I am thrilled to congratulate the 10 undergraduate students and 10 pre-doctoral and medical students that were accepted into the Undergraduate (URP) and Advanced Research Programs (ARP), respectively. Both programs are jointly run with the CTSI and will provide the scholars with a full-time paid summer research experience. In addition to the mentored research project, this year we bolstered the programs with a high caliber weekly seminars series, peer-to-peer mentoring, online learning modules, networking opportunities, and structured readings from the book Clinical Research Design provided to all scholars. Throughout the summer, the URP and ARP scholars will work closely with a senior level faculty member who will serve as their mentor. Mentoring is paramount to our scholar programs and this year we are excited to be working with the CTSI to pilot an online mentor training, Optimizing the Practice of Mentoring. The brief online training incorporates evidence-based knowledge and skills that help support quality mentoring relationships, which will help to ensure positive research experiences for the scholars. I am very thankful to the 17 mentors who are working with our 20 scholars, and we are looking forward to a great summer.

In collaboration with the Minnesota Center for Cancer Collaborations and the CTSI, we are pleased to host an upcoming Scientific Writing Series. This three-part series will be instructed at the junior faculty and post-doctoral fellow’s level on Thursdays from 12:00pm to 1:30pm. The sessions will include: “Overcoming Writer’s Block” on July 12th, “Writing for Medical Journals” on July 19th, and “Responding to Peer Reviewer’s Comments and Conducting Peer Review” on July 26th. To register for any of the three sessions, please visit our website at www.med.umn.edu/che.

Keynote dinner speaker, Kweisi Mfume (pictured above), former United States Congressman and President of NAACP, spoke about the detriment of health disparities to the well-being of our nation as well as the urgency for collaborations to bring about effective solutions.
Fittingly, much of this newsletter is dedicated to highlighting the 2012 Health Equity Conference. The conference was successful, in large part because of the terrific keynote and general session speakers, abstract poster presenters, support from community and university organizations, and the planning committee’s dedication and efforts. Thank you very much to everyone who took part in the conference.

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. Enjoy the rest of spring and the beginnings of summer.

Kind regards,

Please consider attending the 2012 Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities on October 31 to November 3, 2012 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. It will convene over 4,000 attendees from academia, community leaders, and all agencies in the federal government. This is a follow-up to the 2008 Summit, which brought together 4,000 people. To register please visit: www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit_site/
The conference also featured an interactive poster session displaying the wide variety of health equity research by students, faculty, staff, and community members. The poster session was a valuable time for colleagues to network and discover opportunities for collaboration to strengthen efforts.

(Above) Tolu Abikoye presents his poster on the community engagement process of the Center’s Body & Soul Program with StairStep Foundation.

Anne Joseph, MD, MPH, Jean Ford, MD, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Selwyn Vickers, MD (pictured left), discuss the barriers that limit the participation of minorities in cancer therapeutic trials through the work of The Enhancing Minority Participation in Clinical Trials program (EMPaCT).

(Above) Medical student and 2012 CHE ARP, Emily Moody, discusses the research she conducted in Mexico City.

Michele Allen, MD, G. Ali Hutado, Ms. Roxana Linares, and Maria Veronica Svetaz, MD, MPH Presented on The Developmental Stages of a Community-University Participatory Research Partnership: Padres Informados/ Jovenes Preparados Program (The Padres Informados team is pictured above).
Undergraduate Research Program (URP) and Advanced Research Program (ARP)

We are welcoming a new cohort of undergraduate, pre-doctoral, and medical students for the Undergraduate Research Program (URP) and the Advanced Research Program (ARP), two joint programs with Clinical and Translational Science Institute. This summer the scholars will participate in weekly seminars, networking events, and complete a research project working with a senior faculty mentor. We look forward to working with our talented new groups of students.

2012 Undergraduate Research Program Scholars

- Sara Cronquist, College of Liberal Arts
  Mentor: Janet Thomas, PhD

- Co Duong, College of Biological Sciences
  Mentor: Susan Everson-Rose, PhD, MPH

- Mercy Konchellah, College of Biological Sciences
  Mentor: Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH, MS

- Hai Nguyen-Tran, College of Biological Sciences
  Mentor: Rahel Ghebre, MD

- Nima Odowa, College of Liberal Arts
  Mentor: Naty Lopez, PhD, MEd, BSN

- Anthony Osifuye, College of Liberal Arts
  Mentor: Kathleen Call, PhD

- Kendra Radtke, College of Biological Sciences
  Mentor: James Cloyd, PharmD

- Danielle Swichtenberg, College of Biological Sciences
  Mentor: Carol Peterson

- John Tarnowski, College of Biological Sciences
  Mentor: Julie Ross, PhD

- Uyen Truong, College of Science and Engineering
  Mentor: Robert Hebbel, MD

2012 Advanced Research Program Scholars

- Elizabeth Aby, School of Medicine
  Mentor: Jerrold Vitek, MD, PhD

- Krista Johnson, School of Pharmacy
  Mentor: James Cloyd, Pharm.D

- Suresh Kumar Agarwal, School of Pharmacy
  Mentor: James Cloyd, Pharm.D

- Susan Lee, School of Medicine
  Mentor: Ruby Nguyen, PhD

- Craig Meyer, School of Public Health
  Mentor: Pamela Schreiner, PhD

- Sarah Parker, School of Medicine
  Mentor: Bruce Blazar, MD

- LeeAnna Pederson, School of Pharmacy
  Mentor: Robert Straka, PharmD

- Gina Piscitello, School of Medicine
  Mentor: Susan Everson-Rose, PhD

- Casey Sautter, School of Medicine
  Mentor: Chandy John, MD, MS

- Faduma Sharif, School of Family Medicine and Community Health
  Mentor: Kola Okuyemi, MD, MPH

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