A Training Model for Developing Osteopathic Clinical Researchers

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The Need for Clinician Researchers

• Historically, the osteopathic profession has struggled with conducting large clinical studies to evaluate the processes and outcomes of osteopathic medical care, including OMT

• Currently, the ORC is the only center in the world that is conducting clinical studies of a size that have the potential to demonstrate definitive results

• A network of trained physician researchers working in partnership with the ORC would substantially increase the impact of clinical research on developing an evidence base for osteopathic medicine
Training: An Essential Building Block

- Why is training key to developing clinician researchers?
  - Methodological rigor
  - Data Integrity
  - Maximizing human subjects protection

- What minimal level of training is required for a clinician researcher?
  - Clinical research design
  - Data collection and elementary data analysis skills
  - Ethical conduct of research
Other Training Considerations

• Realistic pathways for training are the key to success
  ▪ Few physicians can afford to leave their practices to pursue an advanced degree or to enter a multi-year research training program

• An Extended Weekend Seminar (EWS) model provides sufficient time to achieve critical research training objectives over one year, while not placing unreasonable demands on the physician’s time
CONCORD-PBRN

• What is it?
  ▪ Consortium for Collaborative Osteopathic Research Development – Practice-Based Research Network (CONCORD-PBRN)

• Coordinated by The Osteopathic Research Center
  ▪ Director: John C. Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA
  ▪ Co-Director: Cathleen Kearns
Goals for Development-2010

• Achieve recognition as a registered primary care PBRN with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

• Conduct PBRN research, including both primary care and OMT projects

• Establish a PBRN fellowship program, including certificate of completion
  – Recruit first class of 8 fellows
  – Recruit 24 fellows over 3 years
Goals for Development-2011

• Train first cohort of 8 PBRN fellows
  – Recruit second cohort of 8 PBRN fellows
• Begin offering Extended Weekend Seminars
• Participate in national conferences relating to PBRN development
• Achieve recognition as a voting member PBRN with the Federation of Practice-Based Research Networks (FPBRN)
Goals for Development-2012

• Train second cohort of 8 PBRN fellows
  – Recruit third cohort of 8 PBRN fellows
• Continue Extended Weekend Seminars
• Continue participation in national conferences relating to PBRN development
• Begin data collection for CONCORD-PBRN “signature study” of osteopathic physician management of chronic low back pain
  – Goal is to recruit 5,200+ subjects through 2015
Goals for Development-2013

• Train third cohort of 8 PBRN fellows
• Continue Extended Weekend Seminars
• Continue participation in national conferences relating to PBRN development
• Continue data collection for CONCORD-PBRN “signature study” of osteopathic physician management of chronic low back pain
  – Goal is to recruit 5,200+ subjects through 2015
Extended Weekend Seminars

• Each fellow will attend six Extended Weekend Seminars over a one-year period
• All seminars will be held in Fort Worth on the UNTHSC campus
• Faculty will consist of ORC leadership, directors and faculty. They will be assisted by faculty from the UNTHSC School of Public Health and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
EWS Schedule

• Extended Weekend Seminars will be held in February, April, June, August, October and December of each year for the next three years

• Seminars will begin Thursday at noon and end Sunday at noon
EWS Curricular Content

• Total curriculum is 184 hours over the one-year period

• Content includes:
  ▪ Biostatistics - 24 hours
  ▪ Clinical Epidemiology - 24 hours
  ▪ Data Management - 16 hours
  ▪ Evidence-Based Medicine - 16 hours
  ▪ Genetics - 8 hours
EWS Curricular Content (Continued)

- Human Subject Protection - 10 hours
- Immunology - 8 hours
- Low Back Pain and Other Musculoskeletal Conditions - 16 hours
- Practice-Based Research Network Structure and Operations - 26 hours
- The Osteopathic Research Center - 12 hours
- Psychosocial Issues - 8 hours
- Osteopathic Manipulation - 16 hours
Training Combined with Hands-On Experience

• In addition to the 184 hours of classroom training, PBRN fellows will work closely with the ORC for at least two years to collect data on patients with chronic low back pain.

• The ORC will conduct a site visit at each fellow’s practice location during the first year of data collection.

• The ORC will guide fellows throughout the project period and publication of results.
Anticipated Costs

• The CONCORD-PBRN has seed funding from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, and the ORC has applied for NIH funding to advance the major objectives of taking the CONCORD-PBRN to the next level of development

• Depending on grant funding, it is anticipated that there would not be any cost to fellows as long as they honor all commitments to the PBRN as agreed when they are selected
Next Steps

• Encourage interested osteopathic physicians to apply

• Information is available on the ORC website at [http://www.hsc.unt.edu/orc/CONCORD-PBRN.html](http://www.hsc.unt.edu/orc/CONCORD-PBRN.html)

• Questions?