

The Robert Graham Center
Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care

First Annual Report
July 2000



INTRODUCTION

This is the first annual report of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care. Its purpose is to create a written record of the work of the Center in its first year and to outline a Center strategy for the forthcoming year.

The purpose of the Center is to conduct independent research and promote discussion and awareness among family physicians, policymakers, lobbyists and others, with a view to bringing a family practice and primary care perspective to health policy issues.

The Center is structured to operate as an independent unit working under the personnel and financial policies of the AAFP. The staff of the Center is accountable to the Director, who reports to the Vice President of Socioeconomic Affairs. The Center has editorial independence to pursue and publish work according to traditional academic and peer-review standards. A formally constituted advisory board provides commentary on the Center's direction and work. The Center relies on the AAFP's Washington office and other AAFP divisions for assistance in detecting relevant policy opportunities, guidance about the Washington environment, and decisions about communication strategies.

The Center officially opened on June 8, 1999. It is housed in the lower floor of 2023 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C.

OPERATIONS

Personnel

During year 1, all five of the AAFP-employed staff positions were filled and appointments were taken up by Ms Lisa Smith (Administrator) in April 1999, Dr Larry Green (Director) and Dr Ed Fryer (Analyst) in June 1999, and Ms Susan Dovey (Analyst) in December 1999. Dr Bob Phillips has been appointed to the Assistant Director position and he will arrive in July. Staffing of the Center is now complete.

Mr. Thomas Myoshi is contracted to assist the Center's analysts with data management.

A contract has been let with the Gallup Poll to collect survey data for the Ecology Study.

Table 1: Center staff and contractors

Name	Policy Center role	Employee status	Qualifications	Concurrent positions
Larry Green	Director	Core	MD	Professor, University of Colorado Clinical Professor, Georgetown University
Bob Phillips	Assistant Director	Core	MD	Pending
Ed Fryer	Analyst	Core	PhD	Associate Professor, University of Colorado Associate Professor, Georgetown University
Susan Dovey	Analyst	Core	MPH	Pending position at Georgetown University
Lisa Smith	Administrator	Core	BA	
Thomas Myoshi	Data manager	Long term contract	MSW	University of Colorado
Gallup	Data collection – Ecology Study survey	Short term contract	na	

Projections for the next year

No new staff appointments are expected. Thomas Myoshi's contract will be extended. Further short-term contracts will be made as indicated by future research needs.

Office Management

The Center's computer maintenance is managed by Ms. Susan Stead-Carter, Senior Support Technician in the AAFP Government Relations office.

Access to library resources at Georgetown University has been secured, following the appointment of Larry Green and Ed Fryer to academic posts at the University.

Remote access to the University libraries of Colorado and Otago is available to Larry and Ed (through their appointments at the University of Colorado) and Susan (through her position as a PhD student at the University of Otago).

We have established an electronic bibliographic system for the Center using ProCite software. An internal library holds selected books and the following journals.

Table 2: Journal subscriptions of the Center

Journal name	Starting volume	Publication frequency
American Family Physician	Vol 61, No 1, 2000	Bi-weekly
Archives of Family Medicine	Vol 8, No 4, 1999	Bi-monthly
European Journal of General Practice	Vol 5, No 1, 1999	Quarterly
Family Medicine	Vol 31, No 6, 1999	Monthly
Family Practice Management	Vol 7, No 1, 2000	Monthly
Health Affairs	Vol 18, No 3, 1999	Bi-monthly
Health Services Research	Vol 34, No 1, 1999	Bi-monthly
Journal of Family Practice	Vol 48, No 6, 1999	Monthly
Journal of the Am. Board of Family Practice	Vol 12, No 3, 1999	Bi-monthly
Journal of the American Medical Association	Vol 282, No 1, 1999	Weekly
New England Journal of Medicine	Vol 341, No 1, 1999	Weekly

The British Medical Journal is received weekly in electronic form.

Projections for the next year

Academic Medicine and the Journal of Rural Health have been ordered. Other new books and periodicals will be added to the library as necessary. Center staff will continue to gain access to university libraries in Colorado and Otago, although Susan will have to arrange to use another library (probably Georgetown) when her studies at Otago University finish at the end of 2000.

