



## Spring 2010 Enewsletter - Family Medicine Reproductive Health Network

Happy Spring!

The last few months have been busy ones for Network members. Thank you to all of you who encouraged your residents and trainees to complete the RHAP survey. Results of the surveys will be shared with faculty at each institution to provide feedback to you on your residents.

### Network Activities

It was great to see so many of you at the April NAF and STFM meetings. As the meetings were on the same weekend on different sides of the continent, Ruth Lesnewski convened a lively group discussion at the STFM Annual Meeting while Linda Prine, Lisa Maldonado, and Susan Yanow hosted a reception at NAF.

In **Illinois**, RHAP partnered with the [Midwest Access Project](#) to sponsor a CME-accredited workshop on May 21. ARHP is also a co-sponsor, and we hope that this workshop is the first of a series of activities in Illinois to build the RHAP/MAP network of family physicians. MAP has expanded its training opportunities, and we look forward to linking more Midwest graduates to MAP's wonderful members.

In **Massachusetts**, RHAP has supported the Lawrence Family Medicine Program in sending residents to the Concord Feminist Health Center for elective abortion training. This is a great resource for these motivated residents who have no opportunities to train on site. RHAP is also providing values clarification workshops and other support to two community health center systems in Massachusetts that want to provide early abortion services to their patients.

RHAP worked with the Center for Reproductive Rights to clarify the Board of Medicine regulations in **Mississippi**. Although the Board's website states that only an ob/gyn can provide abortion care, in fact any family physician who has completed an accredited family medicine residency program is eligible to provide abortions in Mississippi. Thank you to CRR for creating a legal memo and opening the door to family medicine doctors who want to provide comprehensive reproductive health care in this underserved state!

In **New Mexico**, in collaboration with Dr. Larry Leeman, RHAP is reaching out to rural family physicians to expand the reproductive health services that they offer to their patients.

In **New York City**, the annual Spring Mentoring Dinner will feature local FPs sharing their experience in passing resolutions at the AAFP National Conference for Special Constituencies. The invitation list for those who have graduated from programs where they learned how to do abortions has grown to over 50!

In **Vermont**, in collaboration with Dr. Dorothy Federman, RHAP will host a community meeting in June to discuss medication abortion in primary care.

### Contraceptive Pearls

RHAP continues to publish [Contraceptive Pearls](#), a monthly brief update containing a clinical best practice designed to improve contraceptive access and compliance. There are now over 750 subscribers! To receive these monthly updates and become part of RHAP's efforts to improve access to contraception in primary care settings, sign up [here](#). Please share this link with students, residents, colleagues, and others who may be interested!

### Building a Local Network

Bringing together local residents and physicians is a great way to build relationships and identify resources for moving forward with advocacy initiatives, clinical services and/or training. Meetings in New York and Boston have resulted in several physicians adding medication abortion to their practices, identification of training resources, and the chance to get to know our colleagues and allies. This year, networks are gathering in NY, Boston, the San Francisco area and Chicago.

**RHAP can support you in your efforts to have a similar gathering in your location. It's easy!**

- Create an "invitation" list. You can use old-fashioned email or Evite to contact faculty, residents, practicing clinicians and others who might be interested in local networking.
- Find a date and location that would work for the majority.
- Order food or make it a pot-luck. It need not be elaborate; RHAP can help with a small grant.
- Create a short agenda. This can be as informal as everyone introducing themselves and discussing their practices and how they'd like to expand reproductive health care, or a more structured discussion focused on increasing training or introducing medication abortion into community health centers. Leave plenty of time for informal talking as well. Often the participants make valuable connections with each other regarding new jobs, shared strategies for work related issues, childcare, or exchanges regarding training.

These gatherings are easy, fun and PRODUCTIVE!

Contact [RHAP](#) if we can give you more information or support your efforts in any way. We may have contacts in your area from our surveys of graduated residents who have moved into your area and who would be great to involve.