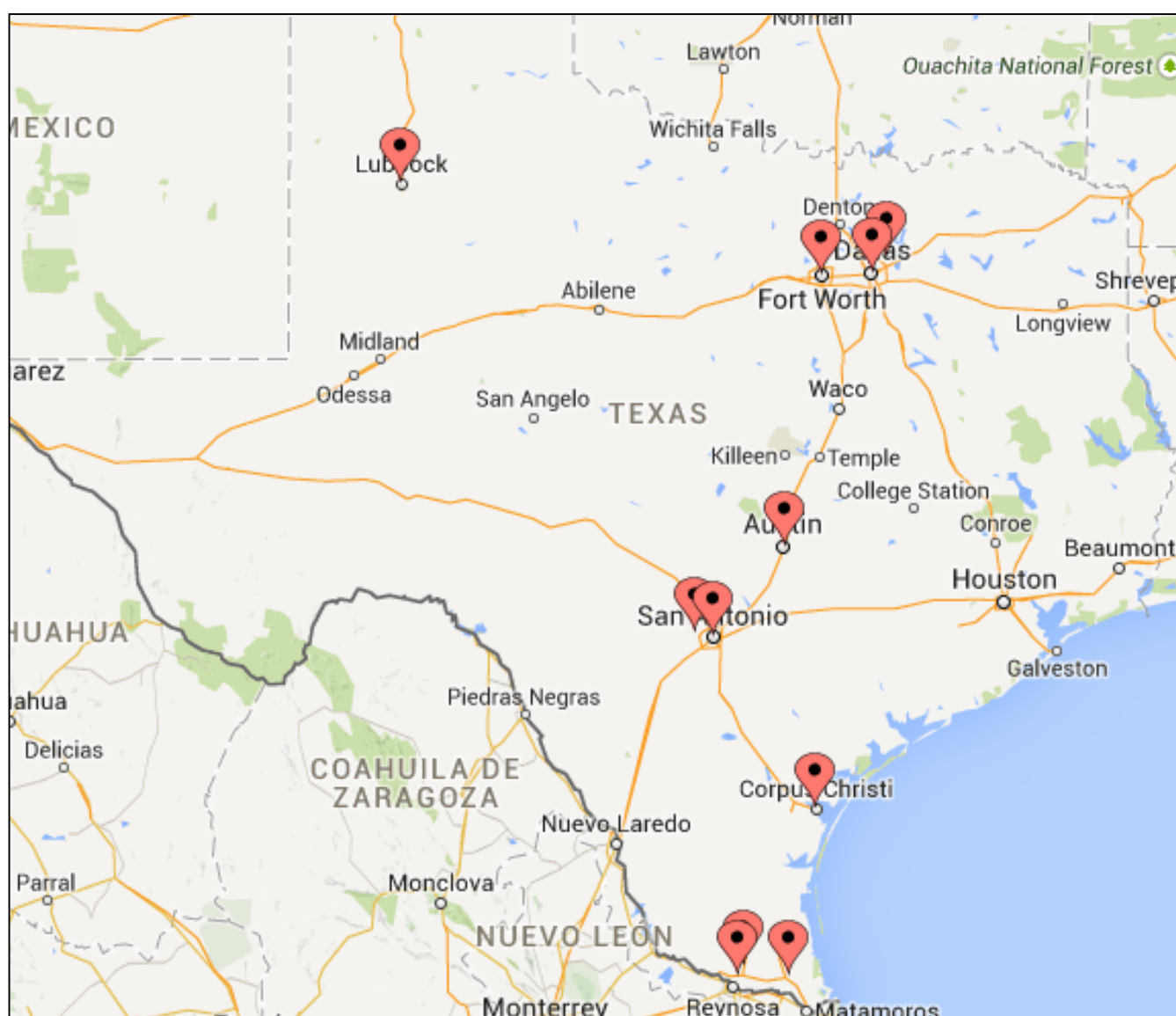


Engaging Family Medicine Residency Practices in Research: The Residency Research Network of Texas

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Introduction



The Residency Research Network of Texas (RRNet) is a collaboration of family medicine residency programs that began in 1998, with support from the Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA). Since 2008, RRNet has been funded through the Clinical Translational Science Award at UTHSCSA.

