

The Regional Medical Library for the Greater Midwest Region (GMR) of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) was established at the University of Iowa on May 1, 2016. Serving the National Library of Medicine, the Regional Medical Library is one of eight in the nation and serves the ten state region of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The Regional Medical Library is funded with federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, and Department of Health and Human Services under a five year cooperative agreement.

AIM 1

The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa will establish a regional office for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine staffed with quality health information professionals and governed by stakeholders. Partnerships with regional network members will be established to support the mission of the NNLM including access to quality health information for health professionals, librarians and consumers during the five years of the grant.

During the first year of the grant, a regional office was established on the second floor of the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa. This space was renovated using foundation funds to include work spaces for staff and a conference room with videoconferencing capabilities at a cost of approximately \$73,000. Staff for the office were recruited and hired, with the last position filled in October 2016. Staff includes:

- An outreach librarian focused on engaging public libraries
- An outreach librarian focused on engaging public health professionals
- An outreach librarian focused on engaging rural and medically underserved communities
- A network librarian with a health sciences background tasked with membership and resource sharing
- A coordinator for finance & communications
- An associate director experienced in health sciences libraries and administration

Partnerships with health sciences libraries were established during this first year, with a focus on designating Outreach Library and Resource Library partners. A group of 33 Resource Libraries across the ten state region were designated and Memoranda of Understanding between the regional office and the libraries were signed. Additionally, a group of eight Outreach Libraries were established, each funded for outreach activities that support NNLM across the region. The GMR leadership invested personnel time in moving the NNLM organization forward, specifically in chairing the Data Management Task Force, the NNLM collaborative webinar series, and forming the Communications Subcommittee.

OBJECTIVES	
Hire staff	Complete
Identify Stakeholder Focus Group members	In Progress
Hold Stakeholder Focus Group meetings online	In Progress
Identify Workgroup Members	Complete
Hold Workgroup meetings online	Complete
Establish partnerships with health sciences librarians	Complete
Create evaluation plan for GMR office	In Progress
Implement evaluation plan	In Progress

- Recruited and hired outreach librarians, network librarian, finance and communications coordinator, and associate director.
- Established 33 resource library and eight outreach library partners.
- Established primary health sciences librarians focus group and four work groups; coordinated ten meetings.

AIM 2

The GMR will continually strive to improve communications within the NNLN and NLM, and with network members and the community through a variety of communication modes, with the intent to enhance knowledge and understanding of the network's programs and services and to ensure transparency with our peers, network members, and the community during the five years of the grant.

In order to assess communications, a Communications Workgroup was established, with five network members participating. An assessment of communication modes was contained within an educational needs assessment that was administered to network members. Data from both of these sources has been used to improve communications between the regional office and network members through these methods:

- A monthly update from the office is broadcast to members via WebEx. The update is recorded and annotated, and receives 40-90 views during the month following each broadcast.
- A weekly digest email has been established for the regional office, highlighting announcements from NLM and NNLN as well as the office's own activities, funding opportunities, and educational offerings.
- The Facebook page for the office was revitalized with posts, minimally once each day, that tie recent articles on health to National Library of Medicine resources and promote our education and funding opportunities.
- Quarterly meetings were established for designated Outreach Libraries and Resource Libraries to share information with partner libraries.

OBJECTIVES	
Assess Communications	Complete
Develop Communications Plan	Complete
Attend National Network Steering Committee meetings	Complete
Update GMR website to reflect current information	Complete
Develop information on website for membership groups	Complete
Develop GMR marketing and promotional materials	Complete
Use social media for communications	Complete
Attend chapter and state health sciences librarians meetings	Complete
Visit Resource Libraries	In Progress

- Communications assessment conducted
- Developed three new brochures
- Maintained Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Attended five regional health science library meetings
- Visited partner Resource Libraries in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Kentucky, and Illinois

AIM 3

The GMR staff will expand and manage the GMR network to enhance services to health care professionals, librarians, and community organizations throughout the five years of the award so that the NNLN mission continues to be met through a distributed network.

Brochures were developed to market membership to specific user groups, such as public libraries and public health professionals. Efforts to reach out to members included exhibiting at public library and health sciences library events, writing articles for public health agency and public library agency newsletters, and delivering presentations at library, public health, and community events. Since the office was established, 41 new organizations have become members of the network, contributing to a total membership number approaching 1100. Cleanup of the membership database was completed following migration to a new database on the website, a project performed by a temporary assistant.

