



## Spreading the Word:

Dissemination Strategies for Community Engagement  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Engagement Spring Conference

April 26 & 27, 2018



Community Engagement

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# Welcome

## Welcome to the Community Engagement (CE) Spring Conference!

Thank you for joining us for our fourth year of MCW Community Engagement events. This year we transition from our historic “Community Engagement Week,” to a new event model. We will be holding multiple, shorter conferences throughout the year, first of which is this Community Engagement Spring Conference.

The theme for CE Spring Conference is “Spreading the Word: Dissemination Strategies for Community Engagement.” We’re thrilled to offer special sessions focused on community-engaged dissemination methods that will provide inspiration, insight, and instruction so you may creatively share your message. We are especially excited to launch the Regional Community Engagement Network, a new, multi-institutional initiative. As this new group launches, we welcome this opportunity for bi-directional conversation with our diverse community and academic constituents to help shape this new effort.

We continue to be honored as a trusted partner by our community leaders and organizations. We value having the opportunity to gather together during these events to learn how we can be better partners, improve our programs, and have greater impact on health. With the many challenges faced by our healthcare system and by our communities alike, we want to encourage people to innovate not only by doing community engagement, but also in how we engage each other, for the overall health and benefit of the communities we serve.

We hope these sessions and the connections that will happen throughout this event will nurture partnerships and catalyze new projects and partner opportunities. Thank you for contributing to a tradition of community-focused relationship building, innovation, and of course, dissemination. Stay tuned; there will be details and dates about our next Community Engagement Conference event posted soon!

Sincerely,



**Syed M. Ahmed, MD, MPH, DrPH, FAAFP**

*Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement  
Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine  
Professor, Institute for Health and Equity  
Director, Community Engagement Core  
Director, CTSI Collaboration/Engagement Domain, CTSI SEW  
Medical College of Wisconsin*



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORE

## Who We Are

Housed under the Office of Community Engagement, the Community Engagement Core seeks to grow the network of community-engaged research advocates at both the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and throughout the community. The Core facilitates relationships among community and academic partners, encouraging the growth of mutually beneficial partnerships that have the potential to impact health in Wisconsin.

## What We Do

### Seed Grant Program

Collaborate with MCW centers, campuses, institutes, and departments to fund grants for community-engaged research projects. These seed grants are awarded for promising, early-stage research focused on improving the health of Wisconsin communities, with an emphasis on proposals with a high possibility of future extramural funding.



**HEALTH SCIENCE SQUARE**  
A SPACE FOR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

A curated forum for the collective discussion of community health concerns stimulating the collaborative development of relevant, practical, and actionable health initiatives.

### Immersion

Administer an immersive experience for a small cohort of researchers from across the translational spectrum.

### Training & Outreach

Share modules and training about the principles and strategies of community-engaged research with faculty, staff, students, and community members.

### Mentoring Network

Connect mentors who have community-engaged research expertise with faculty interested in pursuing and developing expertise in community-engaged research.

### Community Engagement Learning Repository

Provide an online repository where the community, academics, and CE practitioners share tools and resources they have developed.



# OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Who We Are

Community engagement is the collaboration between academic institutions and their larger communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity (Ahmed & Palermo, 2010). The Medical College of Wisconsin's (MCW) mission is to improve the health of Wisconsin's communities.

In 2017, MCW was recognized as a top institution in community engagement and community service as a finalist for the Spencer Foreman Award given by the Association of American Medical Colleges. MCW is the only medical school to have been recognized among the top three institutions for the Spencer Foreman Award more than once in over ten years. MCW is also one of only four medical schools nationwide to have received the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.

## What We Do

The Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement provides a variety of resources to both MCW and community partners in support of MCW's Community Engagement Mission to advance the art and science of community engagement.

### Community Engagement Conferences

The Community Engagement Conference Series brings together academic and community partners for discussion, education, and action. This conference series strengthens community and academic collaboration by creating an ongoing and accessible forum open to all.

### President's Community Engagement Award

An annual award that recognizes the exemplary community-academic partnership, community-engaged research, or community outreach activities by the faculty, staff, students, and community partners of MCW.

### Community Engagement Survey

Administered to the MCW faculty and staff in alternate years, this survey captures the various community engagement activities carried out by the MCW community.

### Components of Community Engagement

The Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement, Syed Ahmed, MD, MPH, DrPH, recently published a practical model to help community engagement practitioners understand the wide array of initiatives and programs that encompass the practice of community engagement.



## Day 1: Thursday, April 26 at the Medical College of Wisconsin

Time	Event
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Community Engagement Spring Conference Poster Session</b></p> <p>See community-academic partnerships, community centered projects, community engaged research, and translational research for community health highlighted. Poster authors will be present to talk through their work, answer questions, and expand the dialogue around community engagement.</p>
9:40 - 11:30 a.m.	<p><b>Regional Community Engagement Network (RCEN) Launch</b></p> <p>The RCEN, whose members span many of the higher education institutions and community organizations across the region asks you to join them in round table discussions to hear your thoughts and ideas on the development of community engagement core competencies and what a regional approach to volunteerism could look like.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bonnie Andrews, Manager, Volunteer Milwaukee, Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee</li><li>• Dan Bergen, PhD, Executive Director, Office of Community Engagement, Marquette University</li><li>• Ron A. Cisler, PhD, Professor, Dean, College of Health Sciences, UW-Milwaukee</li><li>• Gavin Luter, PhD, Director, UniverCity Alliance at UW-Madison</li><li>• Robert Smith, PhD, Director, Center for Urban Research, Teaching, and Outreach, Marquette University</li><li>• Ben Trager, MA, Director of Community-Based Learning, Leadership, and Research, Community-Based Learning, UW-Milwaukee</li></ul>

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**11:30 - 12:30 p.m.**

**President's Community Engagement Award Luncheon**

The President's Community Engagement Award recognizes the exemplary community-academic partnerships, community engaged research, and community outreach activities and programs of faculty, staff, students, and community partners of the Medical College of Wisconsin. Join us over lunch to recognize this year's awardees:

- Christopher Zeman—Student Awardee
- David Nelson, PhD, MS—Faculty Awardee
- Mark Flower—Community Awardee
- Moriah Iverson, MS—Staff Awardee

## Day 2: Friday, April 27 at the Ambassador Inn

Time	Event
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Breakfast and Networking</b></p> <p>Connect with other attendees over breakfast!</p>
8:55 - 9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Keith Stanley, Executive Director, Near West Side Partners/BID #10</p>
9:00 - 9:40 a.m.	<p><b>Community Perspectives on Dissemination Panel</b></p> <p>Hear community perspectives about how to thoughtfully consider dissemination of health and research information. Learn about dissemination strategies and approaches that have resonated with various communities.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maria Barker, Multicultural Programs Manager, Planned Parenthood of WI Inc.</li><li>• Al Castro, MS, CSW, Health Research Program Director, United Community Center</li><li>• Gerry Coon, PhD, President &amp; CEO, Diverse &amp; Resilient</li><li>• Keith Stanley, Executive Director, Near West Side Partners/BID #10</li></ul> <p><b>Facilitator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zeno Franco, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin</li></ul>



9:45 - 10:25 a.m.

### **Community-Engaged Dissemination Methods Panel**

Panelists will discuss innovative dissemination methods that are relevant to community partners and stakeholders. Learn about approaches to package and disseminate research findings using broadly-accessible channels such as infographics, social media, videos, spoken word, art installations, and other formats.

#### **Panelists:**

- Moriah Iverson, Program Manager, Research and Community Engagement, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Sandy Bogar, PhD, Instructor/Research Fellow, Institute for Health & Equity, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Diana Lerner, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Angelique Harris, PhD, Director of the Center for Gender and Sexualities Studies, Associate Professor of Sociology, Marquette University
- Tia Richardson, Community Artist, Cosmic Butterfly Design

#### **Facilitator:**

- Zeno Franco, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin

<p><b>10:35 a.m.– Noon</b></p>	<p><b>Dissemination Deep Dive Discussion with Innovators</b></p> <p>Engage in small group discussions with project leaders who have experience using community-oriented dissemination methods beyond posters, presentations, and publications. These conversations can inform both community and academic partners how to disseminate with heightened mindfulness of the community, what the process may look like, and what the benefits can be to your project and research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine Draeger-Pederson, MA, Executive Director, Friedens Community Ministries</li> <li>• Melissa Harris, MPH, Clinical Research Coordinator II, Medical College of Wisconsin</li> <li>• Moriah Iverson, Program Manager, Research and Community Engagement, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Medical College of Wisconsin</li> <li>• Paul Kjelland, Co-Founder, ReciproCITY</li> <li>• David Nelson, PhD, MS, Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin</li> <li>• Maria Salcedo, Community Partner</li> <li>• Bree Spencer, Director of Evaluation, Safe &amp; Sound</li> <li>• Christal West, Community Partner</li> <li>• Earnestine Willis, MD, MPH, Kellner Professor in Pediatrics, Vice Chair, Diversity and Inclusion, Director, Center for the Advancement of Underserved Children, Medical College of Wisconsin</li> </ul>
<p><b>Noon – 12:15</b></p>	<p><b>Grab some lunch and gather for the keynote</b></p>
<p><b>12:15 - 1:15 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote: <i>Sherman Park Rising</i> with Tia Richardson</b></p> <p>Learn how artist Tia Richardson, in partnership with Safe and Sound, Inc and the City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services, brought a community together to create the mural <i>Sherman Park Rising</i>. Tia is joined by three mural participants: Laura Marshall, Sherman Park resident and blogger, and Camille Mays, Community Organizer, Sherman Park Community Association, and Doris Wallace.</p>

## Poster Abstracts

### Poster Abstract #1

#### **The Joseph Project Wausau – A Medical Student Initiated Intervention to Support Well-Being through Employment**

Christopher Zeman, MCW Medical Student; Boris Berman, MCW-CW Student; Corina Norrbom, MCW-CW Faculty; Amy Prunuske, MCW-CW Faculty

*Purpose:* Healthy People 2020 highlights the importance of improving the social and physical environment to address health inequities. The Joseph Project Wausau (JPW) was designed to improve social health determinants by increasing job opportunities necessary for economic stability by removing barriers to acquiring jobs for individuals from low socio-economic backgrounds and the recently incarcerated.

*Methods:* Participants attended a 4-day job skills workshop focused on strategies to acquire and maintain employment hosted by MCW Students, Greater Wausau Christian Services, and the office of U.S. Senator Ron Johnson. All graduates were granted an interview with a local manufacturer and were provided 30 days of free transportation.

*Results:* There have been four JPW workshops with a total of 29 graduates, 23 of which have been offered full time employment, while four are currently pending interviews. Recruitment, training, and transportation of a JPW graduate is \$300. Comparatively, based on estimates from the University of Wisconsin Extension Center for Community and Economic Development, a manufacturer paying \$14/hr spends \$4,200 to recruit an employee.

*Conclusion:* More time will be necessary to track long-term outcomes of JPW students, but the initiative has shown that a community-driven solution to improve social health determinants is possible.

