As we head towards the end of 2008 the PARTY Team can look back on a very productive year.

We are now over half way with 21 practices recruited to the trial – we have a number of practices already committed to be involved in 2009 but if your practice is yet to express interest we would love to hear from you (see calls for Expressions of Interest at the bottom of this page). From these 21 practices 51 general practitioners, 18 practice nurses and 38 practice support staff (practice managers & receptionists) have become involved, providing them with the opportunity to address young people’s health outcomes and youth friendly practice issues in their own clinical settings.

As of October 2008, 574 young people have completed a telephone Exit Survey after visiting their GP or practice nurse. 3 month follow-up surveys have been conducted with 228 young people and we have just entered the phase of 12 month follow-up surveys with 31 of those now concluded. 36 parents (only for clinic-attending parents of 14-17 yo young people) have returned written surveys about their experience and opinions on adolescent health issues.

Once again, the PARTY Team expresses their thanks to all the practice staff, young people and parents who have participated in the project.

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

STOP PRESS—16th October—BREAKING NEWS
Dr Lena Sanci (& co-investigators Profs George Patton, Susan Sawyer, Alan Shiell; A/Prof Jane Pirkis; Ms Patty Chondros) has just received a prestigious National Health & Medical Research (NHMRC) Grant of $1,320,200 to continue PARTY’s exciting work in young people’s health in general practice. This grant will focus on “Re-orienting general practice systems towards youth friendly care”. The success of this grant is a tribute to the work that general practices have already contributed through their PARTY Project involvement and demonstrates the priority accorded to the general practice role in addressing young people’s health.

Further Expressions of Interest Invited - Call Now
Would your general practice be 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 members Dr. Lena Sanci and Verity Newnham have made a significant contribution to the newly launched new edition of: Adolescent Health: GP Resource Kit (2nd ed). Published by Transcultural Mental Health Centre and NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health, Sydney, 2008.

Adolescent health problems are often complex and require a comprehensive, biopsychosocial approach.

The first edition of the GP Resource Kit was written in collaboration between NSW CAAH and NSW Transcultural Mental Health Centre, and officially launched by the then NSW Minister for Health, The Hon Morris Iemma MP in 2004. The revised second edition was launched by the NSW Health Minister at the time, the Hon Reba Meagher MP in August 2008. This kit is also endorsed by the RACGP and GP NSW (formerly Alliance of NSW Divisions).

The first edition of this publication addressed an important gap in medical education literature targeting GPs working with young people in primary care. In this second edition, the authors took on board feedback from GPs using the kit in their practice and redesigned sections to make the layout more user-friendly. The content updates in the kit support current best practice and outline the skills needed and resources available for working with the young person and their family, while addressing the developmental, cultural and environmental factors influencing their health status. This Resource Kit is a general practitioner’s practical guide to providing health care to adolescents, particularly from culturally diverse backgrounds.

PARTY GP Kit co-author, Dr Lena Sanci said today, “While being extremely rewarding, working with young people can present challenges for GPs.”

“Issues such as communicating sensitively, compliance with treatment, medico-legal issues, the impact of social determinants on health and keeping abreast of trends in youth culture and health risks are often in the forefront of GPs’ minds. “This user-friendly kit is an essential resource for supporting GPs in these areas and promoting and providing better health care to our young people,” said Dr Sanci.

Verity Newnham, another PARTY GP Kit co-author commented, “While this is targeted at GPs and practice nurses, other health professionals will also find the kit a valuable resource in their practice with young people.”

“The practical layout puts the information quickly at your fingertips making it an essential inclusion in every general practice resource library,” said Ms Newnham.


To order a copy of the GP Resource Kit, 2nd edition, please phone, fax, or email Kids Health at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead:

Phone: (02) 9845 3585
Email: kidsh@chw.edu.au

Price: $35.00 for one copy or $30 for two or more copies (incl. GST, excl. postage and packaging)
Feedback from previous PARTY Project participants

Health Service, Division of Student Life, Deakin University

“What a fantastic project to be involved with. Lena and her team were very supportive throughout the process and are obviously passionate about improving the health of young people, and their experiences of the health care system.

The skills provided through involvement with the PARTY Project have enabled me to provide a more holistic approach to the care of young people. Doing the HEADSS screen uncovered many problems young people are facing, and also provided them with an opportunity to discuss these issues if they chose to in a non-confrontational manner. Asking the right questions in the right way is the key. It empowers young people to take some responsibility for their health and well-being.”

Ms Julie Stevens (Practice Nurse)
July 2008

“Being involved with the PARTY project both as a Health Service and individually was one of the best things we/I have done for a very long time. It actually injected a huge amount of purpose to our work with young people whilst reinforcing and adding to our professional and personal skill base. The most significant learning for me was to realise there is a tangible way to work with young people and the issues that affect them. In addition I feel more confident in my ability to not only assist young people to discuss their issues but guide them in bringing about positive changes in the areas they wish to. Overall this was an extremely positive experience and the PARTY project team were a pleasure to work with. I highly recommend being involved with this project.”

Ms Anne Clancy (Practice Nurse)
July 2008

“As a nurse I found being involved in the PARTY project to add a new dimension in working with young people. Following the training I felt I was able to more easily explore relevant issues in greater depth, giving better outcomes for students as well as greater professional satisfaction. I also found most students to be very positive about the questionnaire and the goals of the project. They seemed to appreciate the chance to share their concerns while I benefited from validating their issues.”

Tricia McRae (Practice Nurse)
July 2008

PARTY Principal Investigator Dr. Lena Sanci was recently invited to sit on the panel for the From Margins to Mainstream 5th world conference on the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental health and behavioural disorders. The conference, held biennially, took place at the Melbourne Convention Centre over the 10th – 12th September 2008.

Lena was involved in the panel discussion “Building bridges, recognizing and valuing community based mental health prevention and promotion programs” and delivered a presentation about her contribution to the area of primary care within general practice, highlighting the specific focus of her research into the mental health of young people.

The director of the session, Janet Meagher of PRA (Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, Sydney), was pleased with the contribution of all the panelists and felt that they added to the breadth and depth of the entire conference.

CONTACT PARTY
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Do you know anyone who would be interested in subscribing to the PARTY Newsletter? Please feel free to forward this newsletter onto others. We are also interested in your feedback and/or suggestions. Please e-mail any comments or requests to Fan at f.yang@unimelb.edu.au or Adrian at asia_111@hotmail.com