PROGRAM

2020 Virtual IIMS Community Engagement Symposium

Strategies for Community Resiliency and Recovery for 2021 and Beyond

November 7, 2020

@IIMS-CTSA

UT Health San Antonio
Institute for Integration of Medicine & Science

November 6, 2020

Dear Friend,

Welcome and thank you for attending the 2020 Community Engagement Symposium!

Our event will no doubt have a different feel this year as we experience the Symposium “alone together” over our Zoom connections.

And yet, 2020 has vividly illustrated how adaptable we can be, finding new paths forward when the old ways are no longer tenable. 2020 has reminded us, again, why we must embrace inclusion as our working model. We rise and fall together.

So “together” is the theme for the day. Let’s learn together, question together, evaluate, collaborate, and narrate — together.

The more people on that journey together, the better the chance that we will succeed. We hope that after attending, you will walk away with a clearer understanding of how your knowledge, talents, skills and relationships can contribute to our community’s well-being.

At this Symposium, you will meet a wide array of people interested in community health, including representatives from the Translational Advisory Boards, Practice-Based Research Networks, community health workers, and the UT Health San Antonio community of scientists and partners. We encourage you to introduce yourself, explore opportunities, and ask questions. Let us know what you think is important. We hope you will meet potential partners for future collaborations to address the problems that matter to you.

After the Symposium, I’d love to hear your reactions and suggestions. Please be sure to complete an evaluation, or you can reach me at the email below.

I’ll close with this lovely quote shared by one of last year’s plenary speakers, Felica Jones: “When ‘i’ is replaced by ‘we’ illness turns to wellness.” Malcom X

Sincerely,

Robert L. Ferrer, MD, MPH
Director of Community Engagement
Dr. John M. Smith, Jr. Professor of Family & Community Medicine
Dr. Mario E. Ramirez Distinguished Professorship
Institute for the Integration of Medicine & Science, UT Health San Antonio | FerrerR@uthscsa.edu

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

Plenary Presenters

Nina Wallerstein, DrPH, MPH – Professor of Public Health, College of Population Health; Director, Center for Participatory Research, University of New Mexico

Harriet Yepa Waquie, LMSW – Community Partner from Jemez Pueblo to Center of Participatory Research University of New Mexico

Alfredo Ortiz Aragón, PhD - Associate Professor, University of the Incarnate Word - Dreeben School of Education, San Antonio, Texas

Topic

Scientific translation describes the process of taking research discoveries from basic laboratory science, clinical practice, and community into interventions for public health benefit. Community engagement is an important ingredient for the translation of research findings. This symposium will address how community-campus partnerships develop and engage for the successful conduct of research that leads to the translation of research discoveries for improved health and well-being.

Audience

Community members, students, healthcare practitioners, and researchers interested in community-campus partnerships for health research

Goals

Our goals are to (1) showcase current projects within different phases of the translational spectrum for possible future collaborations; (2) to identify methods for engaging the community in all phases of research; and (3) to build the capacity of community members and researchers interested in community-campus partnerships.

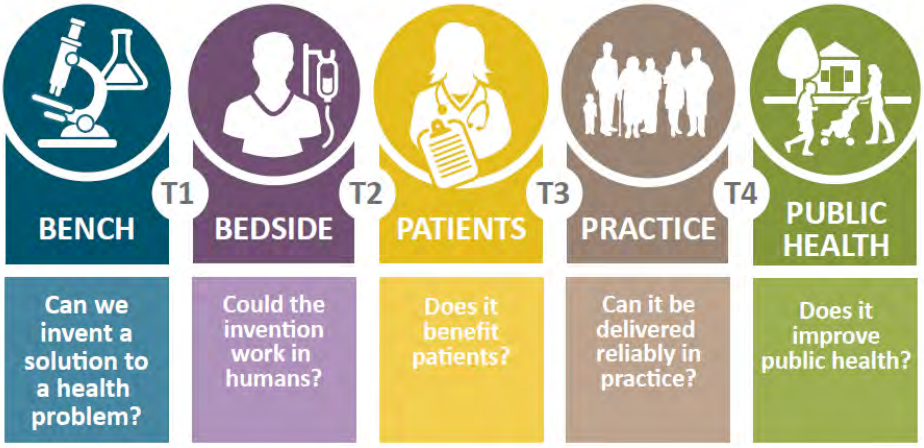
Zoom Log-In Information

https://zoom.us/j/94490532326
Meeting ID: 944 9053 2326
Passcode: IIMs2020!!
Dial: +1 346 248 7799
One tap mobile: +13462487799,,94490532326#,,,,,,0#,,1248547031# US (Houston)

BACKGROUND

What is Translational Science?

Translational research is a multidisciplinary form of science used to "translate and move" knowledge from basic bench science, to patient-based applications, and then out into clinical practice for the enhancement of population health and well-being. People often refer to "T1," "T2," "T3," and "T4" when talking about translating science findings. Each of these "T's" or transitioning phases, is part of an important process as seen below. Community Engagement (CE) is vital for increasing the reach, effectiveness, uptake, implementation, and maintenance of clinical and translational research.



About the Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (IIMS)

The IIMS is the academic home for the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) granted to the UT Health San Antonio and its partner organizations by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The mission of the IIMS is to integrate clinical and translational research and career development across all UT Health San Antonio schools and among our diverse public and private partners in South Texas. Clinical research studies are conducted with the participation and collaboration of human volunteers. IIMS program areas include Clinical Research Units, Pilot Projects, Technology and Drug Discovery, Biostatistics and Study Design, Biomedical Informatics, Regulatory Support, and Community Engagement. In addition, IIMS education, training, and career development activities include Certificate in Translational Science, Master of Science in Clinical Investigation, Translational Science PhD Program, TL1 Multidisciplinary Training Program, and KL2 Mentored Career Development Program. IIMS Community Engagement provides infrastructure support for research to enhance community responsiveness, research relevance, scientific value, and public health impact.

SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks 9:00am

Speaker: Robert Ferrer, MD MPH - IIMS Community Engagement Director

Successes and Challenges in Community-Engaged Research 9:15am

Partners in Pandemics: Fostering Public Health, Academic and Community Collaboration and Innovation to Address COVID-19

Speakers:

- Barbara S. Taylor, MD, MS – UT Health San Antonio, Long School of Medicine
- Anita Kurian, MBBS, MPH, DrPH – San Antonio Metropolitan Health District

Community Resiliency in the Time of COVID-19: Community Health Clubs in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

Speakers:

- Jason Rosenfeld, DrPH, MPH – UT Health San Antonio, Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics
- Samantha Driscoll, BS – UT Health San Antonio, Long School of Medicine
- Esmeralda Ibarra, CHW – Lower Rio Grande Valley Area Health Education Center

IIMS Community Engagement Hero Awards 10:15am

Awardees:

- Outstanding Student - Sarah Masoud, MPH
- Outstanding Community Partner - Suhaib Haq, MD
- Outstanding Research Partner - Fozia Ali, MD
- Outstanding Community Health Improvement Project - Domesticas Unidas – Directors, Irasema Cavazos and Araceli Herrera

Plenary Presentation: *Culture, Relationships, and Community Ownership as Community Engaged Research* 10:30am

Speakers:

- Nina Wallerstein, DrPH, MPH – Professor of Public Health, College of Population Health; Director, Center for Participatory Research, University of New Mexico
- Harriet Yepa Waquie, LMSW – Community Partner from Jemez Pueblo to Center of Participatory Research University of New Mexico
- Alfredo Ortiz Aragón, PhD - Associate Professor, University of the Incarnate Word - Dreeben School of Education

Research Poster Fair and Lunchbreak 12:00pm

Website: https://flipgrid.com/iimscommunity Password: CommunityEngagement!

Local COVID-19 Research Initiatives Spotlight 12:30pm

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children: A Systematic Review

Speaker: Alvaro Moreira, MD, MSc – UT Health San Antonio, Long School of Medicine

Predictive Immune and Airway Monitoring in Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients and Associated Health Workers Study

Speaker: Sunil Ahuja, MD - UT Health San Antonio, Long School of Medicine

Important Announcements and Closing Remarks 1:00pm

Speaker: Robert Ferrer, MD, MPH - IIMS Community Engagement Director

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Plenary Presenters

Nina Wallerstein, DrPH, Professor of Public Health, College of Population Health; Director, Center for Participatory Research, University of New Mexico (UNM), has been developing community based participatory research (CBPR) and empowerment/Freirian interventions for over thirty-five years. Among over a hundred and sixty publications are: Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) for Health: Advancing Social and Health Equity, 3rd edition, 2018; and Problem-Posing at Work: A Popular Educator's Guide. In 2016, she received the inaugural Community Engaged Research Lecture award from the UNM. She is currently co-Principal Investigator of an intergenerational culture-centered family prevention program with three Southwest tribes, with whom she has worked for over 20 years. To strengthen the science, art, and equity advocacy of CBPR and CEnR, she is Principal Investigator of Engage for Equity, an NINR-funded RO1, with national partners, to identify best partnering practices associated with health outcomes and to make available a partnership collective reflection/action toolkit (https://engageforequity.org). She has collaboratively produced with Latin American colleagues a train-the trainer Empowerment, Health Promotion, and Participatory Research curriculum (initially sponsored by Pan American Health Organization in 1999) with its 2021 third edition (Wallerstein and Parajon), to be available in Spanish, Portuguese and English. She co-sponsors an annual Institute in CBPR for Health: Indigenous and Critical Methodologies at UNM.