One Pagers

Five One-Pagers (see Table below) were published by the Center in the first year and distributed in hard copy to the offices of members of Congress, and other interested people. The One Pagers are also available on-line on the Center's web page (the website address is www.aafppolicy.org). Plans to publish these in the American Family Physician have recently been finalized and the first One Pager will shortly appear in this journal. A system has been devised to track responses to requests from the field related to the One Pagers. These have been an innovation that has prompted of reaction locally (in Washington DC) and nationally.

Table 3:List of One Pagers

Number	Title	Publication date
5	The United States Relies on Family Physicians, Unlike any other Specialty	April 14, 2000
4	The importance of Primary Care Physicians as the Usual Source of Healthcare in the Achievement of Prevention Goals	February 21, 2000
3	The Importance of having a Usual Source of Health Care	January 12, 2000
2	The effect of Accredited Rural Training Tracks on Physician Placement	November 9, 1999
1	Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care: Informational Sheet	September, 1999

Projections for the next year

8 – 10 new One Pagers will be produced in the 2000/2001 year.

The Washington Primary Care Forum

The Center hosts the Washington Primary Care Forum. This Forum provides a venue for Washington DC policy-makers, lobbyists, and interest groups to discuss policy issues related to primary health care.

Table 4: List of Washington Primary Care Forum Presenters and Topics

Presenter	Topic	Date
Karen Ignagi	Primary Care: The View from the Health Plans	June 13, 2000
Dr Don Weaver	Reauthorization of the National Health Service Corps: Building on a Model that Works	May 2, 2000
Governor Richard Lamm	A New Moral Vision of Health Care	March 8, 2000
Representatives from the political campaigns of Bill Bradley and Al Gore	Implications of their candidate's health policies for primary care	February 10, 2000
Dr. Mary Wakefield	Medicare funding for GME	December 15, 1999
Dr John Eisenberg	The Importance of Primary Care and AHRQ	November 3, 1999
Dr Robert Graham	Primary Care and Improved Health Care for People	September 29, 1999

Projections for the next year

7 - 8 fora will be hosted next year, with an expected attendance of 20-30 people at each. Continued efforts will be made to be inclusive of representatives from various policy centers and primary care groups.

Data Acquisition and Software

The Center's outputs are mainly based on analyses of the following data files held in house. Future research will depend in addition on the Center acquiring other databases, as indicated in the Table.

Table 5: Public Data Sources and Data Files

Source Agency	Data file description	Acquisition status
AAFP	AAFP Membership Record File	pending
AAFP	AAFP Residency Directory	1999 held
Agency for Health Systems Change	Community Tracking Survey (Providers and Consumers)	2000 pending held
AHRQ	Medical Expenditure Panel Study (MEPS)	1996 public user files held
AHRQ	Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)	1995, 1996 held
AMA	Masterfile	2000 pending
AOA	Masterfile	2000 pending
Dartmouth College	Dartmouth Atlas	pending
Gallup	Survey data designed by Center staff to meet data shortfalls of the Ecology Study	held
HCFA	Hospital Cost Report Public User Files,	1995 - 97 held
HRSA	1999 Area Resource File (ARF)	1995 - 99 held
HRSA	Title VII Grant Data File	2000 pending
NCHS	National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)	pending
NCHS	National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS)	1995, 1996 held
NCQA	HEDIS and internal data files	1995-97 held
University of Washington Department of Family Medicine	Survey to assess the impact of the 1997 Balanced Budget Amendment and 1999 refinements on graduate medical education.	pending
U.S. Census Bureau	Block equivalency files configuring districts of the 105 th United States Congress	pending
U.S. Census Bureau	Summary Tape Files 1A and 3A	held
World Health Organization	Statistical Annex	Pending held
OECD	Health Data 1999	Held

Key:

AAFP American Academy of Family Physicians
 AHA American Hospital Association
 AHRQ Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality
 AMA American Medical Association
 AOA American Osteopathic Association
 HCFA Health Care Financing Administration

HRSA Health Resources and Services Administration
 ICPSR Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
 NCHS National Council of Health Services
 NCQA National Council for Quality Assurance

Table 6: Primary Data Files

Collaborators	Data file description	Acquisition status
AAFP-sponsored National PBRN	Medical error data from an RCT of paper- and computer-based error reporting	pending
Freddie Chen	Data from interviews with Primary Care Chairs	pending

Center personnel have continued dialogue with representatives of the NCHS Research Data Activity Center (RESDAC) concerning future analysis of geographically identifiable data on site in Rockville, Maryland. The Center has also established an account with the Health Care Financing Administration's RESDAC at the University of Minnesota. Analysts there consulted on the recently completed Center examination of hospital cost reports depicting graduate medical education funding nationally.

