



Celebrating a Connected Community

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Center for Community Health & Prevention
Discovery. Inspiration. Transformation.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Edith Williams, PhD, MS

As I reflect on the past year and joining the [Center for Community Health & Prevention](#) as its new director, I am filled with admiration, gratefulness, and inspiration for what we've accomplished and what is to come.

Our Center continues to grow in many ways, from the addition of the Office of Health Equity Research, to seeing more pediatric patients and families in our clinical space, to having our Emerging Infections Program team present six abstracts at a national conference in California – we are ever-expanding to support more people in leading healthier lives, in our closest communities, our region, and beyond.

We at the Center are committed to creating spaces where voices are not only heard, but where connections are made, and action is demonstrated. Meeting people where they are and addressing all aspects of an individual's well-being is essential to our work. Our evidence-based initiatives and research agenda guide the discovery and dissemination of the most effective approaches to forming healthy lifestyle habits and maintaining them where we live, learn, work, worship, and play.

Our multidisciplinary team continues to work alongside our community partners to advance health equity and improve health outcomes for all. We are excited to share our Center's highlights from 2024 and look forward to what we have planned for 2025.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year!

So that the people may live,



Edith M. Williams, PhD, MS

Director, Center for Community Health & Prevention

Founding Director, Office of Health Equity Research

Dean's Professor of Health Equity Research



Edith Williams, PhD, MS

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information, visit:





New Directions

Advancing Health Equity Research

We proudly acquired the [Office of Health Equity Research \(OHER\)](#) when Dr. Williams, its founding director, joined our Center as our new leader. An integral part of the University of Rochester Medical Center's (URMC) Equity and Anti-Racism Action Plan, the OHER aims to go beyond documenting health inequities to develop and effectively disseminate interventions that ensure better health is accessible for all.

The office supports and synergizes research and training to improve the health of the most vulnerable residents of Rochester and beyond.

The OHER offers multiple opportunities for support for investigators, from funding for conference travel to publication costs, to assistance on research projects from undergraduate and graduate-level students.

Diane Morse Named Associate Director of OHER

Diane Morse, MD, was [announced as associate director](#) of the Office of Health Equity Research in March 2024. Morse is an internal medicine physician and associate professor of Psychiatry and Internal Medicine at the URMC. She also leads the [Wellness Initiative Supporting Health Transitions Clinic](#) at Jordan Health.

An avid researcher with particular interest in the health care needs of individuals in the criminal legal system, domestic violence, and health equity, Morse's expertise and experience is truly valued and appreciated as an addition to our CCHP team.

Creating Synergy

The OHER provides diverse research opportunities for individuals interested in and/or actively pursuing research in health equity. [Health Equity Research Core Investigators \(HERCI\)](#) is a group of **111 researchers**, including faculty members, scientists, health care providers, and trainees who span many disciplines across the URMC, as well as community leaders and members of city government whose work closely aligns with the OHER's mission.

5 top priority health issues and inequities identified by the community and the OHER –

- › HOUSING
- › MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE
- › VIOLENCE
- › INCARCERATION
- › CHRONIC DISEASE



Diane Morse, MD



Susan Gasparino, MD, MPH

Susan Gasparino Announced as Medical Director

Susan Gasparino, MD, MPH, general academic pediatrician at UR Medicine's Golisano Children's Hospital, was promoted from her position as the Center's director of Child and Adolescent Programming to the [medical director of Clinical and Community-Based Programs](#). Gasparino was also appointed assistant professor of Pediatrics, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry (URSMD).

She continues to help the Center expand its patient reach and family-centered services, advancing our clinic's nicotine cessation services for teens and families and co-developing a family program called "Healthy Together" (learn more about Healthy Together on page 3).

Topics included:

- › **BRAIN HEALTH**
- › **PHARMACY ACCESS**
- › **PARKINSON'S DISEASE**
- › **DIGITAL HEALTH NAVIGATION**

18 – 25 people attended each session

95% either agreed or strongly agreed that they would "recommend this session/topic to family and friends."

YMCA Partnership Increases Access to Health Education

The Center proudly teamed up with the URM's Health Equity Program Support Office, the Maplewood Family YMCA, and Lewis St. YMCA Neighborhood Center to provide more [Got Health? talks](#) to Rochester residents.

Monthly sessions were thoughtfully designed with the community in mind, thanks to collaboration between Laura Sugarwala, MBA, RD, director of Community Partnerships, and URM providers. Together, Sugarwala and presenters tailored sessions to ensure topics and presentations resonated with residents' real-life experiences and empowered them to take charge of their health.



