NEWSLETTER

PARTY Trial Update

2009 has been a hugely busy year for everybody on the PARTY Team. Sixteen new practices came on board sharing our aim of improving health care access and outcomes for young people in the community.

Early 2010 will see the final four to five PARTY practices start their journey with us. We look forward to meeting the staff from these practices as well as re-engaging with our early PARTY 1 practices as we roll out PARTY 2. (See Page 4 for an introduction to our newest PARTY staff member.)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the PARTY Team. In the Department - Fan, Caroline, Janelle, Andrew, Kitty, David, Gemma and Verity; the telephone interviewers - Chris, Sophie, Stu, Alexia; the in-practice research assistants - Eris, Rebecca, Annie, Jessie & Adrian. We are also most appreciative of the input from the Chief Investigators and the Associate Investigators. In particular our Principal Investigator and Team Leader, Dr Lena Sanci, has continued to guide us along the PARTY path with her vision of conducting rigorous and relevant research to improve the health of young people.

Last, but not least, we are very grateful to all the practice staff, young people and parents who have contributed to the PARTY Project.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Brenda Grabsch
PARTY Co-ordinator

All the PARTY stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE PRACTICES</th>
<th>YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEYS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practices:</td>
<td>Pre-intervention:</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>General Practitioners:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice nurses:</td>
<td>Post-intervention:</td>
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<td>Practice support staff:</td>
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<td>3 mth follow-up:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12 mth follow-up:</td>
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Mr Andrew McCoy
Professional Mentor

Just 2-3 places left for practices in the PARTY trial....

...so still an opportunity if your general practice is interested in:

- FREE expert training in communicating with young people about their health & youth friendly practice
- Earning at least 40 (but up to 120) Category 1 RACGP QA &CPD points for GPs
- A $1,000 honorarium to the practice
- Analysed feedback from your young patients whom we follow up at 3 & 12 mths
- Your young patients going into a draw for an iPod

If "YES": for more information please telephone Kitty at the Department of General Practice on 8344 4538.
Youth friendly practice: a global issue

World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA) European Conference
(Basel, Switzerland, 16-19 Sept. 2009)

In September this year Dr Lena Sanci travelled to Europe to attend the WONCA conference in Basel, Switzerland. Lena presented a well-received paper on youth friendly practice as well as being co-author on a poster about a new tool for assessing youth friendly practices.

WONCA presentations:

Sanci LA, Meynard A, Pejic D, Sredic A, Narring F, Haller D. Transforming your practice into a youth friendly health service: why do it and how?


In-practice recruitment of young people by the PARTY research assistants

Our team of five casual research assistants (including Eris and Annie, at right) has been very busy working in the practices to make the task of recruiting young people (for our telephone survey) very easy for the doctors, nurses and practice support staff. Here are some of their quotes about their experiences out in the field:

"It's great to work in a practice alongside a doctor who is clearly passionate about their job and is excited to get their young patients involved in this worthwhile research. I have enjoyed observing the good rapport the GP has with the patients. In this practice the waiting room atmosphere is relaxed and the young people are usually very approachable – this has made the recruitment process easier."

"It's been a pleasure working with not just the GPs, but the receptionists, practice managers and practice nurses who have all been helpful and interested."

"All the young people have been very happy to be approached with most of them giving their details for further contact. It breaks the tedium of waiting for some and they demonstrate a curiosity to hear more about the project. For me.....I have found it fascinating to go into clinics of such diverse demographics. It has given me an insight into the richness of ‘difference’ in Melbourne.”
North-east road trip

In late October Brenda and Caroline hit the road travelling to the north-east visiting practices in Benalla, Wodonga and Albury. The PARTY Project already has some regional and rural practices but we are keen to ensure that our data reflects both Melbourne metropolitan and country practices. P.S. We initially thought that the large waterway in the photo was the Murray River—but despite its impressive size it was just the Wodonga Creek!!!

Our practice recruitment “star”

Kitty Novy, from the Department of General Practice (University of Melbourne) has been working tirelessly behind the scenes helping to recruit the practices for PARTY ever since we began the project. As the practice recruitment phase draws to a close we would like to extend our thanks to Kitty for her valuable contribution to the PARTY Project.

Third PARTY iPod winner announced!

Congratulations to the winner of the recent PARTY prize draw - a 21 year old female from one of our regional practices! She has won a brand new 8GB iPod Nano for completing a PARTY telephone survey. PARTY has now completed over 1,500 exit surveys (conducted very soon after the young person sees their GP or practice nurse), 3 month and 12 month follow-ups. Every young person who completes a telephone survey automatically goes in the draw for a chance to win, and all follow-up surveys they complete count as additional entries in the draw! After every 500 surveys conducted another PARTY winner is drawn. Our third winner was very pleased to receive news of her win, and was particularly impressed with the speedy delivery time. The practice nurse who actually recruited our winner to the PARTY Project was just as delighted to hear of the win.
New PARTY staff member

With PARTY 2 gearing up we have a new team member, Andrew McCoy, who will be working closely with some of the PARTY 1 practices as they begin their PARTY 2 journey. Andrew is our Professional Mentor working as a Teams Coach and Critical Friend in the PARTY 2 project. His passion is enabling people, working as a helper who leads teams and groups through processes that enable them to better work together. He appreciates the importance of human interaction in organisations and has learnt to find and give voice to those assumptions which frequently arise from, block or enable the process of change. Andrew brings his 35 years of experience in the workforce to his work in PARTY. In obtaining his Master's Degree in Organization Dynamics Andrew worked with a rural GP clinic to improve their organisational effectiveness. A side benefit of this work was a significant lift in the morale for the staff working in the clinic. Previously Andrew worked as an IT specialist, project leader, solution architect and trainer working for major IT companies Microsoft, HP and Compaq over a 20 year period across a wide variety of industries. Andrew is familiar with the university sector from work in his early career at RMIT. Away from work Andrew has two grown sons. He enjoys mountain bike riding and has 15 years volunteer experience working with young people in his role as a Scout leader.

New baby for Amanda

Until a few months ago Amanda Fraser, our General Practice Registrar, was working on a research project evaluating the utility of Medicare cards for adolescents. She is now on maternity leave enjoying her time with her recently born second daughter, Nicola (3 kg), who arrived in October. Far from letting the grass grow under her feet, Amanda was granted some research funding from GPET (General Practice Education & Training) as well as a research prize to attend a conference next year. Amanda is hoping to resume her research activities next year whilst still keeping up her clinical skills as a general practitioner.