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### Poster Abstract #2

#### **Needs Assessment for Creating Patient-Centered, Community-Engaged Programs for Pregnant Homeless Women**

Melissa Stagg, MCW Student; Stefan Kostelyna, MCW Student; Lindsay Howard, MCW Student, Samuel Good, MCW Student; Ashton Fitzgerald, MCW Student; Emily Farias, MCW Student; Tegan Ake, MCW Student; Sabina Diehr, MCW Faculty

*Purpose:* Women who experience homelessness during pregnancy have poorer birth outcomes than the general population. This poster describes the needs assessment of homeless women currently living at a shelter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to identify unmet needs in maternal and infant perinatal health. The results will inform the design of a community-academic partnership that is a mutually beneficial patient-centered service-learning program for medical students and homeless pregnant women.

*Methods:* Two focus groups were held with women living in a shelter. Thirteen women participated in each session. Four medical students and a physician served as facilitators and scribes at each session. Questions elicited both positive and negative experiences during pregnancy. Scribes captured the conversation through hand-written notes and used content analysis in order of frequency.

*Results:* The five most frequently identified themes were a need for Pregnancy Education, Access/Transportation, Baby Care, Advocacy, and Material Needs. Participants and the medical students expressed interest in working with one another and forming a long-term partnership with the shelter.

*Conclusion:* Results of this needs assessment will inform the creation of a new shelter-based Health Advocacy in Pregnancy & Infancy (HAPI) program that will meet the women’s needs while preparing medical students for patient-centered, community responsive care.

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**Poster Abstract #3**

**Tele-Eye Health Collaborative (TEHC)**

Andrew Zolot, MCW; Judy E. Kim, MD, MCW; Velinka Medic, MS, MCW; Rebecca Rowland, MPH, City of Milwaukee Health Department; Jay Romant, RN, City of Milwaukee Health Department; Frank Robinson, City of Milwaukee Health Department; Natalya Zinkevich, Ph. D., Carroll University; Iqbal Ahamed, PhD, Marquette University; Mirtha Sosa Pacheco, BA, United Community Center; Al Castro, MS, United Community Center

*Project Goal:* To establish a new tele-medicine health screening system within the City of Milwaukee Health Department for early detection of diabetic eye disease in central city underserved communities.

*Change Strategy:* The TeleEye Health Collaborative (TEHC) is a new 2017 collaboration among the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), United Community Center, Carroll University, Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), and Marquette University. TEHC has created and imbedded a new system of diabetic eye screening at the MHD community clinics, using a mobile fundus camera. Designated staff at the MHD have been trained to conduct screenings in the community, and images are then sent for review at a remote reading center. MHD staff follow up with screening results and recommendations for further follow-up and assists as necessary to ensure follow up care. By imbedding this new telemedicine screening model in the central city area through a public health surveillance model, the goals are to increase access to specialty service and to reduce the incidence of vision loss due to diabetes. This TEHC model with academic-community collaboration can be adopted by other health departments in Wisconsin for underserved, high health risk populations.

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**Poster Abstract #4**

**Medical Students Nurturing Health Career Interest among Milwaukee Youth through Hands-on Learning**

Alfredo Siller Jr., MCW Student; Lucia Notardonato, MCW Student; Ronald Kendrick, JMAC; Suzanne Letellier, MAHEC; Linda Meurer MD, MPH

Minorities make up 30% of the U.S. population, yet only account for 8.7% of physicians and 6.2% of registered nurses. This underrepresentation of minority physicians has led to cultural disparities in health care and poorer patient satisfaction. Pipeline programs can increase the number of minorities that pursue careers in health care. In collaboration with the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center Youth Health Service Corps (AHEC-YHSC), the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) has formed a pipeline program partnership with James Madison high school (JMAC), in the hopes of nurturing students’ early interest in health care careers. In the 2016-17 academic year, ten JMAC students enrolled in the YHSC program. MCW students provided monthly training sessions on health career topics such as suturing, cranial nerves and blood typing, and hosted site visits to MCW’s simulation center and anatomy lab. Evaluations indicated that the program had a positive influence on participants’ interest in health careers and confidence in their ability to attend college. Medical students learned to plan and implement a service learning program but were faced with scheduling and communication challenges. Next steps include a longitudinal study of education and career outcomes among former YHSC students

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## Poster Abstract #5

### **Impact of Exercise on Women Who Experienced Intimate Partner Violence**

Samantha Below, M3, MCW Green Bay; Katrina Rosculet

*Introduction:* Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a growing problem in the United States. Research found individuals who experience IPV may become psychologically disturbed, which correlated with an increased risk of chronic disease and disability. Inversely, positive activities and thoughts are correlated with improved health.

*Objective:* This study investigated the potential effect of exercise as a primary intervention to minimize the risk of chronic disease.

*Methods:* Women residing at a domestic violence shelter participated in a weekly wellness program and were instructed to complete a Rand-36 Short Form Health Survey (SF-36) before and after completing a walk or run for a minimum of 20 minutes. In conjunction to this, weekly discussion groups were held with a focus on mental health.

*Results:* Over three months, 23 women were enrolled in the program. In all areas, the data showed the participants, the participants had lower health scores than the general population. Post scores were higher than the pre-survey scores in all areas, but no statistical difference was found.

*Conclusion:* Most participants expressed a desire to be more active, healthier and lose weight. Future directions include implementing a similar program with a larger population and to develop a companion program for children to increase participation and retention of mothers.

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## Poster Abstract #6

### **Effectiveness of Home Health Visits in Rural Communities**

Alec Wilhelmi and Brent Gustafson – MCW-Green Bay

*Intro:* Healthcare and workplace safety in rural America have long lagged behind that of their urban counterparts. This trend can most notably be observed in rural farmers. Barriers to healthcare and lack of Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) oversight, among other factors, contribute to these trends.

*Objective:* Rural Health Initiative (RHI) was founded in 2002 to combat these inequalities by providing free, on-site health screenings for farmers and improving preventative safety measure education. They provide free screenings for thousands of farmers in Northeast Wisconsin who would otherwise be without care.

*Methods:* Our research design measures the efficacy of the program through a survey completed by the farmers and their families, along with determining the risk factors and healthcare barriers faced by farmers through analysis of the data RHI has collected over 15 years.

*Results:* We anticipate the survey will confirm our hypothesis that RHI is appreciated community-wide and provides a point of contact with healthcare that would otherwise be unestablished.

*Conclusion:* With the combination of proven efficacy and demonstration of need, we hope to develop a model for improving care in high risk populations nationwide.

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**Poster Abstract #7****Efficacy of the GRIT Rubric for Educators**

Cole Nygard, MCW-Green Bay; Julie George, MCW-Green Bay

*Intro:* Currently in Wisconsin, there is a significant need for increased mental health access for children. Collaborative community care addresses the psychiatrist shortage by calling upon educators for early symptom recognition and intervention to more appropriately allocate resources, thereby increasing access to care. More specifically, they can help by promoting grit within every child. Considering this, the purpose of the present study was to train educators how to foster grit within their students to help improve their mental well-being and chances for success.

*Methods:* The authors developed the Generating Resilience with Integrative Teaching (GRIT) Rubric and in-class training program to help educators of grades 3-5 in Green Bay teach grit. Educators were observed, scored, and trained using the GRIT Rubric during three sessions.

*Results:* There were significant improvements in average GRIT Rubric scores ( $p < 0.01$ ), educators' knowledge of grit ( $p < 0.05$ ), use of grit-promoting feedback ( $p < 0.01$ ) and implementation of Gritty Classroom Culture ( $p < 0.01$ ), Gritty Vocabulary ( $p < 0.03$ ), and Gritty Classroom Activities ( $p < 0.05$ ).

*Conclusion:* Overall, the GRIT Rubric seems effective at teaching educators how to foster grit within their students. Future research is needed to test its efficacy in other schools, as well as its direct effects on the students' grit development.

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**Poster Abstract #8****Improving Adherence to Colposcopy Referral: Results from Interviews with Colposcopy Adherers and Non-adherers**

Melissa DeNomie, MCW; Maria Barker, Planned Parenthood WI; Leslie Ruffalo, MCW; Ken Schellhase, MCW

*Purpose:* Researchers partnered with Planned Parenthood and a family medicine clinic to conduct interviews to explore barriers to, and facilitators of, colposcopy referral adherence.

*Methods:* We recruited patients who had been referred for colposcopy. Interviews were conducted in clinic sites and audio-recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using open coding to generate grounded theory. Themes were mapped to Bronfenbrenner's socioecological framework for health at individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, policy levels.

*Results:* We interviewed 41 women, 33 had had a colposcopy, 8 had not. Themes emerged at all levels of socioecological model. Individual: fear of cancer; fear of procedure; lack of understanding of clinical recommendations. Interpersonal: importance of supportive relationships; desire to stay healthy for one's children. Organizational: procedural factors leading to comfort or discomfort. Community: desire for increased understanding of prevalence of HPV. Policy/systems: importance of organizations that improve access to care.

*Conclusion:* Results demonstrate complexity of colposcopy decision-making. Stakeholders might improve adherence through: advocacy for funding for organizations that improve access to care for the un-/underinsured; messaging to improve patient knowledge of HPV (and HPV vaccine) and highlight effectiveness of cervical cancer screening; improved clinical practices (improved information about HPV, cervical cancer, and colposcopy; procedures that ensure patient comfort during colposcopy).

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**Poster Abstract #9****Healthy Choices, Healthy Environments, Healthier People: Final Results of a 5-year Intervention to Increase Physical Activity Among School District and Head Start Students and Staff**

David Nelson, MCW; Melissa DeNomie, MCW; Marie Wolff, MCW; Paula Silha, La Crosse County Health Department

*Background:* Youth and adults fall short of levels of physical activity recommended by the CDC. This community-academic research project partners researchers, a health department and a school district to implement a 5-year project to increase physical activity among students and staff in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

*Method:* We will describe final results for the following: pre-/post-built environment evaluations of the 14 participating schools; active classroom data; and responses from a post-intervention staff survey.

*Results:* Environmental scans measured physical activity-promoting components. Worksite wellness assessment results indicated staff-focused components increased from 6.4 to 8.1 (of 16 components) during the grant. Student-focused assessment results indicated average number of components increased from 6.6 to 9.9 (of 15 components). Active classrooms activities emerged as the predominant student intervention. 57% of staff indicated administering these activities 4-5 times weekly.

*Conclusions:* This intervention provided diverse options aimed at increasing physical activity among staff/students. Activities were developed with flexibility supporting adaptation to local context, which facilitated increased participation. Successful youth activities are those that are easily adaptable, require little equipment/planning, and may be linked to classroom conduct and/or academic performance. Successful worksite physical activity interventions are easily accessed, provide enjoyment and opportunities for socializing, and are supported by administration.

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**Poster Abstract #10****Improving Rates of HPV Vaccination in Brown County, Wisconsin**

Kaitlyn Skrzypczak

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the HPV vaccination rate in Brown County in 2016 was less than 25%. This is likely due to misconceptions and apprehensiveness due to the newness of the vaccine. To overcome these barriers and improve vaccination rates, an educational presentation on HPV was given. The presentation was advertised at a local school registration event with the De Pere Health Department. A voluntary, follow-up survey was given to adults after the presentation regarding the effectiveness of the presentation and whether perceptions on receiving the vaccine changed. Results showed subjects were more likely to have their child receive the vaccine after the presentation than they were before the presentation. Subjects stated no concerns in having their child receive the vaccine. Post-presentation, subjects indicated a high level of understanding that HPV can cause various types of cancer and that the vaccine is recommended for boys and girls ages 11-12. In conclusion, one of the barriers to achieving higher vaccination rates in Brown County is lack of understanding of HPV and the importance of vaccination. The survey data has the potential to be used for future projects in improving rates via education.

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**Poster Abstract #11****Assessment of Indoor Irritant Reduction following Urban In-Home Asthma and Irritant Reduction Education**

Erin Lee, MS; Joshua Steinberg, MD, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Allergy & Clinical Immunology, MCW

Multimodal in-home asthma education and environmental remediation have been demonstrated to improve asthma outcomes in multiple systematic reviews. The FAMCARES effectiveness study is presented, which is objectively assessed indoor air-quality (IAQ) irritant reduction following in-home community health worker delivered asthma and irritant reduction education in Milwaukee County.

The educational program chosen for this study was developed by the local asthma coalition, Fight Asthma Milwaukee Allies (FAM Allies). This school-validated educational program reviews the respiratory system, asthma pathophysiology, symptoms, triggers, medicines and action plans. This program is designed for administration by trained allied health providers, community health workers, and health care professional trainees. This educational program includes 6 home teaching visits, including 3 visits regarding irritant reduction education. A wrap-up visit is scheduled for 4-6 months following to reassess the durability of the intervention.

Outcomes evaluated include changes in home cleaning behaviors, clinical improvement as well as objective assessments of particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). For a subset of children, a consumer grade IAQ continuous monitor will assess volatile organic chemicals and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and a silicone wristband will assess for exposures to volatile organic chemicals. Asthma associated, and pollution metabolizing gene expression and gene variants will be evaluated through RNA and DNA evaluation.

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**Poster Abstract #12****Impact of a fruit and vegetable prescription program on utilization of farmers markets.**

Zach Carlson, MCW; Carly Kruse, UW-Madison; Chris Stoming, MCW; Rebecca Bernstein, MCW; Jen Casey, Fondy Foods; Melissa DeNomie, MCW; Meg Kilkenny, Fondy Foods; Leslie Ruffalo, MCW.

Dietary intake of fruits and vegetables is a known strategy to reduce the risk of chronic disease or assist in management of the disease. However, access to fruits and vegetables is not equitable for all people. Despite the upswing in the number of farmers markets that accept federal nutrition benefits, farmers markets are still underutilized by low-income families due to a lack of awareness in redeeming benefits at local farmers markets. To increase awareness, we piloted a Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program with a local family medicine clinic that serves a predominately under-resourced population. Patients completed a baseline, 4-week and 8-week follow-up survey to collect data on the use of the voucher and their dietary habits. We also collected information about the barriers and facilitators that healthcare providers and patients encountered while participating in the program.

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**Poster Abstract #13****A Community-Centered Health Home Model Providing Culturally Responsive Care to Serve Refugees: Barriers to Full Implementation**

Dr. Jeana Holt, UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing and the MCW Department of Family & Community Medicine; Dr. James Sanders, MCW Department of Family & Community Medicine; Jean Bell-Calvin, UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing; Dr. Bev Zabler, UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing

*Background:* Academic-community partners conceptualized a community-centered health home (CCHH) model to serve Milwaukee's refugee population. The CCHH model was designed to engage this vulnerable group in a way that was person-centered, culturally inclusive, and seamless in its ability to care for a wide spectrum of concerns.



*Method:* In the CCHH model, the refugee clients had their mandatory arrival health screening at a residency clinic and follow-up primary health care at the nurse-managed health center. A refugee-serving agency was the referral source for the refugee clients. Partnering to integrate services, the CCHH provided comprehensive programs to holistically support refugees' concerns.

*Discussion:* While the CCHH model has strong potential to serve the refugee population, numerous challenges prevented the partnership from realizing its full potential. Political shifts on immigration policy resulted in a significant decrease in refugee arrivals. A fragmented health care system impeded coordination of care across the healthcare organizations and providers. The academic-community partnership ultimately dissolved their agreement with the refugee-serving agency due to multiple, ongoing, insurmountable difficulties implementing the project.

*Conclusion:* Despite these barriers, the CCHH model served a small number of clients and showed potential for meeting the unique needs of the refugee population in Milwaukee.

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#### **Poster Abstract #14**

##### **Community Conversations: A Multiple-Method Approach to Addressing Cancer Disparities**

Lauren Matthews, MPH; Magdalisse Henderson, BA, MCW; Marques Hogans Sr., MPH, Milwaukee Health Department; Kathleen Jensik, MSW, MCW; Liana Woodley, MCW; Vanica Guignard, MCW; Staci Young, PhD, MCW; Kirsten Beyer, PhD, MPH, MS, MCW; Melinda Stolley, PhD, MCW

*Background:* Cancer disparities are a significant public health issue. Identifying underserved areas with high disparities and engaging communities will inform relevant efforts to reduce disparities.

*Purpose:* To identify geographic areas in Southeastern Wisconsin with high cancer incidence and mortality; and to understand African Americans' (AA) perceptions and experiences of cancer disparities.

*Methods:* Adaptive spatial filtering, a disease mapping method, was used to estimate spatial patterns of cancer incidence, late stage incidence, and mortality for breast, colorectal, lung and prostate cancer. We also conducted semi-structured focus groups with AA women and men living in Milwaukee. Groups were stratified by gender and cancer diagnosis (breast or prostate). Inductive content analysis was used to examine perceptions of existing cancer disparities and how they can be addressed.

*Results:* Maps highlighted areas of significant disparities in Milwaukee zip codes representing predominantly African-American neighborhoods. Nine focus groups were conducted with 79 AA men and women (mean age 51 years). Themes related to reasons for disparities included: decrease in community investment, food deserts, medical mistrust, lack of AA health professionals, cancer myths, and fear. Potential solutions included: community-based cancer education, greater workforce diversity achieved through pipeline programming, better access to healthy foods and strategies to improve communication and build trust between patients and their doctors.

*Discussion:* Future research interventions and programming should seek innovative strategies to build cancer awareness and education and improve access to trusted quality care.

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**Poster Abstract #15****Encouraging Prenatal Referrals for at Risk Families to Local Community Resources Through Education of Obstetrics Staff**

Lindsay Finn, MS2; Megan Eichstaedt, MS2

Child abuse and neglect pose a significant public health risk, and it is imperative healthcare professionals are familiar with risk factors to facilitate early intervention. This project aimed to enhance Obstetrics and Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) staff's knowledge of risk factors for child abuse and neglect, increase familiarity with Brown County community resources, and improve comfort with referring families to these resources. The goal is to increase prenatal referrals to local community resources for families who are most at risk. Sixteen participants were recruited during staff meetings at two local Ob/Gyn clinics. Participants completed a survey immediately before and after a short presentation which introduced local resources and expanded on risk factors for child abuse and neglect. A three-month post-intervention survey tested retention. The survey inquired about knowledge of local resources, comfort with referring patients to these resources, and familiarity with risk factors for child abuse and neglect. Analysis indicated a statistically significant increase in each of these three areas immediately post-intervention. This increase was maintained three months after the intervention.

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**Poster Abstract #16****Needs and Priorities of Newly Arriving Refugees**

Sophia J Franklin, UW-Milwaukee

This poster describes, from an inter-professional team's perspective, the needs of a vulnerable, isolated, and underserved population. A health manager (social worker), nurse case managers, and community health workers took a holistic approach to serving clients. Their needs, ranging from practical domestic requirements to complex cultural desires, were identified as part of a larger federally funded project to improve the quality and access to primary care for refugees and are prioritized in the poster using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs as a framework. The resettlement process is outlined from pre-arrival to 90 days when the expectation is self-sufficiency. Observation indicated that refugees face many barriers attempting to meet needs in a new country which create additional layers of complexity to the already overwhelming experience of resettlement. A summary of collaborative interventions highlights the pivotal role of the inter-professional collaborative practice team to help families establish a healthy, safe and productive life in their new community.

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**Poster Abstract #17****Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC): A Beneficial Program for Pregnant Refugees and Recently Settled Immigrants**

Michele Faltinson, BSN, RN, UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing, Silver Spring Community Nursing Center, TTSTA Nurse Case Manager; Faten Alfaifi, BSN, MSN, UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing, TTSTA Project Assistant; Winter Turner, BA, UW-Milwaukee Helen Bader School of Social Welfare; Bev Zabler, PhD, RN, UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing, Clinical Assistant Professor, TTSTA Principle Investigator

Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC), a Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus benefit, was provided to newly arrived refugees and recently settled immigrants through the UWM College of Nursing's Institute for Urban Health Partnership-Silver Spring Community Nursing Center. This interprofessional collaborative practice model was part of a larger Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded project: Teaching Today's Students for Tomorrow's America (TTSTA). The TTSTA Community Health Worker (CHW) conducted outreach in their refugee and immigrant community to identify pregnant women who could benefit from prenatal care coordination. The CHW accompanied the nurse and social worker to initial home visits to establish trust and provide in-person

translation. Other referrals came from community/family members, as well as a Community-Based Organization (CBO) working with refugee resettlement. Students in UWM's Bachelors' and Masters' programs of Helen Bader School of Social Welfare gained clinical experience through PNCC home visits with the nurse. This poster presents health issues and social determinants of health impacting birth outcomes; gives overview of services PNCC provides; states eligibility requirements for clients/providers; describes process for referring refugees to PNCC; offers a scenario demonstrating the benefits of PNCC to pregnant refugees and immigrants; lists challenges associated with providing services to pregnant refugees; and offers recommendations.

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#### **Poster Abstract #18**

##### **Prostate Education: What's Your PSA?**

Jermaine Murry, MS, Community Program Coordinator, MCW Cancer Control and Outcomes Program

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in American men<sup>1</sup>. One in 6 African American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. According to a study conducted for the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (GMF), some of the barriers to prostate cancer screening include: mistrust, fear of diagnosis, unemployment, lack of insurance, and waiting until the problem is severe. These barriers result in less primary care visits. Additionally, these barriers increase prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates in African American men as compared to men in other ethnic groups. This poster recommends community-based education as most effective in prostate cancer awareness and prevention in the Milwaukee community. In 2017, the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Control and Outcomes Program developed a partnership with the Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) to increase prostate cancer awareness in men (African American men in particular). In turn, the inaugural PHEN symposium was birthed in Milwaukee. A forthcoming prostate education initiative is the revitalization of the barbershop initiative (est. 2003), which helped men discuss prostate cancer prevention with lay health educators at local barbershops.

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#### **Poster Abstract #19**

##### **Read Like a Champion: Caregiver Reading Behaviors and Brown County Library's Summer Reading Adventure for Kids**

Robert Becker, M2, MCW-Green Bay

Early literacy experiences have strongly positive effects on school readiness and academic outcomes and are chiefly determined by frequency of caregiver reading to children. Additionally, reading achievement gaps among school-age children are amplified during non-school months, a phenomenon known as "summer reading loss."

