



It has been almost four years since the Iowa Research Network (IRENE) has sent out a newsletter. A lot has happened in that time! For those who may not have heard of IRENE, it's a practice-based research network (PBRN) supported by the University of Iowa's Department of Family Medicine, external research funding, and private donations. The mission of IRENE is to foster a community of health care providers, pharmacists, patients, and researchers to advance research that addresses local needs. You are receiving this newsletter because we welcome your participation in IRENE!

Learn more → medicine.uiowa.edu/familymedicine/research/iowa-research-network-irene

Expanding IRENE

IRENE started in 2001 as a network of primary care physicians and has grown to include clinics in 76 of Iowa's 99 counties. We plan to expand our membership to include nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, and specialists. We also plan to develop a patient stakeholder advisory board and steering committee.

Benefits of IRENE

As part of IRENE, you can participate in research and quality improvement projects that could benefit your patients, clinic, and/or local community. There are also opportunities to influence the direction of projects to better target local needs.

Thank You to IRENE Clinics



A huge thank you to the clinics that participated in two large research projects during the Covid pandemic. In one study with seven PBRNs comparing two models for helping patients with advanced

care planning, IRENE was the leader in patient recruitment. The clinics in this study included:

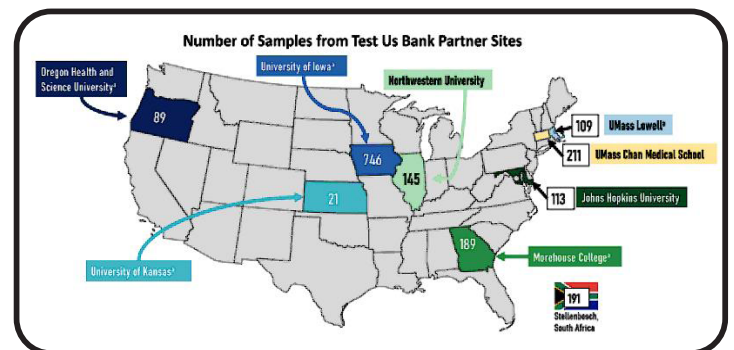
- West Broadway Clinic, Council Bluffs
- Knoxville Hospital and Clinic
- Regional Family Health, Manchester
- UIHC clinics in Riverside, Muscatine, and Iowa City

In an NIH-funded initiative called Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx), IRENE network clinics helped evaluate the efficacy of a device for SARS-CoV-2

diagnostic tests and collect samples for COVID-19 research. The following IRENE clinics were involved with this study:

- Genesis Family Medical Center, Davenport
- West Broadway Clinic, Council Bluffs
- Family Medicine Great River Medical Center, West Burlington
- West Fork Family Medicine, Rockwell

With the hard work of all the clinicians and staff, IRENE enrolled the highest number of patients of all the organizations in these two studies. See map below.



Help Us Learn About You!

We are asking everyone to complete the short survey below to learn more about the issues you encounter in your practice and local communities, which will help us promote projects that address those issues. Please complete the short survey at: https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Ba3dWCfonYmIJg

SCAN FOR
SURVEY



Upcoming Projects

The NIH's *All of Us Research Program* has created a national research resource that will include comprehensive de-identified health information for more than one million people in the United States. The Heartland Consortium is the first group dedicated to engaging participants in the Midwest. In particular, the Heartland Consortium aims to boost the participation of people who live in rural areas and other groups historically underrepresented in research. IRENE will play a key role in recruiting underrepresented patients into this initiative.



*Heartland
Consortium*

The goal of the All of Us Research Program is to advance precision medicine research, one day enabling clinicians to tailor patient care by accounting for individual differences in biology, behavior, and environment. Researchers will be able to use this resource to better understand the risk factors for certain diseases and inform future treatments and prevention.

More information about the study is available on IRENE's website at: <https://medicine.uiowa.edu/familymedicine/research/iowa-research-network-irene/irene-projects-and-publications>

Coordinated Care for Patients with Chronic Conditions

The University of Iowa is working with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to explore how community pharmacies can partner with medical clinics to better coordinate care for patients with hypertension, high cholesterol, and/or diabetes. Professor Bill Doucette, project lead, is seeking providers interested in discussing potential barriers and facilitators for coordinating care with community pharmacies. If interested, please contact Professor Doucette at william-doucette@uiowa.edu.

Updated IRENE Leadership



Thank you to Drs. Barcey Levy and Jeanette Daly for their leadership of IRENE since it started in 2001. The new Director of IRENE is Korey Kennelty, PharmD, PhD, BCGP, a Geriatric Pharmacist with a dual appointment as the Patrick E. Keefe Professor in Pharmacy and Vice Chair for Implementation Science in the Department of Family Medicine.

Other University of Iowa staff supporting IRENE:

- Jeffrey Quinlan, MD, FAAFP, IRENE Medical Director and Department Executive Officer for the Department of Family Medicine
- Kathryn Dorsey, MBA, IRENE Program Coordinator
- Samantha Shaffer, BA, CPhT, Research Assistant



Dr. Jeffrey Quinlan
Medical Director



Kathryn Dorsey
Program Coordinator



Samantha Shaffer
Research Assistant



If you prefer to not have any further communication from IRENE, please email "STOP" to irene@uiowa.edu