PARTY Trial Update

The PARTY Team has kicked off 2009 with a good start to the year with 6 new practices commencing in the trial. Spread from one end of metropolitan Melbourne to the other, plus a practice in regional Victoria, the team has a busy time ahead of it as we work with these new practices in implementing the PARTY Project. We have now had 28 practices become involved in PARTY but it is not yet too late to get on board in 2009 so see the contact details below to hear more about this great opportunity to engage in improving the health access and outcomes for young people.

As of March 2009, 710 (Pre-intervention: 292 & Post-intervention: 418) young people have completed PARTY’s telephone Exit Survey after visiting their GP or practice nurse. 3 month follow-up surveys have been conducted with 309 young people and 12 month follow-up surveys with 148 young people have now been concluded. There have been many positive comments from young people in their feedback after survey completion. Their qualitative responses fall into 3 broad categories: the survey is beneficial for the wider youth population; the survey is good for the individual YP; and the survey will help health professionals know young people better. We are grateful to all the young people who have so generously given their time to do the surveys.

The PARTY Team also appreciate the efforts of practice staff, who have participated in the project. To date this has involved 64 GPs, 26 practice nurses and 46 practice support staff (practice managers, receptionists etc) Our team of young actors are also a key element of the trial and we appreciate their application of their dramatic flair in the PARTY Project training sessions.

For further information about the PARTY trial, please contact Brenda Grabsch. PARTY Project Coordinator, on 03 8344 7196.

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Time is running out.....

......but it is not yet too late if your general practice is interested in:

- Enhancing health care access & outcomes for young people (14 - 24 yrs)
- Earning at least 40 (but up to 120) Category 1 RACGP QA &CPD points for GPs
- Free evidence-based training in health care for young people

If "YES", for more information please phone Kitty at the Department of General Practice on 8344 4538.
PARTY 2 to get underway

In 2008 we were successful in receiving a five year grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council. This grant will enable the PARTY team to build on the important contributions of current PARTY practices to continue our joint endeavours to improve health care access and outcomes for young people. Receiving this grant is testimony to the importance of general practice in the health care of young people. In late February this year, we submitted “PARTY 2” to The University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee - once we have approval we will implement the research.

The first steps will include:
- Convening meetings of the PARTY 1 stakeholders to share and invite input into our future research plans
- Recruiting new staff to assist with the auditing and systems change activities in PARTY 2
- Formally approaching the PARTY 1 practices to discuss involvement in this exciting new phase – if you were a practice participating in PARTY 1, you will soon hear from us about the possibility of continuing your important work in young people’s health

PARTY staff news

Dr Lena Sanci, the PARTY Project Chief Investigator, has been appointed Deputy Head of the Department of General Practice (where the PARTY Project is based). Professor Jane Gunn recently took over as Head of Department when Professor Doris Young stood aside to take up a more active role at the Faculty level.

Verity Newnham has worked with PARTY for over three and a half years. She was offered an exciting new opportunity to use her policy and clinical experience with headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, which is funded by the Australian Government. Happily Verity is not entirely lost to PARTY and will retain her involvement through her part-time Masters degree and as a consultant to the PARTY project.

Gemma Carey is also starting an exciting new phase in her career. She has commenced a PhD and has been awarded not just one but two prestigious scholarships (NHMRC & Sidney Myer Foundation) to support her academic pursuits. Luckily for PARTY, Gemma will have some time to work casually on qualitative data analysis.

We wish both Verity and Gemma all the best in their future endeavours
Second PARTY iPod winner announced!

Congratulations to the winner of the recent PARTY prize draw, an 18 year old female from the north-western suburbs! She has won a brand new 8GB iPod Nano for completing a PARTY telephone survey. PARTY has now completed over 1,000 exit surveys (conducted very soon after the young person sees their GP or practice nurse), and 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 second winner was really excited to receive news of her win, especially as she did not have an iPod already. Just for the record she said that she “had really enjoyed doing the survey”.

PARTY Team Vacancy

The PARTY Team has a vacancy for a Research Assistant

Would you, or someone you know, be interested in young people's health and primary care research? An exciting opportunity is available to work with our multidisciplinary team in undertaking a large, innovative randomised controlled trial in general practice. The PARTY (Prevention, Access and Risk-Taking in Young People) Project aims to improve youth health access and outcomes through screening, counselling and youth-friendly practice. The responsibilities would involve practice audits and implementing and resourcing systems change using a model of continuous quality improvement. The position is based at the Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne, Carlton.

Closing date: 29 March 2009