Each summer, the Brown County Library (BCL) hosts the Summer Reading Adventure (SRA) for residents of Brown County. The SRA aims to promote literacy and school readiness, mitigate summer reading loss, and encourage reading in Brown County generally. In 2017, The Packers Foundation began "Read Like a Champion" (RLAC), a promotional campaign emphasizing the importance of reading and encouraging families to join the SRA.

Partnering with the BCL and Achieve Brown County, this project is a cross-sectional analysis of the SRA, collecting surveys from SRA participant caregivers at the start and end of the program. I assess SRA participation demographics, the impact of RLAC, how caregiver reading behaviors changed over the course of the SRA, and to what extent caregiver behaviors are predictive of their kids' successful completion of the program. These data provide insights for the BCL and Achieve Brown County regarding how to improve participation and caregiver involvement to achieve better literacy outcomes.

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**Poster Abstract #20****Community and Caregiver Perceptions of Giving Care to Seniors**

Annie Waniger, MCW; David Nelson, MCW; Ben Williams, SortSol Group; Kathy Gale, ERAs Senior Network, Inc.

A community-academic partnership developed in 2016 resulted in a qualitative research project using focus groups that explored the need to better support unpaid family caregivers of seniors in Waukesha County. Kathy Gale, Executive Director, ERAs Senior Network, a non-profit organization and David Nelson, Ph.D., Family and Community Medicine, MCW, developed a coalition to better understand why family caregivers lacked support, and were showing negative health outcomes. The coalition conducted research in 2017 as part of an Incubator Project funded by Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program (HWPP).

The experience of unpaid family caregivers and the system surrounding these individuals is complex and involves multiple individuals and organizations. Conversations with family caregivers indicate a need for interventions involving early identification, pre-caregiving planning and support, caregiving-supportive workplaces, creation of system navigators, and connecting service providers to promote increased awareness of and accessibility to services. Within family medicine clinics and in-patient systems specifically there is a need for the early identification of the caregiver-care receiver dyad, right-time resources, and development of an information network between providers, family members, and community organizations. Further dialogue with individuals who receive care and healthcare system representatives including physicians, nurses, social workers, and behavioral scientists are necessary to identify leverage areas where change is feasible.

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**Poster Abstract #21****Community-based Colorectal Cancer Education for African American Males**

Staci Young, PhD, MCW; Darryl Davidson, City of Milwaukee Health Department; Marques Hogans, City of Milwaukee Health Department

*Background:* In Milwaukee from 2009-2013 African American men had a colorectal cancer (CRC) incidence of 69.8 compared to 47.4 among white males. African American men also had the highest CRC-related death rate in this period. CRC incidence for African American men in Milwaukee even exceeds the national CRC incidence.

*Objective:* Our project modifies a campaign utilized to decrease prostate cancer in African Americans, with the goal of implementing an adapted curriculum focused on colorectal cancer.

*Methods:* 1) Conduct focus groups with African American men to guide development of a modified peer education curriculum; 2) recruit peer educators from community organizations that serve African American men; 3) survey Milwaukee residents about cancer awareness; and 4) gain input from a community advisory panel to guide the overall project.

*Results:* To date, 30 men have participated in two focus groups at Community Baptist Church and Walnut Way. Among the participants, 5-6 men expressed interest in becoming a peer educator. At least 80 community surveys have been completed. Focus group and survey findings will be presented. The advisory panel has provided input on content and delivery methods for the updated curriculum.

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**Poster Abstract #22****Incorporating Community in Medical Student Education at MCW-Central Wisconsin**

Corina Norrbom, MD, MCW-CW; Amy Prunuske, PhD, MCW-CW; Lisa Dodson, MD, MCW-CW

A central goal of the MCW-Central Wisconsin regional campus is to be a leader in community-based education and to have community-engaged medical students. Real connections to community may influence where medical students eventually practice and how they will interact with their community as a physician in the future. The Physician in the Community Pathway course is a 2-year experience designed to help students build meaningful connections within the local community while becoming aware of the Marathon County health priorities. First and second year medical students attend core sessions that each incorporate active learning about social determinants of health with a variety of community member instructors. We explore the students' personal passions as well as community needs. Students are given the opportunity to have individual conversations with multiple community members from a variety of organizations to learn about existing programming and to receive feedback on project ideas. Students co-develop a scholarly project with a community mentor and have time blocks set aside for project work. Most medical students have previously been involved in some type of community service, but through Physicians in the Community, we hope to expand student capacity to develop mutually beneficial community-based projects that will have collective impact.

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**Poster Abstract #23****Engaging the Community Around Autism Awareness**

Yvonne D. Greer, MPH, RD, CD, Y-EAT Right, Nutritional Consulting Team Leader, Community Connections Grant

*Overview:* The CDC estimates one in 68 children in America are living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Studies have indicated that African American children are diagnosed with ASD in the later ages. Moreover, protectiveness of their children from harm or disrespectful encounters have resulted in delays in accessing the support services needed.

*Goal:* To provide a safe and trusted space for the community to come together and dialogue to increase awareness for early intervention services for children with (ASD).

*Method:* Conduct a two-part community engagement workshop series entitled "Community Talk Backs for Autism Awareness." (March 24 & 27, 2018), with an Open House kick-off for World Autism Month (April 2, 2018).

*Results:* Forty-four adults and children attended the events. Thirteen pre-surveys (30%) and 15 post-surveys (34%) were completed by adults. Pre-survey revealed the most helpful information on Autism was provided by family members (40%, n=6) and the Autism Society (33%, n=5). Post test revealed 93% (n=14) of participants learned something new; while 86% (n=13) indicated they would put at least one suggested tip into practice.

*Conclusion:* The workshops were effective in creating a dialogue with parents, family, and the community on ways to support the children with ASD.

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**Poster Abstract #24****Identifying Barriers to the *Remembering When* Program**

Nicole Beine, MS2

Falls account for 75% of geriatric trauma, many resulting in expensive hospital stays and surgeries that limit the quality of life of older adults. In 2015, De Pere's Fire and Health Departments implemented Remembering When: A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults, a program developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the CDC. They believed this program could greatly benefit the community of De Pere; however, there has been limited participation since the program's inception. In conjunction with the City of De Pere, this project aimed to identify barriers to program participation and distribute information about fire and fall prevention measures through church bulletins and group presentations. According to the gathered responses, 23 out of 24 adults had never heard about the free home safety assessment the City of De Pere provides. In addition, 17 out of 21 adults plan to implement specific safety measures discussed in the presentation, and 5 adults plan to schedule a safety assessment with the City of De Pere. In general, the presentation was successful in educating older adults in the community. However, barriers, such as lack of interest from the community, posed major obstacles during the project.

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**Poster Abstract #25****Understanding Learning Preferences of High School Students to Develop a Sexual Health Curriculum**

Sana Fayyaz, Medical Student, MCW; Kristina Kaljo, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, MCW; Robert Treat, Academic Affairs, MCW; Joey Zocher, Escuela Verde; Seema Menon, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, MCW

*Background:* The visual (V), aural (A), read/write (R), kinesthetic(K) VARK® questionnaire is a validated tool used to assess learning preferences.

*Methods:* The VARK® questionnaire was distributed at a charter high school where the authors currently present a sexual health workshop. Sex, age, grade, ethnicity, and primary language was being captured. Completed questionnaires were scored then compared based on sex, grade, primary language, and ethnicity. Statistically significant ( $p \leq .050$ ) differences in mean scores were determined by analysis of variance and independent t-tests using IBM® SPSS® 24.0. Pearson correlations reported relational measures ( $r$ ). IRB exemption status from Medical College of Wisconsin was granted.

*Results:* Sixty-two high school students participated in this study (see Table 1). Female scores trended higher than male scores in all four modalities. Hispanic student mean scores trended higher than non-Hispanic students in all four modalities (see Table 2). Female students showed significant preference for V modality ( $r = .55, p < .008$ ) compared to males ( $r = .20, p < .326$ ). Significant preference for V and R modalities was seen when comparing grades 7-9 ( $r = .65, p < .004$ ) to grades 10-12 ( $r = .31, p < .071$ ) and Hispanic ethnicity ( $r = .48, p < .002$ ) to non-Hispanic ethnicity ( $r = .19, p < .418$ ).

*Conclusion:* Mindfulness to various learning styles is important when developing curriculum for a diverse student body.

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**Poster Abstract #26****Consensus Statement on Best Practices for Refugee Care in Wisconsin**

Dr. James Sanders, MCW; Dr. Timothy Ehlinger, UW-Milwaukee; Sarah Ehlinger Affotey, Milwaukee Global Health Consortium; Tiffany Frazer, MCW; Dr. Sebastian Sempijja, Sebastian Family Psychology Practice

In the last few decades, Wisconsin has resettled over 70,000 refugees from across the world. Up to recently, Wisconsin welcomed around 1,500 refugees; most resettling in the southeastern corridor. Providing culturally attuned healthcare, social, and governmental services to assist with their resettlement is a continuous task. Despite sharing similar goals and clients, local programs and services aimed at supporting refugee populations are often disconnected. This need caused an inter-agency, inter-disciplinary group of professionals to come together in December of 2014. This “Working Group” represents the fields of anthropology, conflict resolution, health care, psychology, public health, nursing, social work, etc. A recurring conference was developed to allow for Wisconsin’s multidisciplinary professionals to share lessons learned and best practices. By drawing from each other’s’ collective insights, Wisconsin strengthens its capacity to respond to newly arriving diverse communities. The first conference’s Consensus Statement on Best Practices in Refugee Health in Wisconsin provides a framework of accountability by which to approach refugee care services. Interprofessional education has also been a component of the conferences so we actively engage the next generation of professionals and practitioners. By sharing our experiences, we can do better as unique providers, agencies, and as a community.

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**Poster Abstract #27****Creating an Interprofessional Education Learning Module to Improve Refugee Health**

Gina Welch, MN, RN, CNL, UWM DNP-FNP Student; Elizabeth Camenta, MCW Medical Student; Bev Zabler, PhD, RN, UWM; Jeana Holt, DNP, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, APNP

This poster describes a practical method for preparing health care students and professionals to provide community-centered, culturally competent care to refugees. Two academic health institutions joined to implement an asynchronous model of interprofessional education involving web-based clinical learning about refugee health. This strategy circumvented the challenges of divergent academic program schedules. The poster outlines the interprofessional process used to develop the learning module. The interactive module was developed utilizing a readily available online learning management system. Features included guided discussions and a repository of evidence-based resources about refugee healthcare. Lessons learned and recommendations for future projects will be shared. Students who successfully complete the module are able to:

1. Describe the U.S. refugee resettlement process
2. Identify the top three (3) countries of origin of refugees coming to Wisconsin
3. Describe common challenges refugees face to receiving optimal health care
4. Explain cultural humility
5. Identify potential clashes between cultural world views
6. Promote open dialogue concerning beliefs about disease and traditional medicine
7. Avoid common pitfalls when working with a medical translator
8. Access information on the culture and health needs of refugees from a particular country

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**Poster Abstract #28****Innovative Incorporation of a Community Engagement Core in an Academic Medical Center Setting**

Syed Ahmed MD, DrPH, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; Sarah P. O'Connor MS; Office of Community Engagement; Zeno Franco PhD, Department of Family and Community Medicine, MCW; David A. Nelson PhD, MS, Department of Family and Community Medicine, MCW; Sharon Neu Young MBA, MPA, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; Jessica De Santis MA Ed, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; Tiffiney Gray MS, MA, Office of Community Engagement, MCW

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Community Engagement Core (CE Core) began in late 2015 with the aim to build institutional capacity around MCW's mission of community engagement (CE). The CE Core facilitates relationships among community and academic representatives and provides capacity-building opportunities, encouraging the growth of mutually beneficial partnerships that have the potential to impact health and health equity in WI.

