

## PARTNER UPDATE

Winter 2007

### CRHA Announces New Board Members

Three new members have joined the CRHA Board of Directors. Sally Gray, RN, St. Luke’s Board of Directors; Pat Bernsten, executive director of grants and federal programs, Kirkwood Community College; and Lee Clancy, president and CEO, Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Gray, Bernsten, and Clancy join James Levett, MD, chief medical officer of PCI and president of the CRHA Board of Directors; Curtis Reynolds, MD, senior vice president of medical affairs at Mercy Medical Center; Mary Ann Osborn, RN, MA, vice-president and chief clinical officer at St. Luke’s Hospital, and Ersin Atay, MD, FACC, Cardiologists, PC.

### KCC and CRHA Partner for Second AHRQ Grant

Kirkwood Community College will act as the fiscal agent for the CRHA’s application to the AHRQ’s “Improving Quality through Clinician Use of Health IT” grant. The grant was due February 14.

The goal of this project is to create a community model website/database to monitor medications and allergies. The website will be secure, managed, and available to both patients and providers. The website will be utilized to address patient compliance by linking it to both provider electronic health record systems and pharmacy benefits and manager systems.

Health literacy will be assessed by sampling patients from the database to determine their level of understanding of the medications they have been prescribed. Metrics related to both compliance and health literacy will be evaluated to develop decision support and alerts for providers.

Partners in this project include: EnSoft, Kirkwood Community College, Iowa Quality Center, Iowa State University, Linn County Pharmacy Association, Mercy Medical Center, Physician’s Clinic of Iowa, Rockwell Collins, St. Luke’s Hospital, and Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

### CRHA Website Contract Awarded

EnSoft of Ames, IA was awarded the contract to design and build the website for the CRHA. This website will allow the CRHA to have a presence on the Internet but most importantly it will connect our providers with the CAT Clinic database.

EnSoft will build an interface with the CAT Clinic database that will allow a security-protected link for providers. Check out the website at [www.crhealthcarealliance.org](http://www.crhealthcarealliance.org). It should be up by **March 1, 2007**.

### CRHA 501 (c) (3) Application

The CRHA is working to submit its application for its 501 (c) (3) status. Approval of our application should come by June 2007.

### CRHA Board of Directors

- **James Levett, MD, FACS**  
Chief Medical Officer  
Physicians’ Clinic of Iowa  
President, CRHA Board of Directors
- **Mary Ann Osborn, RN, MA**  
Vice President and  
Chief Clinical Officer  
St. Luke’s Hospital
- **Curtis Reynolds, MD**  
Senior Vice President of  
Medical Affairs  
Mercy Medical Center
- **Ersin Atay, MD, FACC**  
Cardiologists, PC
- **Pat Bernsten**  
Executive Director of Grants and  
Federal Programs  
Kirkwood Community College
- **Lee Clancy**  
CEO and President  
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of  
Commerce
- **Sally Gray, RN**  
Board of **Directors**  
St. Luke’s Hospital

### Project Executives

- James M. Levett, MD, FACS  
Chief Medical Officer  
Physicians’ Clinic of Iowa  
Principal Investigator
- Ersin Atay, MD, FACC  
Cardiologists, PC
- Matt McGarvey  
The Wellmark Foundation
- Cheryle Mitvasky  
Vice President of Resource  
Development  
Kirkwood Community College
- Mary Ann Osborn, RN, MA,  
Vice President & Chief Clinical Officer  
St. Luke’s Hospital
- Curtis Reynolds, MD  
Senior Vice President of  
Medical Affairs  
Mercy Medical Center
- Primus Ridgeway,  
Vice President  
Enterprise Product Assurance  
Rockwell Collins
- Peter Roberts  
Group Vice President  
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield

### SENIOR ADVISOR

- David A. Rater, MD, FACC, FACP

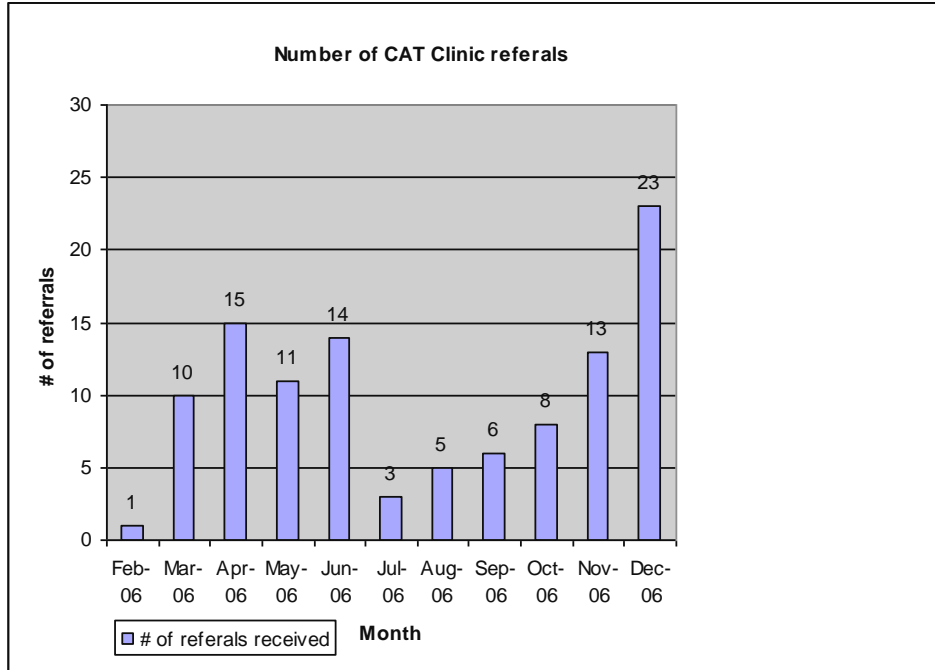
### PIPS PROJECT TEAM

- Debbie Mrkvicka  
Grants and Contracts Officer  
Kirkwood Community College
- Joan Atkinson, RN

### CAT Clinic Update for the Sixth Quarter

During the sixth quarter (October 1 to December 31, 2006) 41 patients were enrolled and seven discharged from the CAT Clinic. Total referral’s for our project is 120.

On an average, the percent of time CAT Clinic patients were in INR range was 51.4 percent versus 43.3 percent prior to the enrollment into the clinic.



Fourteen requests were made to reprint the patient education booklet “*My Guide to Warfarin Therapy.*”

The Metrics Team has decided to not conduct a *Quality of Life* survey with our CAT Clinic patients. There is not a valid tool to measure QOL for patients taking warfarin. Patient satisfaction surveys were sent in January in place of the QOL survey.

The Iowa Healthcare Collaborative posted an Anticoagulation Toolkit on their website ([www.ihconline.org](http://www.ihconline.org)). The toolkit is a compilation of resources to ensure effective and safe long-term anticoagulation therapy. The toolkit includes the CAT’s Clinic’s “*My Guide to Warfarin Therapy,*” patient satisfaction survey, patient agreement, and other CAT Clinic documents as well as information from other anticoagulation clinics in the state of Iowa.

### Medication Matter Program

Interval work has begun on the improvement of the *Mediation Matters* program. Tim Hehr, RN, has been working with Deb Oliver, Iowa Quality Center, to set up a team for this project and create goals for the project. If you would like to be a member of this project please call Deb Oliver [deb@iowaqc.org](mailto:deb@iowaqc.org), 319-398-5671 or Tim Hehr [thehr@mercyare.org](mailto:thehr@mercyare.org), 319-2218535.