OBJECTIVES	
Assess current network members & identify gaps	Complete
Send network certificate to current members	In Progress
Migrate member organizations to new website and clean-up data	Complete

- 41 new organization added to the Network
- Certificates will be distributed when the National Network Coordinating Office has established a new logo and template
- Member data was migrated in December 2016 and cleanup of data was complete by May 1, 2017

AIM 4

The GMR staff will strengthen the Network National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan within the Region in order to limit interruption in access to information throughout the Region and nationally during disasters and other emergencies during the five years of the grant.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinators have been established in each of the ten states that make up the region. Coordinators met online twice to discuss topics such as emergency preparedness training, documentation for the region, and developing a regional plan. To keep coordinators current, the GMR sponsors their certification in Disaster Information Specialization through the Medical Library Association. Additionally, the GMR made Emergency Preparedness Awards available to encourage train-the-trainer events in partnership with State Libraries.

OBJECTIVES	
Update GMR website on Emergency Preparedness	Complete
Identify State Coordinators for Emergency Preparedness	Complete
Establish Contact with Partner Region	Complete

- Emergency preparedness coordinators established in ten states
- Sponsorship program initiated for Disaster Information Specialization

AIM 5

The GMR staff will increase the number of network members actively and effectively participating in NLM programs and services within the GMR, ensuring that a variety of users have equal access to quality biomedical and health information over the five years of the grant.

Outreach has begun to engage existing members and new members in NLM programs and services, including educational offerings through the GMR. Office librarians have reached out to health agencies and libraries, including state library agencies, state public library organizations, the Urban Libraries Council and the Association of Rural & Small Libraries. Collectively, staff have authored 22 articles and blog posts for various organizations and reached out to 198 organizations to encourage membership.

The office has developed a tool to identify Medically Underserved Areas within the ten state region in order to target outreach to new and existing members in those counties. The tool developed is an interactive map created using Esri ArcGIS to develop a comprehensive picture of the top medically underserved counties in each state. The goal of this project is to use this tool to target outreach to these counties.

OBJECTIVES	
Report network member performance data	Complete
Promote management of DOCLINE/SERHOLD, etc.	Complete
Refer members to NDCO for training and support	Complete
Promote EFTS	Complete
Review emergency plan for access to collections	Complete
Recruit Resource Libraries	Complete
Evaluate Outreach Library Program	Complete
Develop MOU for Resource Libraries	Complete

- Developed an interactive map to identify Medically Underserved Areas
- Authored 22 articles (blogs, newsletters) and reached out to 198 organizations

AIM 6

The GMR staff will provide a Data Management Education Center (DMEC) for network members to increase the number of network libraries skilled at supporting health researchers with data management throughout the data life cycle during the five years of the award.

The Data Management Education Center (DMEC) approved in our proposal was eliminated by the National Network Coordinating Office (NNCO) this winter. Instead, the NNCO is supporting a central website listing existing educational activities available to support network libraries.

AIM 7

The GMR staff will develop and implement outreach and education programs that reach health professionals in the Region with a focus on underserved health communities and health professionals that work in these medically challenging communities so that easy access to NLM resources can be obtained regardless of location or economic status, throughout the five years of the award.

The GMR developed eight funding opportunities to support outreach and education surrounding health information, particularly NLM resources, across the region. During this first year, nearly \$90,000 in funding has been awarded for projects ranging from outreach to homeless in a shelter in Michigan to the development of workshops presented in public libraries.

Partnerships have been established with public library organizations through outreach to state library agencies, state public library organizations, the Urban Libraries Council and the Association of Rural & Small Libraries. A national partnership with the Public Library Association is in progress, to engage these organizations with NNLM. GMR's outreach librarian presented at a library science course at the University of Kentucky, where a cohort program will begin to assess the consumer health specialization program and provide feedback.

To increase outreach and education within medically challenging communities, the GMR has developed a story mapping tool to detail 20 Medically Underserved Areas within the region. The tool developed is an interactive story map created using Esri ArcGIS to develop a comprehensive picture of the top medically underserved counties in each state. Awards for the second year of the grant have been designed to allocate additional points to projects that target these regions. Additional counties will be identified throughout the cooperative agreement period.

OBJECTIVES	
Develop partnerships with targeted organizations	Complete
Develop and offer outreach and education awards	Complete
Implement outreach award to Indiana University	*Incomplete
Implement outreach award to the University of North Dakota	*Incomplete
Exhibit at national meetings	Complete

* Due to the change in funding mechanism, from contract to grant, these planned outreach awards were not initiated

- Partnerships have been established with public health and public library organizations
- Eight outreach and education awards were developed
- The GMR exhibited at nine regional and national meetings

AIM 8

The GMR staff will ensure that all GMR network members have the opportunity to keep current on health sciences information topics and resources such as PubMed so that health professionals receive quality support from GMR Network libraries throughout the five years of the grant.

