

Where I turn when I need information now



At a recent family practice CME course, I was asked what resources I recommend to stay current with the medical literature. Of course, I suggested THE JOURNAL OF FAMILY PRACTICE. But to answer this question more thoroughly, I kept track of the resources I used during 2 weeks of precepting and patient care.

I'd be remiss not to begin with *JFP*'s POEMs, Clinical Inquiries, and Applied Evidence articles. These evidence-based assessments are well-researched and current. I clip these items for reference and try to introduce something I have learned each day I precept. In particular, **Clinical Inquiries** provide useful answers to clinically relevant questions. In the September *JFP*, Bernard Ewigman and his colleagues from the Family Practice Inquiries Network (FPIN) will launch a 4-part series that tells the story behind FPIN's mission and the creation of Clinical Inquiries—from the information needs of practicing doctors to the search of evidence databases to the interpretation of evidence and writing the answers.

I use **Cochrane abstracts** regularly for my lectures and teaching (www.cochrane.org). Many large medical libraries have full access to this resource, but I find the abstracts are useful reviews in themselves. I often refer to Cochrane for evidence on controversial topics.

A favorite quick reference is **Up to Date** (www.uptodate.com). While expensive and not as explicitly evidence-based as Cochrane, this service offers answers to most of my "internal medicine" questions. I use **Epocrates** for quick info about drugs (www.epocrates.com). For more insightful reviews, though, I turn to **Prescribers Letter** (www.prescribersletter.com). This resource is quite helpful for in-depth evaluations, allowing me to understand the evidence behind each recommendation.

I search the **CDC** (www.cdc.gov) and **American Academy of Pediatrics** (www.aap.org) sites regularly for answers about infectious diseases, immunizations, and public health matters. Whether reviewing 2-step tuberculosis screening or catchup Prevnar vaccination, these sites are handy.

Space doesn't allow me to share more of my resources—and I certainly don't propose that the ones I've mentioned are the best, most up to date, or useful. In fact, in reviewing this list, I realize I have omitted several gems. So, why not send me your favorite resources, at jfp@famned.uc.edu. Even books are allowed. I'll share your picks with our colleagues.

Jeff Susman, MD, Editor-in-Chief
jfp@famned.uc.edu

EDITOR

Jeffrey L. Susman, MD,
University of Cincinnati

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

• **Clinical Inquiries**

James Stevermer, MD, MSPH,
University of Missouri, Columbia

• **Applied Evidence**

Cheryl A. Flynn, MD, MS, State University
of New York, Syracuse

• **Original Research**

John Hickner, MD, MS, Michigan State
University, East Lansing

• **POEMs**

Allen Shaughnessy, PharmD, Harrisburg
Family Practice Residency, Harrisburg, Pa

• **Photo Rounds**

Richard P. Usatine, MD, Florida State
University, Tallahassee

CONSULTING EDITOR

• **Clinical Inquiries**

Bernard Ewigman, MD, MSPH,
University of Chicago

ASSISTANT EDITORS

• **POEMs**

Henry Barry, MD, MS, Michigan State
University, East Lansing

Linda French, MD, Michigan State
University, East Lansing

David Slawson, MD, MS, University of
Virginia, Charlottesville

• **Technology Reviews**

Gary N. Fox, MD, St. Vincent Mercy
Medical Center, Toledo, Ohio

• **Clinical Inquiries**

Kevin Y. Kane, MD, MSPH, University
of Missouri, Columbia

Gary Kelsberg, MD, FAAFP, University
of Washington, Renton

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA, University
of Virginia, Charlottesville

Peter C. Smith, MD, University of Colorado
Health Sciences Center, Denver

Fraser G. Tudiver, MD, East Tennessee
State University, Johnson City

Jan P. Vleck, MD, University of Washington,
Olympia

David Weismantel, MD, MS, Michigan
State University, East Lansing

EDITORIAL BOARD

Frederick Chen, MD, MPH, Agency for
Healthcare Research and Quality, Washington, DC

Larry Culppepper, MD, MPH, Boston
University Medical Center, Boston, Mass

John W. Ely, MD, MSPH, University of
Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City

Linda French, MD, Michigan State
University, East Lansing

Ted Ganiats, MD, University of
California—San Diego Health Outcomes

Assessment Program, La Jolla, Calif

Caryl J. Heaton, DO, University of Medicine
and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Brunswick

Fred Miser, MD, MA, Ohio State University,
Columbus

Kevin Peterson, MD, MPH, University of
Minnesota, Minneapolis

Kendra Schwartz, MD, MSPH, Wayne
State University, Detroit, Mich

Jack Westfall, MD, University of Colorado,
Denver

Direct editorial information and inquiries to:

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Health Professions Building, Department of
Family Medicine, PO Box 670582,
Cincinnati, OH 45267-0582. Telephone:
(513) 558-4021.

PUBLISHING OFFICES

Dowden Health Media, Inc.,
110 Summit Avenue, Montvale, NJ 07645.
Telephone: (201) 782-5735.
Fax: (201) 505-5890