Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute

2015-16 Annual Report

Working to Improve The Health and Well-Being of Baltimore Since 2000
The Urban Health Institute Team 2015-16

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Our Mission

To serve as a catalyst that brings together the resources of Johns Hopkins Institutions with the City of Baltimore, to improve the community’s health and well-being.

Who We Are

The UHI serves as an interface between Johns Hopkins and the Baltimore community in which it resides. Together with its community partners, the UHI explores ways that the research, teaching, and clinical expertise of the University can be better harnessed for the benefit of the residents of Baltimore.
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Serve as a bridge between JHI and Baltimore, facilitating understanding and information sharing so as to improve health outcomes.

Facilitate collaborations between JHI and the Baltimore Community around research, community projects, program planning and implementation, and evaluation.

Social Determinants of Health Symposium
785 registrants

Latino Health Conference
150 attendees

Baltimore Researchers Dinners
133 registrants

Baltimore Dialogues
166 registrants

Hopkins in Baltimore Series
Total registrants: 760
JHSPH: 463
SOM: 55
SON: 131
SOE: 111

Small Grants Program
28 applications
15 grants funded

Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award
10 applications

President’s Recognition Award
Nominations from 5 schools: JHSPH, SOM, SON, SOE, and Carey

Community-Driven Research Day
30 CBOs and city agencies shared data and identified potential collaboration

Outcomes

Knowledge gained
Collaboration improved
Relationships built
Expanded work with the Latino community

Improved participation of community members in collaborative research process
Greater identification of community research needs
Increased knowledge of available data sources and research opportunities
Increased number of community-based research projects
Better awareness of exceptional work in community health in Baltimore City

Activities and Outputs

Social Determinants of Health Symposium
Small Grants Program
Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award
President’s Recognition Award
Community-Driven Research Day

Activities and Outputs

Latino Health Conference
Baltimore Researchers Dinners
Baltimore Dialogues
Hopkins in Baltimore Series

Improved the capacity of the community in evaluation and monitoring
Increased academic knowledge on community health in Baltimore City

Nuts and Bolts of Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop
49 registrants

Publications in the following journals:
Health Education and Behavior
Journal of Community Psychology
Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action

Publications in the following topic areas:
Sexual education in black churches in Baltimore
A community health initiative to evaluate attitudes towards CBPR in East Baltimore
An evaluation of a social support program for an inner city workforce development
Barriers to colonoscopy screening among African Americans
At-a-Glance

Nuts and Bolts of Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop
49 registrants

Publications in the following journals:
- Health Education and Behavior
- Journal of Community Psychology
- Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action

Publications in the following topic areas:
- Sexual education in black churches in Baltimore
- A community health initiative to evaluate attitudes towards CBPR in East Baltimore
- An evaluation of a social support program for an inner city workforce development
- Barriers to colonoscopy screening among African Americans

Improved the capacity of the community in evaluation and monitoring

Increased academic knowledge on community health in Baltimore City

Undergraduate course at Homewood:
“Health and Well-Being in Baltimore”
150 students enrolled

New graduate course in Public Health at JHSPH:
“Social Determinants of Urban Health”

Improved knowledge and understanding of undergraduate and graduate students on Baltimore’s unique challenges and opportunities

Launched Bunting Neighborhood Leadership Program
New leadership program launched for community leaders

Expanded Efforts in Trauma-Informed Care

Community Education to Promote Colorectal Cancer Screening

Groundwork laid for improvement of community leadership and skills

Asset-based identification of trauma and trauma-informed approaches

Increased community knowledge and awareness of colorectal cancer and colonoscopy screening

Strengthen the capacity of the Baltimore community by bringing the knowledge and skills available through JHI to community identified needs and issues

Strengthen the academic offerings and opportunities within JHI as they related to urban health and development

Initiate sustainable, collaborative interventions that will improve the health and well-being of Baltimore
Message from the Director

Dear Colleagues,

The report that follows is aimed at highlighting major accomplishments of The Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute (UHI) during the past year toward improving the health of our community. The UHI is fortunate to have a diverse, compassionate, and dedicated network of neighborhood residents, elected representatives, community leaders, program managers, JHU faculty, students, and staff. Each member of our team plays a critical role in achieving our outcomes.

