

# Fostering a Climate of Curiosity to Enhance Research Opportunities in a Primary Care Setting: Scaling up a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN)

Samantha Alch, MPH; Kristin Boman, MPH; Chloe Botsford; Jill Bengtson, MPA; Pita Adam, MD, MSPH; Ross Chambers, MD; Tim Beebe, PhD; Genevieve Melton-Meaux, MD, PhD; Jerica Berge, PhD, MPH, LMFT, CFLE

## Background

### Practice Based Research Networks (PBRNs):

- Are groups of primary care clinicians and practices working together to:
  - (a) answer community-based health care questions and
  - (b) translate research findings into evidence-based practice.
- Engage primary care providers in quality improvement activities and evidence-based research to improve the health of all people.

## Pilot Work

The PBRN first developed in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health's residency clinics in 2015.

Infrastructures, resources, and roles were developed to support the PBRN such as the research services hub, research champions, research facilitators, and a research course for physicians.

Next step is to expand the PBRN into the M Health Fairview Primary Care Service Line in partnership with the Center for Learning Health System Sciences.

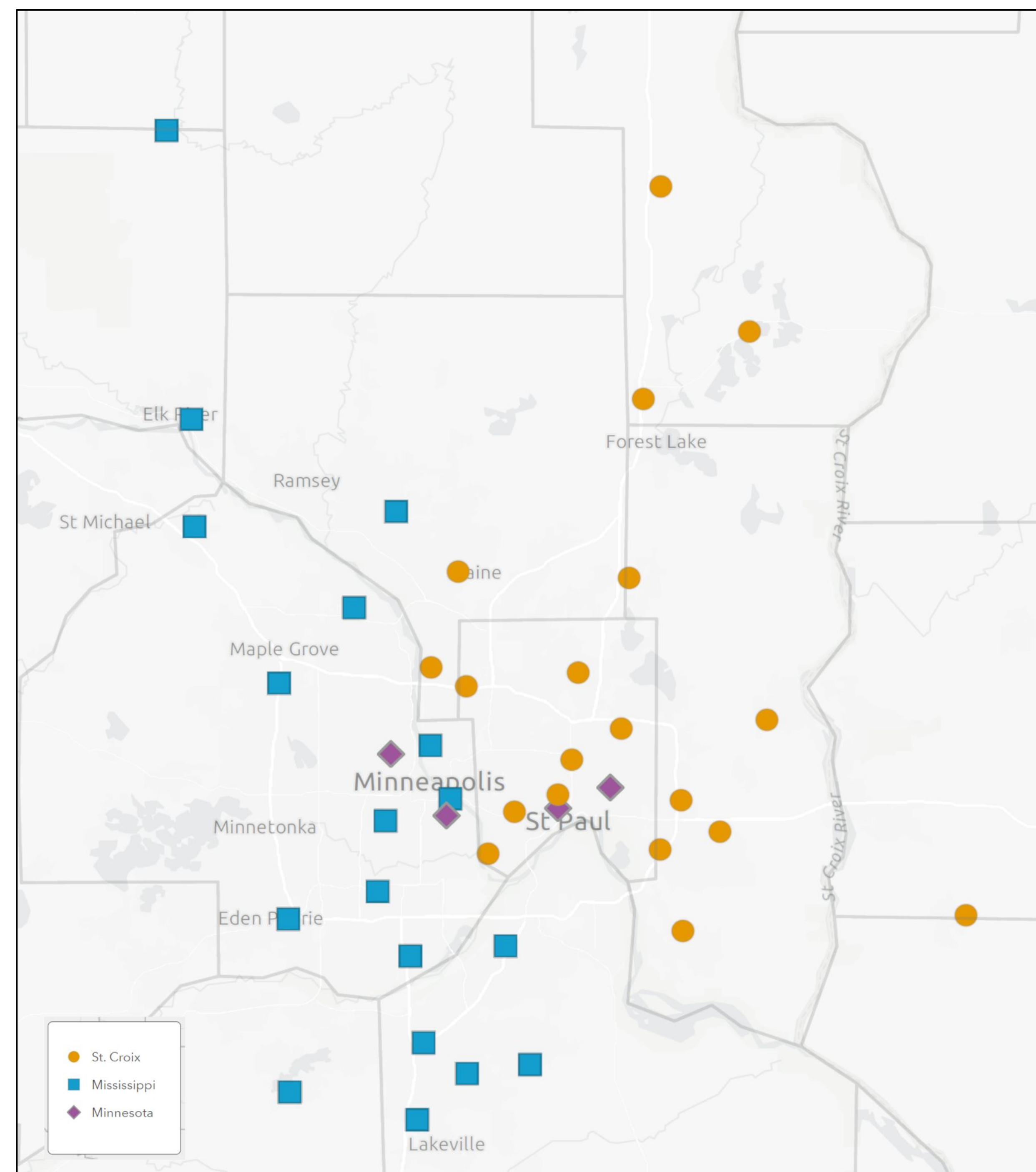


Figure 1: Clinic Sites and Footprints in the Primary Care Service Line

## Approach

**Promote** and **facilitate** innovative research that is grounded in primary care, community-engaged, interdisciplinary, and translational.

**Train** and **assist** providers with research design, planning, implementation, recruitment, and analysis.

**Provide** clear pathways and reduce the administrative burden for clinics and researchers to implement projects in clinics.

