



Second REVERSE Research Day Sparks New Collaborations

On November 6, 2009, the UHI held the second installment of REVERSE Research Day, an event designed to connect the diverse needs of community-based organizations and city agencies with the valuable research conducted at universities throughout Baltimore.

Masterminded by Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, former Baltimore City health commissioner, now FDA principal deputy commissioner, and Dr. Bernard Guyer, Zanvyl Krieger Professor of Children's Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, REVERSE Research Day is a new spin on a typical research exhibition. Through an interactive poster session, organizations present their research needs to university faculty and students who may be able to address their specific questions and issues. At REVERSE Research Day,

organizations lead the discussion, informing researchers about the daily research and data challenges faced by local organizations. Co-chaired by Olivia Farrow, Baltimore City interim health commissioner, Rafael Lopez, executive director of the Family League of Baltimore City, Inc., and Dr. Bernard Guyer, this fall's event drew 20 organizations and nearly 100 researchers.

REVERSE Research Day has been successful at initiating connections between researchers and organizations. In order to support and foster continued collaboration, the UHI is linking REVERSE Research Day to our Small Grants for Research and Program Development which funds community-university collaborative research and programming related to the health and well-being of the residents of Baltimore.



Students learn the research needs of The Club at Collington Square, an after school and summer camp program for youth living in the Collington Square neighborhood of East Baltimore.

Proposals from organizations that participated in REVERSE Research Day will be given special consideration.

Visit the UHI website for a complete list of participants in the second REVERSE Research Day and to learn more about the Small Grants Program.

Meet the UHI's Community-University Collaborating Committee (CUCC)



"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but rather by the moments God gives us that take our breath away."

I enjoy working with the Urban Health Institute because it has the potential of providing the moments that take your breath away for most of us."

Dr. Levi Watkins had this to say of the UHI and the UHI is tremendously fortunate to have such a distinguished and legendary individual guiding our work as a member of the CUCC.

If you were ever a student or employee of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, you likely know of Dr. Levi Watkins. If you have ever attended the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration at Johns Hopkins, you have heard him speak. If you have an ICD—which stands for implantable cardioverter defibrillator, a device that is implanted in the chest to monitor and correct abnormal heart rhythms—you are one of the more than 100,000 people that his work has saved. And if you ever want to learn the realities of the civil rights movement, you'll want to listen to Dr. Watkins' life stories.

Dr. Watkins was profoundly influenced by his experiences as a child and young adult during the civil rights movement

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NEWS AND UPDATES

Fmr US Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher to Speak on Health Disparities at UHI Symposium



Join the UHI on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 for our quarterly symposium featuring Former United States Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher. The event, “*Addressing and Overcoming Health Disparities: The Challenge in Urban America*,” is open to the public and begins at 3pm in Sommer Hall at the Johns Hopkins

Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1998 as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Satcher tackled issues that had not previously been addressed at the national level, including the disparities that exist in health and health care access and quality for minorities. Today, Dr. Satcher is director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute (SHLI) at Morehouse School of Medicine. The SHLI was established by Dr. Satcher in 2006 to develop a diverse group of public health leaders, foster and support leadership strategies, and influence policies and practices toward the reduction and ultimate elimination of disparities in health.

RSVP for the symposium at www.jhsph.edu/urbanhealth or call 410-502-6155.

Update on the Community Health Worker Program

The UHI’s Community Health Worker (CHW) program is being restructured to even better respond to the needs of our community. The UHI and our partners are reviewing the program to learn from all that has been accomplished over the past six years.

In the interim, the CHWs are still working in the community. The CHWs will continue to work with Dr. Gibbons, Dr. Andrea Gielen, director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy and the Baltimore City Fire Department to prevent unintentional fire, smoke and hot water injuries in East Baltimore.

Since 2004, thirty CHWs have worked throughout East Baltimore conducting health screenings and providing individualized patient education, lifestyle and health coaching, and care coordination to more than 10,000 residents.

Meet the UHI’s Community-University Collaborating Committee (CUCC)

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in Montgomery, Alabama. As a child, he attended civil rights leader Dr. Ralph Abernathy’s church. As a teenager, Dr. Watkins joined the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached. He was part of the historical Montgomery Bus Boycott, which began in 1955 when Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to surrender her seat to a white person and which led to a US Supreme Court decision that declared that the Alabama law requiring segregated buses was unconstitutional.

Today, Dr. Watkins is associate dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and professor of cardiac surgery. His life has been featured in magazines and national television programs for his monumental professional accomplishments and as a relentless advocate for fairness and diversity.

Dr. Watkins was the first African American medical student to be admitted and graduate from Vanderbilt University (1966); the first black surgical resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital (1970); the first surgeon to implant an automatic defibrillator (1980); founder of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration at Johns Hopkins (1982); and the driving force behind the surge in minority representation at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (by 1983, minority representation in the School had increased by 400 percent).