The work of the UHI is structured toward achieving five main objectives. In this report we do not intend to cover every activity that we accomplished between 2015 and 2016, but rather to provide the reader an overview of the breadth and depth of the work that we do. In particular, this year has been important for continuing to build relationships with the East Baltimore and greater Baltimore communities, and to improve access to information and knowledge sharing.

We would like to acknowledge that the work that we do is guided by a dynamic and dedicated Advisory Board that in 2015-16 included:

Robert C. Lieberman, Provost  
Patricia Davidson, Dean, SON  
Paul Rothman, President, JHH
David W. Andrews, Dean, SOE  
Michael J. Klag, Dean, JHSPH  
Beverly Wendland, Dean, KSAS
Bernard Ferrari, Dean, Carey  
Ronald Peterson, President, JHHS

As well as the Community-University Coordinating Council (CUCC), which is made up of 28 Hopkins and community leaders:

Rev. Debra Hickman, co-chair  
Patricia Davidson, Dean, SON  
Paul Rothman, President, JHH
Lindsay Thompson, co-chair  
Michael J. Klag, Dean, JHSPH  
Beverly Wendland, Dean, KSAS
David Altschuler  
Ronald Peterson, President, JHHS
Carmen Alvarez  
John Morris, Jr.
Tim Armbruster  
Kenneth Morrison
Deidra Bishop  
Kathleen Page
Faith Connolly  
Darcy Phelan-Emrick
Grady Dale, Jr.  
Leon Purnell
Clarence “Tiger” Davis  
Margaret Williams
Gary Dittman  
Albert Wu

Driven by our love for this city and an abiding commitment to improve the health and well-being of the people who live and work in Baltimore, the past year was a success! Thank you for taking the time to review some of the steps we have made towards meeting our goals. We welcome your thoughts, feedback, and suggestions; but most importantly, we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts together.

Sincerely,

Robert Wm. Blum, MD, PhD, MPH  
William H. Gates, Sr. Professor and Chair  
Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health  
Director, Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Celebrating 15 Years of Engaging Communities, Improving Health

2000
In 2000, Johns Hopkins University President William Brody established the Urban Health Institute in response to a recommendation from the Urban Health Council. The UHI was created to be a catalyst for conversation, for collaboration, and ultimately, for change.

2005
The first cohort of seven community members finished intensive training to serve in the Community Health Worker (CHW) Program, established to provide basic health and medical services to East Baltimore residents.

2008
The Small Grants Program was established to stimulate community-university collaborations in research and program development. Community-Driven Research Day was also inaugurated, allowing community organizations and city agencies to tell Hopkins their data and research needs.

2009
Following the closure of the Caroline Street Clinic in East Baltimore, the UHI collaborated with Johns Hopkins Medicine to launch The Access Partnership (TAP), a groundbreaking program which provides thousands of local, low-income and uninsured patients access to both primary and specialty care. That same year the UHI also established the Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award.

2012
The UHI partnered with the Office of the Provost to present the Social Determinants of Health Symposium. Established in 2012 by the Provost, the symposium offers the UHI an opportunity to engage with a range of community partners to identify the most pressing topic each year for the symposium’s focus.

2014
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Early Childhood Center was opened in East Baltimore, a state-of-the-art, 30,000-squarefoot facility. The center was intended to provide family support and health services related to early child development, as well as early education, to a diverse population.