Mechelle Sanders, PhD, presents "Digital Health Navigation"

Advancing Health Equity Education

Theresa Green, PhD, MBA, director of Health Equity Education at the URM, led a residency-focused health equity education initiative and a health equity quality improvement fellowship in 2024. Both programs were made possible by support from generous donor and URSMD alumna Mary Costanza, MD.

Green also directs Community Health Education and Policy at our Center.

A total of **16 residency programs** have been led through curriculum improvement to advance health equity. The first health equity fellow, Christine Coward, MD, medical director of UR Flaum Eye Institute Clinton Avenue South, completed a health equity project focused on advancing connections to resources for patients experiencing food insecurity.

BUILDING HEALTHY FUTURES: PREVENTING DISEASE THROUGH ACTION & CONNECTION

Expanding Care for Our Region's Children & Families

Recognizing the critical role family dynamics and social drivers of health play in health outcomes, [our clinical team](#) has expanded services focused on family-centered health promotion and chronic disease prevention, involving each family member in the process.

4 of our registered dietitians are [now accepting pediatric patients](#) for nutrition counseling for obesity and metabolic syndrome. Our team of clinicians works with the whole family to find practical solutions for building balanced eating patterns and setting up food environments that support the health of all family members.

Our clinical team provides the [Lifestyle Management services](#) for Well-U, the University of Rochester (UR) employee health and wellness program. Employees across the UR see our team of dietitians, lifestyle counselors, certified personal trainers, tobacco treatment specialists, physicians, and nurse practitioner for individual and group programs focused on improving overall health and well-being.

There was a **26% increase in enrollment** from 2023 to 2024.

Providers at practices throughout the region, from Steuben County to Oswego County, look to our clinicians to partner in their patients' care, with our team providing unique support around motivation and lifestyle management.

There was an **8% increase in referrals** in 2024 and a **36% increase in overall patient visits.**



A group of our RDs attend the New York Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics AME

Healthy Together: Prioritizing Family Wellness

The [Healthy Together Family Program](#) launched as a pilot program in the spring of 2024. The interactive six-session group program is tailored toward youth between the ages of 7 and 13 with an elevated body mass index (BMI) and their caregivers who spend time in the meal planning process.

Our multidisciplinary clinical team works with families on nutrition, movement, stress, goal setting, and more. Medical providers meet regularly with participants to discuss individual progress and personal goals.

“

It gave us a fun way to think about what we're eating, being more mindful about how we're eating. Looking at labels is a huge thing for our family now.”

[Tiffany Brown](#),
Program Participant



SPOTLIGHT: Empowering Youth and Adults to Break Free from Nicotine

John Collins, a student who benefited from our one-on-one vaping services, bravely shared his success story at a June press conference featuring NYS Attorney General Letitia James. The event announced the news of the Finger Lakes region receiving more than \$7.4 million from a settlement with JUUL Labs Inc. for its role in the youth vaping epidemic. The Center is looking forward to collaborating with Monroe County officials to provide programs and interventions that assist adolescents to prevent nicotine use.

The Center's nicotine cessation team worked with UR students to customize vaping presentations for different age groups in local schools, aiming to better engage teens. The students received feedback from the OHER's Youth Advisory Board, a group of high schoolers focused on health equity and providing insights into issues affecting local youth.



After 40 years, Glenda (left) celebrated being **7 months smoke-free**. She continues to work with Katie Webster, NP (right), in the Center's Nicotine Dependence Treatment Program.

Way to go, Glenda!

"Since the 7 months that I've quit smoking, I've seen numerous health improvements," shared Glenda. "I can breathe so much better. My blood pressure is normal. My overall mood is better."

COMMIT TO QUIT! GROUP PROGRAM

250+
total web
enrollments
in 2024

79%
increased
confidence in
their ability to quit
smoking/vaping
after participating

Attendees joined from
Genesee, Livingston,
Monroe, Steuben,
Oswego, and Ontario
Counties – and
even Texas!

SHARING OUR EXPERTISE The clinical team is often called on by URM departments and regional and national conferences to provide expertise on a variety of topics. Some are highlighted below.