Positively **impact** evidence-based care of patients.

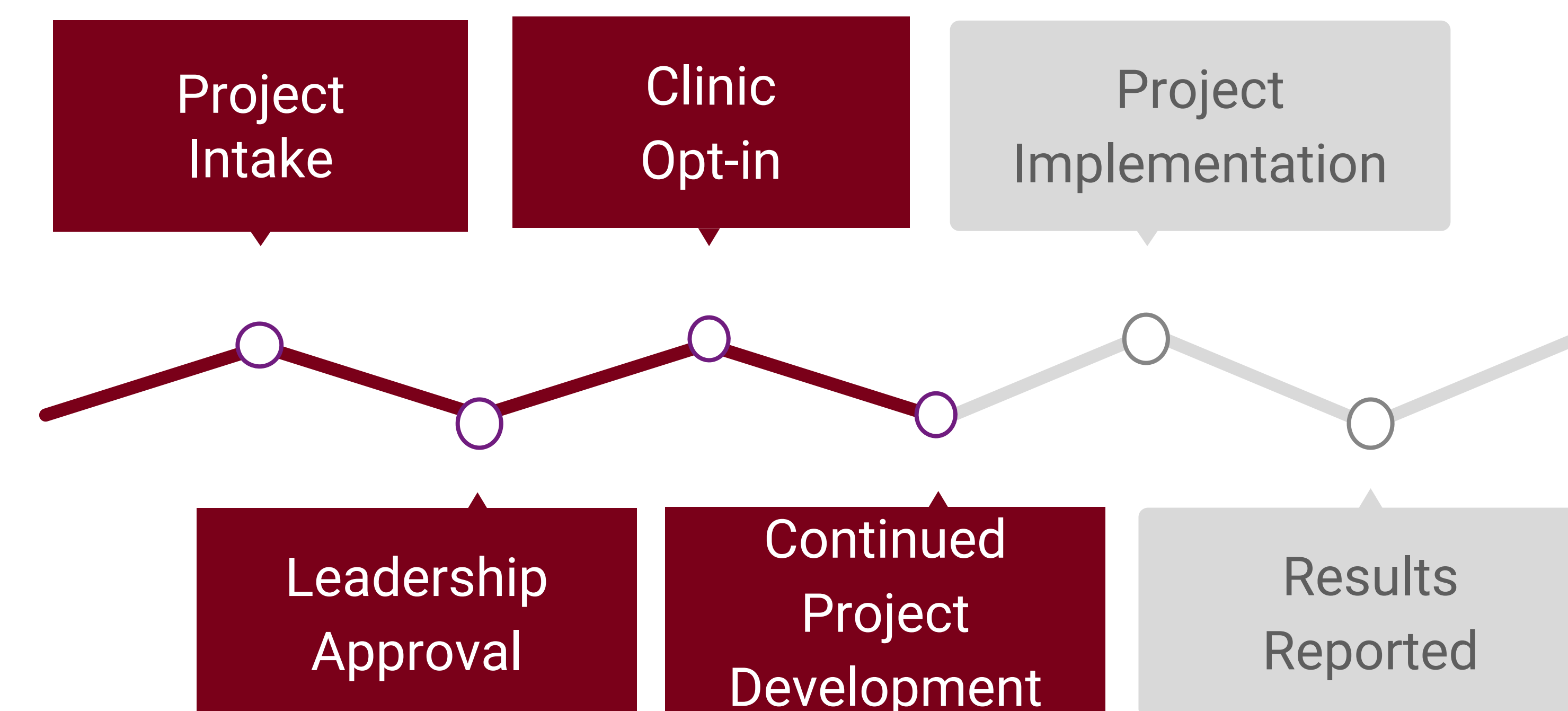
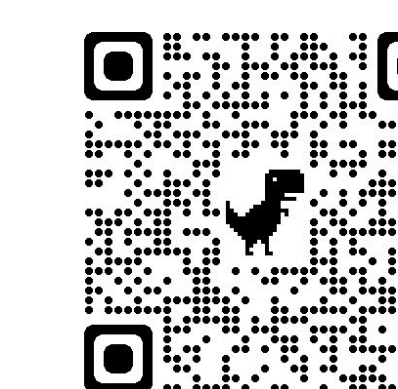


Figure 2: Project Lifecycle

## Roles for Providers & Clinics

1. **Be aware** of the network and active projects
2. **Recruit** participants into active projects
3. **Percolate** ideas for further investigation
4. **Collaborate** on projects
5. **Disseminate** findings
6. **Co-investigate**
7. **Develop and lead** a project



z.umn.edu/PBRN  
PBRN@umn.edu

## Metrics of Success

### Outputs

#### Increase:

- patients who participate in research
- research projects in clinics
- research capacity and infrastructure
- research-focused professional development for providers

#### Decrease:

- time from research to practice
- barriers to conduct projects

### Outcomes

#### Improve:

- harmonization of research, education, and practice
- patient care and patient experience
- providers job satisfaction
- population health

#### Promote:

- evidence-based care
- community engagement

#### Facilitate:

- innovative, interdisciplinary research
- strong relationships and trust between stakeholders
- collaboration between stakeholders and researchers

### Acknowledgements:

Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Research Services Hub  
PCSL Tier III Research and Education Pacesetters

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MEDICAL SCHOOL | School of Public Health

Center for Learning Health  
System Sciences



Department of Family Medicine  
and Community Health