Harriet Yepa-Waquie, LMSW is a member of the Pueblo of Jemez community in New Mexico. She serves as the Diabetes Education Program Director at the Albuquerque Indian Health Center. Ms. Yepa-Waquie received her Masters of Social Work from the University of California in Berkeley. After working with Native programs in the Bay Area for 10 years, she returned home to raise her children close to their family and culture. Since returning home Ms. Yepa-Waquie has worked in the communities of Jemez, Zia, Santa Ana, Sandia, Zuni and Taos, as a Medical Social Worker, Health Educator and Program Manager. She has three grown children Towana, Ahjani, and Jordan and two grandchildren, Cecelia and Talon. Ms. Yepa-Waquie has a large extended family who have made her the person she is. In her free time she enjoys hiking, biking and enjoying nature.

Alfredo Ortiz-Aragón, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Dreeben School of Education at the University of the Incarnate Word. He is an action-researcher and designer of organizational change processes, working in international and local development contexts for 18 years. In his work, Dr. Ortiz prioritizes critical reflection on how power relationships between people enable and constrain "desirable" and "feasible" change. He believes that increased awareness on the role all people play in including and excluding diverse ways of understanding and acting in the world can lead to new perspectives and increased inclusion of marginalized people, causes, ideas and ways of knowing. Dr. Ortiz' research focuses on how organizations that support social change emerge, lead, strengthen themselves, adapt and remain relevant in complex, contested development realities.

Guest Presenters

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Robert Ferrer, MD, MPH has been working as a family doctor, researcher, and public health advocate at UT Health San Antonio since 1997. He serves as the Director of Community Engagement at IIMS. His work focuses on improving primary care practice to be more responsive to the needs of disadvantaged populations as well as improving the conditions of daily life to support healthy living for everyone in our community. Dr. Ferrer was recently elected to the National Academy of Medicine for his work in primary care and community health.

Partners in Pandemics: Fostering Public Health, Academic and Community Collaboration and Innovation to Address COVID-19

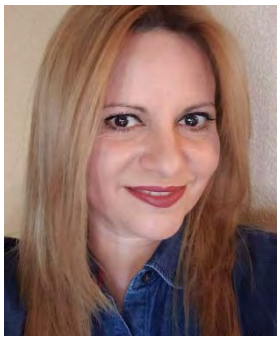
Barbara Taylor, MD, MS is an Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases and the Assistant Dean for the MD/MPH Program at UT Health San Antonio. She is an alumna of Princeton University, Harvard Medical School, and the Mailman School of Public Health, and completed her residency and fellowship training at Columbia University Medical Center. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has served as the Chair of the City of San Antonio/Bexar County Health Transition Team, convened by Judge Wolff and Mayor Nirenberg to provide public health guidance on reopening. Currently she serves as Co-Chair of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's COVID-19 Community Response Coalition, which works to support pandemic response efforts and provide community guidance. She is the Principal Investigator of the COVID-19 Prevention Network's San Antonio site, Director of the COVID-19 Infectious Diseases Virtual Outpatient Clinic and serves on the inpatient COVID-19 Infectious Diseases Consult Service at University Hospital.

Anita K. Kurian, MBBS MPH, DrPH is the Assistant Director at the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and leads the activities of the Communicable Diseases Division, including Epidemiology, Immunizations program, STD/HIV clinic, Tuberculosis clinic and laboratory services. As the Head of the Communicable Disease Division, she leads Bexar County's Epidemiological & Public Health response of the COVID 19 Pandemic. She has over 17 years of extensive Local Public Health experience and has previously served as the Associate Director at Tarrant County Public Health and the Chief Epidemiologist for Tarrant County during which time she had led numerous local and state-wide infectious disease outbreak investigations. She has a medical degree from India, an MPH in epidemiology from Emory University and a doctoral degree in Clinical Research from UNTHSC. Her focuses of interest include infectious diseases, population health, Health Informatics and community/stakeholder engagement

Building Community Resilience in the Time of COVID-19: Community Health Clubs in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

Jason Rosenfeld, DrPH, MPH has over 20 years of experience designing, implementing and evaluating international and domestic community health education and behavior change programs. He began his career as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana. After returning to the US, he supported the USAID Food for Peace program before obtaining his Masters in Public Health from Emory University. Dr. Rosenfeld then moved to Southern Africa where he managed community-based health education and behavior change programs, including one year in Zimbabwe during the international cholera response efforts. Dr. Rosenfeld is the Assistant Director for Global Health at the Center for Medical Humanities & Ethics at UT Health SA. In this role, he directs the global health curriculum, mentors students, and directs partnerships to implement Community Health Clubs in Haiti, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and South Texas (seeTEDx: https://youtu.be/ug3D0B4gcjs). Recently he completed an Executive DrPH in Public Health Leadership from the University of North Carolina and joined the UT Health SA faculty as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. Dr. Rosenfeld also serves as the Chair of the Texas Public Health Association's Health Education section and co-chairs the Education and Enforcement workgroup for Metro Health's COVID-19 Community Response Coalition.

Sami Driscoll, BS is a second-year medical student at UT Health San Antonio Long School of Medicine. Originally a Wisconsinite, Sami completed her Bachelor of Science at Carroll University. She is interested in serving Texas communities and looks forward to practicing primary care. During her time in medical school she has had the pleasure of working with health club members of the Lower Rio Grande Valley on community-based health promotion. She continues to seek service of the community while learning from them as well.



Esmeralda Ibarra, CHW is a Community Health Worker with the Lower Rio Grande Valley AHEC. She earned a diploma in Accounting in Mexico and received her Community Health Worker certification through the South Coastal AHEC. She has served communities her entire life as a volunteer for religious and non-profit organizations both in Mexico and the United States, with a focus on health and wellness for the disadvantaged. As a participant in community health clubs she fell in love with the concept of bringing knowledge and empowerment to her neighborhoods, which led her to become a licensed health promoter. For three years she has facilitated the *Salud con Sabor Latino* dietetics and *Tu Salud Mental Cuenta* mental wellness curriculums for the local health club program. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she has also managed virtual health clubs with her fellow health promoters.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C): A Systemic Review

Alvaro Moreira, MD, MSc is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology at the UT Health San Antonio. Dr. Moreira received his undergraduate degree from UT El Paso where he graduated with Honors in Microbiology. He completed his medical school, pediatric residency, and neonatology fellowship at the UT Medical Branch, Galveston. He received his Master's in Clinical and Translational Science from UT Health San Antonio. Dr. Moreira's research interests focus on unraveling the mechanisms underlying neonatal lung disease. His long-term career goal is to apply high fidelity technology with advanced computation to discover new, targeted therapeutic approaches to improve neonatal lung disease.

Predictive Immune and Airway Monitoring in Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients and Associated Health Workers Study

Sunil Ahuja, MD is a Professor in the Long School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Microbiology, Immunology and Biochemistry. His research focuses on the characteristics of individuals that determine their immunologic health. His work has been supported through both federal and non-federal agencies and he has received countless awards including the NIH MERIT award. Dr. Ahuja serves as the Director of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for AIDS and HIV Infection and VA Center for Personalized Medicine. The Centers represent a nodal point for cross-fertilization of ideas from a multi-disciplinary group of investigators from the VA, University affiliates and the Department of Defense. Dr. Ahuja also serves as Director for Research Enhancement Programs in the Vice-President for Research Office. His team has a strong track record of successful and productive research in multi-disciplinary projects and ability to conduct large-scale genetic, genomic, immunologic and translational research related to infectious, immune and inflammatory diseases (e.g. allergy/asthma, HIV, and autoimmunity). His studies have been published in top-tier journals and are widely cited. He is passionate about training the next generation of researchers and has extensive experience in research training and mentoring at the high school, undergraduate, graduate, medical, student, post-doctoral and faculty levels with equal opportunity given to qualified trainees that are underrepresented in the sciences.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

2020-2021 IIMS Community Engagement Small Project Grants

Online application available beginning on Nov. 16, 2020: https://iims.uthscsa.edu/community/ce-grant.html

Overview

The Institute for Integration of Medicine & Science (IIMS) is seeking proposals for one-year Community Engagement Small Project Grants. Our goal is to promote, develop, and expand community and academic research partnerships for the translation of science from basic discovery, to clinical practice, to public health benefit. Funds may be used to develop or expand collaborative projects in one or more of these areas:

1. Community-engaged research or assessment
2. Education or training
3. Dissemination of research results, program features, or policy implications

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from community and academic research partnerships from South Texas. Existing partnerships are encouraged, but not required. Those who have worked together for one or more years will be given special consideration. We define community partners as key stakeholders who play a vital and important role in the development and implementation of projects. Community partners should not represent the same institution as the academic partner and vice versa. Community partners may include, but are not limited to:

- Practice-based research networks (PBRNs)
- Translational Advisory Boards (TABs)
- Other community collaborative groups and/or agencies including community health centers, county health departments, non-profits, schools, social services agencies, and/or volunteer groups.

We define academic partners as faculty and/or students who provide technical and/or research support for the development of projects that address community-identified health priorities. Academic partners may represent one or more of the following institutions:

- UT Health San Antonio
- UTHealth School of Public Health
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- South Texas Veterans Health Care System
- Texas Biomedical Research Institute
- Fort Sam Houston
- UT Rio Grande Valley
- UT Austin College of Pharmacy
- UT Austin Dell Medical School
- Other local universities

All applications should include at least one UT Health San Antonio faculty member who will serve as the PI or Co-Investigator. Student applicants are required to identify a UT Health San Antonio faculty sponsor. The student and faculty sponsor are responsible for working together to develop and complete the proposed project. Also, the UT Health San Antonio faculty sponsor will help identify administrative support within their department.

