

Current KPPEPR Projects

1. **KANSURVIVE (Jennifer Klemp, PhD, MPH; Allen Greiner, MD, MPH):**

Approximately 72.5% of Kansas cancer survivors who completed their cancer treatment, receive the majority of their health care from Primary Care Providers. Primary care providers may not feel adequately prepared or informed to handle survivorship needs, particularly in rural settings with limited access to oncology colleagues. Preliminary data from the ISURVIVE project suggests that cancer survivors in rural settings are not receiving appropriate guideline-based services, are less likely to participate in clinical trials, and have overall worse survival outcomes. KANSURVIVE provides a model for development of a community of practice using practice facilitation and Project ECHO to improve the management and follow-up of cancer survivors in the acute and extended phases of cancer survivorship. A total of 20 Rural Primary Practices that care for patients that are cancer survivors will be recruited to participate in a delayed intervention-controlled trial. Investigators are working with the Kansas Clinical Improvement Collaborative (KCIC) to recruit 16 out of the 20 practices to the study.

2. **KUCC-MCA Rural NCORP (Gary C. Doolittle, MD; Priyanka Sharma, MD)**

The University of Kansas Cancer Center and Masonic Cancer Alliance have been awarded a grant to accelerate and enhance the reach of cancer clinical trials to Kansas' rural communities. The six-year grant designates the team as a minority/underserved (MU) community site of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). There are 14 such sites in the U.S., and the cancer center/Masonic Cancer Alliance is the only site funded that focuses on rural communities. As an NCORP MU community site, KU Cancer Center and Masonic Cancer Alliance will accrue individuals to NCI-approved cancer clinical trials and research studies that encompass cancer prevention, screening, supportive care and symptom management, treatment, quality of life and cancer care delivery. NCI is particularly interested in cancer prevention, screening and cancer survivorship so the heavy involvement of primary care practices will be important. NCORP studies may include pragmatic practice-based studies that could be open in the KPPEPR network sites. This award recognizes the long time collaboration between Kansas health care providers and researcher partnerships through the KPPEPR and MCA networks.

3. **RE-POWER (Christie A. Befort, PhD):**

Rural Engagement in Primary Care for Optimizing Weight Reduction (REPOWER) is a multi-site study comparing models to treat obesity in primary care practices throughout the rural Midwest. There are 36 medical practices involved in RE-POWER, including 20 KPPEPR practices in Kansas. The study has finished with impressive rates of study participant retention. Results will be disseminated at the beginning of 2020. Dr. Befort is applying for a future grant to do further dissemination of weight loss strategies that were successful in REPOWER. She has submitted and RFA -Putting Parents First in Rural Pediatric Obesity Treatment: A Randomized Clinical Trial of iAmHealthy Parents First. In this study she will work with children and their parents on weight loss initiatives in the home.

4. **Rural Melanoma Education (Gary C. Doolittle, MD; Adam Lomenick):**

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. However, in rural areas, there is limited access to a dermatologist. As part of a research collaboration between KPPEPR and The University of Kansas Medical Center, this study is designed to deliver a web-based curriculum and assessment provided by the INFORMED Skin Cancer Education Series with aspirations to verify the legitimacy of the education series as well as increase rural primary care providers' (physicians, nurse practitioners & physician assistants) knowledge and skills in diagnosing skin cancer. Our goal is to recruit 100 total PCPs by early 2020, and currently we have a little over 70.

5. **T-PACT Trial (Treating Pain with Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Trial) (Allen Greiner, MD, MPH):**

This multi-state pilot project is a collaboration with University of New Mexico, University of North Carolina, University of Kentucky and KPPEPR to study the value of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) for chronic pain management in rural primary care. ACT will be tested in one KPPEPR practice in Fredonia, Kansas. Initial data collected in 2019 will be used to apply collaboratively for a larger grant award.