Spring 2024: Susan Gasparino, MD, MPH, keynote speaker, Golisano Children's Hospital's 24th annual Anne. E. Dyson Day Memorial Grand Rounds and Community Healthy Symposium, URSMD

Summer 2024: April Ho, RD, CPT, presenter, URM Department of Urology's Men's Health Day, Locust Hill Country Club

Fall 2024: Katie Webster, FNP-BC, presenter, NYS Nurse Practitioner Association Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY

Jill Chodak, RD, CDN, MS, opening presenter, UR Medicine Cardiac Care Collaborative, URSMD



Dyson Day

Strong UR Stars

Elizabeth Eisnor, RD, was recognized by an appreciative patient –

"Elizabeth has been helping me observe my habits, change my habits, journal my meals, eat better, move better and more often, and improve my life. Thank you, Elizabeth! She helped me improve my life!"



Elizabeth Eisnor, RD

Cancer Services Program Responds to Needs in High-Risk Communities

In 2024, **368 individuals** without health insurance received free breast, colon, and/or cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic care.

The [Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes Region \(CSP-FLR\)](#) responded to an increased need for screenings among uninsured individuals in high-risk communities. **For the first time, outreach staff led community education discussions on screening and cancer prevention at Refugees Helping Refugees and the Islamic Center of Rochester.** Discussions focused primarily on women's



health and encouraged conversations about self-care and wellness with early detection and prevention.

The CSP-FLR continues to work closely with each public health department across the six counties it serves, including Livingston, Monroe, Seneca, Yates, Wayne, and Ontario.

SPOTLIGHT: Naples Library Partnership Helps More Women Get Screened, Some for the First Time

The CSP-FLR worked with Mora Mundt, librarian at the Naples Library, to bring the [UR Medicine Mobile Mammography](#) unit to Naples on a Saturday in November.

9 women were screened for breast cancer, 2 of which were uninsured and received screening coverage by the CSP-FLR. More than half of the women screened rarely had or never had a mammogram.



180
community
events throughout
6 counties served



Top referrals to CSP-FLR:

- › ELIZABETH WENDE BREAST CARE
- › ST. JOSEPH'S NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
- › UR MEDICINE BREAST IMAGING
- › ROCHESTER COLON & RECTAL SURGEONS, P.C.
- › NEWARK-WAYNE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



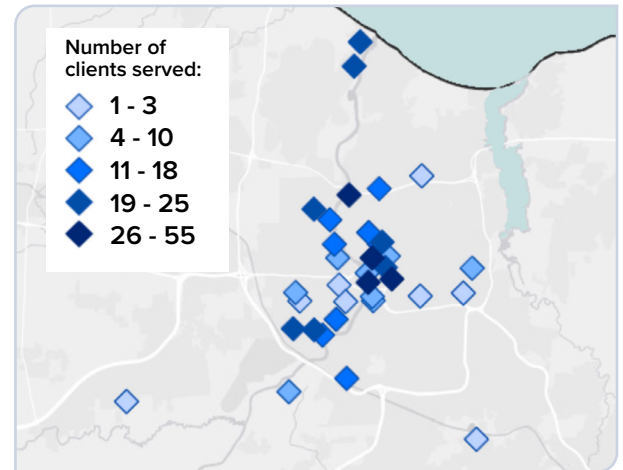
Darrell Vickers and an event attendee talk about prostate cancer

Making a Difference with Prostate Cancer Education

In the first year of the five-year [Prostate Cancer Education Grant](#), sponsored by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), **363 Monroe County residents learned about prostate cancer**, its impact on Black men, and the importance of getting screened. The grant specifically focuses on outreach to Black men ages 45 – 69 living in Monroe County.

In NYS, Black men are one and a half times more likely to get prostate cancer and almost twice as likely to die of the disease compared to white men.

Education addresses the risks of prostate cancer, the benefits of and guidelines regarding screening, and support to engage participants in shared decision making about screening with a health care provider.



Darrell Vickers, peer educator for the PCPEER program, led 65 1:1 sessions and 44 group sessions at various locations throughout Monroe County, meeting residents where it was most accessible for them.

A total of 36 men completed a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test to screen for prostate cancer.

Promote HEALTH Inspires Healthy Lifestyle Change

Promote HEALTH, a free eight-week healthy lifestyle program provided in partnership with Wilmot Cancer Institute, **served more than 370 people in the Finger Lakes region in 2024**. The program, which began in 2017, reached individuals from Greater Rochester to Clifton Springs to Geneseo and beyond. New partners included the Wayland Free Library in Steuben County and GOOSE Community Center in Genesee County.



Promote HEALTH participants at the Geneseo Parish Outreach Center, Inc.