Dr. Watkins has received honorary degrees from Sojourner Douglass-College, Meharry Medical College, Spelman College and Morgan State University. He has been the recipient of numerous accolades over the years, including the Vanderbilt Medal of Honor (1998) and the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association Heritage Award (1999). In 1986 he, along with Oprah Winfrey, was named Baltimore’s Best by then Mayor William Donald Schaffer. In 1992, Vanderbilt University established a Professorship and Associate Deanship in Dr. Watkins’ name to honor his work for diversity in medical education. In December 2008, he was honored by the National Black Caucus of State Legislatures with the Nation Builders Awards, along with President-Elect Barack Obama and James H. Meredith. Most recently, Dr. Watkins was honored at the first annual “Yes We Can” Award Ceremony hosted by WOLB 1010AM radio talk host Larry Young on January 20, 2010 in celebration of Barak Obama’s 1st year as President of the United States.

The CUCC provides guidance and assistance to the UHI by ensuring that the priorities of the UHI are in line with those of the University and the community.

UHI Announces Henrietta Lacks Award for Community-University Collaboration

At this fall's REVERSE Research Day, UHI director Dr. Robert Blum announced a very special new award: *The Henrietta Lacks Award for Community-University Collaboration*. The new annual award will recognize outstanding community-university collaboration in Baltimore.

Henrietta Lacks was a cervical cancer patient in the early 1950s at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where cells taken from her tumor led to a breakthrough in cell research and have been used for research into cancer, AIDS, the effects of radiation and more. Mrs. Lacks' family was unaware that her cells, now known worldwide as 'HeLa' cells, had been used for research until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent.

This award honors Mrs. Lacks and her family and is intended to be an enduring reminder of her contribution to medical science and to her community.

The winner will be determined by a committee comprised of both community and university representatives. Recipients of the Henrietta Lacks Award will receive \$10,000 to support their program or research. The first Henrietta Lacks Award will be presented in 2010. Selection criteria will be available in winter 2010.



Henrietta Lacks' son, David Lacks, and his daughter and granddaughters pictured with Dr. Bernard Guyer, Olivia Farrow, and Dr. Robert Blum at REVERSE Research Day.

Now Accepting Proposals for the 2010 Small Grants for Research and Program Development

The UHI is now accepting proposals for our 2010 Small Grants for Research and Program Development. Now in its third year, the Small Grants Program was formed to advance university-community collaborations, with the intent to benefit the health and well-being of Baltimore residents and illuminate workable solutions to urban health problems across the nation.

Grants will be awarded in three categories to faculty and students across Johns Hopkins University partnering with a community agency or community leader:

1. Undergraduate Student-Community Projects/Research (up to 10 @ \$2,000 each)
2. Graduate Student-Community Projects/Research (up to 5 @ \$5,000 each)
3. Faculty-Community Research (3 @ \$10,000 each)

All projects require at least one collaborating organization and an individual identified within that organization who is a partner in the project.

Applications due: January 29, 2010

Awards announced: February 19, 2010

Visit the UHI website to learn more about the Small Grants Program and to download the Request for Proposals.

Highlight on 2008 Small Grants Recipients: Medical School Elective Focused On Health Care Issues for Homeless Children

Some years ago, when Dr. Kathleen Schwarz was lecturing on the hepatitis C virus (HCV) to physicians and medical students at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, she mentioned that she would like to study HCV in urban children. At the end of the talk, a nurse approached her and asked if she planned to also study HCV in homeless children. Dr. Schwarz, who is a professor of pediatrics and director of the Pediatric Liver Center at Johns Hopkins, says the question caught her by surprise because she had never thought of homeless children as a big enough entity to study.

This seemingly simple question sparked her curiosity and ultimately led to research that became the cornerstone of a successful NIH application about viral hepatitis in children of injection drug users, four published manuscripts, and the development of a unique medical school elective dedicated to health issues for homeless children.

As part of her research, Dr. Schwarz and her team worked in a number of homeless shelters in East Baltimore. What she found was consistent with existing data on the health of homeless children: low hepatitis B vaccine coverage, high rates of obesity, and frequent exposure to domestic violence. And while researching this highly vulnerable Baltimore City population of approximately 2500 youth is crucial for understanding how to improve health outcomes, Dr. Schwarz also realized that physicians needed to be educated about the range of health care issues faced by homeless children.

“It made me want to give the medical students first hand exposure to the homeless environment so they would have a better understanding of the problems and solutions for this unfortunate pediatric population,” she says.

So in 2008, with funding from the UHI Small Grants Program, Dr. Schwartz initiated a special service-based learning elective for medical students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to address the health care needs of

homeless families. She recruited pediatric and nursing school faculty with expertise in homelessness and urban health and teamed up with community collaborators, The Ark day care for homeless children, the House of Ruth Maryland domestic violence shelter, and the Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, Inc. (HEBCAC) community development organization.

The three-week elective requires medical students to identify a specific health care need for this population and develop and implement an intervention at either The Ark or the House of Ruth. HEBCAC personnel are on hand to teach students how to develop and execute this type of community-based health advocacy project.

Rhea Boyd, a fourth year medical student at Vanderbilt University, recently completed the elective. In her formal presentation to faculty and collaborators, Ms. Boyd described the prevalence of developmental delay in a group of preschool students, and the effectiveness of the Ark Assessment, a non-standardized, culturally competent screening tool used to identify and monitor homeless children attending The Ark.

“Not all roofs are created equal and children living under ‘revolving roofs’ or roofs poorly fashioned to adequately serve their needs may be at serious health risk,” says Ms. Boyd. “[The Ark Assessment data suggest] The Ark preschool may be very effective at serving the children with the greatest delay, but less effective at furthering those who are already on track. This data seems to indicate that overall, The Ark preschool is effective, as children who are there for longer have greater improvement in their scores.”

Health Care Issues in Homeless Children is offered year-round and accepts two students per quarter. For more information about the elective, contact Dr. Kathleen Schwarz at kschwarz@jhmi.edu.

Dr. Christopher Gibbons Named One of Top Minorities in Research Science

Congratulations to UHI associate director, Dr. Christopher Gibbons on being named one of the 2010 Top Minorities in Research Science by Minorities in Research Science (MIRS). The winners will be honored at the 24th Black Engineer of the Year Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (SETM) Conference on February 18, 2010 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Philip Leaf Honored at the First Annual “Yes We Can” Award Ceremony

On January 20, 2010, UHI senior associate director Dr. Philip Leaf, was honored at the first annual “Yes We Can” Award Ceremony hosted by WOLB 1010AM radio talk host Larry Young, in celebration of Barak Obama’s 1st year as President of the United States. Dr. Leaf was honored for his commitment and many contributions to the city of Baltimore. Other award winners included Congressman Elijah Cummings, Senator Joan Carter Conway, Dr. Anne Emery, Dr. Levi Watkins, Helen Dale, Senator Joan Carter Conway, Dr. Harold Carter Sr, Judge Robert Bell, Senator John Jeffries, Peter Angelos, Judge Lewyn Garret, George Arnold, Dr. Barney Wilson, Patricia Jessamy, Mo Manochah, Konan, Jacquelyn Cornish, and Lewyn Garrett.

UHI Welcomes New Associate Director



The UHI is pleased to announce a new UHI associate director. Dr. Eric Rice, assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Education, joined the UHI in 2010.

Dr. Rice was trained as a cultural anthropologist at Johns Hopkins, where he received his PhD in 2002.

Previously, he has served as a consultant to Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS), where he conducted a two-year ethnographic study of the Blum Mentoring Program for new Baltimore City teachers; a program evaluator at Johns Hopkins for a large federal grant that brought more than 700 new teachers to Baltimore City; and coordinator of the School of Education’s involvement in the East Baltimore Educational Initiative. Currently, Dr. Rice coordinates the Masters of Science, Educational Studies program, conducts research about teacher-led charter schools, and trains Northrop Grumman engineers to more effectively volunteer in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) classrooms.

As UHI associate director, Dr. Rice will provide leadership for the UHI’s Small Grants Program and Third Tuesday Seminar Series. He will also co-represent the UHI on the Early Child Development Initiative, a collaboration with the Maryland Family Network and the Johns Hopkins Department of Pediatrics that is working to establish integrated systems of family supports and health services related to early child development.

Stay Tuned . . .

On February 22, science journalist and author Rebecca Skloot will be visiting Baltimore as part of a book tour for her new book, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. In her book, Skloot chronicles the life of Henrietta Lacks and the legacy of HeLa cells, the first “immortal” human cells grown in culture. This event is open to the public and will include readings from the book and discussion. More details will be available soon. The Immortal Life will be available at stores beginning February 2, 2010.

The UHI’s **Race and Research Series will return on April 6, 2010.** The event will feature psychiatrist and historian Jonathan Metzl, MD, PhD, professor of psychiatry at the University of Michigan and author of The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease. In his book, Dr. Metzl tells the shocking story of how schizophrenia became the diagnostic term overwhelmingly applied to African American men at the Ionia State Hospital, and how events at Ionia mirrored national conversations that increasingly linked blackness, madness, civil rights, and even national political events. The goal of the UHI’s Race and Research Series is to confront the distrust and skepticism toward biomedical research that exists within the Black community and to engage Johns Hopkins researchers in conversations with the community to discuss what is needed to move forward.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT EVENTS

Building Community Collaborations for Families: What Works?



On October 8, 2009, the UHI hosted a special symposium to explore how community level interventions can positively affect children and families in Baltimore, **Building Community Collaborations for Families: What Works?**

To lead the event, the UHI welcomed Richard

Catalano, PhD, director of the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington and co-developer of Communities That Care (CTC)—an innovative prevention-planning system that empowers communities to build positive, healthy futures for youth. Dr. Catalano led a day-long discussion about his work on CTC, culminating with a community symposium including commentary from a panel of invited guests and concluding with questions and reactions from the audience.

The CTC system guides a community coalition of decision makers through an assessment and prioritization process that identifies the risk and protective factors most in need of attention in their communities, and links those priorities to prevention programs proven to work in addressing them.

Panelists responding to Dr. Catalano's lecture included Bishop Douglas I. Miles of Koinonia Baptist Church; Rafael Lopez, executive director of the Family League of Baltimore City Inc.; and Dr. Philip Leaf, UHI senior associate director and director of the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence. All three panelists are deeply engaged in programs and strategies to promote positive youth development in Baltimore and agreed that mobilizing community leaders behind evidence-based prevention planning is crucial to improve outcomes for children and families. Like other urban communities, implementation continues to pose the greatest difficulty for Baltimore and persuading politicians to initiate systems like CTC is another formidable obstacle.

"When it comes to our children; when it comes to strengthening our communities—that's always put on the back burner," Bishop Miles argued.

"The challenge for the 21st century now becomes how we can, as responsible stewards of public funds, actually pick the best programs for kids in our communities," said Catalano.

Visit the UHI website to view the symposium in its entirety.

Adolescent Health in an Increasingly Urban World

In October 2009, UHI director Dr. Robert Blum presented to urban health leaders from more than 25 countries at the 8th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) in Nairobi, Kenya. In his presentation about adolescent health in an increasingly urban world, Dr. Blum described the dramatic increase in urban populations and the stark differences in demographic trends in the developing world versus the developed world.

"In 1980, approximately 30 percent of the world's population lived in urban settings; today it is more than 50 percent," he said. "According to the recent National Academy of Sciences on Youth report, the number of young people in developing countries has grown by 500 million during the past 25 years. And an overwhelming majority of the world's young people—86 percent—now live in developing countries. By contrast, the absolute number of young people living in the developed world has declined by about 10 percent since 1980."

Dr. Blum also offered a perspective as to how these transitions have had, and will continue to have, profound impact on the health of youth.

"Urbanization makes education more accessible to both males and females, and better prepares youth to compete in a global economy. Urbanization is also associated with a later age of marriage and increased social diversity," he said. "However, urbanization also brings new challenges and creates greater risks for young people including increased economic inequalities, disintegration of traditional family and social structures, and rises in substance use, unemployment, juvenile violence, and risky sexual behaviors. The current challenge for urban communities is learning how to best exploit the potential benefits of urbanization."

Hosted by the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH), in partnership with the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), and the Government of the Republic of Kenya, this was the first time the Conference was held outside of North America and Europe. The annual ICUH meetings provide an international forum for knowledge exchange among urban health stakeholders. They address issues pertaining to urban health, with emphasis on interventions that help to alleviate barriers to urban health care and to promote strategies and policies that enhance the health of urban populations.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	Event	
Wednesdays 10am - 2pm	Workforce Wednesdays (1 st and 3 rd Wednesday of month)	EBDI Community Center 1731 E. Chase Street
Wednesday, January 27 3:00pm - 4:30pm	UHI Quarterly Symposium <i>Addressing and Overcoming Health Disparities: The Challenge in Urban America</i> Featuring Fmr. U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, PhD	Sommer Hall Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health 615 N. Wolfe Street
Friday, January 29	Application deadline for 2010 Small Grants for Research and Program Development	
Tuesday, February 2, 2010 3:30pm - 5pm	<i>The First Annual Sandra J. Skolnik Lecture</i> Featuring Harriet Meyer, President, Ounce of Prevention Fund	Sommer Hall Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health 615 N. Wolfe Street
Friday, February 5, 2010 9am - 4pm	UHI Capacity Building Workshop: <i>Adolescent Substance Abuse and Mental Health Assessment Training Workshop*</i> *For Substance Abuse and Mental Health Providers in Baltimore	Johns Hopkins School of Nursing 525 N. Wolfe Street, Room 009
Monday, February 22, 2010	Special talk from Rebecca Skloot, author of <u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u>	More details to come!
Tuesday, April 6, 2010 3:30pm - 5pm	UHI Race and Research Series Featuring Jonathan Metzl, MD, PhD Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Women's Studies Director of Program in Culture, Health, and Medicine University of Michigan Author, <u>The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease</u>	More details to come!



Johns Hopkins

Urban Health INSTITUTE

2013 E. Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21205
(410) 502-6155