The 105th Congressional District Block Equivalency Files CD-ROM has been purchased from the US Census Bureau. It portrays more than 7,000,000 blocks nationwide and configures congressional districts accordingly. This will be the main 2000 US Census product to be used in mapping for the Primary Care Atlas and other AAFP Government Relations office applications. It is founded on the TIGER mapping system, and the Center is requesting material for evaluation from every vendor of software that processes TIGER data identified on the US Census web site.

During the first year the need for a number of different software packages has been defined. Table 7 lists the analytic software currently in use in the Center.

Table 7: Analytic Software used in the Center

Software	Purpose	Acquisition Date
DBSM/Copy 7.0	Data transfer	2000
Groupwise 5	e-mail	1999
Mapinfo 5	GIS	1999
Maptitude 5	GIS	2000
Procite 5	Bibliographic	2000
SPSS 9.0	Statistical analysis	1999
SPSS 10.0	Statistical analysis	2000
SAS for windows 8	Statistical analysis	2000
Visual dBase 7	Database management/analysis	1999
Visual dBase 7.5	Database management/analysis	2000
Microsoft Access	Database management	1999
Microsoft Excel	Spreadsheet	1999
Microsoft Powerpoint	Presentations	1999

Projections for the next year

New data files will be acquired as the need arises for different projects. Further software additions will be made, especially the Census data management software TIGER. We are exploring the use of other GIS software to interface with Census data, to further the Atlas project.

Due to the extensive use made of the 1999 Area Resource File, we have arranged to purchase the 2000 edition. This data set is vital to planned analyses involving members of the Bureau of Health Professions as collaborators. In discussions with analysts at the Bureau involving a nationwide Title VII evaluation, Center personnel access is being considered to the historical file of Title VII residency program funding and acquisition of the American Medical Association Masterfile. Gordon Schmittling of the AAFP has provided this year's residency directory file to aid in this planned study, and has been asked to consult on the project. The residency directory data has been a powerful data source in a Center intern study of the concentration of IMGs in Family Medicine programs, and its relationship to national match rates. In an effort to shore up weaknesses in availability of osteopathic physician data for primary care needs assessment, the Center has begun dialogue with the incoming president of the American Osteopathic Association, who has been very responsive.

The World Health Organization's Statistical Annex has been downloaded from their web site. Data it contains has been included in numerous presentations contrasting U.S. data for health status and expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product with that for other countries. It is more comprehensive than Organization of Economic Coordination and Development data previously being used at the Center for the purpose of international comparisons.

Teaching

Teaching is enmeshed in the routine work of the Center. Dr Green continues to precept family medicine residents at Georgetown and present occasional lectures to medical students, grand rounds, workshops at various universities and residency programs Table 8.

Dr Fryer has overseen the training and supervision of the Center's interns throughout the first year. Interns and topics are shown in Table 9.

Susan Dovey has continued to supervise three New Zealand family physicians as they complete their Master of General Practice degree from the University of Otago and is supervising a nurse in her Master of Public Health degree. She supports Ed and Larry in supervision of Center interns.

Table 8: Invited lectures, grand rounds and workshops

Topic	Location	Date
Pitfalls in Practice-Based Research: William F Mead Lecture in Family Medicine	Washington Academy of Family Physicians Annual Meeting and Scientific Assembly Blaine, Washington	May 19, 2000
Why an International Practice-based Research Project is Such a Good and Bad Idea.	Keynote: Michigan Research Day	May 12, 2000
Analysis to Understand and Develop Health Policy: Capacity Building Research Forum	33rd STFM Annual Spring Conference. Orlando, Florida	May 6, 2000
Involving All Family Physicians in the Use and Generation of New Knowledge (Dickinson, Stange, Ewigman, Ebell, Green)	Plenary Panel 33rd STFM Annual Spring Conference Orlando, Florida	May 6, 2000
Keynote Address	National Conference of Special Constituencies Kansas City, Missouri	April 27, 2000
Recent Results and Considerations from the AAFP Policy Center: The Bohan Lecture	University of Kansas Medical Center. Kansas City, Kansas	April 26, 2000