2015
The UHI celebrated its 15th Anniversary with a dinner for nine of Baltimore’s Unsung Heroes — tenacious residents who selflessly volunteer their time and share their talents with the community.
The Unsung Heroes honored at the 15th Anniversary included:

- Bertha Queen, Founder and Co-Director, and Tonya Johnson, Co-Director
  
  **Beginning Effective Recovery Together (BERT)**

- Elroy & Cleo Christopher, Founders
  
  **Covenant Community Association**

- Naon Locust, Board Member
  
  **Berea-Eastside Neighborhood Community Association**

- Sabrina Zeredith McCray, Former Senior Counselor
  
  **The Moore Clinic for HIV Care**

- John Murdock, Human Services Worker
  
  **Mayor’s Office of Human Services**

- Mary Humes, Disciple
  
  **Zion Baptist Church**

For full stories on the Unsung Heroes, visit:

The 5th Annual Social Determinants of Health Symposium
*Race, Racism, and Baltimore’s Future: A Focus on Structural and Institutional Racism*

Hosted by the Urban Health Institute and the Office of Provost, attendees included: high school, undergraduate, and graduate students from across Hopkins and the greater Baltimore academic community, teachers and professors, community residents, community-based organizations, service professionals, and leaders from the Baltimore area and beyond.

Nearly 25 invited speakers participated in four panels sharing expertise on: 1) overcoming structural racism; 2) how racism affects health; 3) how racism, racial segregation, and the education system are connected; and 4) racism and policing. Panelists and discussants ranged from research and legal experts to leaders from non-profit community organizations. Panelists shared personal and poignant anecdotes about their own experiences as well as their research; all offered suggestions for ways forward.

This year, for the first time, the symposium also facilitated small breakout sessions in an effort to turn discussion into action. These sessions were an essential part of the event. We wanted to go beyond lively discussions about racial injustices in our education, health, and justice systems to find tangible steps forward.

The goals of this symposium were to 1) reiterate how salient structural racism is in the lives of people in Baltimore City, 2) acknowledge structural racism as a critical public health concern, and 3) critically assess the changes that we can make to reduce structural racism in our personal lives and in the institutions where we work.
This symposium can be reflected upon as an important moment for Johns Hopkins Institutions, the Urban Health Institute, and the Baltimore community to facilitate understanding and information sharing on structural racism.

Key lessons from the Symposium are summarized below:

**Panel 1: Overcoming Structural Racism**

- There are many different forms of racism which interact: individual, internalized, interpersonal, intrapersonal, institutional, and structural racism.
- Residential segregation by race and poverty influences everything, including health, schools, and policing.
- Historical context is important for understanding the current status of health, schooling, and policing in Baltimore City, and also in developing strategies for moving forward.
- We must overcome white privilege and the belief that everyone can make it if they just work hard enough.

**Panel 2: Racism and Health**

- Racism never acts alone in its effects on health.
- Racism affects our behaviors and physiological responses.
- Racism itself is a determinant of health.
- Place matters - disparities in health in minority groups are intimately connected to residential segregation.
- When understanding the health consequences of racism, we need to embrace intersectionality — we must highlight how the various identities of an individual are intertwined.

“The speakers were excellent and inspiring and came from multiple perspectives. It was nice to have breakout groups to hear different perspectives, network, and learn about what others are doing in the community.”

*SDH2016 attendee*
Panel 3: Racism, Racial Segregation, and Education

- Both race and poverty reinforce educational segregation.
- Educational segregation is both a result of *de facto* and *de jure* segregation.
- Segregated schools put children at a disadvantage.
- Black, brown, and native kids are not broken.
- Desegregating schools is not enough.

Panel 4: Racism and Policing

- We must work together to reduce racism in policing.
- When investigating inequity in police treatment, we should focus on the broader social, political, and organizational cues that instruct an officer’s actions.
- Black lives matter in life, not just in death, but always.
- Police brutality and an unequal justice system reflect a failure to see humanity in others.

Following the symposium, a report was written. One of the products of this report included a conceptual framework for action steps, which can be found on the UHI website. To watch videos and read the full report, visit: [http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/SDH2016](http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/SDH2016)

2015 Symposium Collaboration Update

Following the 2015 Social Determinants of Health Symposium, *Healing Together: Community-Level Trauma—Its Causes, Consequences and Solutions*, a multi-institutional level collaboration was formed with the University of Maryland to develop a grant application on biological markers of trauma. Additionally, the UHI has been working with the Baltimore City Health Department and Behavioral Mental Health System on development of a service provider self-assessment tool. Finally, the UHI has supported the Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School’s trauma-informed school initiative.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Latino Health Conference

On May 12, 2016, Centro SOL in partnership with the Urban Health Institute hosted the second annual Latino Health Conference, themed, “Land of Opportunity? Latino Immigrants and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).” The conference was attended by over 150 people including scholars, health care providers, community advocates, graduate students and community leaders, as well as 30 organizations from across Baltimore. Topics identified by community partners included intergenerational gaps in mental health support, communication, reunification, acculturation, teen pregnancy, and educational opportunities and barriers for immigrant and U.S. born Latinos.