The GMR continuously promotes courses offered through NNLM, including those offered on core resources, such as PubMed and MedlinePlus. All course offerings are promoted on the website, via the listserv, on the Facebook page, and during monthly GMR Update broadcasts. Staff within the GMR taught 48 hours of continuing education from our region during the first year of the grant.

The GMR spearheaded a collaborative webinar series on NLM resources, titled NNLM Resource Picks. This series is co-hosted by Regional Medical Libraries across the Network, and each session features a NLM resource. This series is bimonthly and sessions offered this year included, "Don't Wait, Communicate About Disaster Preparedness," "AID-Source and AIDSInfo," "PubMed Update," and "NLM Traveling Exhibition Program."

The GMR continues to offer its own bimonthly webinar series, titled Kernel of Knowledge, and sessions offered this year included, "Data Research Services," "NLM K-12 Resources," "Disaster Preparedness and Planning," and "HealthReach: Health Information in Many Languages." Webinar sessions offered via the Kernel of Knowledge and the NNLM Resource Picks series alternate in order to offer network members the opportunity to attend a webinar each month of the year.

OBJECTIVES	
Create website of NNLM classes and keep current	Complete
Identify training centers in GMR for NTO in-person classes	*Incomplete
Provide monthly webinars on topics of interest	Complete
Develop and offer professional development awards	Complete
Attend and exhibit at state library conferences	Complete

*The National Network Coordinating Office identified no need for in-person training centers for this cooperative agreement period.

- Four webinars were offered as a part of the Kernel of Knowledge speaker series and four were offered as part of the NNLM Resource Picks series
- GMR staff presented 48 hours of continuing education
- Four Medical Library Association webinars were sponsored at 20 sites throughout the region.

AIM 9

The GMR staff will increase the number of public health professionals who have new skills in accessing and searching quality health information through online educational opportunities throughout the five years of the grant so that they can easily and effectively access quality information at time of need.

The GMR has partnered with the Institute for Public Health Practice (IPHP) at the University of Iowa's College of Public Health, a HRSA funded program, to develop an online course for public health professionals. This course, titled "Online Resources for Public Health Professionals," is intended to teach public health professionals how to do intermediate level searching within PubMed, including the use of pre-formulated search filters. This course is one in a series that is planned in partnership with IPHP. Courses are promoted through IPHP's learning management system, Training-Source, as well as through national training databases, such as the National TrainingFinder Real-Time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN).

OBJECTIVES	
Develop content for public health training via Iowa College of Public Health	Complete
Contact Public Health Coordinating Office to determine potential of partnering on Public Health Information Access Program (PHIA)	Complete

- Developed online course, "Online Resources for Public Health Professionals"
- GMR librarian appointed as a liaison to the Public Health Coordinating Office

AIM 10

The GMR staff will improve GMR consumer's understanding of quality health information resources available on the Internet so that they make better informed health care decisions throughout the five years of the award.

The GMR targets consumers by engaging public libraries across the region, a population to which one outreach librarian is dedicated. During this first year of the grant, these efforts included reaching out to state library agencies, state public library organizations, the Urban Libraries Council, and the Association of Rural & Small Libraries to promote NNLM educational offerings and funding opportunities. As a part of this effort, the GMR outreach librarian wrote an article on NNLM and the GMR for Webjunction, a nationwide provider of free, online continuing education for public libraries. Additionally, the GMR presented at the North Dakota State Library Spring Workshop. The GMR has begun working on developing a national partnership with the Public Library Association, to engage these organizations with NNLM.

The GMR offers support for public libraries to receive a MLA-issued Consumer Health Information Specialization (CHIS) throughout all years of the cooperative agreement. This year, a cohort of seven students at the University of Kentucky have been selected to pilot the CHIS program offered by the GMR and to provide feedback. GMR's outreach librarian presented at the class in order to promote NNLM and foster a group of students with interest and training in consumer health information.

Public Libraries have been targeted as partners for outreach and education and several awards were offered and marketed to this group this first year. These awards were the Community Outreach Award, Emergency Preparedness Award, and the Digital Divide Award.

OBJECTIVES

Develop a cohort to obtain feedback on the self-paced consumer health courses available as part of the Consumer Health Information Specialization

Complete

- Developed a program to sponsor Medical Library Association-issued Consumer Health Information Specialization to public librarians