The Why and How of Practice-based Research	Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, Virginia	April 25, 2000
Practice-Based Research Workshop	Department of Family Medicine, Jefferson Medical College Philadelphia, Pa	March 23, 2000
Recent Results and Considerations from the AAFP Center for Policy Studies	Grand Rounds, Jefferson Medical College Philadelphia, Pa	March 22, 2000
Opportunities for leadership from the Chairs of Family Medicine	Spring Meeting of the Association of Departments of Family Medicine San Juan, Puerto Rico	February, 2000
Rhetoric, Reality, and Resuming a Revolution	Pisacano Scholars' Annual Meeting Dallas, Texas	January, 2000
Reactions from a primary care perspective to NEJM publication by the Center for Monitoring Health System Change concerning primary care physicians' opinions about their scope of practice.	National Press Club/CSPN2 Washington DC	December, 1999
Reactions from a Washington Health Policy Perspective	Plenary Session, AAFP Annual State Legislative Meeting La Jolla, California	November, 1999
Hot Topics in Washington	Symposium Medicus Primary Care Conference Hamilton, Bermuda	October, 1999
Gross Family Memorial Lecture: An Invitation to Resume a Revolution	University of Louisville and University of Kentucky joint lecture Louisville, Kentucky	October, 1999
Setting Health Care Priorities (with finite resources)	Georgetown University Medical Center, First Year Class lecture. Washington, DC	October, 1999

Practice Based Research Networks	Texas Academy of Family Physicians Annual Meeting. Dallas, Texas	August, 1999
An Invitation to Revolutionize Medicine	Plenary Speaker AAFP Annual Resident and Student Conference Kansas City, Missouri	July, 1999
Update on AAFP Policy Center and a Challenge for Residency Program Directors to Re-Think Family Practice Training	AFPRD Annual Workshop, Kansas City, Missouri	June, 1999

Table 9: Interns visiting the Center in Year 1

Name	Date as Intern	Projects
Freddie Chen	Aug/Sept 1999	Fathers of FPs BBA and GME
Bob Phillips	Sept 1999	Nurse Practitioners BBA and GME
James Toombs	Oct 1999	Atlas Valuation of rural area PCs
Marguerite Duane	1 week Nov 1999 3 weeks Mar 2000	Revising FP residency
Erika Bliss	Jan 2000	Race & Ethnicity background to the Ecology study Hispanic MDs' practice characteristics
Dan Merenstein	Feb 2000	Health promotion for adolescents
Jenny DeVoe	April 2000	Physician dissatisfaction USC vs insurance – prevention
Nerissa Koehn	May 2000	International Medical Graduates in FP Rural health
Kenny Fink	June 2000	Burden of disease and funding mismatch

Projections for the next year

Teaching will continue to be an important part of Center activities throughout the next year. Dr. Green and the rest of the Center staff will continue to accept invitations to present occasional lectures at universities.

A new intern is expected to arrive in the Center every 4 – 8 weeks. Dr. Phillips will assume primary responsibility for their training and supervision when he starts working in the Center in July. Dr. Green and/or Dr. Phillips will precept students and residents at Georgetown.

Supervision of postgraduate students from the University of Otago is likely to cease during the next year.

Monitoring Work

Drs. Green and Fryer and Susan Dovey have participated in many events in the Washington area and elsewhere, and the Center has had a number of visitors. With few exceptions, these have been sources of important information and linkages. Table 10 provides a list of the activities by one staff member, as an example of the range of outside visits and contacts made. Ms Smith monitors and organizes these activities.