The Keynote speakers were Rafael Lopez, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Liany Arroyo, Senior Director of Health Equity at the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

Nearly 20 invited speakers participated in three panels sharing expertise on 1) mental health among Latino immigrant youth, 2) teen pregnancy prevention, and 3) obstacles and opportunities for Latino youth after high school. This conference provided an important platform for the community to discuss topics of high priority for Baltimore’s Latino youth.

Conference details and video are available at: http://jhcentrosol.org/events/lhc2016/

This year, the UHI also expanded its work with the Latino/a community

- The UHI established the Latino Health Small Grants Program, which Centro SOL directs and manages. Two Latino Health Small Grants were awarded — see page 17 for details.
- The UHI facilitated two federal grant applications; one focused on a trauma-informed intervention for at-risk Latino youth and the second on teen pregnancy prevention and expanded access to Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC).

Baltimore Researchers Dinners

Annually, the UHI hosts a series of dinners to create a collaborative research environment across colleges and universities in Baltimore. The goal is to create a community of scholars, who share findings and work together.

In the 2015-16 academic year, we hosted two researchers dinners, which were attended by a total of 109 individuals. At these dinners we celebrated the work some of our Hopkins faculty associates. We listened to a discussion on Place and Health by Thomas LaVeist, Lester Spence, and Jacky Jennings, as well as a talk on Witnessing and Responding to Violence by Laurel Kiser and Anita Wells.
Baltimore Dialogues

Another way we bolster community discussions of Baltimore urban health topics is through Baltimore Dialogues. These Hopkins-community discussions occur in the basement of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and bring together 30-50 community residents and leaders with Hopkins faculty, students, and staff to discuss race, racism, privilege, and relationships.

In 2015-16, we facilitated three Baltimore Dialogues by Hopkins and community authors, including:

Baltimore Dialogues are a time for the community to come together with the authors to stimulate conversation, share ideas, build relationships, and reflect on our attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge.

For full write-ups of these events please visit: [http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/events/Baltimore_Dialogues/](http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/events/Baltimore_Dialogues/)

Hopkins in Baltimore Series

A new education series was launched this past academic year called Hopkins in Baltimore – this series included speaker and panel discussions held at four different schools at Johns Hopkins.

The Hopkins in Baltimore Series included four panel discussions, one from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), the School of Nursing (SON), the School of Medicine (SOM), and the School of Education (SOE).

Topics included:

- **Baltimore’s School-to-Prison Pipeline (JHSPH)**
  - Guest Speaker: Anna Deavere Smith
  - Panelists: Robert Balfanz, Katrina Foster, Lt. Col. Melvin Russell, Margaret Williams

- **Baltimore’s Intimate Partner Violence (SON)**
  - Panelists: Kamila Alexander, Carmen Alvarez, Jacquelyn Campbell, Nancy Glass, and Phyllis Sharps
The Child and Youth Mortality Report 2015

In 2015 the UHI supported work that was published, analyzing trends in data from 2001 to 2014, on child and youth mortality in Baltimore City. Under the leadership of Philip Leaf, The Child and Youth Mortality Report 2015 details trends in data to assess health disparities across the city. Additionally, it acknowledges Baltimore City assets and points for improvement. This report helped synthesize the breadth of research and data and to highlight the communities in greatest need of public health interventions, so that we can better target resource allocation and funding.

