

Newsletter

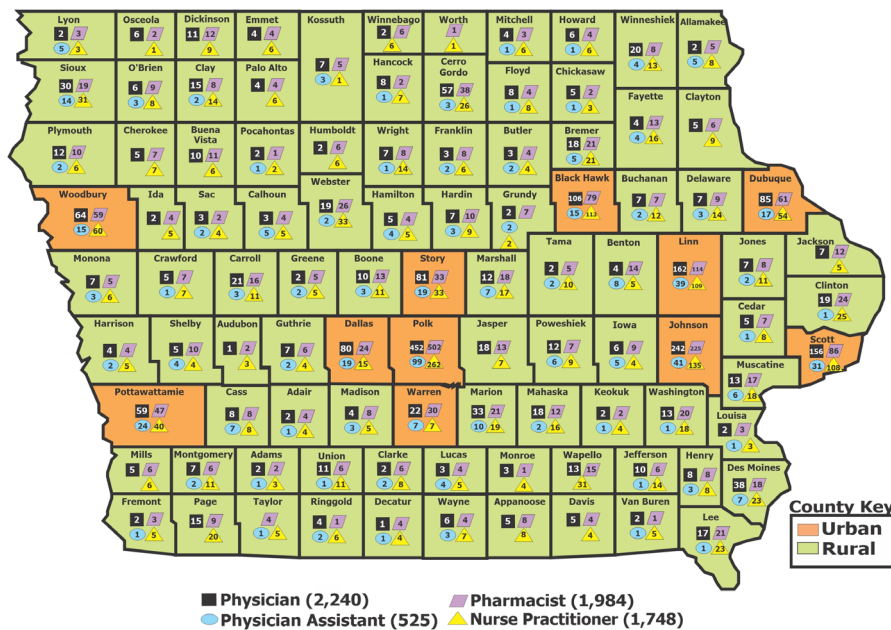


Quarterly news for researchers, health care providers, pharmacists and patients to advance research that addresses local needs.

The Iowa Research Network (IRENE) is a practice-based research network (PBRN) supported by the University of Iowa's Department of Family and Community Medicine, private donors, and external research funding. The mission of IRENE is to foster a community of health care providers, pharmacists, patients, and caregivers to advance research that addresses local needs.

Who is in IRENE? At this time, we are reaching out to primary care providers and community pharmacists. As illustrated in the map below, 4,513 providers and 1,984 pharmacists across the state are receiving our communications about IRENE.

IRENE Outreach to Providers and Pharmacists by County



Source: Iowa Health Professions Tracking Center, Office of Statewide Clinical Education Programs, UI Carver College of Medicine, February 2025

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M MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



You may be wondering how IRENE will be impacted by the recent federal executive orders directed towards research priorities. I don't anticipate changes to our IRENE operations because we work with projects funded by a variety of sources. Our largest project is funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), which is an independent nonprofit organization. We also receive financial support from private donors, the University of Iowa's Department of Family and Community Medicine, and other sources in addition to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Regarding recent IRENE updates: In 2024, IRENE staff updated our strategic plan. A top goal from our strategic planning was to develop engagement services that help IRENE members make deeply meaningful contributions to projects that advance health care in local communities. We will be reaching out to potential partners on campus and across Iowa to provide honorariums and other support for providers and pharmacists who participate in surveys, interviews, studies, and other forums organized by IRENE.

Working together, we can build models for improving health care by giving equal voice to practitioners, patients, caregivers, and researchers. I sincerely hope to have an opportunity to work with each of you in the future!

Korey A. Kennelty, PharmD, MS, PhD, BCGP
 Director, Iowa Research Network (IRENE)

R HIGHLIGHTED RESEARCH PROJECT

Improving High Blood Pressure in Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Diseases – The SMBP Study

This national study funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is testing two team-based care approaches to manage high blood pressure in older adults, both using self-measured blood pressure (SMBP). PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization, and any changes to funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal agencies should not affect this project at this time.

SMBP involves the patient using a personal blood pressure monitoring device at home (provided by the study), recording their blood pressure at different times during the day, and using this information to work with their health care team on blood pressure management. In the first approach, patients will work with a health care team that includes their usual primary care team. In the second approach, pharmacists will be added to patients' health care team. Researchers will follow patients for 24 months to examine changes in blood pressure and other outcomes.

Role of IRENE: Actively recruiting primary care clinics and community pharmacies. If you want more information, please contact:
SMBP-Study@uiowa.edu

Principal Investigators: Korey Kennelty, PharmD, MS, PhD, BCGP and Carri Casteel, PhD

➔ Check out the enclosed brochure for more information regarding what participation may look like in a study.

I INTERNATIONAL REACH

In late 2024, Korey Kennelty was elected Chair of the Meta-network Learning and Research Center (Meta-LARC). The founding members are five PBRNs in the United States (including IRENE) and two PBRNs in Canada. Taken together, Meta-LARC has close to 1,000 primary care practices, 7,000 clinicians, and over 3 million patients. Participating in Meta-LARC gives IRENE access to a robust infrastructure capable of managing large projects such as national clinical trials. A few more PBRNs are expected to join Meta-LARC in 2025.

L LEARN MORE

Website: <https://familymedicine.medicine.uiowa.edu/IRENE>

Please help us save paper and postage! Provide your email address and research interests in the following short survey:

https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Ba3dWCf0nYmIJg



C CONTACT US

Email irene@uiowa.edu if you have additional questions about IRENE

S If you would prefer to not have any further communication from IRENE, please email "STOP" to: irene@uiowa.edu.

E UPCOMING EVENTS

Come and meet IRENE staff!

We will have exhibit booths with fun swag giveaways at the following conferences:



MAY 1-3, 2025

Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association "Breaking Barriers in Digestive and Metabolic Health"

<https://www.ioma.org/index.php/events-cme/umoh-conference-may>

West Des Moines



MAY 28, 2025

Compass Healthcare Collaborative Annual Forum (formerly Iowa Healthcare Collaborative)

<https://www.compasshcc.org/education/annual-forum>

Altoona



JUNE 5-6, 2025

Iowa Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting <https://www.iarx.org/ipaannualmtg>

Des Moines