Proposal Topics

Topics are unrestricted; however, they should focus on community-identified health priorities. To do so, applicants are strongly encouraged to refer to publicly available health assessments such as the Health Collaborative's Community Health Improvement Plan.

Funds

We anticipate that $30,000 will be available to fund 6 or more proposals. The maximum budget award is $5,000. Smaller budgets will be considered. Due to liability issues, the IIMS will not issue checks directly to awardees. Instead, awardee accounts will be centralized at the IIMS. Budgeted expenses will be supported via supply orders and payment vouchers. Other budgeted expenses may require the submission of an invoice. Funds for budgeted expenses of projects co-led by other non-UTHSCSA academic partners will be disbursed as invoices are received. Faculty sponsors will be responsible for awards granted to their student awardee(s). Accounting information for the faculty sponsor should be included in the application. Expenses will require the approval of both the student awardee and faculty sponsor.

Allowable expenses include:

- ClinCard research incentives[1]
- Consumable supplies and equipment
- Consulting fees
- Journal publications ($500 maximum)
- Software
- Staff salaries ($2500 maximum)
- Conference registrations (when possible, include community partners)
- Other justifiable and essential expenditures

Non-allowable expenses include:

- Door prizes
- Facilities and administrative expenses
- Faculty salaries
- Indirect costs
- Meals
- Petty cash or gift card reimbursements
- Professional or societal memberships

Submission, Terms, and Conditions

Apply at: https://apply-uthscsa.smapply.io/prog/2020-2021_iims_CE_Grants. Applications are due on Feb. 1, 2021 at 5pm. All supporting documents should be written in 11 point Arial font; set to at least 0.5" margins; and numbered. Incomplete applications will NOT BE REVIEWED. Proposals should be organized as follows:

- Electronic Application
  - Proposed Plan (maximum of 3 total pages): Specific Aims, Background and Significance (maximum of 1 page), and Work Proposed
- History of Community and Academic Partnership (maximum of 1 page)
- Detailed Budget Form (maximum of 1 page)
- Budget Justifications (maximum of 1 page)
- CV or Resume of Principal Investigator (maximum of 4 pages)
- CV or Resume of Co-Investigators (maximum of 4 pages)
- Literature Citations (maximum of 1 page)
- Letters of Collaboration and Support

[1] Research teams seeking participant incentives are required to follow UTHSCSA Policy 7.7.2 Management of Research Participant Payments to ensure proper money handling procedures. ClinCard setup and reloading fees should be included in budgets, if applicable. For more info regarding study participant incentives, contact the UTHSCSA Clinical Trials Office.

Awards will be made starting on or about March 9, 2021. Research project funds will not be disbursed until (1) a copy of an Institutional Review Board approval letter and (2) *CITI Human Subjects - Community Engaged Research* and *Community-Based Participatory Research* proof of training is submitted to the IIMS. Awards may be revoked from awardees who excessively delay providing copies of these documents.

Awardees will be required to present a poster at the 2021 IIMS Community Engagement Symposium. A 6-month interim report and 12-month final report will be required after the initiation of funding. Those who do not submit meaningful and timely reports may be ineligible for future funding. The IIMS Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB) and the Community Engagement Team will support the awardees and their partners by providing guidance during planning/implementation, analysis, and dissemination as needed.

Application Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by members of the IIMS Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB), IIMS Community Engagement Leaders, and the IIMS Principal Investigators. Applications will be scored based on:

1. Significance, novelty, and innovation
2. Strengths of the project design, feasibility, integration with ongoing projects
3. History and productivity of the community and academic partnership
4. Contribution to career development of the researcher(s) and/or community partner(s)
5. Extent to which the project meaningfully expands a community and academic partnership
6. Potential for ultimately improving health outcomes

Awardee Responsibilities

Awardees are required to:

- Abide by NIH rules and regulations
- Abide by IIMS-CTSA and CTSA partner policies and procedures
- Provide demographic information as required before expenditures can be authorized
- Submit complete and timely progress reports
- Acknowledge support from the IIMS in all project-related publications and reports

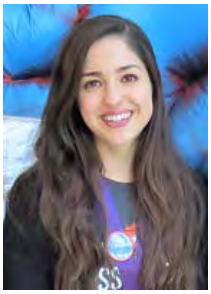
Contact Information

For more information about the CE Small Project Grants program, go to https://iims.uthscsa.edu/ or contact Elisabeth de la Rosa at (210) 562-4087 or at delarosae@uthscsa.edu

2020 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HERO AWARDS

The IIIMS Community Engagement Hero Awards recognizes individuals who have worked as part of a community –campus partnership built on a foundation of reciprocal learning and trust for the improved health and well-being of South Texas communities. This year's awardees are listed below.

Outstanding Student Award



This award recognizes a student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment and follow-through as part of a community service-learning project or internship that has created a tangible benefit for a community and academic partnership.
Awardee: Sarah Masoud, MPH – UTHealth San Antonio, Translational Science PhD Student
Partnerships: Memory Cafes, SA Amigos, Jefferson Outreach and the South Texas Alzheimer's Association

Outstanding Community Partner Award

This award recognizes community members who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and devoted their time, talents, and expertise for improving their community's health and well-being.
Awardee: Suhaib Haq, MD – El Bari Community Health Center Clinic, CEO and Founder
Partners: UT Health San Antonio – Family and Community Medicine, Bexar County Translational Advisory Board, South Central Area Health Education Center

Outstanding Research Partner Award

This award recognizes faculty who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to collaboratively developing projects that promote leadership and shared learning while addressing community health concerns
Awardee: Fozia Ali, MD – UT Health San Antonio, Dept. of Family and Community Medicine
Partners: El Bari Community Health Center Clinic, Bexar County Translational Advisory Board, South Central Area Health Education Center, and UTSA Nutrition and Dietetics Program

Outstanding Community Health Improvement Project

This award This award recognizes outstanding health improvement projects that address community-identified health concerns.
Awardees: Domesticas Unidas –
Directors, Irasema Cavazos and Araceli Herrera
Partners: Domestic Workers Alliance, Las Mujeres West, and UT Health San Antonio – School of Nursing

VIRTUAL RESEARCH POSTER FAIR

Summary

This year's virtual research poster fair will feature 5-minute pre-recorded video presentations. Presenters have narrated their presentations and uploaded their videos on to Flipgrid - a video discussion platform.

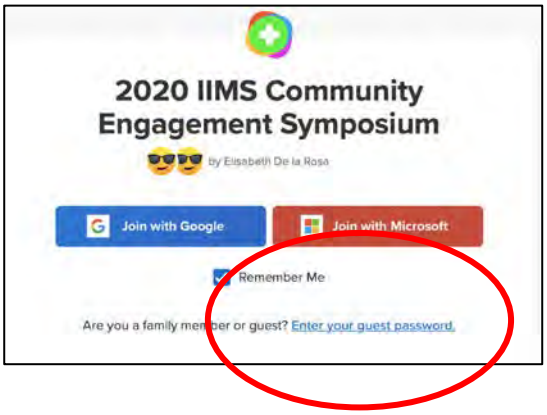
Flipgrid works on most web browsers and mobile devices. We recommend Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome for the best web experience.

Please use the instructions below to access the on-line presentations. We encourage you to show our presenters your support and "like" or post a video response or text comment for each presentation. Video presentations will be available after the Community Engagement Symposium. Additionally, PDFs of each poster are available here: https://iims.uthscsa.edu/community/symposium.html.

Instructions

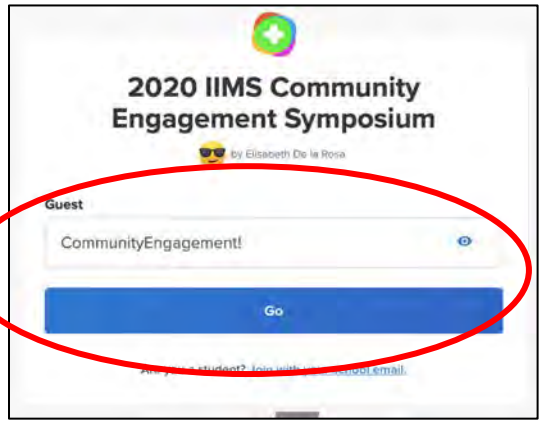
Step 1: Go to: https://flipgrid.com/iimscommunity

Step 2: Click on *Enter your guest password*



Click here

Step 3: Enter the password: CommunityEngagement! and click Go



Password: CommunityEngagement!

Poster Abstracts

1. *Assessing Community Health Literacy and Promoting Engagement Through Virtual Health Education Sessions* - Korman, H.; Haq, S.; Ali, F.; Nguyen, T.; Pemberton, B.; Resendez, V., Shi, Y.; Wood, A.; Estacio, A.; Winkler, P.; Tran, M.; Malik, O.; Tiner, F.; Abdullah, Sabeen; Stewart, E.

