As we finish our fifth year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our research training accomplishments and provide a glimpse into our upcoming activities. This summer marks the fifth year of the Undergraduate Research Program (URP), and the fourth year of the Advanced Research Program (ARP). This summer eleven URP and nine ARP scholars will begin their mentored research projects in June. This summer’s cohort will bring our total number of funded scholars to fifty-one and thirty-six, respectively. Each year the programs have become more robust with a structured seminar series, peer-to-peer mentoring, training for the faculty mentors, and learning objectives that guide weekly discussions. This summer, the Undergraduate Research Program will directed by Kelvin Lim, M.D, Department of Psychiatry Professor. I could not be more excited to have Kelvin on board to help take our program to the next level.

In addition to the URP and ARP programs, the Center has worked hard to develop relationships with the Medical School and current medical students. Through those relationships, we have been asked to be a host and major contributor to the medical student program Introduction to Urban Health Equity (IUHE). This summer, the Center will co-host IUHE for a third year. Planning is underway and we look forward to more innovative and dynamic IUHE program. The Center’s work with the medical students and IUHE has also lead to our work with Advancing Urban Health Equity (AUHE), a student group for medical students. This year, we plan to further expand our work with medical students by collaborating on focus groups aimed around the community’s perspective of the medical school’s curriculum.

Another key accomplishment of the Center is the Community Research Institute (CRI). Along with the CTSI and PHDR, we have provided research training to twenty community organizations over the past two years. We plan to release the request for applications (RFA) for the 2014 CRI sometime this summer. Please check our website for more information: http://www.med.umn.edu/che/
This edition of the CHE newsletter will highlight the Undergraduate and Advanced Research Programs, Advancing Urban Health Equity, and the most recent CHE Research Round speakers.

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,

In February, the Center for Health Equity hosted Dr. Kamran Siddiqi from the University of York, UK, to speak at the Center for Health Equity Research Rounds Seminar. Dr. Siddiqi is a clinician with specialist training in pulmonology and public health. While Dr. Siddiqi has worked in the UK, Latin America, and South Asia, the focus of his presentation was on smoking cessation trials in Pakistan and their relevance to low-income populations. The presentation was pertinent to many faculty, staff, and community members who attended the event with its focus on preventive medicine in underserved areas. The academic talk was also consistent with the Center for Health Equity’s focus on reducing health disparities in underrepresented populations. During his visit, Dr. Siddiqi had the opportunity to meet with various health equity researchers and faculty at the Center for Health Equity to discuss further collaboration and possible future projects.

The Center for Health Equity Research Rounds Seminar continued in April and hosted Dr. Guillermo (Willy) Prado from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Prado is the Miller Professor of Public Health Sciences and the Chief of the Division of Prevention Science and Community Health. The presentation was titled, “Familias Unidas: Reducing Health Disparities among Hispanic Youth and Families.” The seminar was received well as over fifty University faculty and staff as well as community members were in attendance. Members of the audience remarked they felt engaged by Dr. Prado’s presentation and speaking style. Additionally many Center for Health Equity faculty, who work with Hispanic and Latino populations in Minnesota, had the chance to meet with Dr. Prado during his visit.
We are thrilled to announce the 2014 Undergraduate Research Program (URP) Scholars and Advanced Research Program (ARP) Scholars. Eleven undergraduates and nine health science professional students have been selected through a competitive process to be part of the fifth cohort of URPs and fourth cohort of ARPs, respectively. They will spend the summer conducting research with a University of Minnesota faculty researcher in an area of their interest. They will also attend a weekly seminar series, read from the *Designing Clinical Research* textbook, participate in career development activities, and network with other scholars and mentors throughout the summer. At the end of the program each scholar will present their summer research project at the 2014 CTSI Poster Session on Monday, September 15th at the McNamara Alumni Center.

Congratulations Scholars — we look forward to a great summer!

**2014 Undergraduate Research Program Scholars**

- **Sowda Ahmed**, University of Minnesota  
  Mentor: Mark Schleiss, MD
- **Samantha Carlson**, University of Minnesota  
  Mentor: Alicia Allen, PhD
- **Stephanie Duong**, Macalester College  
  Mentor: Kathryn Cullen, MD
- **Cedith Giddings**, Augsburg College  
  Mentor: Siobhan McMahon, PhD
- **Virginia Godfrey**, University of MN—Morris  
  Mentors: Kathleen Call, PhD/Melissa Walls, PhD
- **Christina Johnson**, University of Minnesota  
  Mentor: Rebecca Shlafer, PhD
- **Jamie Morissette**, College of St. Scholastica  
  Mentor: Cari Clark, ScD
- **Ammanuel Taye**, MCTC  
  Mentor: Paul Bohjanen, MD, PhD
- **Thang Tran**, University of Minnesota  
  Mentor: Richard Brundage, Pharm D, PhD
- **Abhishek Vaidya**, University of Minnesota  
  Mentor: Erica Schorr, PhD
- **Allison Wolf**, University of MN—Morris  
  Mentor: Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, PhD

**2014 Advanced Research Program Scholars**

- **Erin Casey**, College of Child Development  
  Mentor: Rebecca Shlafer, PhD
- **Dorothy Curran**, Medical School  
  Mentor: Michele Allen, MD
- **Benjamin Eidenschink**, Medical School  
  Mentor: Julia Davydova, MD, PhD
- **Elizabeth Jarrett**, Medical School  
  Mentor: Iris Borowsky, MD, PhD
- **Gregory Laffen**, College of Pharmacy  
  Mentor: Robert Straka, PharmD
- **David Matson**, Medical School  
  Mentor: David W. Polly, MD
- **Benjamin Otopalik**, Medical School  
  Mentor: Kelvin Lim, MD
- **Kinjal Sanghavi**, College of Pharmacy  
  Mentor: Pamala Jacobson, PharmD
- **Robert Sjoholm**, Medical School  
  Mentor: John Song, MD
**ADVANCING URBAN HEALTH EQUITY (AUHE)**

The Center’s work with the Medical Student group, Advancing Urban Health Equity (AUHE) has been active throughout the spring and will continue to ramp up this summer as we plan for the 3-day *Introduction to Urban Health Equity* (IUHE) on July 31-August 2. We are excited that IUHE will expand this year to include dental students. Working towards health equity requires an interdisciplinary approach, which we hope to provide through our research training programs and IUHE.

In order to provide more health equity opportunities for health professional students, AUHE and the Center for Health Equity host several activities throughout the academic year. On February 8th, we hosted the first Mini-IUHE with the purpose of delving deeper into a specific topic related to health equity. The topic of this year’s Mini-IUHE was substance abuse and addiction treatment. Dr. Charles Reznikoff from the Department of Medicine and HCMC and Dr. Teresa Gowan from the Department of Sociology discussed their clinical and research experiences and led critical conversations around substance abuse and treatment. The next AUHE activity will on June 20th from 12:15pm to 1:15pm in Moos 2-650. The seminar will be on child abuse and the need for physicians to specialize in evaluating abuse victims.

*Medical students at the Mini-IUHE on February 8th.*

*MS1 and MS2 members of Advancing Urban Health Equity*