CE-focused Health Science Square (HSS) and education events, facilitation & leveraging, seed grant programs and mentoring are integrated within the institution, inclusive of community representation and input. Results include:

1. 20 HSS events held with a diverse representation of academic (57%) and community (43%) participants
2. 5 seed grant projects funded impacting 11 Milwaukee ZIP codes, 9 of which are classified as low SES
3. In 12 months, the Mentoring Network increased its mentee cohort by almost 63% (from 8 to 13 mentees)
4. Facilitating partnerships and capacity building and leveraging CE Core research expertise, partnerships and consultations for meaningful projects

Excitement and interest from MCW leadership, faculty, staff, students, and community representatives has increased as the CE Core builds MCW's institutional CE capacity. The integrated CE programs could serve as a model for other academic medical centers seeking to impact health disparities.

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**Poster Abstract #29****The Collective Power of We: Breaking Barriers in Community Engaged Research through Dialogue**

Jessica De Santis MA Ed, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; Kathleen Pritchard, PhD, Data You Can Use; Sarah P. O'Connor, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; Zeno Franco, PhD, Department of Family and Community Medicine, MCW; Syed Ahmed MD, DrPH, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; David A. Nelson PhD, MS, Department of Family and Community Medicine, MCW

*Introduction:* Community involvement in research allows for effective health research and requires a bidirectional relationship between groups. Community-academic partnerships require stakeholders to come together for conversation. The purpose of this project was to create a space for discourse through a nominal group technique (NGT). As a result, the dispositions and comments were evaluated for overarching themes for effective implementation of the nine Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) principles.

*Methods:* 42 participants compiled ideas around the nine CBPR principles. Participants were included MCW faculty, staff, students, and community partners. Groups spent five minutes discussing each principle and comments were coded using the Constant Comparative Method.

*Results:* Each principle had a central theme embedded in the majority of comments made by the participants. Themes included identity; joint relationships; mutual agreement; bidirectional dialogue; learning together; respecting differences and sharing priorities; collective involvement; and passion through time. There's a need for connectedness between both sides of a partnership for effective research to occur.



*Conclusion:* NGT allows for a space for discourse between academic and community partners. Further research is needed on practical applications of CBPR, and NGT is a way to get to underlying barriers and assets in community-academic partnerships.

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**Poster Abstract #30**

**Continuing the Conversation: A Dialogue Around Community Based Participatory Research**

Jessica De Santis MA Ed, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; Sarah P. O'Connor, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; Zeno Franco PhD, Department of Family and Community Medicine, MCW; Syed Ahmed MD, DrPH, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; David A. Nelson PhD, MS, Department of Family and Community Medicine, MCW

*Introduction:* In 2016, MCW Office of Community Engagement (CE) held a nominal group technique discussion around the nine Community Based Participatory (CBPR) principles. It was evident from this data that future sessions for dialogue were needed.

*Purpose:* The purpose of this project was to be a space for discourse through round table style dialogue. As a result, the dispositions and comments were evaluated for overarching themes in the needs of effective implementation of CBPR.

*Methods:* Over the course of nine round table sessions, 173 MCW faculty, staff, students, and community partners discussed CBPR. Each session focused on one principle. Notes containing the comments from group discussion were collected and coded for common themes using the constant comparative method.

*Results:* Participants expressed appreciation for having bi-directional dialogue around research. Participants also noted a strong need for identifying language barriers, resource barriers, and asset identification in communities for more successful research strategies to be possible.

*Conclusion:* Further action is needed to meet a demand for leadership in CE in the community. There is interest with both community and academic members to be part of strong and sustainable partnerships, requiring further capacity building opportunities to build capacity in CE.

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**Poster Abstract #31**

**MCW Community Engaged Research (CEnR) Seed Grant Program: Partnership Development**

Trina Van Schyndel, MS, Office of Community Engagement; Sarah P. O'Connor, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; Zeno Franco PhD, Department of Family and Community Medicine, MCW; Syed Ahmed MD, DrPH, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Office of Community Engagement, MCW; David A. Nelson PhD, MS, Department of Family and Community Medicine, MCW

The Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) houses the Community Engagement (CE) Core. The CE Core aims to more fully integrate our institution's CE mission throughout the campus and the community to impact health equity and health disparities across the state of Wisconsin. One key strategy to accomplish this goal was the implementation of a Community Engaged Research (CEnR) Seed Grant Program. As a partly-matched program, the CEnR Seed Grant Program seeks to leverage funding from and build partnerships with interested centers, institutes, and departments at MCW. It also seeks to support community-academic teams conducting CEnR projects in Wisconsin, as well as support awardee's efforts to obtain additional extramural research funding to further benefit Wisconsin communities. To date, five CEnR Seed Grant Program application cycles have been initiated. In looking at data gathered through applications from each of these five cycles, there is potential for impact in the following areas: community organizations receiving first-time funding for research, unique community partners receiving funding, unique zip codes in which research is taking place, and new partnerships promoting CEnR at MCW.

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**Poster Abstract #32****Establishing Strong Representation in Creative Research Collaborations**

Moriah A. Iverson, MS, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MCW; Alice Yan, PhD UW-Milwaukee; Michelle Wesline, Froedtert Hospital; Paul Kjelland, ReciproCITY; Harvey Ross, Independence First; Fidel Verdin, True Skool; Erinn Kulba, Froedtert Hospital; Shalina S. Ali, True Skool; Merle Orr, MD, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MCW

Spinal cord injury (SCI) stemming from gun violence primarily affects young Black men living in economically distressed neighborhoods. There are few resources to support these patients as they return to their communities. Historic abuses of Black men by researchers have resulted in mistrust of the medical community, and a lack of understanding and appreciation for the culture of this patient population among medical professionals presents a barrier to developing effective clinical interventions to improve health. In this project, we apply a Community Engaged Research (CErR) framework to adapt an existing trauma-informed, hip hop based creative arts program (Art of Coping) developed by a nonprofit community partner to meet the needs of our patient population. This project engages four “communities” as equal partners – clinicians, academic researchers, community experts, and our patient population to provide a foundation for a meaningful, culturally anchored intervention. Gaps in representation among the initial project team (clinician, researcher, and community partner) were identified through early conversations, leading to the addition of a SCI Program nurse coordinator, and a representative of our patient population. Together, our diverse experience has created a vibrant and culturally rich foundation to revitalize the way we approach clinical interventions to serve this population.

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**Poster Abstract #33****Engaging Stroke Survivors and Their Loved Ones as Experts in Stroke Rehabilitation Research: Lessons Learned from the Stroke Rehabilitation Center of Southeastern Wisconsin**

Moriah A. Iverson, MS, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MCW; Andrea Zweifel, Stroke Rehabilitation Center Community Academic Advisory Board; Sharon Jones, Stroke Rehabilitation Center Community Academic Advisory Board; Sue Kasten, Stroke Rehabilitation Center Community Academic Advisory Board; Art Kasten, Stroke Rehabilitation Center Community Academic Advisory Board; Dean Siefken, Stroke Rehabilitation Center Community Academic Advisory Board; Kristine Schulz, Stroke Rehabilitation Center Community Academic Advisory Board; Stephanie Raab, MS, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MCW; Rachel Minkin, MS, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MCW; Leah Timm, Froedtert Hospital; Brian Schmit, PhD, Biomedical Engineering, Marquette University; John R. McGurie, MD, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MCW; Diane W. Braza, MD, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MCW

Stroke survivors and their support networks are often left out of conversations regarding stroke rehabilitation research, creating a gap in knowledge regarding the diverse culture, needs, and perspectives of the stroke survivor community. To narrow this gap, The Stroke Rehabilitation Center of Southeast Wisconsin (SRC) developed a Community Academic Advisory Board to provide guidance on clinical and translational research studies, dissemination planning, and community outreach and education. The CAAB is comprised of four stroke survivors, two loved ones of a stroke survivor, two clinicians, a Froedtert Hospital stroke coordinator, two researchers, and two administrative support staff. CAAB meetings are held monthly and have been well attended, with only one member withdrawing due to scheduling conflicts. The SRC has engaged the CAAB in four projects 1) creating a patient-centered SRC website, 2) recommendations to revise hospital provided educational materials to make them more patient friendly, 3) collaboration with a biomedical engineering team to develop new stroke rehabilitation technology and 4) co-creation of a Community Engagement Seed Award

to advance health through physical activity for stroke survivors. The CAAB may provide a model for how to engage patients and their support networks in advancing clinical and translational research.

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**Poster Abstract #34****The Science of Language: Creating a Framework for Authentic Community-Academic Collaborations**

Diamond Malone, Heartlove Place; Paul Kjelland, ReciproCITY; Fidel Verdin, ReciproCITY; Latisha Gyden, Heartlove Place; Una Van Duvall, Heartlove Place; Matt Durand, PhD, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MCW

The use of language in Community Engaged Research (CEnR) is central to establishing scientifically rigorous studies that respect the culture of the community. Language perceived as concise by academic team members may sound sterile to community partners and participants who represent dynamic, complex communities. Researchers may be unintentionally disrespectful of their target communities; in worst cases the use of language can propagate damaging stereotypes and increase distrust. Language used by community partners may not adequately describe the scientific objectives or methods of a CEnR study, leading to barriers in communication with researchers. Methods to establish shared language in the collaboration are needed to advance bi-directional communication and trust. A new partnership between a place based nonprofit organization on Milwaukee's north side in 53212 zip code, an artist collective, a community engaged researcher, and a vascular biologist, aimed to develop a framework focused on authentic and iterative dialogue to create language that 1) respected and represented the historical culture of the community, 2) accurately reflected the scientific aims of the study, and 3) met regulatory requirements of the Institutional Review Board. This framework resulted in co-creation of a study title, recruitment materials, and project description that was meaningful to all team members.