Background: Patient-centered community educational opportunities allow clinicians to expand the power of patient teaching beyond a single clinical encounter. By expanding access to information, we empower our patients to make healthier choices for themselves. This purpose of this project is to assess the potential for community-wide and community-directed interventions in health literacy and fill the need for education in these populations. Methods: 1 hour long remote-access interactive sessions on a variety of health topics were conducted with pre and post knowledge surveys. Decisions on what topics were to be discussed was decided jointly with the community. Demographic information was collected with data including age, gender, language spoken in the household, and level of education. Participants: El Bari Community Health Center Intervention/Instrument: Pre and post intervention surveys and knowledge assessments. Main Outcome Measures: Through comparison of pre and post intervention surveys, we have found that this population has improved health understanding after participating in the education sessions. Results: Participants performed better on knowledge assessments related to health topics after participating in the health education sessions (combined $p < 0.005$). Conclusions: Preliminary results suggest patient-centered community education appears to be an effective method for expanding health literacy and patient understanding of common conditions. In addition, remote learning through video meetings can be a useful tool for educating the community. We will continue to collect data and offer education sessions in order to determine the most practical and effective ways to improve health literacy in our community.

2. *Promoting Healthy Community Food Choices through a Blog and Cookbook* - Malik, O.; Aijaz, S.; Stewart, E.; Ali, F.; Serrano, V.; Pemberton, B.; Abdullah, S., Teegala, A.; Fattani, S.; Tiner, F.; Akhtar, A.; Iqbal, U.; Twait, A.; Teegala, S.; Khan, R.; Rodriguez, J.; Winkler, P.; Resendez, V.; Haq, S.; Wood, R.; Hosek, M.; De Muth, D.

Background: UT Health San Antonio and El Bari Community Health Center have built a longitudinal relationship with community members. Following small-group didactic interventions, community leaders underscored the importance of a community-based repository of healthy recipes and resources. Significance: While many cookbooks and recipe-websites are available, few of them are reviewed for nutritional content. Promoting culinary skills with nutritional focus in the community can be achieved by sharing and reviewing recipes. The objective of this project is to promote healthy food choices by providing nutrition education through blog and cookbook Methods: Participants: Community members (age 18 & above) residing in San Antonio. Design: This is a community-led, community-centered project built on the enthusiasm of community leaders for healthy living and the culinary heritage of the community. Participants use online submission form to submit recipe content, serving size and cultural heritage. Recipes are posted on blog and will be published on a cookbook. Recipes are reviewed by medical professionals and feedback is provided on caloric content, macro & micronutrients, heart healthiness, etc. Qualitative feedback from community members will be obtained through in-depth discussion about use of blog or cookbook, understanding of nutritional content of recipes, and changes in cooking habits. All the meetings will be held virtually with community members due to COVID-19 pandemic. Findings: Preliminary results show 26 recipes have been submitted and 23 have been reviewed. Among reviews, the most common comment (12 out 23) made is that recipes are "heart healthy". The blog has 12 subscribers and 37 visitors per week on average over 5 weeks. Conclusion: Study is a work in progress. Preliminary results suggest that a community collection of recipes encourages community members to consider nutritional content of their own recipes, improve understanding of nutrition, and practice healthy cooking.

3. *Understanding How Diabetes Impacts Quality of Life (DQoL)* - Preikschat, B.; Cruz, I.; Teegala, S.

Background. Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) are conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. Similarly, SDoH are conditions in which physicians provide patient care. Clinical practices, especially those in primary care, are becoming more aware of the need to address these challenges patients face both in and outside of clinic settings. While many diseases are seen and treated in primary care clinics, type-2 diabetes is a growing population in primary care, making diabetes management and quality of life an important factor for family practice physicians and the patients they serve. Purpose: This project seeks to address how SDoH and other variables such as diabetes distress and social connectivity directly impact diabetes quality of life in a specific patient population across various family medicine residency clinics in the state of Texas. Methods: Medical students administered surveys under the supervision of RRNeT site directors. Respondents included adult patients with type-2 diabetes who presented for a routine outpatient visit with a primary care physician at one of 10 participating residency clinics associated with the Residency Research Network of Texas (RRNeT). Results: A stepwise multiple linear regression analysis (N=508) was conducted to determine which values from the quality of life and diabetes distress sections of the administered survey significantly contributed to an individual's overall quality of life. The results of this analysis determined that en specific variables of twenty-three significantly contributed, producing $R2=0.16$, $F(6,501)=16.92$, $P<.05$. The values of significance are as follows: diabetes preventing physical activity, feelings as though their doctor does not take their concerns seriously, feeling like serious long-term complications are unavoidable, diabetes affecting a person's sex life, diabetes affecting a person's employment/career, and feeling angry, scared, and/or depressed when thinking about living with diabetes. In addition, a second stepwise multiple linear regression analysis (N=573) was conducted to determine how social connection effects quality of life. The results concluded that the more socially connected an individual is, the higher their quality of life will be ($R2=0.017$, $F(2,570)=5.99$, $P<.05$). Conclusion: These findings suggest that many values surrounding quality of life with diabetes, diabetes distress, and social connection may be both statistically significant and clinically relevant in terms of health and quality of life outcomes for patients living with chronic disease. Understanding how these and other SDoH values impact patients living with chronic conditions can help physicians provide more appropriate care based on patient circumstances rather than stand-alone physician orders. This study seeks to inform family medicine residency training programs on how to address SDoH in patients' lives better while delivering high-quality patient care.

4. **Salud al Pasito - Small Steps Towards Better Health* - Delgado, L.; Tran, M.; Estrada, V.; Yin, Z.; Winkler, P.; Romero, R.

Background: Salud al Pasito - Small Steps towards Better Health is a program aimed to reduce the disparities in chronic diseases in Latino communities. The title was selected because it implies that we are all taking small steps to health improvement, giving time to learn, implement and improve our behaviors respectful of time, tradition, culture, energy, and resources available. This study delivers an online health and nutrition education program to low socio-economic Latino adults and aims to test the feasibility and efficacy of a healthy cooking program, the acceptability of technology-based behavior change, and explore cultural contexts and their influences on health decision making. The program is partnered with Bexar TAB and funded by IIMS. Significance: Research has shown that low-income minority groups are disproportionately exposed to psychosocial, biological, and chronic exposure, but evidence demonstrates that risks can be decreased through a healthy diet and regular physical activity. Salud al Pasito aims to address the most prevalent health challenges underlying chronic health conditions in underserved populations by using a technology-based intervention that will increase the knowledge base of participants to make better healthy choices both in their diets and exercise regimes. Methods: The study targets the Westside population, a historically Latinx and low socio-economic majority area in San Antonio. Residents between the ages of 35-75 will be recruited by community health workers (CHWs) to voluntarily participate. During the intervention, CHWs will mentor participants throughout an online 6-week program which will consist of cooking education sessions, health improvement plans, modifying participant's diet and physical activity, stress management training, and journal assignments for self-

empowerment. The effectiveness of each program element will be measured by using statistical analysis to compare the baseline data to a 6-week posttest and 3-month follow-up. Findings: Study results are currently pending. Conclusion: The ultimate goal of the study is to improve the health outcomes in Latino communities using telecommunication technologies. To accomplish this, trained CHWs will provide participants with the support needed to achieve their personal health goals. In conclusion, data will be collected, and a report of the findings will be generated for improvement of the program.

5. *The New Back-to-School Basics: COVID-19 Hygiene Education for Elementary Students* - Desrosiers, S.; Rangel, M.; Ku, M.; Rodriguez, R.; Malik, O.; Shin, E.; Abdullah, S.; Aijaz, S.; Sharma, A.; Ali, F.; Tek, S.

Context: In the midst of the pandemic and constant undulating statistics of new cases and deaths, schools are reopening this fall after a long hiatus. This project was created in collaboration with the Raindrop Foundation San Antonio, a community partner with the identified need of preparing children to return to school. Objective: To educate elementary school children health and safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Settings: 1st - 5th grade children attending kid's academy at Raindrop Foundation San Antonio, Texas. Design: 3 once-a-month virtual zoom sessions focused on hygiene, physical activity, and coping mechanisms during pandemic. The hygiene lecture will cover handwashing, coughing/sneezing, and mask-wearing with interactive demonstrations. In the coping mechanisms session, children will use art and writing to answer the question "How has COVID-19 changed my feelings?" The physical activity session will discuss safe ways for children to stay active during the pandemic. Both quantitative (pre and post knowledge assessment quizzes) and qualitative (free text, drawings) data will be collected through electronic surveys. Results: The study is a work-in-progress. Preliminary results show seven 3rd - 5th grade children participated in the first session. Conclusion: These educational sessions will not only better prepare children to safely return to school but also help to adapt physical activity and coping skills while maintaining social distancing.

6. *Youth-led Creative Expression COVID-19 Protection Contest* - Helal Salsa, G.; Szeszulski, J.; Cuccaro, P.; Markham, C.; Martin, M.; Savas, L.; Valerio, M.; Walker, T.; Springer, A.

