



CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

7th Annual Community Engagement and Research Symposium
March 9, 2018

Keynote

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

**Achieving Health Equity:
The Role of Innovative Community Partnerships**
Albert Sherman Center, 2nd floor, Lecture Hall/ Auditorium AS2-2102, 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Dr. Renée Boynton-Jarrett, MD, ScD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine
Director, Vital Village Community Engagement Network

Dr. Renée Boynton-Jarrett is nationally recognized for her expertise in the role of early-life adversities as life course social determinants of health. Through BMC Vital Village Network she has supported the development of community-based strategies to promote child wellbeing and equity and prevent adversity by building community capacities. During this presentation she will discuss the role of using a trauma-informed framework to promote systems alignment, and innovative, cross-sector partnerships to improve wellbeing and achieve equity.

This presentation will review the contribution of early life adversities and adverse social environments to inequities in health, with a focus on the role of social stress as a driver of inequities. One learning objective is to review new medical competencies that consider structural violence and social forces, as a strategy to transform models of practice and care. An additional objective of the presentation is to situate the current use of metrics of wellbeing and improve the utility of metrics to track progress, and implement local improvements over time by sharing examples of how participatory strategies, community engagement, and community-based research methods can be incorporated in the work of Vital Village Network. Finally, the presentation will share strategies for scaling local innovations and the essential role of civic participation for building community capacity to achieve health equity.

The BMC Vital Village Network integrates a trauma-informed framework to cultivate partnerships between community residents and agencies and align systems of care and education. This presentation will ask the question of what cross-sector partnerships and innovative strategies arise from a paradigm shift that frames early life adversities as life course social determinants of health.

Breakout Session 1

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

UMass Dartmouth Community Engaged Research Academy: Some Methods to Develop Inclusive CER
7th floor Albert Sherman Center, Conference Room AS7-2072, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Moderator and Presenter: Robin A. Robinson, PhD, PsyD, UMass Dartmouth, Professor of Sociology and Coordinator, Community Engaged Research Initiative

Presenter: Mary Hensel, UMass Dartmouth, Research Development Manager

Session Description:

The UMass Dartmouth Community Engaged Research Academy has completed two years of CER skills building, mentoring, seed funding, and other resources, with seven supported CER scholars to date. This interactive breakout session draws on the curriculum of the CER Academy to build particular skills, stakeholder analysis and mapping of needs that together chart the path to inclusive and practical CER proposals, and lead to creative, relevant approaches to grant seeking. In a stakeholder analysis, the goal is to identify who is involved in a CER issue, to what extent they are engaged at the start of the process of identifying needs to be addressed in the research, how likely they are to try to address the issue and remain involved as those

who have a stake in outcomes, and what might happen post-research findings, leading to impact, implementation, and dissemination. The mapping of basic and perceived human needs (adapted from David Gil's *Unraveling Social Policy*) deepens researchers' understanding of the problems they will address, in a format that serves as a readily accessible communications tool for working with community partners. This training workshop will address stakeholder analysis, mapping basic and perceived human needs, and CER grant seeking through the analysis of a CER disparities issue as a case study. At the end of the workshop, participants will have learned a clearly articulated process for working through these essential steps toward inclusive CER, and to engage, more effectively, with community partners challenged by health disparities.

Communicating to Engage

Albert Sherman Center, 2nd floor, Lecture Hall/ Auditorium AS2-2102, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Moderators and Presenters:

Nikki Spencer, MSW/MPH, Community Project Manager
Jennifer Pamphile, BS, Community Engagement Coordinator
Center of Excellence in Women's Health – Boston Medical Center
Community Engagement Program – Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Session Description

This workshop offers a different approach to improving communication between community members and researchers. Presenters will demonstrate improvisational theater techniques that help build skills around connecting authentically with an audience, paying attention to others, and reading body language.

The purpose of this approach is to build a bridge among community members, patients, providers, researchers, and other stakeholders involved in health-related research. Researchers often struggle to clearly communicate the purpose of their research and its implications, which leaves community members uninspired to engage.

This skills-based workshop will introduce elements from theater training to encourage participants to communicate better as partners in research. Using techniques adapted from the Alda Method™ of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, the leaders will demonstrate ways of reframing research to be community-oriented, conversational, and accessible without “dumbing it down.” These techniques have been used to build interest in community engagement, develop community advisory panels, and aid study recruitment, among other applications.

Participants will learn:

- distilling techniques to communicate about research or health using clear, vivid language
- the value of focusing on the needs of the audience
- relationship building techniques through empathy, listening, and authentic connection.