Table 10: A four month sample of Monitoring Events by one staff member

Sponsor	Topic	Date
<i>A. Hearings</i>		
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, United States Senate.	Hearing on Medical Privacy Regulations	April 26, 2000
Subcommittee on Technology; Committee on Science; US House of Representatives.	The Changing Face of Healthcare in the Electronic Age	March 30, 2000
Ways and Means Subcommittee.	Medical Errors	Feb 10, 2000
Joint Hearing. Health and Environment Subcommittee.	Medical Errors	Feb 9, 2000
<i>B. Briefings, workshops, and conferences</i>		
National Policy Association and Association for Health Services Research.	Conference on Income Inequality, Socioeconomic status, and Health: Exploring the Interrelationships.	April 27, 2000
Patient Safety Advisory Group, NCQA.	Medical errors	April 25, 2000
State Health Affairs Group	Universal coverage	March 14, 2000
Robert Wood Johnson, Institute for the Future.	Health and Health Care 2010: The Forecast, the Challenge.	Feb 23, 2000
The National Coalition on Health Care & The Institute for Healthcare Improvement	Medical Errors – Best Practices: New Strategies to Reduce Medical Errors	Feb 22, 2000

National Center for Policy Analysis	Rural mental health	Feb 10, 2000
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National Center for Policy Analysis	How a competitive premium Medicare system would finance a prescription drug benefit.	Feb 4, 2000
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C. Meetings with individuals

American College of Cardiologists	Meeting with Rosi Sweeney re possibly overlapping policy research interests	May 10, 2000
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NCQA	Meeting with Dr Greg Pawlson to discuss collaboration.	May 5, 2000
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AAFP	Meeting – Grants and Contracts.	March 29, 2000
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General Audit Office (GAO)	Meeting with Bill Scanlon to discuss research on medical errors, IME/DME.	March 29, 2000
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Center for Studying Health System Change.	Meeting with Paul Ginzberg to discuss collaboration	March 20, 2000
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RAND	Meeting with Barbara Wynn re BBA.	March 20, 2000
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NZ Ambassador, Jim Bolger.	Meeting with to discuss political imperatives and health system change	March 15, 2000
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Georgetown University Policy Center	Meeting with Judy Feder to discuss health policy research and health system reform.	March 13, 2000
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Meeting with Rosie Sweeney and John Shields from the Lewin Group	Modeling universal coverage for the AAFP.	March 2, 2000
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Projections for the next year

Center staff will continue to attend hearings, meetings, and conferences and to meet with people who have common interests or challenging views.

Publications and Presentations

As well as One Pagers and meetings, the Center's research is disseminated through publication in refereed journals and through conference presentations. Center staff have contributed to the papers listed in Table 11 that either have been published or are in the process of publication. The abstracts listed in Table 12 were peer reviewed and chosen for presentation.

Table 11: Publications by Center Staff, as of June 1, 2000

1. Mold JW, **Green LA**. Primary Care research: Revisiting its definition and rationale. *J Fam Pract* 2000; **49** (3): 206-8.
2. Tilyard M, **Dovey S**. Research in general practice or general practice research. *NZ Med J* 2000; **113**: 50-2.
3. **Green LA, Fryer GE**. The development and goals of the AAFP Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care. *J Fam Pract* 1999; **48** (11): 905-8.
4. **Green LA**. Rhetoric, reality and revolution in Family Practice and Primary Care. *Healthcare Papers* 1999; **1** (1): 57-60.
5. Cunningham W, **Dovey S**. Being the spouse of a general practitioner. *NZ Fam Physician* 1999; **26**: 40-42.
6. **Dovey S**, Tilyard M. The uses of the RNZCGP Computer Research Network: an update. *NZ Fam Physician* 1999; **26** (7): 37-9.
7. **Fryer GE, Green LA, Vojir CP, Krugman RD, Miyoshi TJ, Stine C, Miller ME**. Hispanic vs White, Non-Hispanic Physician Medical Practices in Colorado. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* (In Press)
8. **Dovey S, Green L, Fryer GE**. Educating doctors to provide counseling and preventive care: turning twentieth century professional values head over heels. *Education for Health* (In Press)
9. **Fryer GE, Green LA, Dovey S**. Graduate Medical Education payments to teaching hospitals: unexplained variation and public policy contradictions. (Submitted to *Academic Med*)
10. **Phillips R**, Harper D, Wakefield M, **Fryer GE, Green L**. Beating Parochialism into Plowshares. (Submitted to *JAMA*)

Table 12: Abstracts accepted for presentation

1. **Dovey S, Green L, Fryer E.** *Identifying Threats to Patient Safety in Family Practice.* Accepted for poster presentation at the AHSR Annual meeting, July 2000.
2. **Fryer GE, Green LA, Dovey SM,** Miyoshi TJ, Vojir CP. *Multi-method assessment of access to Primary Medical Care in Rural Colorado.* Accepted for poster presentation at the AHSR Annual meeting, July 2000.
3. **Bliss E, Fryer GE,** Vojir CP, Krugman RD, Miyoshi TJ, Stine C, Miller ME. *Meeting the needs of Priority Populations: Practice Patterns by Physician Ethnicity.* Accepted for poster presentation at the AHSR Annual meeting, July 2000.
4. **Dovey S, Green L, Fryer E.** *The AAFP Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care: the Whys and the Hows.* Accepted for presentation at a Plenary Session, WONCA, June 2000.