Background: Seven million COVID-19 cases have resulted in more than 200,000 deaths in the U.S. Although few deaths occur in youth under 18, this group comprises 8.6% of all cases. Youth are typically asymptomatic but can spread the virus to others who might be greatly impacted. Our contest leveraged existing community partnerships across Texas to engage youth in promoting COVID-19 protective behaviors among their peers, families and communities. Significance: Community-based strategies are urgently needed to promote COVID-19 protective behaviors and youth are important change agents for community health promotion. By engaging youth in promoting COVID-19 protective behaviors, this project will result in promotional materials for use by schools, health departments, and other community groups for COVID-19 protection. Methods: We sent contest information to 54 youth-serving community partners across Texas in Summer 2020. Eligible youth had to be in elementary, middle, or high school, live in Texas, and have a guardian's permission. Submissions had to target one of four COVID-19 prevention behaviors (mask-wearing, social distancing, handwashing, not touching the face). A youth advisory board was recruited to score submissions. Prizes included five $300 and five $100 gift cards. Findings: Within 2 months, we received a total of 45 unique submissions from Austin (2%), Brownsville (33%), Dallas (2%), Houston (62%), and surrounding areas. Nine, fifteen, and fifteen submissions were from elementary, middle, and high-school students, respectively. Five submissions were collaborations between elementary/middle school students, and one submission included all three age groups. Seven advisory board members (9.5-18 years) met four times to select the winners, which included three, eight, and two winners from elementary, middle, and high school respectively, along with two elementary/middle school collaborations. Winners included seven videos and eight drawings received from Austin (1), Brownsville (7), and Houston (7). Conclusions: Mobilizing youth to lead the way against COVID-19 is critical. This pilot initiative provides evidence of the feasibility of engaging youth in developing creative art that can enhance health

messaging among school-age populations across Texas. Future research is needed to explore how best to disseminate youth's expression artwork and evaluate the impact of such initiatives on their families and communities.

7. **Program Evaluation of Fiesta Youth, a Nonprofit Organization that Provides Support to LGBTQ+ Youth* - Jeon, J.; Christensen, M. C.

Background: LGBTQ youth experience adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) at higher rates than their sexual and gender majority peers (Andersen & Blosnich, 2013). LGBTQ youth experience higher rates of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse (Schneeburger et al., 2014). One way to mitigate these ACEs is to cultivate and support the strengths and resiliencies of LGBTQ youth as individuals and as a community (Russell & Fish, 2016). An important mechanism in this support is community-based organizations (CBOs) that create the space and structures for youth to develop and connect with their peers (Ahuja et al., 2015). Significance: Unfortunately, research on CBOs that serve LGBTQ youth is minimal (Russell & Fish, 2016). Additional research would help communities and organizations to have a deeper and more specific understanding of how to better support LGBTQ youth. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact that the organization Fiesta Youth (FY) has on the social determinants of health for the youth who participate in the programming. [Fiesta Youth is a nonprofit organization in San Antonio, Texas that provides social support to LGBTQ+ youth through weekly programming events.] Methods: We implemented a formative and outcome focused evaluation (CDC, 1999; Zeller-Berkman, 2010). The formative evaluation consisted of interviewing youth (n = 20) who have attended FY meetings. The interviews included questions asking how FY has mitigated the depression, stress, and loneliness resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The outcome evaluation involved using mental health measures (depression symptoms, social support) to collect data (n = 26) at three points in time over a six-month period. Nascent LGBT+ youth data (n = 47) was also collected as an optional part of Fiesta Youth's intake process. Findings: The outcome evaluation revealed that over a six-month period, nascent LGBT+ youth relative to regular LGBT+ Fiesta Youth attendees had a lower prevalence of depressive symptoms and near-equal perceived social support. The formative evaluation revealed the youth consider the online meetings to be the highlight of their week, by providing social support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social support has been difficult to locate through usual channels (e.g., school, extracurricular activities, neighborhood visits). Conclusions: The discrepancies between the survey and interview findings raise valuable questions about the role of CBOs in supporting youth mental health.

8. *Partnering with Community Health Workers and Promotores to Address Type-2 Diabetes: A Virtual Translational Advisory Board* - Kanzler, K.; Flores, B.; Gomez, A.; Reynero, E.; Hernandez, L.; Romero, R.; Tran, M.; Winkler, P.

Background: Type 2 diabetes and related complications disproportionately affect Hispanic/Latino(a/x) communities, where prevalence is twice as high and there is a 40% greater likelihood of death from diabetes compared to non-Hispanic whites. More research is needed to better understand and intervene to prevent these negative outcomes. Community health workers (CHWs, including promotors/as) are often on the frontlines of diabetes-related prevention and intervention efforts and have knowledge and skills to partner with researchers in these efforts. Significance: Therefore, our team, including the South Central and Coastal AHECs in partnership with UT Health San Antonio, has developed a Translational Advisory Board (TAB) that uniquely consists of CHWs and/or promotors/as concerned about diabetes in their communities across South Texas. Our newly-formed CHW TAB meets virtually, allowing for social-distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and inclusion of a broader region of participation. Our TAB seeks to address the health disparity of diabetes through academic and community research collaborations. Methods: As part of our initial meeting, TAB members (N=12) completed an online survey about community needs and priorities. Participants were mostly women (83%) and most identified as Hispanic/Latino(a/x) (67%). Findings: Data indicate TAB members work with community members of Hispanic/Latino/Spanish origin (83%), and those who are white (58%) and Black/African American (25%). The most pressing community health need identified after diabetes was COVID-19. The top barriers to addressing diabetes were lack of access to health care, mental health problems,

unemployment, and lower socio-economic status of community members. Data collection is ongoing and descriptive analyses will be conducted, with findings disseminated back to the TAB members and partnering researchers so they have a better understanding of diabetes-related challenges and needs facing South Texas communities at this time. Conclusions: Diabetes is a devastating disease, made especially challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic, and research has not addressed the troubling health disparity of diabetes in Hispanic/Latino(a/x) populations. Our new CHW TAB "citizen-scientists," in partnership with NIH grant-funded UT Health San Antonio researchers, are working to better understand and solve the problem of type 2 diabetes in our communities.

9. *Evaluation of engagement with a diverse stakeholder advisory council for research in dementia care* - Glassner, A.; Masoud, S.; White, C.

Background Stakeholder Advisory Councils (SACs) incorporate multi-stakeholder perspectives and thus provide a useful mechanism to generate translational research. Person(s) living with dementia (PLWD), care partners, health and social care professionals, and researchers from the San Antonio community were brought together to establish a SAC in order to identify priorities in dementia care research. The purpose of this preliminary research was to evaluate the SAC's engagement in setting research priorities. Significance: PLWD are often excluded from participating in community and research advisory committees. However, this SAC included two members living with dementia, one of whom served as the co-chair of this council. The input from PLWD and their care partners, along with the other members in the SAC, was critical and provided valuable insight into many of the gaps present in dementia care. Methods: Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with 11 members of the SAC by two trained research assistants who were not among the original members of the SAC. Two researchers then independently reviewed, analyzed, and coded transcripts from each interview. A thematic analysis was used to evaluate and discover common themes related to SAC member engagement. Findings: Nine sub-themes were grouped under four main themes: feeling valued and respected, having an accessible and safe environment, identifying certain attributes and qualities for researchers and other SAC members, and identifying benefits for SAC members as well as benefits for the wider community. Sub-themes include 1) experts in their lived experiences; 2) equal value; 3) benevolence; 4) building capacity; 5) belief in the project; 6) safe and secure environment; 7) inclusivity; 8) trained researchers; and 9) dementia friendly. Discussion: Findings suggest that there are many important considerations for establishing diverse SACs, including having an inclusive and safe group culture where every voice has equal value and being aware of the benefits for the individual and the community. PLWD are not often engaged in the SAC model for research, though their perspectives are critical for research that is translatable and relevant. When collaborating for research with multi-stakeholder groups, accommodating the needs of PLWD can facilitate meaningful engagement for all members.

10. **Memory Cafés as a mechanism to support social connectedness for individuals living with dementia and care partners during COVID-19: A qualitative study* - Masoud, S.; Meyer, K.; White, C.

Background: Loneliness and low social support can be detrimental to the health of individuals living with Alzheimer's and related dementias (ADRD) and family care partners. Restrictions on gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19 create an even greater risk for social isolation. Memory Cafés are a highly replicated program that provide care partners and individuals living with ADRD an opportunity to socialize in a supportive environment. Following restrictions on in-person gatherings, virtual Memory Cafés offer these social engagement opportunities in an online format. Significance: While the Memory Café model has been replicated globally, their effects on loneliness and perceived social support are generally unknown. Even less is known about their impact when operating in a virtual environment. Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted online with family care partners and individuals living with ADRD who regularly attended Memory Cafés in Texas. Interviews were transcribed and analyzed for common themes using a combined inductive and deductive approach. Findings: Participants include care partners (n=9) and individuals living with ADRD (n=3). Four key themes were identified: (1) reprieve, (2) a sense of community,

(3) inclusivity, and (4) a sense of purpose. In terms of reprieve, participants described Memory Cafés as an opportunity to take a break from daily challenges and to celebrate what is still possible when living with ADRD. A sense of community was described as feeling like they belong at Memory Cafés and can make friendships and receive peer support. Inclusivity describes a sense that Memory Cafés provide a space where participants feel accepted and understood, are unconcerned with stigma, and can be around others with shared experiences. Lastly, participants reported that Memory Cafés foster a sense of purpose when they are included in planning and can feel they are doing something for others. Discussion: Results suggest that virtual Memory Cafés address important functional aspects of social connectedness including perceived social support and loneliness experienced by individuals living with ADRD and care partners during COVID-19. Virtual Memory Cafés may be a beneficial model for social engagement to address the effects of social isolation related to living with ADRD during COVID-19 restrictions.

11. *Contingency management using transdermal alcohol monitoring for reducing heavy drinking among alcohol impaired drivers* - Moon, T.J.; Mathias, C. W.; Karns-Wright, T. E.; Hill-Kapturczak, N.; Roache, J.; Dougherty, D. M.