Major findings from this report:

- The leading cause of death for black youth in Baltimore between 2008-2012 was assault. For white youth, it was an accident.
- There was substantial variation in child and youth mortality by neighborhood. Clifton Berea and Midway/Coldstream had the highest youth mortality rates in the city, compared to Greenmount East which is doing better than predicted using neighborhood disadvantage score and youth mortality patterns in the city.
- Neighborhood disadvantage was a stronger predictor for youth mortality rates than the racial composition of the population.
• Despite a substantial decline (41%) in child and youth mortality across the city, since 2001-2003, child and youth mortality continues to be a major public health challenge for Baltimore City.
• The report indicated that Oldtown/Middle East, Greenmount East, Clifton Berea, and Midway/Coldstream were in need of deeper investigation to better understand causes of youth mortality.

For a full report please see: http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/media/Child_and_Youth_Mortality.html

Authors: Stacy W. Lloyd, PhD, Amanda Latimore, PhD, Carlos Castillo-Salgado, MD, JD, MPH, DrPH, Adam Milam, PhD, Seema D. Iyer, PhD, and Philip J. Leaf, PhD.
Collaboration Building

At the UHI we facilitate collaborations between JHI and the Baltimore community around research, community projects, program planning/implementation and evaluation.

This year, the UHI financially supported 15 new partnerships between JHU affiliates and community partners in the form of small grants.

Small Grants Program

The Small Grants Program helps strengthen community-university collaborations in research and program development, as applicants are required to partner with a community agency or community leader. During 2015-2016, the UHI awarded 15 new grants, including seven Faculty-Community Grants, seven Graduate Student-Community Grants, and one Undergraduate-Community grant.

In Baltimore City, we know that traumatic experiences and high levels of “toxic stress” can change the course of people’s lives. Nationwide there is recognition that the actions in the work that we do, including in schools, health care systems, and criminal justice systems, should be trauma-informed. As a result of this movement, and the UHI’s desire to improve trauma-informed services in Baltimore City, this year’s grant recipients were asked to focus on UHI priority areas of improving trauma-informed care and community-level trauma reduction. Below is a list of the 2015-2016 award recipients.

Student-Community Projects

- Jasmine Kaneshiro with Leon Purnell of the Men and Families Center – Equipping Community Leaders to Address Trauma in East Baltimore
- Paige Cantlin with Jennifer Tan of the Shine Foundation – Building Financial Capacity of Homeless Survivors of Domestic Abuse, One FEAT at a Time (FEAT=Financial Education and Training)
- David Olawuyi Fakunle and Kay Lawal-Muhammad with Rashida Forman-Bey of the WombWork Productions Inc. – Baltimore’s Emotional Emancipation Arts Initiative
- Christina Rodriguez-Hart with Leon Purnell of the Men and Families Center – Healing and Empowering Our Youth: A Community-Based Project to Address Trauma Among East Baltimore Youth
- April Joy Damian with Ali Smith of the Holistic Life Foundation, Inc. – Advancing the Mental Well-Being of Baltimore through a Trauma-Informed Workforce Development Program
- Charvonne Holliday with Latisha Carter of My Covenant Place – An Exploration of Community-Level Influences on Perpetration of Partner Violence
- Lauren Rocco with Aaron Velky and Josh Massey of Ortus Academy and Sharicca Bolden of Strong City Baltimore – Financial Literacy Game in Inner City Schools
- Allison Weigel with Sarah Tooley of Better Waverly Community Organization/901 Arts – 901 Arts – Building an Infrastructure for Inclusion

"Farm Lab," a program previously funded by the UHI Small Grants Program
Faculty–Community Projects