Building Healthy Communities in the Dominican Republic; A Mixed-Methods Approach towards Engaging the Community

1st floor Medical School Building, Hiatt Auditorium S1-608, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Moderators and Presenters:

Camille Lundberg, Language & International Health
Fatema Bhagat Language & International Health
Katherine Brown, Biological Sciences
Dr. Moore de Peralta, MD, PhD, MPH: Assistant Professor, Departments of Language, and Youth, Family, and Community Studies

Session Description:

The Building Healthy Communities Creative Inquiry is an ongoing undergraduate and graduate student-led project from Clemson University. Its goal is to facilitate community-driven improvement of a small rural community in the Dominican Republic, Las Malvinas II. We strive to address five public health priorities, identified in consultation with the community,

including vaccine-preventable diseases, chronic diseases, education, sanitation, and unwanted pregnancies. To address these areas for improvement, our research used a mixed-methods approach, using both qualitative and quantitative data gathering tools. Qualitative methods included focus groups and interviews with community leaders and relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations from five different sectors, including work, education, community institutions/organizations, health care, and community-at-large sector. The findings were then analyzed to create a Community Health Assessment. For quantitative methods we utilized arcGIS technology. Students created surveys based on health priorities and mapped a comprehensive survey including any personal assets the community household members may have. In spring 2018, students will conduct a photovoice project with the youth of the community.

Breakout Session 2

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Overcoming the Challenges of Obtaining Funding by Working Together

Faculty Conference Room, Medical School Lobby S1-342, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Moderator/Presenter:

Linda Silka, University of Maine, PhD

Session Description

How do we find funding for our partnership programs that will support innovative partnership initiatives? This session will illustrate the approach of tapping into courses that are already offered by university partners and adapting those courses to be partnership-focused. We have found this approach to be highly successful for building capacity for grant writing within partnerships. Universities increasingly offer grant writing courses, yet these courses are often focused on teaching individual students the skills to write successful grants to support their own work. This session will show how such courses can be adapted to emphasize partnership approaches, to develop grant writing resources for partners, and to culminate in free grant writing workshops for the community. Such an approach strengthens the skill development of the students while at the same time disseminating the training widely throughout the community. The advantage of this approach is that it requires few additional resources while having the potential to build partnership capacity for successfully seeking funding and building programs that are sufficiently rigorous to meet the demands of funders. Examples from courses at UMass Lowell and UMaine will illustrate how this approach has been effectively implemented in many different contexts.

Building Partnerships within Communities to Address Social Determinants of Health and Promote Health Equity

Albert Sherman Center, 2nd floor, Lecture Hall/ Auditorium AS2-2102, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Moderators/Presenters:

Elise Carpenter MD PhD, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, ecarpenter@glfhc.org

Raman Nohria MD, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, raman.nohria@glfhc.org

Shannon Meyers MPH Candidate, Boston University School of Public Health, slmeyer@bu.edu

Session Description:

BACKGROUND

Social determinants of health contribute more to our general quality and length of life than the medical care we provide in our communities. To address these needs, the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center has recently launched a food insecurity campaign to reduce barriers and access to food for residents of Lawrence. Our initial pilot data suggests that up to 2/3 of our patients are food insecure. To help address this problem we have partnered with the Greater Boston Food Bank to provide free monthly access to fruits and vegetables and assistance with obtaining governmental support.

Recognizing the significant impact food insecurity has on the community, we have also started to engage in community partnerships, particularly with the Mayor's Health Task Force of Lawrence, Greater Boston Food Bank, and Groundworks Lawrence, to develop sustainable solutions to food insecurity. We also are working to develop an understanding of community needs through community members' perspectives and experiences of food insecurity.

Our goal during this session is to describe how the use of informant interviews and focus groups, community needs assessment resources and stakeholder relationships helps to promote a community-driven movement that can tackle health equity.

PURPOSE

To promote and discuss methods of community partnership and community-based participatory research in addressing health equity in communities and healthcare organizations

To discuss methods and ideas for community engagement and partnership to address social determinants of health, particularly food insecurity

“It Takes a Village:” Innovative multi-sector collaboration to improve Public Health through Positive Youth Development program implementation, evaluation and data analysis

1st floor Medical School Building, Hiatt Auditorium S1-608, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Moderator:

Patty Flanagan, YWCA Central Mass

Presenters:

Judi Kirk, Boys & Girls Clubs of Worcester & YouthConnect

Laurie Ross, PhD, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts

Grace Sliwoski, Regional Environmental Council

Heather Mangione, United Way of Central Massachusetts

Nikki Nixon, MS, Epidemiologist for the Worcester Division of Public Health/Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA)

Session Description:

Worcester has a long history of effective collaboration for Positive Youth Development across our youth-serving agencies and programs. That collaborative spirit has recently taken hold as a primary strategy for improved Public Health of the overall community. The Community Health Improvement Plan supported by (CHNA 8) Coalition for Healthy Greater Worcester is a road map for improved Health Indicators.

The breakout session will describe the current health and well-being of youth in Worcester and the innovative local collaborations that promote youth health and positive development across our community. Diverse funder support is integral to local youth development goals, objectives and outcomes, and the role of funders extends beyond financial support to include advisory and capacity-building roles. Multi-sector collaboration also provides access to data from multiple sources, which both measures impact and informs activities.

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For more information on the UMass CCTS Community Engagement & Research Section, visit <http://www.umassmed.edu/CCTS/Community>.