The past few months have been busy as the Center for Health Equity wrapped up our summer research programs, held the annual Introduction to Urban Health Equity (IUHE) program, and hosted several regional and national speakers.

The Center continues its focus on the topics of education and mentorship. Last summer, the American Association of Medical Colleges identified the importance of training the next generation of medical students in health disparities in order to achieve health equity. In fact, coursework in health disparities and the social determinants of health have become required curriculum for incoming medical students at some schools. This need for awareness of health disparities among clinicians and researchers has been the focus of the Center’s annual Introduction to Urban Health Equity Program.

Creating a more diverse workforce of those from underrepresented populations is paramount to attaining health equity. The Center’s Undergraduate Research Program (URP) addresses this need by training students from underrepresented backgrounds in translational sciences and health equity research. The program gives students the chance to get involved in research and to form a relationship with a faculty mentor over the summer. Many times this summer research experience leads to continued work with their mentor and can be a launching pad for a career in research. We are always interested in growing our pool of faculty mentors; if you are interested in serving as a mentor for summer 2015, please contact Megan Hoffman at hoff0511@umn.edu.
This edition of the CHE newsletter will highlight the CTSI Poster Session, Introduction to Urban Health Equity, re-cap a few of a couple of our recent events, and, highlight the upcoming Henrietta Lacks event.

We hope that you will join in our work to reach health equity. If you would like to become more involved, get more information, or join our listserv, e-mail us at umn-che@umn.edu.

Kind regards,

[Signature]

---

**CTSI POSTER SESSION**

On Monday, September 15th the 2014 Undergraduate and Advanced Research Program scholars concluded their summer research efforts by presenting poster abstracts at the CTSI Poster Session at the McNamara Alumni Center. Highlights included awards for Mentor of the Year and travel awards for each of programs. Undergraduate Research Program travel awardees were Samantha Carlson and Stephanie Duong, and Advanced Research Program travel awardees were David Matson, Benjamin Otopalik, and Kinjal Sanghavi.

---

2014 Undergraduate Research Program (URP) Scholar, Sowda Ahmed, discussing her final poster with her mentor, Mark Schleiss, MD.

Undergraduate Research Program (URP) travel award winner, Stephanie Duong, discussing her poster abstract at the 2014 CTSI Poster Session

2014 Advanced Research Program (ARP) scholars, Benjamin Eidenschink, Dorothy Curran, and David Matson.
Medical and Dental students participating in the poverty simulation as part of the IUHE program.

Cultural Round Robin discussions afforded students the opportunity to discuss perceptions of illness and the role of healthcare among Somali, Latino, American Indian, and Southeast Asian communities.

Students learn about how policy impacts health from panelists, Dr. Shailey Prasad; Dr. Inge De Becker, MD; Candy Hadsall; and Linda Kahn.

Slam Poets Michael Lee and Sam Cook preformed emotional pieces about homelessness, racism, and addiction.

INTRODUCTION TO URBAN HEALTH EQUITY

Each year, medical students, the Center for Health Equity, and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute host a three-day program focused on urban health equity for incoming medical students. This year, Introduction to Urban Health Equity (IUHE) expanded to include dental students and broke an attendance record. It attracted 70 incoming medical and dental students who are about to start programs at the University of Minnesota's Medical School and School of Dentistry. Students enjoyed a wide range of presentations, activities, and discussions that included an introductory health equity talk by Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH, a poverty simulation hosted by 20 volunteers, slam poetry, neighborhood clinic tours, and cultural round robin discussions.
DINNER AND A MOVIE

CHE and CTSI hosted a Dinner and a Movie event as part of the University of Minnesota’s Greater than 7 Week. Over 30 students, staff and faculty watched a segment from Unnatural Causes and discussed racism and stress. One of the student attendees reflected on the event “I never realized how small acts of inequality can very realistically have a terrible effect on a person’s health, and therefore their children...one action step that I can take is being more willing to step in when I see inequality occurring.”

HENRIETTA LACKS EVENTS

CHE is serving as a co-sponsor for two important events that are free and open to the public: A Conversation with Author Rebecca Skloot on Monday, November 10th at 7:30pm at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, and Henrietta Lacks’ Legacy: A Conversation with the Lacks Family on Friday, November 14th from 9:45-11:30am at Northrop Auditorium. To learn more about events visit: www.ahc.umn.edu/bioethics

CHE RESEARCH ROUNDS (CHERR)

Over 50 people attended the CHE Research Rounds with guest speaker, Willie Underwood, MD, MSci, MPH, which was co-sponsored with the University of Minnesota Department of Urology this month. Dr. Underwood, who is the Associate Clinical Director and a practicing urologist at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in New York, conducts research on prostate cancer treatment decision-making and understanding the role of cancer risk perception in cancer screening. His CHERR talk addressed racial disparities in prostate cancer and how the current screening guidelines may perpetuate the problem.

Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH facilitated the Dinner and a Movie Discussion.