- Joyce Harrison with Kenneth Tellerman* of the American Academy of Pediatrics Emotional Health Committee – Children’s DEPOT Project: Improving Parenting of Young Children in Poverty
- Michele Kaufman with Aaliyah Muhammad of the Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City – Best Practices for Trauma-Informed Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in Baltimore
- Elizabeth Sloand with Katrina Foster of Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School – Cultivating a Trauma Sensitive School Environment
- Sarah Polk with Eric Haber of Baltimore City Schools – Teen Testimonios**
- Marcelo Batkis and Derek Miller with Aida Medina of Gallery Church–Patterson Park – Managing Psychological Stress Caused by Community-Level Violence: Baltimore Latinos Moving from Vulnerability to Empowerment**
- Carolina Vidal with Briony Hynson of The Neighborhood Design Center – Re-claiming Public Spaces for Play: The Effects of the Built Environment on the Levels of Hyperarousal in Children and Collective Efficacy in the Community, in a Neighborhood Exposed to High Levels of Community Violence
- Roni Neff and Erin Biehl with Holly Freishtat and Kristin Baja of Baltimore City Office of Sustainability – Building Food System Resilience in Baltimore: Stakeholder Perspectives

It is the UHI vision that these projects will advance the health and well-being of the residents of Baltimore.

* In May 2016, Kenneth Tellerman was awarded a Friends of Children Healthy People 2020 Grant Award, which will build on the work he completed under the Small Grants Program with Joyce Harrison of Hopkins.

** These two grants were part of the Latino Health Small Grants Program.

Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award

At the UHI we celebrate collaboration between community organizations and JHU that powerfully impact the Baltimore Community. In 2015, the UHI presented the Fifth Annual Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award.

We recognized the Virginia I. and Pythias A. Jones African American Community Forum on Memory Loss with the Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award of $15,000. Born out of compassion, empathy, and a mission to help families of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, or other illnesses that create memory loss, this forum continues to touch the lives of many in the Baltimore community. Not only is the forum a safe space for families to learn about treatment and care but it has also played an integral role in building trust and support for the African American community.
President’s Recognition Award

We are pleased to announce the 2016 President’s Recognition Award for Research that Improves the Health and Well-Being of Baltimore winners:

Susan Sherman, Professor of Epidemiology and Health, Behavior, and Society, received the Senior Faculty Award for her work focused on improving the health and social well-being of IV drug users and sex workers.

Michelle Eakin, Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, won the Junior Faculty Award for her collaborative work with Baltimore City Head Start, which has made a tremendous difference in the lives of children and families in Baltimore City.

Both were honored at an award dinner with President Daniels on May 11, 2016.

Community-Driven Research Day

This year, we facilitated collaboration between 30 community-based organizations, city agencies, and Hopkins students and faculty from Johns Hopkins and other local universities at the Community-Driven Research Day (CDRD). This event, co-sponsored by the Baltimore City Health Department, was held in February 2016, and included “speed dating,” where participating community-based organizations met with researchers to discuss data analysis and research needs.

Leana Wen, Baltimore City Health Commissioner, provided opening remarks and there was an engaging panel discussion, Lessons Learned from Community-Based Research.

Panelists included:

- Joshua Sharfstein, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice and Training, Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Cathy Costa, Director, Child Fatality Review, Baltimore City Health Department
Collaboration with Center Stage

Center Stage is a community-based institution committed to engaging, entertaining, and enriching audiences through bold and enlightening productions. During this past year, Center Stage launched a Mobile Pilot Project that featured a professional, high-quality touring production that traveled to prisons, juvenile detention facilities, and homeless shelters in Baltimore City free of charge for the partner organizations and their populations.

Each tour consisted of a performance of the play and afterwards the opportunity to speak with the artists and each other about the theatrical themes and issues presented that were most relevant to their lives.

Given that very little was understood about whether such a program could provide significant changes in the lives of its audiences, the UHI and the Center for Adolescent Health (CAH) at Johns Hopkins partnered with Center Stage to conduct a formative research study on the Center Stage Mobile Project.

The primary aim of the collaboration was to gather data on the perceptions from members of the audience about their experience of the performance and whether the performance may have changed them. Additionally, a literature review was conducted on the effectiveness of arts programs to help Center Stage identify key elements that have been found to produce change in various underserved populations. Findings were then shared with Center Stage staff to help design a larger evaluation study of the Mobile Project.

Workshops

We improved evaluation and monitoring capacity of the Baltimore community (including JHI students, non-profit leaders and staff, and Baltimore City community members) by hosting a full-day workshop.

