

# Centre for Studies in Primary Care

## *Offering a laboratory of primary care practices*

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The Centre for Studies in Primary Care (CSPC) became an official Queen's University Centre in November 2000. The first director, Dr Marshall Godwin, was appointed and started work in July 2001 after returning from sabbatical in Oxford, England.

While the CSPC lives within the Department of Family Medicine at Queen's University, its membership is broad and includes 86 faculty members from many disciplines, including family medicine, nursing, pediatrics, epidemiology, health policy, ethics, law, and emergency medicine. The main criterion for membership is interest in being involved in primary care research (Table 1).

To conduct research in primary care settings, a "laboratory" of community practices is needed. An integral part of the CSPC is a practice-based research network called the Network for Studies in Primary Care, which currently has about 60 family physicians in the Kingston, Ont, area involved in CSPC-sponsored research projects. The research activities of the CSPC's Network for Studies in Primary Care respond to community need and funding opportunities. All research is related to primary health care. Projects include two randomized controlled trials funded by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario: one is looking at the effect of home blood pressure monitoring and the other is studying the effectiveness of an intensive scheduled approach to medication management of hypertension. Two other major randomized controlled trials being conducted by the CSPC's Network for Studies in Primary Care are the Proactive Trial (funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research), which is looking at the effect of having a health educator as a member of the primary care team; and the RoadMAP Study (funded by the Ontario Primary Health Care Transition Fund), which is

**Table 1. Why the Centre for Studies in Primary Care exists**

### MISSION

The Centre for Studies in Primary Care exists to improve primary care for patients:

- in their homes,
- in ambulatory care offices and clinics, and
- in institutions;

through research that extends our understanding and knowledge of:

- health and health maintenance,
- disease and its treatment, and
- health care delivery;

in the primary care environment.

### VISION

We strive to foster a spirit of inquiry in our faculty, residents, and students; to develop innovations in our areas of research focus; and to seek to create, evaluate, and disseminate knowledge that leads to improved primary care practice and its delivery to Canada's population. Our emphasis on health as well as disease leads to work in disease prevention in all areas of research. And our belief that clinical practice should be, wherever possible, based on evidence has led to work evaluating the use and effectiveness of evidence-based guidelines in clinical practice.

studying the effectiveness of having a clinical nurse specialist as a member of the primary care team to help patients comply with guidelines for managing chronic diseases (heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

The CSPC also works to increase capacity in primary care research through research training for students, family medicine residents, practising family physicians, and other primary care trainees and practitioners.

**Dr Godwin** is Director, **Ms Seguin** is Research and Programs Manager, **Dr Jones** is Network for Studies in Primary Care Coordinator, and **Ms Jones** is Research Secretary at the Centre for Studies in Primary Care in the Department of Family Medicine at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont.