

WHY SHOULD *YOU* JOIN PROS?

By Richard Kratz, MD, PA PROS Coordinator

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You should join because I am a member of the PROS network! PROS is a research network sponsored by the Academy with the mission statement focused on enhancing pediatric practice and improving child health. The PROS network was formed almost 25 years ago. PROS practitioners just like you and me have completed 24 national studies that have resulted in over 65 published articles and 116 published abstracts. PROS studies have been cited in more than 1,000 publications. PROS is marching on with a new effort to study electronic health records. The initial mission remains to enhance processes in this evolving tool to improve pediatric practice and child health care. PROS and the contributions of PROS members have created new knowledge, changed public policy, and made me a better practitioner.

Well, that sounds nice, but I am just too busy to add one more thing to my day.

I know you are busy. You will not have to add something every day. You will not be participating in a study all of the time. Some studies can be completed in a week or two. Some may take a few months. When a study is set up by the network, you will get a notice about it. You will have an opportunity to review the study design and decide if you are interested. Next, you can look further to see if it fits your practice. If you have more questions, you can contact PROS and get more information. As one of the Chapter Coordinators, I can assure you each study is vetted so you can participate with minimal impact on your patients or practice.

What will my patients think if I am doing research?

My experience had been totally positive. In fact, I would say it is an asset. I commonly supplement a discussion with a parent or colleague by adding that I am a member of a national pediatric research network called PROS that has done a study on this topic. If I personally participated in the study, I add that information as well. To use a political term, it adds "gravitas" to my comments.

Hopefully my enthusiasm for PROS has added to your interest. I would be happy to discuss this further with you on a personal basis. Let me also suggest that you learn more about PROS by reading a recently published article in the June [Pediatric Annals](#) titled "PROS: A Research Network to Enhance Practice and Improve Child Health." If the journal isn't handy, you can go to www.PediatricSuperSite.com and just type PROS in the Google search window.

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