As the summer heats up, so does the Center’s activities. We are in full-swing with our summer Undergraduate and Advanced Research Programs, Introduction to Urban Health Equity, and the Community Research Institute this fall. We also collaboratively work with a UMN student group called Advancing Urban Health Equity (AUHE) for which I am honored to serve as the faculty advisor. AUHE provides students of all disciplines with the opportunity to examine structural forces that contribute to health inequity in the Twin Cities and throughout the US; reflect on our backgrounds and biases in order to better understand the way they inform our relationships with our patients and our communities; explore ways to unite the resources of our professions and our communities in order to create partnerships that effectively address health equity; and develop courage, humility, and a sense of responsibility as we move forward as students, citizens, community leaders, and future health care professionals. AUHE students are interested in educating themselves and others about issues in health equity. It is a grassroots, student-led, interdisciplinary group with students and we are excited to be part of it. Upcoming Advancing Urban Health Equity events include a three-day Introduction for Urban Health Equity program for incoming medical students on August 1st - 3rd, a fall kick-off recruitment event, and a three-part Saturday seminar series to deepen understanding of health equity and social determinants of health issues that were introduced in Introduction for Urban Health Equity program. All UMN students are welcome to join AUHE.

In other news, our Program Assistant, Amy Shanafelt will be leaving the Center after nearly two and a half years. Amy will be missed, but we are grateful for all of her contributions to the Center for Health Equity and for her great work with our community partners. Amy will remain at the University to take on a new opportunity working with Dr. Susie Nanney on Project breakFAST.
COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SERIES

The Center for Health Equity partnered with the Program in Health Disparities Research and the Minneapolis Health Department to hold a Community Dialogue Series event in North Minneapolis to discuss strategies for preventing and ending youth violence that will directly feed into the next phase of the City of Minneapolis, Blue Print for Action to Prevent Youth Violence. Other groups represented at the meeting were Pillsbury United Communities and The Minneapolis Youth Congress, who provided trained youth table facilitators who guided the structured dialogue with each small group. The dialogue was documented with detailed notes which will be written up and reported back to the community as well as utilized in finalizing the next phase of the City’s Blue Print. Another dialogue was recently held at the Brian Coyle Community Center in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. Future Community Dialogue Series topics include the MN Food Chart, and Health Literacy. For more information about this and other Community Dialogue Series events, please visit: www.med.umn.edu/che

2013 ADVANCED AND UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Center for Health Equity have begun the summer research seminar series for both the Undergraduate Research Program (URP) and the Advanced Research Program (ARP). Scholars meet weekly on Wednesdays for two hours as a component of the summer long mentored research training program. Throughout the summer, scholars will learn about a wide range of research topics from an overview of statistics to Community Based Participatory Research Methods. Read more about the programs on the CTSI website, and read a highlight in a recent post to the University of Minnesota Health Talk blog.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SERIES

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 warm Minnesota summer.

Kind regards,
The Center for Health Equity, the Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Program in Health Disparities Research will be holding the Community Research Institute again this year. The Community Research Institute (CRI) is a six-week workshop aimed at enhancing the capacity of community organization leaders and staff in health-related research methodology to be able to take the lead on and/or increase their partnership capacity in developing and conducting grant-fundable research projects. Participants will develop skills to address community health issues; apply research skills to a real-world project; receive two 1-hour consultation sessions on your project proposal with an academic professional; develop a better understanding of the resources at the University of Minnesota available to assist in designing and implementing health-related research; and network with other community and university researchers. The institute will meet from October 10th—November 14th. Please see the Clinical and Translational Science Institute website for more information and instructions on how to apply: www.ctsi.umn.edu. Applications will be accepted until 4pm on August 8th.

Works in Progress
"I is for Incarceration - Reaching Children with Incarcerated Parents through Sesame Street."

On June 25th, the Center for Health Equity held the monthly Works in Progress seminar on a fascinating and ground-breaking topic, "I is for Incarceration - Reaching Children with Incarcerated Parents through Sesame Street." Presenter, Rebecca Shlafer, PhD, had recently visited the White House for the unveiling of a new Sesame Street Initiative, Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration, aimed at supporting children with incarcerated parents. Dr. Shlafer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and has been conducting research with incarcerated women and children of incarcerated parents for several years. She is committed to investigating healthy pathways for children who have an incarcerated parent as well as closing the racial gap between children who have had at least one parent lost to incarceration. Dr. Shlafer was recently funded by the Program in Health Disparities Research to expand her ongoing work with Isis Rising, a prison-based pregnancy and parenting support group at the Shakopee Women’s Prison. The new project will examine the feasibility of providing doula services to pregnant women currently incarcerated in Hennepin County. In addition, she also received funds through the Clinical and Translational Science Institute in partnership with the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to investigate the impact and efficacy of the Sesame Street materials for children visiting their parents at the Washington County Jail in Minnesota and the Dane and Racine County Jails in Wisconsin. The Sesame Street resources are free and available on the web at http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/incarceration

For more information about Dr. Shlafer’s research or to request kits for an agency or organization in Minnesota, please feel free to contact Dr. Shlafer (shlaf002@umn.edu; 612-625-9907). Kit requests can also be made here: http://z.umn.edu/toolkitrequest

2013 Community Research Institute

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2013 CHE-CTSI URP S

- Olufemi Adams, UMN College of Liberal Arts
  **Mentor:** Susie Nanney, PhD

- Sudip Bhandari, St Olaf College
  **Mentor:** Iris Borowsky, MD, PhD

- Amy Blakeslee, College of St Scholastica
  **Mentor:** Sarah Cusick, PhD

- Paris Delaney, UMN College of Liberal Arts
  **Mentor:** Ruby Nguyen, PhD

- G. Mauricio Mejia Ramirez, School of Design
  **Mentor:** Simone French, PhD

- Nhat Duong, Normandale Community College
  **Mentor:** Amir Moheet, MD

- Mnwabisi Mbangata, UMN CBS
  **Mentor:** James Cloyd, PharmD

- Waruiru Mburu, Macalester College
  **Mentor:** Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, MD, MPH

- Arwa Osman (Mohammed), St Olaf College
  **Mentor:** Lauren Martin, PhD

- Sasha Orange, UMN School of Nursing
  **Mentor:** Janet Thomas, PhD

- Kevin Siem, UMN College of Liberal Arts
  **Mentor:** Kathleen Thomas, PhD

- Nayar Valente, St Olaf College
  **Mentor:** Julie Ostrander, PhD

- Chelsea Wagner, UMN CEHD
  **Mentor:** Cari Clark, PhD

- Amanda Wanous, UMN CBS
  **Mentor:** Rebecca Shlafer, PhD

Acknowledgement

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