The immense value of strong and diverse partnerships that yield benefits for multiple disciplines was evident throughout the 2010 Engaging Communities in Education and Research (From Engagement to Linkages) this past weekend. The conference celebrated partnerships at every link of the chain with more than 350 attendees representing academia, communities, physicians, nurses, preceptors, dentists, and clinic staff. Here are highlights from the conference, which was hosted by The Colorado Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), the State Networks of Ambulatory Practices and Partners (SNOCAP) and the Community Engagement Council of the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI):

**Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Richard Wender received a standing ovation after his presentation, “Research and Education in the Post Health Reform Era,” for its frankness, humor, and insight regarding family medicine, community, and public health. He introduced the concept “service research,” a collaborative research method where communities, service agencies, and government design, implement, and evaluate programs addressing an important community need. Click [here](#) to view Dr. Wender’s presentation.

**2nd Annual Run/Walk for A Cause**

The Run/Walk for a Cause raised over $1700 for three local organizations: Second Wind Fund of Metro Denver, Autism Society of Colorado, and Stout Street Clinic.

**Presentations**

“The String of Pearls: Asthma Management in Practice and Community” provided an overview of the Household ETS and Children project, Asthma Toolkits project, and Community Air. Audience members were left with “pearls” of experiences from a researcher, community liaison, Physician’s Assistant, and community member. The networking/poster session on Friday evening provided attendees an informal opportunity for networking, exchanging ideas, and useful feedback and discussion.

**Breakout Sessions**

The conference was packed with 12 breakout sessions (in Sessions A and B) and offered something new for everyone. A number of topics were covered, including Primary Care and Mental Health, Implicit Bias and Health Disparities, and Public Health and Primary Care. The Clinical Issues and Potential Solutions session generated several new study ideas, including a medical marijuana card study, readmissions after hospital discharge, and HAPE or lung infections in children living at high altitudes. Thank you all for making this year’s conference so successful! We look forward to seeing all of you next year!

**Another Opportunity to Get Involved**

Make sure the research matters! You can review and comment on the newest research in family medicine. Let us know if it makes sense and relates to practice. The Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine is looking for primary care practitioners who are willing to review and comment on research articles. To participate in Guest Family Physician Commentaries, contact us or Phillip Lupo, Senior Editorial Assistant, at jabfm@med.wayne.edu.