Background: Transdermal alcohol monitoring (TAM) has been widely used in criminal justice systems for alcohol-impaired drivers (AID), although its clinical utility has not been well-understood. Partnering with Bexar County Pretrial Services and Recovery Healthcare (the regional TAM provider), this study examined TAM-informed contingency management (CM) effects on the reductions of heavy drinking among AID. Significance: AID is a serious and costly public health outcome from alcohol misuse. There are limited treatment options for AID in Bexar County, despite a high arrest rate (6,000/year). Developing effective treatment options for AID is important to prevent recidivism. Methods: Four groups of AID participants competed 8-week intervention, wearing TAM device: CM group (Mandated = 36; Non-Mandated = 74); Control group (Mandated = 36; Non-Mandated = 71). Linear mixed model analysis of the percentage of heavy drinking days per week during the 8-week intervention as a dependent variable and fixed effects of treatment condition (i.e., CM and control groups) and supervision condition (i.e., Mandated or Non-Mandated to wear SCRAM) were tested along with their interaction and accounted for demographic covariates (e.g.. Gender, age, etc). Findings: CM was effective in reducing heavy drinking days in general ($F = 5.07$, $p < .05$); Mandated participants were less likely to engage in heavy drinking compared to Non-Mandated counterparts ($F = 88.91$, $p < .001$); the impact of CM on restricted alcohol use was greater among Non-Mandated participants ($F = 14.79$, $p < .001$). These findings suggest that CM can be an effective treatment to reduce heavy alcohol use among DWI offenders, especially among those with relatively limited pretrial supervision conditions. Conclusion: This research is building the evidence basis for the effectiveness of TAM-informed CM in reducing problematic drinking among AID. The advantage of the TAM-informed CM is its adaptability to be delivered as part of the routine pretrial supervision process rather than relying on costly specialty care. This has the potential to overcome the current access barriers for a large population of AID arrested each year in Bexar County.

12. *Life in the times of COVID-19: Stories of life under quarantine for women living on the west side of San Antonio* - Moreno-Vasquez, A.; Lesser, J.; Zavala Idar, A.; Recto, P; Zapata, Jr. J.

Background: The purpose of this project is to learn about the challenges and resiliencies that women living in communities on the West Side of San Antonio have experienced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This pandemic is a unique time in human history, and although it is understood that we are all experiencing the effects of the pandemic, each experience is not equal. Our intention is to collect information from women on the West side of town to learn about how they have perceived life under quarantine and how it has affected their families and communities. Significance The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated many of the health disparities that were already present, but generally concealed or ignored. Women, specifically, have been particularly vulnerable to the shock that was brought forth by the pandemic. Locally, the West and South sides of town have been gravely impacted

by the virus, with several zip codes on the West Side 1,000+ confirmed cases. Not only has this area been hit hard by the novel coronavirus itself, but also the socio-economic implications and the detrimental effects that ripple from each case. Methods: Sixteen semi structured interviews were conducted with women from two community partners that the Center for Community Based Health Promotion with Women and Children has been collaborating with for several years, Las Mujeres West and Domésticas Unidas. We used convenience sampling to select the women we would interview. Interviews were conducted via Zoom, telephone and face-to-face and, in the preferred language of the participant (English or Spanish) and were recorded and transcribed verbatim by a University vetted transcription service. Participants were compensated for their time and participation in the study. Findings: While qualitative data analysis is in progress, common issues that arose from the interviews included; a reliance and trust in faith and God, concern for their family, desire to return to work, longing for personal touch, and the steadfastness of the greater community. Conclusion: While it is important to highlight the hardships and inequities women in these communities face, in order to elicit change. It is equally important to showcase resilience and how the community has come together to help each other in this time of crisis, despite limited resources. Results will be shared with the women who participated and next steps to determine action will be decided upon collectively.

13. **Are Dentists the Solution to Nico-Teen Vaping?* - Mungia R; Hernandez V; Case K; Atique M; Jones B; Mendoza M.

Background: Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are the most popular tobacco product among high school-aged youth. In 2020, almost 1 in 5 high school students (19.6%) reported current (past 30-day) e-cigarette use, while roughly 5% of middle school students reported current use.. The American Dental Academy recommends that dental practitioners provide evidence-based tobacco cessation programs. The ReACH Assessment of Knowledge for E-cigarettes requires dental practitioners to 1) train using the 5A's for e-cigarette cessation, 2) screen young dental patients aged 15-21 years old for e-cigarette use, and 3) incorporate e-cigarette cessation messaging. This research is to test the feasibility of a dental practice-based e-cigarette cessation program targeting 15-21-year-olds in Texas. Modifications: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an Electronic Dental Records review followed by a short survey will assess e-cigarette prevalence, use history, demographics, and willingness to participate in the study. Methods: This project will employ an e-cigarette cessation program targeting 15-21-year-old, e-cigarette-using patients in the South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN) practice-based research network (PBRN). 5 prospective dental practitioners must complete human subjects and network orientation trainings required by STOHN and the UT Health San Antonio IRB. 15 e-cigarette users ages 15-21 will be recruited and screened. Qualifications include: 1) self-reported e-cigarette use during the past 30 days; and 2) lack current (past 30-days) cigarette smoking or other tobacco product use. Participating practitioners will be compensated $25 dollars per patient. Participating patients will receive $25 after completing the knowledge and attitudes assessments. Modifications: Due to COVID-19, an Electronic Records Review will be conducted with the patients to collect e-cigarette prevalence, usage history, and demographic data. Once identified as an e-cigarette user, a survey will be conducted to capture their willingness to participate in a cessation program. Conclusions: This program is the first of its kind to deliver e-cigarette cessation counseling to youth and young adults by dental practitioners in Texas. Current study findings will yield e-cigarette information and cessation strategies throughout STOHN, National Dental PBRNs, and other Texas dental practitioners, to combat the epidemic of e-cigarette use among young people across Texas.

14. *Silver Diamine Fluoride, A Suit of Armor for Children: A South Texas Oral Health Network Short Survey* - Garcia, K.; Mungia, R.; Mendoza, M.; Taverna, M.

Background: Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) is a colorless solution composed of silver and fluoride ions that combines the antibacterial effects of silver and the re-mineralizing effects of fluoride, to arrest and prevent caries. Approved by the FDA in 2014, SDF at a 38% concentration inhibits the development of caries when compared to 5% sodium fluoride varnish. Overall, SDF is a safe, noninvasive procedure that inhibits caries and prevents growth in teeth. Significance: SDF as an alternative treatment allows the arresting of caries without the need for local or general anesthetics and removal of tooth structure. However, this process results in the staining of carious tooth structure, which is considered a barrier to use in visible areas of the mouth. Yet, this procedure can be advantageous in pediatric settings where children are uncomfortable with receiving traditional restorations. Methods: The South Texas Oral Health Network Practice-Based Research Network released a 5-question survey about the use and perceptions of SDF to its network of providers. The survey was distributed via a newsletter where responses could be collected anonymously. Data was aggregated and analyzed as frequency data. Findings/Results: A total of 10 dental practitioners participated. Majority of participants (90%) strongly agreed that SDF is an effective method to treat caries in children. With, 60% strongly agreeing that SDF is "very safe" for children ages 3-12 and would "strongly recommend" (60%) this procedure to parents as a safe method to caries management. Interestingly, 40% of participants stated that they do not provide SDF as an option, however of those 40%, all either agreed or strongly agreed they would implement the use of SDF in their clinics. Conclusion: Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) application for the treatment of caries in children has strong support from dental practitioners. The results describe a consensus of the effectiveness and safety of this solution. Practitioners who have not used SDF prior to this study now strongly consider adding it to their practices. As a non-invasive treatment, use of SDF for childhood caries will provide a less stressful dental experience for children and practitioners.

15. *Preventing Bacterial Pneumonia in a Viral Pandemic* - Nguyen, T.; Shi, Y.; Korman, H.; Vargas, N.; Ali, F.; Estacio, A.; Tran, M.; Winkler, P.; Rodriguez, J.; Wood, R.; Gomez, A.

Background: The CDC reports approximately 400,000 pneumococcal pneumonia related hospitalization, 12,000 cases of pneumococcal bacteremia, and 3,000-6,000 pneumococcal meningitis every year in the United States with the highest fatality rate in older adults. Therefore, vaccination is an important preventative measure to reduce morbidity and mortality in high risk populations especially in the time of COVID. Significance: The project aims to assess resident and patient knowledge and attitude regarding the pneumococcal vaccination and identify barriers that might hinder patients from receiving the vaccine at the Family Health Center. This will later assist with implementing interventions to improve vaccination rate for the pneumococcal vaccine. Methods: A presurvey is administered to all residents to develop a knowledge baseline. A postsurvey will be conducted to assess change in knowledge and attitude. Using a card study design as reference through Association for Health Research Quality, residents of the Family and Community Medicine will fill out a pre-printed card to interview qualifying patients (patients 65 years and older who receive care at Family Health Center downtown San Antonio) from the period of October 2020 to March 2021. Demographic information to be collected include: age, gender, health insurance, which will be filled out by the provider prior to the interview. During the interview (either in person or telehealth), the provider will go over questions pertaining to pneumonia vaccine, including questions regarding COVID pandemic. After survey completion, residents will place the card in a collection box, which will be collected at the end of the study. Survey data will be analyzed to determine the percentage of the qualifying population attending the clinic that received the pneumonia vaccine and whether PCP recommendation or lack thereof impact the rate of vaccination. We also hope to find out whether the COVID 19 pandemic has affected patient perception regarding receiving the vaccine. Findings/ Conclusions: Our community partner, BEXAR TAB, provides oversight and guidance on a monthly basis. The baseline survey has been collected. Data collection is underway.