Projections for the next year

Center staff will continue to publish papers reporting the results of their research in academic journals. Key conferences are those of NAPCRG and the Association for Health Services Research. WONCA may become a key venue if options for international research become fruitful and are judged useful to the Center's mission. STFM, APA, and SGIM may also emerge as useful venues, depending on topics and collaborations.

PROJECTS

Ongoing

Table 13 shows the research workload of the Center during the first year. Most projects involve all Center staff in various capacities and most also involve some degree of collaboration with others. Initial target dates have been set at June 1, 2000 as shown.

Table 13: Year One Research Projects

Project	Collaborators	Methods	Target dates for completion/publication	
			Journal	date
New Ecology	D Lanier, AHRQ B Yawn, Olmstead Clinic	NHIS, HCUP, NAHCS, MEPS, NAMCS, AHA, ARF, Verbrugge's survey, CAM, Gallup	<i>N Eng J Med</i>	7/1/00
Stratified New Ecology	E Bliss M Weitzman	As above – Ethnicity	<i>JAMA</i>	7/1/00
		Children	<i>Pediatrics</i>	8/1/00
		Aged	<i>Geriatrics</i>	8/1/00
		Insured	<i>HSR</i>	10/1/00
		Usual carer	<i>Hlth Affairs</i>	10/1/00
Urban/rural	<i>HSR</i>	10/1/00		
Status of Nurse Practitioners	D Harper M Wakefield	Literature review Synthesis	<i>JAMA</i>	6/1/00
When patient is the father of an FP	F Chen	Interviews Qualitative analysis	<i>JAMA</i>	7/1/00
BBA impact on FP GME	F Chen AFMO/AAFP University of Washington	Medicare data sets, Program Director survey, AAFP survey	<i>Academic Med</i>	6/1/00
Medicare payment for GME	Colorado University	Medicare Cost Reports	Web page	3/1/00
Effects on utilization of a change in co-pays	Cochrane Group Otago University	Literature review	<i>JAMA</i>	10/1/00

Children of Incarceration	Colorado University	State quantitative analysis; Focus Groups	Foundation grant Publication	2/15/00 2002
Primary Care Atlas	NAPCRG Special Interest Group	Translate queriable, virtual tables into maps – county/congressional district	Web page	Ongoing
Patient Safety	AAFP-sponsored National Network	Pilot study to characterize medical errors in FP. Paper and e-method comparison	<i>JAMA</i>	8/1/00
Keystone III	B Graham, J Fry, G Stephens	Meeting, monograph, papers, and recording	Meeting Reports	11/15/00 3/1/01
Revising FP training	M Duane	Survey, synthesis	<i>JABFP</i>	3/1/01

Projections for the next year

During the coming year, most of the projects listed in Table 13 will be completed but in future we will be more realistic when we set our timelines. New projects will be added to extend work in these same areas and in response to emerging political issues. New collaborations will be formed and established ones extended. Possible studies for the forthcoming year are outlined in the next section. Center interns will continue to be integral to specific projects.

PROPOSED STUDIES FOR THE SECOND YEAR

As of June 1, 2000, the following studies have been proposed as research activities for the second year of the Center. Proposed Principal Investigators are indicated in parentheses.

Physician Dissatisfaction (Jenny DeVoe).

Data: Community Tracking Survey (Providers) sponsored by the Agency for Health Systems Change.

Collaborators: Lynn Hargraves at the Agency for Health Systems Change.

Products: NAPCRG presentation, Center One-Pager.

Status: Preliminary analyses completed for family medicine, primary care and all physicians. Scope will be restricted due to previously completed work at the Agency for Health Systems Change. Preliminarily older physicians and those unhappy with aspects of practice profile are the most dissatisfied with their medical careers. Dissatisfaction appears to be related to a tendency not to accept new patients, particularly Medicare and Medicaid.

