M Newton, PhD, Group Health Center for Health Studies; Peggy E Tobin, BA,
Group Health Center for Health Studies; Cheryl J Wiese, MA, Group Health Center for Health Studies

There are increased funding opportunities for translational research. In 2006, NIH made translational research a priority by forming centers of translational research and creating the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program. Currently, the program includes 38 academic health centers in 23 states; by 2012 this program will link approximately 60 institutions with an annual budget of \$500 million. HMO-based research centers are uniquely positioned to engage in translational research. However most are not directly integrated into the healthcare delivery system. It is difficult to evaluate providers' level of interest in partnering in translating research into practice. As a first step, HMOs may benefit by measuring the level of interest of providers to be engaged in research.

In spring 2008, Group Health Center for Health Studies contacted 2,184 Group Health providers (physicians, physician's assistants, nurses, pharmacists, administrators, and other healthcare providers) to answer a 20 question online survey about interest in research, engagement in research, and barriers to participating in research. Fifty-two percent of providers responded (1145). Among respondents, 40% were interested in research, while less than 5% were actively engaged in research; 8% held doctoral degrees, and 26% had master's level research training. The primary areas of interest were chronic disease management, pediatric and teen care, mental health, and obesity. Primary barriers to research participation included workload/schedule (53.3%) and financing (13.3%). Group Health has a sizeable group of clinicians and managers with research training and/or interests. Research interests are strongly related to current area of practice and could be a potentially rich source of clinically relevant research questions. The primary barriers to participating in research are the time, resources, and administrative support to do so. There is also a large group without strong research training who could be a valuable support in our efforts to design clinically meaningful translational research studies.