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**Poster Abstract #35****Survey Management and Image Grading Software System for Automated Detection of Diabetic Retinopathy to Improve Eye Health in the Milwaukee Community**

Jannat Tumpa, Marquette University; Riddhiman Adib, Marquette University; Dr. Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, Marquette University; Dr. Judy Kim, Medical College of Wisconsin; Velinka Medic, Medical College of Wisconsin; Mirtha Sosa Pacheco, United Community Center; Al Castro, United Community Center; Rebecca Rowland, City of Milwaukee Health Department; Jay Romant, City of Milwaukee Health Department

Salud a la Vista: mobile tele-eye health project is developed in collaboration with Marquette University, Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), United Community Center, City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) and Carroll University with a focus to detect retinopathy at an early stage by regular screening, thus, to improve eye health in the Milwaukee community. This project involves taking the images in the community and sending them over to the reading center for interpretation. For this reason, web-based software was developed to store and manage personal and survey information as well as eye images of participants in a HIPAA compliant manner. The software currently has four levels of access consisting of certified screeners who interview, submit information and upload images, for readers at MCW who get the de-identified information and eye images for grading, for MHD staff who send the results to the patients, and for system administrators at Marquette University. The goal of this software is to aid in establishing workflow and care coordination. Current ongoing research focuses on integrating a deep learning system for automated detection of diabetic retinopathy analyzing the fundus images which will require validation against ophthalmologists' grading.

**Mood Tracking in Preadolescents: Increasing Parental Awareness of the Correlation Between Sleep and Emotional Status**

Alyssa Nycz, MS2, MCW-Green Bay

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) recommends that children ages six to twelve receive between nine and twelve hours of sleep during a 24-hour period, as a failure to obtain optimal sleep levels may be detrimental to a developing child's mental, physical, and emotional health. My objective was three-fold: to determine whether third through fifth grade students report a consistent bedtime schedule, to assess whether a child's reported bedtime is similar to that stated by parents, and to identify parental awareness of their child's mood. I collected bedtimes and reported moods from forty students over a ten-week period and compared this data to that which was submitted by parents. While parents generally report bedtime habits for their children that fall within the recommended nine to twelve hours by the AASM, most of these preadolescents (97.5%) do not have a consistent bedtime routine. 67.5% of parents believe their child goes to bed at an earlier time than what the child recorded. Although this evidence supports that preadolescents are obtaining adequate sleep, it also raises the concern that a consistent routine is not enforced for many of these youth despite it being a preventative measure which prioritizes a child's mental health.

## DRIVE PROGRAM STUDENT POSTERS

A program launched by the Medical College of Wisconsin that pairs high school students from Milwaukee Academy of Sciences and the High School of Health Sciences in Kettle Moraine with MCW scientists to engage in public health research

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### Poster Abstract #37

#### College Readiness; Comparing Urban and Suburban Students

Quinn Boerger, High School of Health Sciences; Michala Hodges, Milwaukee Academy of Science; Tavana Cowart, Milwaukee Academy of Science

Although college enrollment has risen over the years, high schools in our communities (West Milwaukee and Kettle Moraine School District) are not preparing students for the actual process of enrolling in, or creating a background of confidence in being accepted to college. As a result of this, students may be submitting less than adequate applications for acceptance. A team was compiled through the DRIVE program at the Medical College of Wisconsin consisting of one tenth grade student from High School of Health Sciences (HS2) and two eleventh grade students from Milwaukee Academy of Science (MAS). The focus of this study is to analyze how two different schools are preparing high school students for college. We also determined the factors that impact perceived college readiness (sex, race, community, family). These differences may lead to stronger college preparedness among suburban students. If high schools provide inner city students with the same support needed to succeed as those in the suburbs, then the future of citizens outside of post-secondary schooling will be more equitable. According to our study, 94% of white high school students, and 77% of black high school students were aware of the AP classes offered at their school. MAS offered less than 5 AP classes and HS2 offer over 12 AP classes. When asked in our survey "What was your parent's highest degree?" the majority of the white students reported a Bachelor's degree or higher (79%). However, 63% of black students reported that the highest degree was under a Bachelor's degree.

In talking about racial disparities, we must acknowledge that these exist along with community disparities in the suburban vs. urban communities we studied. There are inherent disparities in these communities that exist beyond race. The present study is one example of one way these disparities, between communities and thus race, manifest in the context of college readiness within schools.

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**Poster Abstract #38****Defeating Superbugs Through Education-Based Interventions**

Marcus Davison; Joseph Brown; Colin Burg

Antibiotic resistance is the event where antibiotics are no longer effective in their ability to destroy bacteria post infection. When infections are not treated with the full course of antibiotics or when non-bacterial illnesses are mistakenly treated with antibiotics, bacteria have the opportunity to transform into something that becomes resistant to an antibiotic. They are able to mutate and evolve so that they can adapt to the interference that antibiotics normally create. Our primary goal is to assess how knowledgeable high school students (grades 9-12) are about antibiotic resistance. Furthermore, we are looking to understand if the method which antibiotic education is given can influence knowledge retention. After a baseline knowledge assessment (n=94), we divided students from two high schools, the Milwaukee Academy of Science and the High School of Health Sciences, into three groups, each receiving a different form of antibiotics education. One group will receive an informative presentation about bacteria, one group will receive an informative presentation about viruses, and a third group will receive no presentation. We hypothesize that students receiving the presentation about bacteria will be able to answer questions about bacteria and antibiotic resistance better than those receiving the virus presentation, or neither presentation. This will be assessed by a follow-up survey, one month post presentation. This study will engage students in activities, and teach them about the dangers of antibiotic resistance, and what they can do to prevent antibiotic resistance from becoming a much bigger issue. Antibiotic resistance is a very pressing issue, and the more we can do about it, the better within schools.

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**Poster Abstract #39****You Are Not Alone: Destigmatizing Mental Health Issues in Teenagers**

Jaelyn Hankins; Makayla Mustas; Kamel Keith

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in Wisconsin among ages 15-34 and the fourth leading cause among ages 10-14 (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 2018, p.1). The purpose of the app, MKE Teen, is to facilitate conversations and provide resources for teenagers who are experiencing mental health issues. MKE Teen includes teen personal stories and experiences with mental health. In order to gather information for the app, a survey was sent to the administration and students at Milwaukee Academy of Science and High School of Health Sciences. In the survey, teens were questioned about their perspectives on mental health. The purpose for this survey was to determine what aspects of mental health the students would like to learn more about. We discovered that anxiety, depression, and body image were major topics that teens struggle with and felt like they would benefit from having more information on. From the stories that were shared by the teenagers, we chose three of the most detailed and influential ones to put on MKE Teen so that teenagers could see that other people their age are dealing with the same issues and that they are not alone in their struggle.

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**Poster Abstract #40****Impact of Music on High School Students' Emotions and Perceptions within Southeastern Wisconsin**

Garrett, Dontavious; Hughlett, Garveion; Sibley, Olivia. Mentors: Aggarwal, Praful; LaCroix, Megan; Mobayed, Nisreen

The purpose of this project is to assess music's emotional impact on an individual as well as the social implications of musical preference by means of ingrained stereotypes. Through a series of surveys, a sample of high school students from the High School of Health Sciences (HS<sup>2</sup>) at Kettle Moraine as well as from the Milwaukee Academy of Science (MAS) all submitted responses regarding their music preferences and perceptions. There were two main parts of the final survey: the first one inquired about preferences and perceptions of music, and the second one assessed their emotional reactions to a series of six song clips. A total of 130 students completed the survey, with kids at MAS doing the survey on pen and paper and kids at HS<sup>2</sup> doing the survey on google forms. Survey 1 results indicated a strong regard for the genre rap, and a more negative regard towards genres such as rock/metal. It was also found that the vast majority of participants from both schools felt that music influences behavior, leads to stereotyping, and can impact the way someone is treated. In the second survey, results indicated that each song was received differently within HS<sup>2</sup> and MAS. The results indicate that music does indeed affect a person's temperament and social reception in the high school demographic, and that music preference varies with a person's background. This is in line with the original thought that music can influence the way someone acts, carries themselves, and how others perceive them.

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**Poster Abstract #41****Just Desserts: Food Deserts' Impact on Incidence of Cancer and Mortality in Low Income Neighborhoods**

Elizabeth Mantey, High School of Health Sciences and Mekaila Baskerville, Milwaukee Academy of Science

Food insecurity has become a great issue in the United States. Research has shown correlation between areas suffering from food insecurity and cancer. These areas are known as food deserts, where at least 1/3 of a population doesn't have access to fresh foods within a mile and/or are unable to reach them. Food deserts form when there is a lack of supermarkets and farmer's markets to provide fresh foods to residents, leading to the consumption of refined grains and high fat foods. These foods lead to an increase in inflammatory markers such as interleukin-6 and C-reactive proteins which are linked to high cancer rates and poor cancer survival. Currently, there is a lack of research examining the correlation between food deserts and low-income areas on the county level. Our study examines whether food deserts and the median household incomes in Wisconsin counties are correlated to cancer and mortality rates. The results from our study showed a weak correlation between cancer mortality and cancer incidence rates and median household income in Wisconsin counties. For future implications, we looked at how urban gardening could be implemented in food deserts and connected with community partners. After discussions with State Representative Evan Goyke and Beverly Tyree from Victory Garden Milwaukee, it became apparent that this practice would be great combating food insecurity in Milwaukee.

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**Poster Abstract #42****Gun Violence Exposure through Media, and its Effect on Perceptions of Gun Violence**

Tamarra Pugh-Torres; Meagan Rain; Janayshia LadsonDavis

In this study we attempted to find the correlations between gun violence and different influential factors due to the prominent issue with gun violence affecting teenagers and young adults today. To do this, we handed out surveys to students at the Milwaukee Academy of Science in Milwaukee, and the High School of Health Sciences in Wales, Wisconsin to find any correlations between the two. Through the surveys, we found that social media, movies, music, and other forms of entertainment influence the way that people perceive guns and gun violence. We found that social media influences a person's opinion and view on gun violence the most. Based on this data, we were able to come up with the conclusion that media affects a person's perception of guns and gun violence in a negative way. This supports our hypothesis that media portrayal of gun violence and an individual's experience with gun violence, negatively affects a person's view on gun violence.

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**Poster Abstract #43****Antibiotic Resistance**

Emma Wawrzyniak, High School of Health Sciences; Jadyr Roby, Milwaukee Academy of Science; Chaz Smith, Milwaukee Academy of Science

Antibiotic resistance is the ability of bacteria to become immune to certain types of antibiotics. Antibiotic resistant bacteria are caused because the bacteria that didn't die from the antibiotics mutate and multiply, becoming immune to the previous antibiotic that used to work on it. The rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria has resulted in a steady decline in the effectiveness of antibiotics. A major factor contributing to the increased virulence of bacteria is the suboptimal use of antibiotics to treat infections that are not bacterial in nature. According to the CDC, in 2016, 154 million antibiotics were prescribed but one in three of those prescriptions were unnecessary. This has severely hampered the effectiveness of many frequently used antibiotics and limited the tools that clinicians have available to treat their patients.



## SUPREMES PROGRAM STUDENT POSTERS

The SUPREMES program provides high school students with an educational experience in biomedical research, clinical research, and technology development in grant funded laboratories at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), Marquette University (MU), and the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Research Institute (CRI). Students are introduced to new technologies, cutting-edge research, and exciting laboratory practices, guided and taught by highly skilled, established faculty investigators.