Effects of Usual Source of Care vs. Insurance on Health Care Utilization (Jenny DeVoe).

Data: Medical Care Expenditure Panel Study from the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.

Collaborators: None.

Products: NAPCRG presentation, Center One-Pager, journal publication.

Status: Preliminary analyses completed for preventive care. Preliminarily usual source of care is the stronger influence, and the effects of the two factors are additive, rather than interactive.

Role of International Medical Graduates in Family Practice (Nerissa Koehn).

Data: 1999 Area Resource File, 1999 AAFP Residency Directory, 1996 American Hospital Association Hospital Database, 1996 and 1997 HCFA Hospital Cost Report Public User Files, AAFP Membership Record File*, AAFP Residency Directories for past years*, American Medical Association Masterfile* (* being sought). In addition, the ARF and AAFP Residency Directory will be updated by obtaining them for Year 2000.

Collaborators: AAFP (Gordon Schmittling).

Products: NAPCRG presentation, Center One-Pager, journal publication.

Status: Preliminary analyses completed using just the 1999 ARF and 1999 AAFP Residency Directory indicate that IMGs play a small role in service to counties where just FP/GPs practice, and IMGs do not dominate Family Medicine residency programs (63.3% have none). But with the withering

match rate, IMG have increasingly become a more significant proportion of all residents for this specialty.

Medical Errors in Primary Care – International (Sue Dovey).

Data: Network generated.
Collaborators: Regional PBRNs; AAFP – KS and the new National PBRN; WHN.
Products: Center One-Pagers, journal publications.
Status: Awaiting development, and completion of initial U.S. studies.

Quality Measurement in Primary Care (Sue Dovey).

Data: NCQA HEDIS and internal data files.
Collaborators: Greg Pawlson, and other NCQA researchers; B Starfield; K Stange.
Products: Center One-Pagers, journal publications.
Status: To be negotiated.

Title VII Program Effectiveness (Ed Fryer).

Data: American Medical Association Masterfile*, HRSA Title VII Grant Data File*, AAFP Membership Record File* (* being sought).
Collaborators: Bureau of Health Professions (Jim Cultice and Steve Tice) and AAFP (Gordon Schmittling).
Products: Formal report for Bureau of Health Professions dissemination, Center One-Pager, journal publication.
Status: In negotiation. Subject to inclusion of General Internal Medicine and Pediatrics for purposes of comparison. Planned focus is the distribution of FPs from Title VII funded residencies vs. other and before vs. after funding (intra-FM) and FP vs. IM and Peds for Title VII funded programs.

National Health Service Corps Effect on Access to Primary Medical Care in Health Personnel Shortage Areas (Ed Fryer).

Data: 1999 Area Resource File, National Health Service Corps historical community service data file*, American Medical Association Masterfile* (* being sought).
Collaborators: Don Weaver.
Products: Formal report for National Health Service Corps dissemination, journal publication.
Status: To be negotiated. Planned focus is comparison of matched communities (with vs. without Corps resources) for attraction of non-Federal physicians and years of primary health care service availability.

How Many Miles to the Nearest Doctor (Ed Fryer).

Data: U.S. Census Bureau Summary Tape Files 1A* and 3A*, American Medical Association Masterfile*.

Collaborators: None.

Products: Journal publications.

Status: Awaiting data and Fryer must learn to do this – he hasn't a clue, but it is possible. Planned focus is to approximate the methods of the Rand Corporation 20 years before and a Colorado study done in 1997 but extending those methods to account for differences in the composition of populations seeking health care.

Mental Health Care Providers in Rural America (Ed Fryer).

Data: 1999 Area Resource File, U.S. Census Bureau Summary Tape Files 1A* and 3A*, American Medical Association Masterfile* (* being sought).

Collaborators: Frank DeGruy

Products: Center One-Pager, journal publications.

Status: Awaiting data. Planned focus is to profile provider types available to rural Americans and particularly those in mental health Health Personnel Shortage Areas using the occupation data available from the decennial census. This secondary data analysis should logically lead to practice network primary data collection to ascertain the FP role as a mental health provider in non-MSA and federally designated shortage areas.

National Public Data Set Bias Attributable to Survey Respondent Recall (Ed Fryer).