Director of Quality  
Physicians’ Clinic of Iowa

- Nancy Glab, RN

Dean Health Science  
Kirkwood Community College

- Carla Huber, RN, MS

CAT Clinic Nurse Coordinator

- Kimberly Rehn

CAT Clinic Assistant

- Pat Thies

Director of Pharmacy  
St. Luke’s Hospital

- Kim Johnson,

Executive Director of  
Continuing Education  
Kirkwood Community College

- Tonya Arnold

Grant Writer  
St. Luke’s Health Care Foundation

- Tim Hehr, RN, MA

Mercy Medical Center

### TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTORS

- Ralph Beckett, MD

President  
Iowa Health Information Project

- Brion Hurley
- Tim Taylor

Senior Manager Advanced Process  
Analysis Dept.  
Rockwell Collins

- Marcia Ward, PhD

University of Iowa  
College of Public Health

- Shane Wolverton

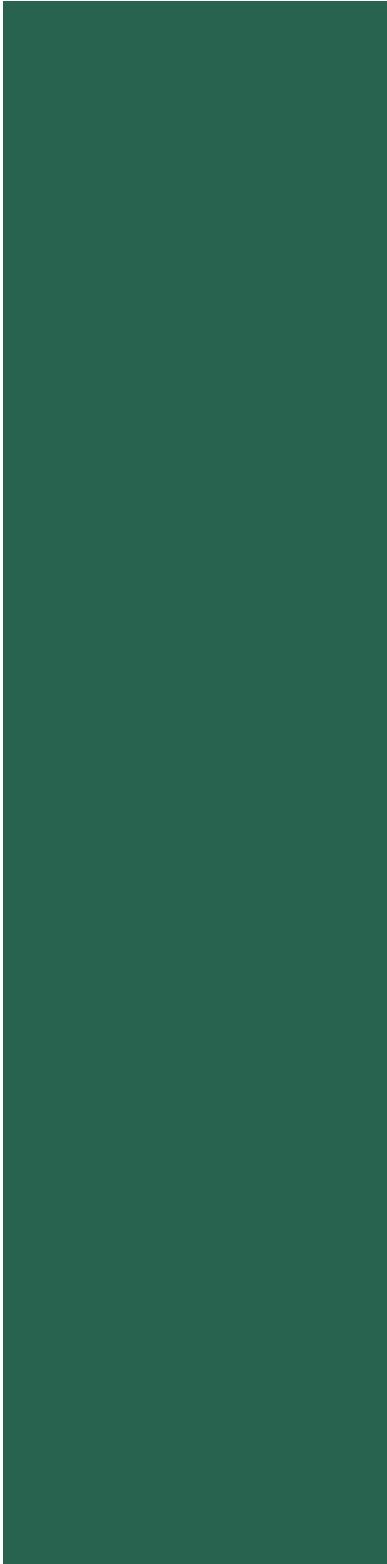
Principal  
The Delta Group

- Ann Woodward, Professor
- Mary Strong, Professor
- Lori Jeppson, Head of Nursing  
Health Science Department
- Kathy Ross-Garron, Prog. Dir.
- Mike McLaughlin, Director  
Allied Health Continuing Education  
Division  
Kirkwood Community College

### ISO CONSULTING ORGANIZATION

- Gary Nестeby, Exec. Director
- Deb Oliver, Project Manager

Iowa Quality Center



## **Local Labs Switching to Innovin**

This project is funded under a cooperative grant from HHS-AHRQ, Partnerships for Implementing Patient Safety Program,  
Award # 1 U18 HS015830-01 to Kirkwood Community College

Early in 2007 all of the laboratories in Cedar Rapids will switch to a new recombinant thromboplastin reagent, Innovin. Innovin has an international sensitivity index (ISI) value of one and is highly sensitive to changes in the activity of vitamin-K dependent clotting factors. The major advantages of the new reagent are:

1. Better sensitivity to warfarin therapy.
2. Increased sensitivity to factor deficiencies.
3. Minimal lot-to-lot variation and longer stability.

The laboratories have been researching a switch to Innovin for two to three years and part of their decision to switch was the Gage R & R that was conducted by the Tim Taylor and Brion Hurley, engineers from Rockwell Collins. Their evaluation clearly demonstrated the advantage of all laboratories using the same reagent.

### **Education and Training Update for the Sixth Quarter**

A two-day internal auditor’s course was held for 19 participants on November 5 and 6, 2006. Participants of the class included staff from the CAT Clinic, Physician’s Clinic of Iowa, and St. Luke’s Hospital.

Objectives of the class included the understanding of the ISO standards, the responsibilities of an internal auditor, and analyzing an actual business setting auditing their quality management systems.

### **Annual AHRQ Conference**

The AHRQ Annual Meeting will be held May 3 and 4 in Washington D.C. The conference will concentrate on the culture and leadership of health care. If you are interested in attending please call Carla Huber at the CAT Clinic at 558-4046. Cost and travel will be your responsibility.

### **PIPS Invoices**

If you have expenses from the PIPS grant please remember to send them to Debbie Mrkvicka at [debbie.mrkvicka@kirkwood.edu](mailto:debbie.mrkvicka@kirkwood.edu).