Kristin Mmari, an assistant professor in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health in the Bloomberg School of Public Health, provided a workshop titled, “Nuts and Bolts of Monitoring and Evaluation,” which helped participants learn to:

• understand monitoring and evaluation concepts
• describe programs by using an evaluator’s perspective
• gain knowledge and practice for developing a program logic model
• understand the different types of evaluations
• practice using qualitative methods for an evaluation

This workshop was designed to help organizations learn how to demonstrate the impact of their program in the community, make a case for support, or identify components of a program that needed to be changed or eliminated.

The UHI responds to community issues by making the expertise of JHU accessible to the community.

New Community-Based Participatory Research Publications

We contributed to the literature by publishing four new articles. These articles covered a range of important urban health topics; all highlighted the importance of community-based participatory research. Topics covered included sexual education in Black Churches in Baltimore, a community health initiative to evaluate attitudes towards community-based participatory research in East Baltimore, an evaluation of a social support program for an inner city workforce development, and a publication on barriers to colonoscopy screening among African Americans. In 2015-2016, publication journals included Health Education and Behavior, Journal of Community Psychology, and Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action.

Strengthening Academic Offerings

Johns Hopkins Courses

Over the past academic year, the UHI sponsored two courses: one at the undergraduate and the other at the graduate school level.

Health and Well-Being in Baltimore is an undergraduate course taught by Phil Leaf to 150 Homewood-based students.

Social Determinants of Urban Health, taught by Amanda Latimore, is a new graduate course in the School of Public Health focused on applications of data to address Baltimore’s public health problems.

The program evaluation workshop was attended by 35 participants on September 25, 2015, and received excellent reviews. Thirty-one out of thirty-five participants completed an evaluation and most (97%) of the participants rated the workshop as “excellent” or “good.”
Initiating Collaborative Interventions

The UHI has 16 years of experience in forging university and community partnerships in health care, education, and community planning, with all partners working to improve the trajectory for the children, youth, and families of Baltimore.

Bunting Neighborhood Leadership Program Launched

In 2016, we began the planning for a new program, the Bunting Neighborhood Leadership Program (BNLP), led by Rebkha Atnafo. This five-year $500,000 award from the Bunting Family Fund was matched with $250,000 from the UHI, and will be used to train the next generation of neighborhood leaders in East Baltimore.

The mission of the BNLP is to engage fellows from East Baltimore who possess the potential and passion to build safe, healthy, and thriving communities and to provide them with the skills and networks to accomplish that vision.

BNLP fellows will be selected from the East Baltimore Community who are between the ages of 18 and 45, and demonstrate experience in community development. Selected fellows will participate in the program for one year, while developing leadership knowledge, technical assistance, and skills development in the following areas: building relationships, problem solving skills, communication skills, deconstructing racism, building systems for change, and policy and advocacy skills.

Target communities will include McElderry Park, Middle East, Oliver, Ellwood Park/Monument, and Milton-Montford. Grants are pending to expand to West Baltimore. We have also formed an advisory group, identified curriculum components, developed a conceptual framework, and established an evaluation method. Applications for the first inaugural class are being accepted through October 31, 2016.

This project is an exciting opportunity in collaboration-building and partnering for health. The first cohort for the BNLP will start in January, 2017.

Expanded Efforts in Trauma-Informed Care

This year the UHI bolstered its efforts in trauma-informed care. We know that trauma can have pervasive and long lasting effects on communities and individuals. Additionally, just as community members are exposed to trauma, as are the service workers and health care providers who treat them. One gap that has been identified in trauma-informed care (in mental and behavioral health, primary care settings, and in hospitals or emergency care facilities) is a lack of focus on traumatization of service workers. Specifically, less attention has been paid to addressing vicarious...
Traumatization of health care professionals who, as a result of their job, are exposed to traumatizing experiences.

In response to this concern, faculty at the UHI is:

- Developing a proposal for the JHMI East Baltimore Trauma Response program
- Staffing the Baltimore City’s Proposal Development for SAMSHA’s Resilience in Communities After Stress and Trauma
- Developing a center of excellence on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Developing a survey for service providers (police, teachers, social service providers, and health care providers) in Baltimore to identify childhood and current trauma exposure.