Data: 1995 National Health Interview Survey, 1996 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.

Collaborators: Helen Burstin and other AHRQ researchers.

Products: Center One-Pager, internal AHRQ report, journal publications.

Status: Awaiting data. Planned focus would be the contrast of an individual's profile of health care utilization for the 2-week period from NHIS with that same period the next year from MEPS and comparisons for MEPS participants who did vs. did not use the reminders or diary provision for recall.

Masterfile Reconciliation: Osteopathic Data from the AOA vs. the AMA (Ed Fryer).

Data: 2000 Area Resource File, 2000 American Osteopathic Association Masterfile*, 2000 American Medical Association Masterfile* (* being sought).

Collaborators: None.

Products:

Center One-Pager, journal publications.

Status:

Awaiting data. Planned focus would be measurement of discrepancies vs. concordance between masterfiles portraying osteopathic physician profiles, and identifying the implications for differences to primary medical care needs assessments.

PLANNED NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECOND YEAR

Sabbatical Program

The Center will implement a planned sabbatical program that will allow experienced people from outside the Center to come and work in the Center for an extended period. Sabbatical visitors will be encouraged to integrate with the full range of Center activities. However, they will also be expected to pursue new directions in their own particular interests, where these are congruent with the Center's mission.

Space

Although no further expansion of staff is predicted or likely, the Center's present floor space of less than 1000² feet is barely adequate to provide a safe working environment for the four full-time staff and intern who presently occupy the premises. The arrival of the fifth staff member in July (Bob Phillips) and the likelihood of a sabbatical visitor in the forthcoming year lend some urgency to our need to consider alternative workspace for the Center.

CHALLENGES FOR THE SECOND YEAR

The Center's first year has been busy and productive. We have established full staffing, acquired important data sets that allow us to investigate a wide range of relevant policy issues, and made significant connections with collaborators in Washington, nationally, and internationally. Achievements of the first year give us confidence that the Center will continue to produce important outputs that reflect a primary care perspective on health policy – a perspective that has been infrequently represented in the past. As the Center matures and consolidates in its second year, we expect that the following challenges will have to be addressed:

How do we establish a sustainable pace?

A sustainable pace is one that allows us to cement the achievements of the first year, maintain a high profile among policymakers, lobbyists, and family physicians, produce and disseminate academic research of a high standard. We must do this while promoting a healthy and supportive work environment and avoiding burnout among Center staff. Should we expect the pace of Year 1 to be the pace of future years?

How do we recognize the important primary care policy issues we should concentrate on?

At least weekly, and sometimes daily, new political issues with implications for primary health care policy arise in Washington DC. To remain a relevant and effective policy research Center, we must be able to integrate new streams into our research program as new issues arise. How can we develop mechanisms to decide which new issues we should tackle, and which to leave? (Examples are the gun registration issue, pharmaceutical benefits for Medicare beneficiaries and universal coverage plans)

How do we assess whether we are achieving our mission?

The purpose of the Center is to conduct independent research and promote discussion and awareness among family physicians, policymakers, lobbyists and others, with a view to bringing a family practice and primary care perspective to health policy issues. While we can count “hits” on our web page as one means of assessing the extent of dissemination of our research and other activities, by what other method(s) should we evaluate the Center?

How can we be more effective in helping to co-ordinate the research activities of the AAFP?

The Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care is one of four research centers established by the AAFP. To date no formal mechanism has been found for communication across these Centers. There is an opportunity for enhancing the productivity of researchers in all four Centers and the impact their research achieves, if we can sort out how to work more closely together.

BUDGET FOR THE FIRST YEAR

For the budget year ending May 31, 2000, the center expects expenses of \$545,000. This amount is approximately \$300,000 (34%) less than budgeted. This favorable budget variance is largely explained by vacancy savings associated with the first year of operation and careful item by item expense management by the Center administrator. A single contract for \$10,000 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality was the only revenue, compared to a revenue budget of \$25,000.

Projected for next year

The approved budget for next year projects revenues of \$42,000 and expenses of approximately \$870,000, including non-salary expenses of about \$290,000. It is likely that the Center will expend the entire expense budget in its second year of operation. If the AAFP established a mechanism for grants and contracts, it is also likely that the Center will exceed its revenue budget.