16. **Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Adolescent Fathers during COVID-19: Opportunities for Nursing Practice and Community-Based Partnerships* - Recto, P.; Lesser, J.; Vasquez, R. J.; Moreno- Vasquez, A.; Zapata, Jr. J.; Zavala Idar, A.

Background: The 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a public health crisis having serious, negative implications for vulnerable populations. During the pandemic, social and economic factors that contribute to adverse physical and mental health outcomes are amplified in certain populations. One such group that has been impacted are young Hispanic fathers. This group already faces limited social, economic, and organizational support at a time when they are expected to adapt to their parenting roles and provide for their child. The purpose of this project was to explore how young fathers' socioeconomic and emotional well-being have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, it sought to examine how a father-inclusive community-based program responded to the needs of families amidst the pandemic. Significance: The consequences of the pandemic may result in greater financial hardship, limited employment opportunities, and poorer health outcomes in young fathers and their families. Community organizations face funding shortages and are struggling to support families during a time when their services are essential to young fathers. Methods: Qualitative description was the method used for this project. Participants were fathers who were between the ages of 18 and 24 years, who attended a community-based fatherhood program. Staff members were also invited to participate in the study. The interviews of 7 young fathers and 4 staff members were analyzed using qualitative content analysis. Findings: Though participants feared contracting COVID-19, providing for their family was their main priority, with some continuing to work. Concerns about the pandemic and unemployment kept other fathers in a heightened state of stress as they struggled to stay afloat while facing financial hardship. The fatherhood program partnered with other organizations to expand their work and continue providing essential items and support resources to families. Conclusions: COVID-19 offers an unprecedented opportunity to rebuild the community health infrastructure so that health care providers can support the needs of this population. Health policies that fully incorporate the needs of young fathers into the web of services by federal and state agencies can help provide young fathers equal opportunity to be actively involved in the well-being of their children and families.

17. *Health Literacy Assessment in Refugees Residing in San Antonio, Texas* - Shi, Y.; Teegala, S. ; Hamilton-B., H.; Song, C.; Acosta, K; Bakouetila, M.; Camacho, C.; Stasio, C.; Nguyen, T.; Ibarra, P.; Jose, SdC R; So, B.; Bhajjan, S.; Hosek, M.; Abdullah, S.; Cordova, T.; Werfelli, H. and Ali, F.

Background: Low health literacy (HL) is closely associated with poor health outcomes. It was estimated that more than one-third of the US adult population have below basic HL. Inadequate HL has been postulated to be one of the major barriers to healthcare in the refugee population, and this is exacerbated by the stress of resetting in a new country, language and cultural gap, and the difficulty in navigating a new healthcare system. To date, there were no published studies on the general HL in the refugee population in Texas. Significance: By determine the HL status in refugee population, we hope to ultimately advance HL, decrease health disparity and meet the healthcare needs of refugees. Methods: Settings/Participants: Adult refugees seeking services at the Center for Refugee Services (CRS) and the San Antonio Refugee Health Clinic (SARHC) between 7/1/2019 and 12/31/2020. Study Design: A cross-sectional quantitative study using a convenience sample (goal sample size = 220). Two HL assessment tools were used: the brief health literacy screening tool (BRIEF) and the Short-Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (STOFHLA). Additionally, the HL tools were translated into Arabic, Pashto, and Burmese besides English and French. Findings: Preliminary analysis (n=91) shows that 92.3% of the participants who completed the STOFHLA and 86.8% of the participants who completed the BRIEF had low HL. There is a positive and linear correlation between BRIEF and STOFHLA scores in the samples ($p<0.01$). Crosstabulation between different variables and HL suggests education and proficiency in reading and writing English significantly impact HL ($p<0.05$) assessed by either STOFHLA or BRIEF, while age, gender, family size, income, health insurance status, employment, length of time in the US do not. Conclusions: Preliminary results demonstrated an overwhelming prevalence of inadequate HL levels

among refugees in San Antonio, TX. The finding of the study implies that specific tools or materials targeting poor HL are needed for refugees perhaps in their native languages. The current study and subsequent follow-up studies will facilitate patient-centered care in the refugee community, and to promote patient engagement in healthcare decisions and reduce health disparities in this vulnerable population.

18. *Promoting Community Engagement through Virtual Healthy Cooking Sessions during Ramadan and COVID-19 Pandemic* - Stewart, E.; Teegala, S.; Wood, R.; Abdullah, S.; Bhajjan, S.; Ali, F.; Pemberton, B.; Akhtar, A.; Iqbal, U.; Khan-Jazbi, M.; Twait, A.; Rodriguez, J.; Malik, O.; Winkler, P.; Hosek, M.; De Muth, D.

Context: Nutrition was identified as a top priority in needs assessments that were conducted at the El Bari Community Health Center (CHC) Fair in 2019. UT Health San Antonio and El Bari CHC developed small group didactic sessions about healthy living. During the COVID-19 pandemic and Ramadan, virtual healthy cooking sessions were held to promote continued community engagement. Significance: Community-centered care and healthful habits are cornerstones of primary care. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast every day from dawn to sunset and share meals together. The combined effects of Ramadan and the COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges for healthful habits and community engagement. Objective: Promote community engagement through virtual cooking sessions; Assess community feedback regarding healthy choices and mindfulness during Ramadan and COVID-19 pandemic. Participants: San Antonio community members (age 18 +), predominantly South Asian. Intervention: 3 weekly virtual healthy cooking sessions with culturally-relevant healthy meals (April and May 2020) were conducted via Zoom. Mixed method (qualitative and quantitative) data were collected via REDCap survey, including demographics, questionnaire regarding healthy choices, and qualitative feedback on sessions. Main and Secondary Outcome Measures: (1) Promote wellness and community engagement during; (2) Assess community healthy choices and mindfulness practices during Ramadan and COVID-19 pandemic. Findings: Among 93 survey participants (71% female, 29% male), 16% of respondents reported exercising 0 times per week. 17% of respondents reported eating >3 servings of protein per day. 7.5% reported eating the recommended daily serving of fruits and vegetables. Qualitative feedback listed lack of exercise, snacking, social distancing, and poor sleep schedule among primary challenges. Increasing vegetables and lean protein, mindful portion sizes, more exercise, and making changes to traditional recipes were reported as behavior changes following our sessions. More live sessions, a website or blog, and more traditional recipes with healthy substitutions were requested. Conclusions: (1) Community engagement is possible and sustainable during COVID-19 with a community-based model; (2) COVID-19 pandemic and Ramadan present unique challenges to healthy living; (3) Further engagement is needed with a focus on increasing fruit, vegetable, and lean protein consumption, exercise, and mindful portions.

19. *Probiotics for Oral Health* - Taverna, M.; Maldonado, K.; Mendoza, M.; Nguyen, T.; Mungia, R. -

Background: Probiotics specifically for the oral cavity may be of great benefit to a person's overall oral health. Promoting probiotics for oral health is an important step to ensure an increasing number of patients are receiving the benefits of oral probiotics. Creating proper educational materials requires much thought and communication between health professionals, patients, and material designers. Significance: Educational materials must be used in the proper context in order to educate the maximum number of people. The purpose of this study was to create and test materials to ensure that the information is clear and concise while still getting the message across to all audiences. Gathering health professionals and community members to test the content and validity of the educational materials will allow the materials and information to be presented in a proper manner. Methods Two focus groups (12 health professionals and 21 community members) were initially formed to gather ideas on the creation of materials that promote probiotics for oral health. During the first stage of the study, focus groups designed several different educational materials. The next stage of the study consisted of testing the materials and gathering input about revisions that may be needed. 10 community members and 10 health practitioners were interviewed to test the face validity and provide input on the educational materials. Findings: After the first stage of the study, the materials

created were brochures, a patient information sheet, a practitioner paper, children's coloring pages, and a simple poster. The testing of the validity and content of the materials brought about ideas as to how the materials may be revised to enhance the information they provide. The interviews also established awareness that educational materials should be used differently for specific audiences. Conclusion: Educational materials are used to promote ideas, bring about awareness, and even enhance knowledge. The type and creativity of materials used in certain settings can make the difference as to whether the message is getting across to the learner. Health professionals can promote and encourage probiotics for oral health to their patients in the most effective way when the materials they are using are understandable and valid.

20. *Increasing Census Awareness During a Pandemic* - Tran, M.; Spriggins, J.; Ochoa, A.; Rajan, M.; Brown, J.; Ajala, S.

Background: Public Health Society is a student organization at UTSA that focuses on addressing health disparities through volunteerism and advocacy. Our organization consists of approximately 50 students who are pursuing a variety of different health-related degrees such as public health, community health, and medical humanities. We partnered with UTHSCSA's South Central Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to conduct census advocacy with the goal of increasing census awareness and participation within our community. Significance: Completing the census is important because it determines how funds are distributed to create and help organizations that provide opportunities for our community. Additionally, it is crucial that people complete their census forms before Census Bureau employees begin to conduct surveys door-to-door, which puts community members at risk during the current pandemic. Methods: Members of Public Health Society were recruited to volunteer to advocate for the census. All volunteers were required to attend a training session conducted by South Central AHEC to learn more about the census' Background and advocacy protocols. Members were then given the choice to hand out informative flyers or make phone calls to increase census awareness. Members were directed to take the recommended COVID-19 precautionary measures when handing out flyers, and all phone calls were made through a virtual phone bank. Members were then asked to report the number of flyers handed out or the number of phone calls made. Findings: Members of Public Health Society made a total of 483 phone calls. Members will be asked to continue to hand out flyers until December of this year. Conclusions: Public Health Society was able to increase census awareness by contacting people using a virtual phone bank. We will continue to handout census flyers to inform community members about why the census is important. In the future, we hope to collaborate with other organizations like South Central AHEC to contribute to causes that improve health outcomes and minimize health disparities.