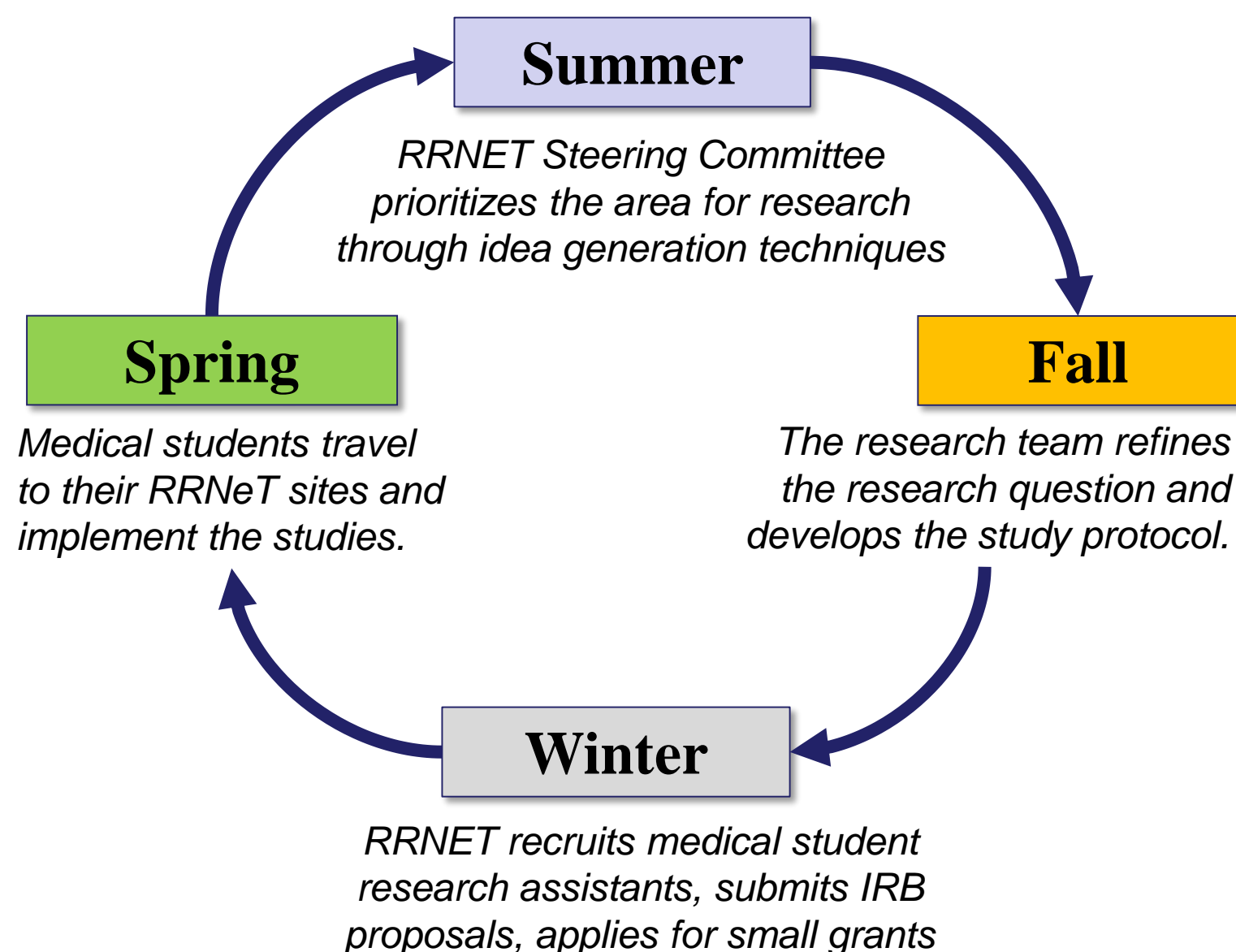
RRNet is geographically diverse, and includes training programs across Texas. It includes about 100 family physician faculty and 300 family medicine residents who see 300,000 outpatient visits each year.

The mission of RRNet is to improve family physicians' interest and skills in research and to find answers to clinical questions that are relevant to family medicine patient populations in Texas.

Methods

RRNet Steering Committee has one representative from each RRNet site. They meet biannually and communicate regularly via conference calls and e-mail.

With assistance from medical students, RRNET conducts one or two studies each year, following the timetable below.



Dissemination

In the summer, after data are gathered, RRNET completes simple data analysis and encourages medical students to submit abstracts to national conferences. In the winter, analysts complete more sophisticated data analyses, and faculty submit findings to conferences and journals.



Results

RRNet Research Topics:

- Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use
- Patient's Firearm Safety
- Diabetes Quality of Care
- Intervention for Medication Adherence
- Health Behaviors
- Low Back Pain and Opioid Use
- Cost and Efficiencies in Family Practice
- Fair Payment for Family Physicians
- Opportunities for Healthy Behaviors
- Patients' Preferences for Communication Technology
- Patients' Understanding of Their Disease
- Complexity of Family Medicine Visits
- Referral Patterns of Family Physicians

RRNet Products:

- 15 published journal articles
- 45 papers and posters at national conferences
- 11 research honors/awards

Conclusion

Since 1998, the RRNet collaboration has answered questions arising from our residency practices. With involvement of experienced UTHSCSA researchers, residency faculty, medical students, clinic staff, family medicine residents and patients, RRNet has examined issues that matter to family physicians.

Acknowledgements

RRNET has support from the National Center for Research Resources and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, through Grant **IUL TR001120**. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.