All of these efforts work to acknowledge asset-based identification of trauma and avoid pathologizing trauma symptoms.

Community Education to Promote Colorectal Cancer Screening

The UHI is focused on reducing the racial disparities of colorectal cancer screening among African Americans age 50 to 75 in East Baltimore. Based on our previous study on promoters and barriers to screening, we developed and implemented interventions to address the barriers.

Strategies included conducting both individual and community outreach and education to positively impact knowledge and attitudes about colorectal cancer and colonoscopy screening. Specific attention and priority was given to hard-to-reach populations through partnerships with agencies such as Sisters Together and Reaching, Recovery Network, Living Classrooms Re-Entry Program, Oliver Community Center, half-way houses, and housing developments. In partnership with Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, we developed and implemented a motivational interviewing strategy for individual and group sessions. We conducted presentations to health care providers including JHU’s Cancer Center’s Noon Seminar, National Medical Association Conference, and Partnering with Patients in Decision Making Conference.

We also developed a community-based awareness media campaign around colonoscopy screening in East Baltimore to promote scheduling and completion of colorectal cancer screening.

Funding for the study was provided by Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, the Cigarette Restitution Fund Research Grant at Johns Hopkins, and the Urban Health Institute.

To view print and video PSAs, visit [http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/our_work/health_partnerships.html](http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/our_work/health_partnerships.html)
Staff Awards and Recognition

**NAACP Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award**

UHI Senior Associate Director Phil Leaf was awarded the *NAACP Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award*, which honors the work of people who encompass the community while standing out in their field. Leaf was also awarded the *First Baltimorphosis Changemaker Award* from the Mayor’s Office and the Baltimore City Health Department, which is awarded to those making profound changes in his/her community, specifically as it relates to reducing violence.

**Rays of Hope Rising Star Award**

On June 18, 2016, Verlando Brown, a new program coordinator for the UHI, was awarded the *Rays of Hope Rising Star Award*. This award is given to African American men who make positive contributions in their communities and who exemplify the qualities of a good role model for younger generations. In particular, Brown was recognized for his achievements in the field of education, and his work in college readiness for Baltimore City students. Some of the past winners were Freeman Hrabowski, Congressman Elijah Cummings, Tuskegee Airmen Dr. Cyril Byron, Wes Moore, among many others.

**Colorectal Cancer Screening Project Honored**

The Colorectal Cancer Screening project with Kimmel Cancer Center (SOM) and the departments of Environmental Health and Epidemiology (SPH), were celebrated for their work for reducing Colorectal Cancer disparities in Baltimore. Zachary O. Enumah was awarded the Dr. David Satcher Fellowship and the CRC Team (including Zachary Enumah, Rebkha Atnafou and Robert Blum) received 1st place for their public health poster at the National Medical Association Conference. Their poster was titled “You a’int going in there!: Promoters and barriers to colonoscopy screening among African-Americans in Baltimore, MD.”

**Beacon of Light Award**

UHI Associate Director Eric Rice was awarded the *2015 Beacon of Light award*. Presented by the Baltimore Teacher Network, Rice was celebrated for his work in “advocating for teacher voice, equality in education, and increased funding of our schools.”

**Gaylord Anderson Leadership Award**

On May 5, 2016, Bob Blum received the *Gaylord Anderson Leadership Award* from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Blum was one of the first researchers to address the issue of adolescent risk and protective factors. As a pioneer in this field, he founded the Division of Adolescent Health at the University of Minnesota in 1978.
**Who we are**

Established in 2000, the UHI serves as an interface between Johns Hopkins University and the Baltimore community in which it resides. Together with its university and community partners, the UHI explores ways that the research, teaching, and clinical expertise of the University can be better harnessed for the benefit of the residents of Baltimore.

**Our Mission**

To serve as a catalyst that brings together the resources of Johns Hopkins Institutions with the City of Baltimore, to improve the community’s health and well-being, and in so doing serve as a model of community-university collaboration regionally and nationally.