

New Mexico Cancer Center Pilot Update

The New Mexico Health Information Collaborative (NMHIC) clinician portal pilot at New Mexico Cancer Center (NMCC) is currently in progress, and the NMHIC team is planning an evaluation to determine the impact the portal has had on NMCC operations and patient care. NMHIC representatives will be conducting interviews and analyzing data to construct a road map for future, broader use of NMHIC services. Work continues to bring NMCC on board as a provider of data to the HIE and to build tighter integration between NMHIC and NMCC's electronic health record system. For more information about NMHIC visit www.nmhc.org.

2011 SoCRA Annual Conference Presentation

Sally Beaton, PhD, presented findings of the study, Maximizing Opportunities to Translate Research Findings into Clinical Practice (TRIP), at the Society of Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA) Conference. Funded as part of the National Institutes of Health Roadmap Project for the HMO Research Network Coordinated Clinical Studies Network, the study's goal was to identify those organizational characteristics of delivery systems and research organizations that maximize translation of research into practice. Dr. Beaton described interviews of individuals from research organizations and delivery systems for each of the 15 health maintenance organizations in the HMO Research Network and presented the moderators, barriers, and facilitators that impact research translation.

Health of CPE Program

In its first year of accreditation under the New Mexico Medical Society (NMMS), LCF Research's Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program is going strong.

With faculty from the NM HITREC, we offered two HIT regional conferences (Las Cruces and Santa Fe); several 1-hour lectures around the state; and webinars on meaningful use, privacy and security, electronic health record incentive programs, and other HIT topics.

CPE collaborated on educational projects sponsored jointly with a variety of organizations, including: Lovelace Health System (LHS), ABQ Health Partners (ABQ HP), and Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc. These projects ranged from small weekly tumor conferences and medical management courses, to a 450-participant international scientific meeting on biotoxins. Our responsibility is to assure that all projects meet high standards set by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and the NMMS.

NM HITREC News

LCF Research is installing a new secure email system based upon new technologies developed by the federal government. This technology is being implemented around the country with the expectation that it will allow secure point to point exchange of information among stakeholders within the healthcare industry. This capability will first be used by our NM HITREC customers who are installing electronic systems in physician practices and rural hospitals. This capability will complement our existing, more extensive Health Information Exchange (HIE) capabilities.

Staff News at LCF Research

We are pleased to welcome **Dale Alverson, MD**, to LCF as our part-time IT Medical Director. Dr. Alverson will also continue in his role as Medical Director for UNM's Center for Telehealth and Cybermedicine. Dr. Alverson will play a key role in fostering physician adoption of both the health information exchange (NMHIC) and EHRs throughout the state.

April Salisbury, Director of Continuing Professional Education, recently earned her certification as a Certified Continuing Medical Education Professional (CCMEP).

Comparative Effectiveness of Budesonide /Formoterol (BFC) and Fluticasone/ Salmeterol (FSC) for COPD Management

A recent online publication summarizes a study of the two inhaled corticosteroid/long-acting beta-agonist (ICS/LABA) combination therapies currently approved in the U.S. for treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): BFC and FSC. This study compared claims from over 90 U.S. health insurance plans. BFC and FSC patients, propensity matched on sex, age, comorbidities, and baseline COPD-related healthcare and medication use, were compared up to 6-months post-initiation of therapy on COPD-related outcomes. No substantial differences were found for COPD-related exacerbation events (emergency department visits, hospitalizations, oral-corticosteroid prescription claim) or for COPD-related costs. BFC and FSC showed comparable real-world effectiveness. The manuscript will be published in the *Journal of Medical Economics* Dec 2011 issue. **Melissa Roberts, MS, CMA**, now with LCF, was employed by the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (LRRRI) at the time the study was performed, and **Doug Mapel, MD**, co-authored the publication with **Hans Petersen (LRRRI)**, **Chris Blanchette (LRRRI)**, and **Sulabha Ramachandran (AstraZeneca)**.