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### Poster Abstract #44

#### **The Gene *pgsA3* is the Promoter of and is Transcribed in the Same Direction as *clgR* in *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis***

Noel P. Barwick, Pius XI Engineering, Pius XI Catholic High School and Thomas C. Zahrt, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, MCW

*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is a human-specific bacterial pathogen that causes the infectious disease tuberculosis (TB). A four-gene cluster has been implicated in the pathogenesis of this organism that includes *clgR-*pspA*-Rv2743c-Rv2742c*. Studies carried out in other laboratories have demonstrated that these genes are transcribed in an operon from a promoter positioned upstream of *clgR*. Another gene, *pgsA3*, is positioned immediately upstream of *clgR* and is transcribed in the same direction as *clgR-*pspA*-Rv2743c-Rv2742c*. This suggests the possibility that *pgsA3* may be co-transcribed along with *clgR-*pspA*-Rv2743c-Rv2742c* under certain conditions. To investigate this possibility, ribonucleic acid (RNA) was isolated from multiple independent cultures of *M. tuberculosis*, treated with DNase, reverse transcribed, and subjected to polymerase chain reaction (PCR). For these studies, forward and reverse primers were generated to amplify the intergenic regions between *pgsA3* and *clgR*, and *clgR* and *pspA*. PCR products were then run on an agarose gel and compared alongside a DNA ladder to determine if a detectable product was produced. Control reactions were also run in parallel that included chromosomal DNA as a template (positive control) or distilled water (negative control). Results for this study are still pending. This study provides further information about the transcriptional profile of genes expressed in *M. tuberculosis* which will inform us about determinants important for the survival of this bacterium within the body.

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### Poster Abstract #45

#### **The Activity of the Heterodimeric Protein Glucosidase II can Modulate through Small Molecule Inhibitors, Specifically Molecules that Disrupt the Association of the G2B Domain with Either the Alpha Domain or the Remaining Regions of the Beta Domain.**

Abigail C. Crupi, High School of Health Sciences; Linda J. Olson, MCW

This study examines the heterodimeric glucosidase II (GluII) enzyme, that consists of the catalytic alpha subunit and the regulatory beta subunit, and a small molecule inhibitor G2B. The alpha subunit plays a role in the metabolic pathway that breaks down molecules into smaller units. The beta subunit contains a carbohydrate protein domain. GluII is responsible for removing the innermost glucose residues of any N-linked oligosaccharides. Recognition of these oligosaccharides is important in mediating the proteasomal degradation pathway. Misfolded proteins are then targeted for autophagosome-lysosome/endosome fusion. To analyze the G2B domain various tests such as crystallization and expression testing within *e. coli* were conducted. Targeting these pathways specifically would decrease the amount of side effects from antivirals used in the treatment of cancer and polycystic liver disease. The main purpose of this study is to increase the knowledge of the glucosidase II and the modulation through small molecule inhibitors, specifically G2B.

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**Poster Abstract #46****The Torture Chamber: A Novel Behavioral Assay for Dermal Thermal Thresholds in Mice**

Mia H. Deaven, Kettle Moraine High School of Health Sciences, Sarah Langer, Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy, MCW; Kate Sadler, PhD, Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy, MCW; Cheryl L. Stucky, PhD, Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy, MCW

The purpose of this study is to develop a new behavioral assay to test for the presence of thermal and mechanical sensitivity in sickle cell mice. Popular behavioral assays like the Up-Down method and tail flick test require that the researcher introduce the stimulus, which can lead to additional external variables such as the variation between trials as well as variation between researchers. This method, wherein the mouse chooses to walk across a heated or textured pad, eliminates those variables associated with the researcher. This assay is built on the theory that an adult male mouse will choose to walk towards an adult female mouse unless it is significantly painful to him. We can test the effectiveness of this assay by testing pairs of mice to determine whether male mouse consistently cross to reach the female, as well as testing pairs to see if there is a thermal threshold where the mouse will no longer cross the heated plate. This new assay can be used to bring insight to the progression of pain in sickle cell mice, as well as help to develop effective treatments that are specific to the type of pain experienced.

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**Poster Abstract #47****Analysis of the Role of Apoptosis in the Anti-Proliferative Impact of Mitochondrial Targeted Compounds**

Vaishnavi Gundamraj; Kathleen A Boyle; Balaraman Kalyanaraman; Michael B. Dwinell

Colorectal cancer is a leading cancer, predicted to afflict one out of every 20 people in the world. Although there are chemotherapeutic treatments, they are highly cytotoxic and may have serious side effects. There is a need for cancer therapies with tumor specificity, reduced toxicity, and increases efficacy. Mitochondrial metabolism proves to be a key player in cancer development, progression, and metastasis, so mitochondrial targeted compounds are explored as a new untapped therapy. Furthermore, several reports have shown that mitochondrial drugs present with anti-proliferative effects on the tumor cells without significantly affecting the surrounding normal cells' metabolism. Two anticancer mitochondrial targeted drugs, Mito-Met and Mito-CP, more vigorously inhibited mitochondrial function in tumor cells than in healthy cells. These mitochondrial targeted drugs have demonstrated an anti-proliferative effect on colon cancer cells. This paper focuses on the role of apoptosis, a means of cell death, in the mitochondrial targeted drugs anti-proliferative phenotype. To accomplish this, we employed live cell imaging, in combination with a fluorescent apoptotic marker, caspase 3/7, to assess apoptotic death in the cancer cells.

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**Poster Abstract #48****Effects of the Non-caloric Artificial Sweetener Acesulfame Potassium on Vascular Endothelial Function**

Isabelle Hoernke, Kettle Moraine High School of Health Sciences, Dhanush Haspula, PhD, Biomedical Engineering, and Brian R. Hoffmann, PhD, Biomedical Engineering, Physiology, and Cardiovascular Center, MCW

The negative implications of consuming a high sugar diet has long been linked to diabetes, obesity, and systemic health problems. To combat high sugar diets, non-caloric artificial sweeteners have become a popular food additive worldwide; however, the negative impact of consuming non-caloric artificial sweeteners as a sugar substitute has become increasingly recognized. In a previous study in our laboratory we observed an accumulation of the artificial sweetener acesulfame potassium in the blood of rats consuming the compound for three weeks, which could have important implications on cardiovascular health. Based upon these results, we hypothesized that the accumulation of acesulfame potassium would lead to impaired vascular endothelial

function. To test this hypothesis, we performed a tube formation assay as a measure of endothelial cell function following dosing with increasing acesulfame potassium concentrations over time. The results of this study show that rat microvascular endothelial cell tube formation is significantly impaired at high concentrations of acesulfame potassium. Additionally, analysis of these cells using an insulin resistance gene array suggests that proangiogenic protein coding genes are downregulated due to acesulfame potassium exposure. This project improves our understanding of the negative effects that acesulfame potassium may have on the cardiovascular system.

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#### **Poster Abstract #49**

##### **Effects of Physical Exertion on miRNA**

Alision Kriegel, Kathryn Goodreau, Vibhusha Kolli

The goal is to identify miRNAs which changes during physical exertion to fill the knowledge gap to identify further research topics. This was achieved by simulating stress to measure the changes in the miRNA levels. Using Human Aortic Endothelial Cells, the project monitored the effects of physical activity on microRNA by passaging cells, then simulated shear stress, and finally sequenced the RNA for the cells. The microRNA was identified and quantified, and the up and down regulation was recorded. In an area that is fairly new in molecular biology, this experiment gave insight into how and which microRNAs are affected by physical activity.

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#### **Poster Abstract #50**

##### **Serine Rich Chaperone Protein 1 and its Mechanisms to Suppress Polyglutamine Aggregation**

Kathryn Lazar, Kenneth Matthew Scaglione, PhD; Holly Haver

Huntington's disease is an inherited neurodegenerative disorder characterized by motor dysfunction, cognitive decline, and psychosis. It is the most common of the nine polyglutamine (polyQ) diseases. There is a strong correlation between these diseases and expansion of a polyQ tract, resulting in protein aggregation. A novel molecular chaperone, serine rich chaperone protein 1 (SRCP1), has been identified in model organism *Dictyostelium discoideum* as necessary to suppress polyQ aggregation. Here we isolate different amino acid sequences of SRCP1 and determine the minimum sequence necessary for enabling SRCP1's ability to suppress polyQ aggregation. We synthesized a peptide of SRCP1 with a 20 amino acid sequence, as well as mutants of the peptide with smaller sections of the sequence. We then used filter trap and aggregation assays to determine which mutations remain capable of aggregation suppression, and in which mutations the function is knocked out. We determined a 10 amino acid sequence of SRCP1 that remains capable of performing this task. Through this study, we hope to further investigate the amino acid sequence necessary for SRCP1 to function and inhibit polyQ aggregation. This information could potentially be useful in developing therapeutic treatment for Huntington's and other neurodegenerative diseases.

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#### **Poster Abstract #51**

##### **Treatment of HCMV-infected cells with bortezomib**

Kristy Lloyd, Milwaukee Academy of Science; Amanda Johnson, MD, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Scott Terhune, PhD, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and Biomedical Engineering, MCW

Human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) is a beta herpesvirus that causes severe disease in immunocompromised individuals. Infection during pregnancy can cause mild to severe congenital birth defects. Treatment options are limited, and currently no approved treatment exists for infection during pregnancy. Thus, further treatment options are needed. Bortezomib, a protease inhibitor that reversibly inhibits the 26s proteasome, has been used primarily to treat cancers, such as multiple myeloma. We hypothesize that treatment of HCMV-infected

cells with bortezomib will inhibit the viral replication. The effect of bortezomib on viral replication was evaluated by comparing infected fibroblasts with uninfected cells (controls) using quantitative PCR. The quantitative PCR demonstrated a significant difference between the ratio of viral DNA and cellular DNA, with a lower level of viral DNA in infected cells treated with bortezomib compared to untreated cells. Our study demonstrates that use of bortezomib in treatment of HCMV-infected cells results in lower viral DNA levels, suggesting that the drug interferes with viral replication.

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**Poster Abstract #52****The Effects of LPS-Induced Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia on the Development of the Control of Breathing**

Amanda S. Mui, High School of Health Sciences; Gary C. Mouradian Jr., Department of Physiology, MCW; Santiago Alvarez, Department of Physiology, MCW; Matthew Dillard, Department of Physiology, MCW; Matthew R. Hodges, Department of Physiology, MCW

Infants born very prematurely have an underdeveloped respiratory system. Environmental factors can impair subsequent development of the lungs leading to chronic lung disease called bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). Infants with BPD have an increased likelihood of acquiring other respiratory problems throughout their life. However, the effects of BPD on the development of the control of breathing still remain unknown. Herein, we sought to understand the specific impact that infection has on the development of the control of breathing. Rat pups are naturally born with lungs at the equivalent developmental stage as very prematurely born infants. Therefore, we treated rat pups at 7 days of age (P7) with a single I.P. dose of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) to mimic infection in prematurely born infants and assessed their ventilatory control via plethysmography from P10 to P60. We tested the hypothesis that LPS exposure to rat pups would impair their control of breathing development. Our results indicate LPS exposed rats have elevated breathing frequency and minute ventilation at P43 and P60 during hypoxia compared to controls. There were no other apparent changes in the control of breathing. Thus, our results suggest LPS-induced BPD does not impact resting breathing but changes the hypoxic ventilatory response chronically.

