

# About

## About Us

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 donations, and external research funding.

IRENE was established in 2001 and includes providers, pharmacists, and other community members from across the state of Iowa.

# Benefits

## Benefits of IRENE

As part of IRENE, you can participate in research and quality improvement projects that could benefit your patients, clinic, and/or local community. There are also opportunities to influence the direction of research projects to better target local needs.

### Ways to become involved with IRENE include:

- Participating in projects of your choosing
- Completing surveys and/or interviews to inform projects
- Contributing to IRENE's committees and/or advisory boards

# Mission

## Our Mission

The mission of IRENE is to foster a community of researchers, health care providers, pharmacists, and patients to advance projects that address local needs.

IRENE draws on the experience and insight of network participants to identify projects that can improve local health care. By linking these projects with research methods, IRENE produces results that are useful to health care teams and easy to include in everyday practice.



# Info

## More Information

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

email: [irene@uiowa.edu](mailto:irene@uiowa.edu)



### Help us learn about you!

Please complete the short survey so we can learn more about issues you encounter in your practice and local communities. This will help us to promote projects that address those needs.



# Iowa Research Network IRENE

# Staff

## Our Staff



The Director of IRENE is **Korey Kennelty, PharmD, PhD, BCGP**, a Geriatric Pharmacist with a dual appointment as the Patrick E. Keefe Professor in Pharmacy and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

### Other University of Iowa staff supporting IRENE:



**Jeffrey Quinlan, MD, FAAFP**  
IRENE Medical Director and Department Executive Officer for the Department of Family and Community Medicine



**Kathryn Dorsey, MBA**  
IRENE Program Coordinator



**Samantha Shaffer, BA, CPhT**  
Research Associate



**Jennifer Van Tiem, PhD**  
Research Assistant Professor



**Keith Provin, MBA**  
Research Support Manager



**Laura Seegmiller, MPH**  
Research Specialist



**Rachel Hoskins, PharmD, BCACP**  
Pharmacy Engagement Manager

# Message

## From Our Director

Why research? That's an excellent question! I admit that I ask myself that question sometimes while working on grant applications in the middle of the night. It isn't for the money. I do research because I'm looking for better ways to provide patient care.

Why a practice-based research network (PBRN)? Because any new discovery in patient care is worthless if it can't be implemented in real world conditions. PBRNs are groups of primary care clinicians and practices working together to answer community-based health care questions and translate research findings into practice.

The goal of a PBRN is to give equal voice to the concerns and challenges of practitioners, researchers, patients, and caregivers, and from our conversations, find strategies that can benefit everyone. The process can seem long, but it is an opportunity to make deeply meaningful contributions to the advancement of health care in our local communities.

We are in this together. Looking ahead, we are collaborating on some exciting projects and expanding our network. It is an honor to serve as Director of IRENE, and I sincerely hope you will join us!

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

# FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What projects does IRENE support?

IRENE supports a wide variety of projects. We aren't focused on one particular disease or intervention, which gives clinics and pharmacies opportunities to participate on projects that are relevant to their practice and/or communities.

### What is expected of clinics and pharmacies that sign up for an IRENE-supported project?

Examples of project activities include completing surveys, participating in focus groups, facilitating data collection, enrolling patients, delivering interventions, and/or joining advisory boards.

### Do clinics and pharmacies need their own institutional review board (IRB)?

No, you aren't required to have access to an IRB. When needed, the University of Iowa provides the necessary IRB infrastructure.

### How does compensation work?

Pharmacies and clinics will receive payments depending on their level of project involvement. Typical payments per project range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year, plus salary support for project coordinators and site investigators. Patients enrolled in projects often receive incentives for completion of project activities.

### What is expected of patients and caregivers that sign up for an IRENE-supported project?

There are generally two possible options for patients and caregivers:

- 1) Choose to enroll in a project if they meet eligibility requirements
- 2) Share their lived experiences as a paid consultant to give their perspective on project procedures, dissemination of results, and other aspects of the project.