21. *A Community-Engaged Research Approach to Understanding Youth Mental Health* - Yang, P.; Neill, J.; Sumner, B.; Todd, J.; Plastino, K.

Background: Every year, nearly 1 in 5 adolescents in the United States experience a mental health challenge. The impacts of mental illness are severe, with suicide recently becoming the second leading cause of death in the 10-24 age group. In this project, nineteen high school students from UT Teen Health's (UTTH) Youth Leadership Council are empowered as young investigators to design, administer, and evaluate a mental health survey for high school students. Significance: This project is important as it utilizes San Antonian youth voices to further the understanding of youth mental health. Methods: Throughout the summer, the young investigators collectively spent over 200 hours to design a mental health survey and school administration protocol. The principal investigator and UTTH staff designed structured meetings to encourage discussion and empower student voice. Prior to each meeting, the young investigators engaged in prework to prepare for the discussions. The project started with an overview, teambuilding activities, and an introduction to research and mental health. Next, the research team designed survey objectives and questions over the span of 6 meetings. In the last meeting, the research team created a survey administration protocol for their respective high schools. Additionally, a Community Advisory Board composed of three adolescent mental health professionals provided survey guidance and feedback. Currently, the young investigators are preparing for

survey administration. By the end of 2020, the surveys will be administered in 9 high schools. By March of 2021, the survey data will be analyzed and disseminated. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings were conducted on Zoom and the surveys will likely be administered online. Findings: The survey has 20 objectives with 148 questions. Through focus groups, the survey is projected to take 20-35 minutes to complete. Conclusion: The community-engaged research method promotes equity in community voice by empowering high school age young investigators to utilize their passion in mental health into the scientific process. Importantly, the youth voice speaks to the current and unique challenges concerning youth mental health, especially with the impacts of COVID-19. Additionally, the young investigators are educated as leaders and scientists while positively impacting their communities.

22. Opioid Use Disorder ECHO: A program that provides knowledge and builds capacity for CHWs in South Texas - Zapata Jr. J.; Colistra, A.; Lesser, J.; Flores, B.; Zavala Idar, A.; Moreno- Vasquez, A.

Background: Opioid use disorder is a growing public health concern in South Texas. To assist in mitigating the effects of this epidemic, South Texas-AHEC staff produced a program that focused on replicating, modifying, and evaluating the impact of the "Opioid Addiction Treatment ECHOTM for CHWs program" on 50 CHWs practicing in rural and other medically-underserved areas through teleconferencing technology. Significance: Complex care programs are progressively utilizing CHWs to cultivate enduring relationships with patients/clients and deliver culturally competent education, care coordination, and system navigation assistance. CHWs trained on the topic of substance use disorder, which includes strategies to address prescription opioid misuse and addiction in rural and underserved communities of South Texas, concentrated on behavioral health integration with a focus on opioid prescription misuse. Methods: The 5-regional AHEC Centers recruited area CHWs and were enrolled using REDCap where demographic data-points, geographic data, and model release forms were collected. The program consisted of two cohorts, each composed of 11 sessions lasting 90 minutes. Each session included a didactic presentation by a team of CHW instructors and other content experts. The participants presented case studies, which were discussed in detail with addiction prevention and intervention specialist. Participants also completed pre- and post-program knowledge and readiness to practice questionnaire. Findings: Twenty CHWs completed the post-program knowledge questionnaire. Our participants were mostly female (84%) and 86% self-identified as Hispanic. The mean age was 50.79 years. Using SPSS v25 for data analysis, a paired-samples t-test was calculated to compare the means. The mean on the pre-knowledge questionnaire was 70.84 and the mean on the post- questionnaire was 81.88. The post-test means significantly increased above the pre-test means ($t(19) = 2.597$, $p = .018$). Conclusions: The analysis found that knowledge attainment was increased above the pre-test means. The ECHOTM model proved to be a promising model for providing knowledge and building capacity for community health workers in medically underserved areas of South Texas. The South Texas AHEC Program recently published the findings on the piloting of this program, is currently translating this program into Spanish, and developing a CHW-COVID-19 ECHO program.

23. *Opioid Use Disorder ECHO: Un programa que proporciona conocimientos y desarrolla la capacidad de las promotoras en el sur de Texas* - Zapata Jr. J.; Colistra, A.; Lesser, J.; Flores, B.; Zavala Idar, A.; Moreno-Vasquez, A.

Resumen: El trastorno por uso de opioides es un problema creciente de salud pública en el sur de Texas. Para ayudar a mitigar los efectos de esta epidemia, el personal de South TexasAHEC produjo un programa a a través de la tecnología de teleconferencia que se enfoco en replicar, modificar y evaluar el impacto del "Programa ECHOTM para Promotoras sobre el tratamiento de adicciones opioides" en 50 Promotoras que practican en zonas rurales y otras áreas médicamente desatendidas. Significado: Programas de atención compleja están utilizando progresivamente a Promotoras para cultivar relaciones duraderas con pacientes/clientes y ofrecer educación culturalmente competente, coordinación de la atención y asistencia de navegación del sistema de salud. Las Promotoras recibieron entrenamiento en el tema del trastorno por consumo de sustancias, que incluye estrategias para abordar el uso indebido de opioides recetados y la adicción en comunidades rurales y desatendidas del sur de

Texas, y se concentraron en la integración de la salud conductual con un enfoque en el uso indebido de recetas de opioides. Métodos: Los 5 Centros AHEC regionales reclutaron Promotoras del área y se inscribieron utilizando REDCap donde se recopilaron puntos de datos demográficos, datos geográficos y formularios de liberación de modelos. El programa consistió en dos cohortes, cada una compuesta por 11 sesiones de 90 minutos de duración. Cada sesión incluyó una presentación didáctica de un equipo de instructores de Promotoras y otros expertos en contenido. Los participantes presentaron estudios de caso, que fueron discutidos en detalle con especialistas en prevención e intervención de adicciones. Los participantes también completaron el cuestionario de conocimientos antes y después del programa y la preparación para practicar el cuestionario. Resultados: Veinte Promotoras completaron el cuestionario de conocimientos posteriores al programa. Nuestros participantes eran en su mayoría mujeres (84%) y 86% autoidentificada como hispana/latina. La edad media era de 50.79 años. Utilizando SPSS v25 para el análisis de datos, se calculó una prueba t de muestras emparejadas para comparar los medios. La media del cuestionario previo al conocimiento fue de 70.84 y la media en el cuestionario posterior a la publicación fue de 81.88. El post-prueba significa un aumento significativo por encima de los medios previos a la prueba ($t(19) = 2.597$, $p = .018$). Conclusiones: El análisis encontró que el logro del conocimiento se incrementó por encima de los medios previos a la prueba. El modelo ECHOTM demostró ser un modelo prometedor para proporcionar conocimiento y capacidad para las Promortoras en áreas médicamente desatendidas del sur de Texas. South Texas AHEC publicó recientemente los hallazgos sobre este programa piloto cual actualmente se está traduciendo al español, y desarrollando un programa similar PROMOTORAS -COVID-19 ECHO.

24. *Actinic Keratosis at Student-Run Free Clinic: Need for Patient Education* - Zhu, C.; Guerrero, G; Patel, K.; Vu, M.; Wong, J.; Bambekova, P.; Browning, J.

Background: In 2009, the Travis Park Dermatology Clinic in San Antonio was established as a student-faculty collaborative practice to treat skin conditions in the homeless, indigent, and uninsured population of our community. Significance: Actinic keratoses (AK) are common, sun-induced lesions that can potentially progress to squamous cell carcinoma. AKs tend to recur, and patients are advised to follow-up once a year, and once every 6 months if there is a history of skin cancer. Methods: To better serve our patients with actinic keratosis, we conducted a retrospective review using our RedCap electronic medical record (EMR) system to evaluate treatment and follow-up in patients with a new diagnosis of AK in our clinic. Findings: In the 24-month time frame since we transitioned to our EMR system, 8 patients were diagnosed with actinic keratosis at our clinic, with an average of 2.5 AK lesions per patient. Seven of the eight patients elected to undergo treatment with cryotherapy. Six patients had discussions about sun protection; two patients had charted notes explaining the need for follow-up. Only one patient returned to the clinic, and this individual was found to have a recurrent AK lesion that required further treatment. Conclusion: As most AK patients are advised to follow up once a year, it is crucial that our free clinic emphasize the importance of follow-up as well as sun protection. Actinic keratoses has been found to be highly recurrent, especially in patients with multiple lesions. As a treatable and preventable condition, actinic keratosis is one modifiable way our clinic can make a significant impact on the community. To help achieve this goal, we have created a patient handout on the natural progression of AK to squamous cell carcinoma and the need for sun protection.

*2019-20 IIMS Community Engagement Small Project Grant Awardees

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