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**Poster Abstract #53****3D-Printing of Bioengineered Human Cardiac Stem Cells**

Katharine Schwister; Dr. Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD; Dr. Min-Su Kim, PhD

Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS) is a rare and severe form of congenital heart disease (CHD) that is responsible for approximately 20% of CHD-related mortality. This laboratory uses an integrated approach based on their recent findings that certain variants in a gene that are very commonly expressed in HLHS patients are also associated with altered expression of other genes involved in the function of sarcomeres (which are the main contractile units of the heart.) This project will test the efficacy of three-dimensional bioengineered cardiac tissue models mimicking physical characteristics of tissue in comparison to cells plated as a monolayer. Results from the proposed work will enhance our understanding of HLHS and other forms of cardiac disease, thereby facilitating diagnosis and treatment options to advance the rational application of clinical precision medicine, as well as improve our knowledge for advancing state-of-the-art techniques to generate and utilize bioengineered cardiac tissue.

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**Poster Abstract #54****Hyperglycemia-Induce Signaling Alterations in the Vascular Endothelium**

Joshua Washington, Milwaukee Academy of Science, Dhanush Haspula, PhD, Department of Biomedical Engineering, and Brian R. Hoffmann, PhD, Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Physiology, and Cardiovascular Center, MCW

Individuals afflicted with diabetes exhibit states of high blood sugar or hyperglycemia. Hyperglycemia is a major causative factor leading to homeostatic alterations that contribute to vascular endothelial dysfunction. We hypothesize that hyperglycemia leads to alterations in glycosylation of cell surface proteins, leading to impaired endothelial signaling and function. Utilizing a glycomics approach, our lab previously identified endothelial cell surface proteins increased in glycosylation following exposure to hyperglycemia. In the current study, we used PyMol to create 3D protein models for our target proteins and map the site of glycosylation to determine the likelihood of functional inhibition. Through the protein models, we found that the glycosylations were at the active site of AT1R and within the pore of VDAC. We then performed a phosphoproteomic comparison on endothelial cells treated with high and normal glucose for two weeks to identify signaling alterations related to our modified protein targets. The intracellular proteins found in the phosphorylation data that related to VDAC and AT1R were connected to angiogenesis and oxidative stress. The results will create a greater foundation for future studies on the effects of high glucose on specific protein signaling pathways, and how the impairment of these pathways can lead to cardiovascular disease.

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**Poster Abstract #55****Effect of Modulus of Elasticity on the Collapsibility of Cylindrical Tubes**

Celena P.M. Wirth; Masoud Gh. Moghaddam; Guilherme J.M. Garcia

*Background:* The mechanics of airway collapse in patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is still poorly understood. The human upper airway during sleep behaves as a collapsible tube.

*Objectives:* The objective of our project is to develop a collapsible silicone tube model to study airflow limitation in OSA. This pilot study aimed to quantify the modulus of elasticity of a silicone material as a function of the percentage of silicone thinner added to the mixture.

*Methods:* Ecoflex00-10 silicone was selected due to its high elasticity. The modulus of elasticity was varied systematically by adding silicone thinner in proportions of 0 to 25% by weight. Dumbbell shaped test samples were fabricated and used for mechanical testing in the MTS Criterion™ Universal Testing System at the Marquette University Biomechanics Laboratory.

*Results:* A linear relationship was observed between the modulus of elasticity and amount of thinner added. The modulus of elasticity ranged from 31 kPa for 0% thinner to 14 kPa for 25% thinner.

*Conclusion:* Ecoflex00-10 silicone has a modulus of elasticity similar to soft tissues surrounding the human pharynx. Its modulus of elasticity can be varied by adding different amounts of a silicone thinner.

## Glossary of Terms

**Asset-Based Community Development:** a process that involves the community in making an inventory of assets and capacity, building relationships, developing a vision of the future, and leveraging internal and external resources to support actions to achieve it (The Community Toolbox, Identifying Community Assets and Resources).

**Capacity Building:** an increase in a group's abilities to define, assess, analyze and act on health and other concerns of importance to their members (Labonte and Laverack, 2001).

**Collaboration:** process by which groups come together and establish a formal commitment to work together to achieve common goals and objectives through joint ownership of the work and shared risks, results, and rewards (NACCHO, Pulling Together, 2008).

**Community:** an interdependent group of people who share a set of characteristics and are joined over time by a sense that what happens to one member affects many or all of the others. (Source: The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS). The Community as a Learning System: Using local data to improve local health. December 2011. Available: <http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/111213chip.pdf>).

**Community Assets:** the full breadth of people, organizational, and institutional resources that exist in a community (Beaulieu, 2002).

**Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR):** a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community and has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change (W.K. Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program, 2001).

**Community Engagement:** the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity (Carnegie Foundation's elective classification for Community Engagement; copyright 2007 the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching).

**Community Engaged Research (CErR):** 1. a process of inclusive participation that supports mutual respect of values, strategies, and actions for authentic partnership of people affiliated with or self-identified by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of the community of focus (Ahmed & Palermo, 2008). 2. a core element of any research effort involving communities. It requires academic members to become part of the community and community members to become part of the research team, thereby creating a unique working and learning environment before, during, and after the research (Ahmed & Palermo, 2008).

**Community Capacity:** the characteristics of communities that affect their ability to identify, mobilize, and address social and public health problems (McLeroy, 1996).

**Community Health:** a field of public health that concerns itself with the study and betterment of the health characteristics of communities (Web Definition).

**Community Health Improvement:** a systematic effort that assesses community needs and assets, prioritizes health-related problems and issues, analyzes problems for their causative factors, develops evidence-based intervention strategies based on those analyses, links stakeholders to implementation efforts through performance monitoring, and evaluates the effect of interventions in the community (Turnock, 2009).

**Community Outreach:** the ways faculty, staff, and students collaborate with external groups in mutually beneficial partnerships that are grounded in scholarship and consistent with the role and mission of their professional appointment (Adapted from CU-Boulder Council of Deans, February 16, 2010; <http://outreach.colorado.edu/about/outreach-definition>).

**Community Service:** is co-curricular or extra-curricular—it's something you do apart from or in addition to your academic or professional duties. You may enjoy helping others and want to volunteer in the local community on your own (Adapted from <http://www.eiu.edu/volunteer/defs-service.php>).

**Health:** 1. broadly defined as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease (WHO, 1948); 2. a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. Health is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities (Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, 1986). 3. a personal or community condition that reflects the fullest attainment and expression of physical, mental, environmental, spiritual, and economic potential (Bruce & S.U. McKane).

**Health Disparities:** 1. a significant disparity or difference in the overall rate of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality or survival rates in a population as compared to the health status of the general population (Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act, 2000). 2. differences in health status among distinct segments of the population including differences that occur by gender, race or ethnicity, education or income, disability, or living in various geographic localities (Virginia Department of Health, 2009).

**Health Equity:** 1. achieving the optimal level of health for all people. Health equity entails focused societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices. (Virginia Department of Health, 2009). 2. “pursuing equity in health” can be defined as striving to eliminate disparities in health between more and less-advantaged social groups, i.e. groups that occupy different positions in a social hierarchy (Braveman, 2003).

**Interdisciplinary Research:** research process that directly enforces team building in the service of addressing complex problems in which multicausal explanations might exist. This is compared to multidisciplinary research which acknowledges that research teams may need to represent more than one field of study but, has a division of labor; or transdisciplinary research which moves to a different level of synthesis and integration through the formulation of a new research framework for defining and addressing a problem, which integrates what may have previously been discrete or competing points of view (Aday, 2005).

**Participatory-based Research Network (PBRN):** a group of ambulatory practices devoted principally to the primary care of patients and affiliated in their mission to investigate questions to community-based practice and to improve the quality of primary care. This includes a sense of ongoing commitment to network activities and an organizational structure that transcends a single research project (<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/factsheets/primary/pbrn/index.html>).

**Partnership:** individuals or organizations working together in a side-by-side effort to accomplish a common goal with a shared sense of purpose and a shared responsibility for the outcome (Ohio State University, Building Coalitions Fact Sheet).

**Population Health:** 1. an approach to health that aims to improve the health of an entire population and to reduce health inequities among populations. Population health seeks to step beyond the individual-level focus of medicine by addressing a broad range of factors that impact health on a population level, such as environment, social structure, resource distribution, etc. (Minnesota Department of Health, 2008); 2. an approach that considers all factors that influence the health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group (Kindig, 2003).

**Public Health:** 1. the fulfillment of society's interest in assuring the conditions in which people can be healthy, which includes organized interdisciplinary efforts that address the physical, mental, and environmental health concerns of communities and populations (Colorado Department of Health, 2008 based on a definition by the Institute of Medicine, 1988).

**Public Health Systems and Service Research (PHSSR):** a field of study that examines the organization, funding, and delivery of public health services in communities and the impact of those services on the public's health (Mays, Halverson, & Scutchfield, Journal of Public Health Management & Practice, 9:179-82, 2003).

**Service Learning:** "a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which service is provided, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals," (LCME IS-14-A).

**Social Determinants of Health:** the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the social, economic, and political resources and structures that influence health outcomes. (World Health Organization, 2003)

**Social Justice:** is the equitable distribution of social, economic and political resources, opportunities, and responsibilities and their consequences. In public health, a social justice framework includes the premise that marginalization based on race, class, gender, and other social classifications underlies the inequitable distribution of social, economic and political resources and opportunities. This unequal distribution of resources and opportunities is manifested through inequitable access and exposure to social determinants of health. Through direct and indirect mechanisms, the result is health inequities (Virginia Department of Health).

**Translational Research:** (1) The process of applying discoveries generated during research in the laboratory, and in preclinical studies, to the development of trials and studies in humans (as well as the process of applying bedside observations to inform bench to discoveries); and (2) Research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community. In more everyday terms you might think of translational research as moving the research process through phases from bench to animal to human to guidelines development to public health and ultimately to population outcomes and global health [Summarizes NIH's definition].



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# Acknowledgements

*Special thanks to all who were involved in our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Community Engagement Conference. We appreciate your hard work, expertise and time investment!*

## Community Engagement Spring Conference Pre-Events

### Make a Lunch

On April 18, the Medical College of Wisconsin again hosted the “Make a Lunch” event. Faculty, staff and students volunteered to make sandwiches, which were delivered to United Way agency partners. In just one hour, volunteers at MCW made enough sandwiches to feed thousands of hungry individuals in Milwaukee.

Thanks to the MCW Office of Communications for leading this successful event in collaboration with the Office of Community Engagement.

### Medical College of Wisconsin's Urban & Community Health (UCH) Pathway

On April 19, the Medical College of Wisconsin's Urban & Community Health (UCH) Pathway held its final session of the year, focused on Trauma Informed Care. The aim was for the 70 UCH students to learn perspectives from and have stimulating conversations with community engaged faculty and partners about the topic of Trauma Informed Care. As part of the MCW Community Engagement Conference activities, the Office of Community Engagement sponsored a “Connections Reception” following the Pathway session, so that students, faculty, staff, and partners could mix and mingle over refreshments.

Thanks to Dr. Linda Meurer, Professor in the Department of Family & Community Medicine and Director of the UCH Pathway for leading this informative event in collaboration with the Office of Community Engagement.



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