Data in Action: Keeping the Pulse on Communicable Disease

The CDC's Emerging Infections Program (EIP) is a network of 12 U.S.-based sites dedicated to translating infectious disease research into actionable policy and effective public health practices. Our Center houses the [NYS EIP](#), providing population-based communicable disease data to identify disease patterns, evaluate vaccine programs, and identify populations at risk.

In addition to working with the CDC, our EIP team collaborates with area laboratories, the NYSDOH, and the Monroe County Department of Public Health.



Sharing Our Expertise on a National and Local Scale

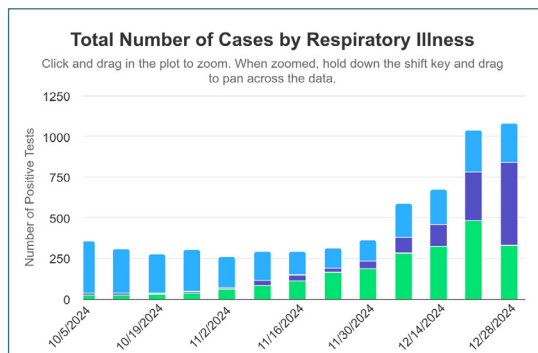
In addition to presenting local data at national conferences, including six abstracts at IDWeek, the team shared expertise through podcasts, peer-reviewed publications, and through tailored newsletters for collaborating area laboratories.

Kevin Popham, MPH, epidemiologist, not only presented at IDWeek in October, but was also recognized with the **“2024 Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America Yoshikawa and High Long-Term Care Abstract Award”** for his abstract. Popham presented “The Burden of RSV Infections Among Nursing Home Residents, Monroe County, NY, October 2022 to April 2023.”

Respiratory Illness Dashboard Gets a New Look

The team significantly refined and revamped RocHealthData’s [Respiratory Illness Surveillance Dashboard](#) prior to the start of the 2024 respiratory season. **Changes have made the data easier to navigate and more valuable for clinicians.** Now, all users can see a weekly overview of data regarding all three respiratory illnesses (influenza, COVID-19, RSV) in Monroe County, including total number of cases, positive tests percentages by each illness, and hospitalization by age group. This makes it quick and easy to identify trends, see what’s circulating, and investigate hospital burden of disease.

Those interested in breaking down the numbers for each individual respiratory illness can still do so.



With almost 5,000 views in 2024, the Respiratory Illness Surveillance Dashboard was the most frequently visited page on the [RocHealthData site](#).

Spotlighting ESBL Risk in Monroe County

E. coli often causes urinary tract infections (UTIs), and its resistance to antibiotics is increasing. Extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs) are enzymes that make bacteria resistant to many antibiotics. **Members of the EIP team are looking at what increases the risk of ESBL-producing E. coli UTIs in Monroe County to better understand how these infections may be prevented.**

Diabetes and prior ESBL infections were major risk factors, along with exposure to health care, like recent hospital stays or antibiotic use. These findings highlight the importance of reviewing past test results during treatment to ensure the appropriate antibiotic is selected.

The SHEA Yoshikawa and High Award is intended to honor an individual recognized for an accepted abstract at IDWeek that is focused on solving health care epidemiology, antibiotic stewardship, and infectious disease issues in long-term care settings and older adults.



Julia Tellerman, MPH, epidemiologist, presented on ESBL at the American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting and Expo

LAUNCHING HEALTH CARE CAREERS FOR ROCHESTER YOUTH

92 high school students worked across all UR locations

- › UPMC: 44
- › Highland Hospital: 41
- › Highland Family Medicine: 1
- › River Campus: 6

44 high school students worked at UPMC in

- › Nursing: 21
- › Imaging Sciences: 3
- › Pharmacy: 6
- › Guest Services: 3
- › Perioperative: 3
- › Surgery: 6
- › Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: 1
- › Anesthesiology: 1

The [Teen Health & Success Partnership \(THSP\)](#) connects Rochester high school students with jobs at the UR and provides professional development and mentorship. **During the 2023-2024 school year, the THSP matched 92 students living in the City of Rochester with various roles across the UR system, exceeding employment goals and contributing to the development of a skilled health care workforce.**

The Healthcare Careers Pathway Program, an initiative funded by a U.S. Department of Labor Community Project grant, supports the THSP in creating accessible career pathways in nursing, pharmacy, clinical labs, and patient services – all that start with a high school job. Together with these health care departments, the THSP is focused on ensuring that students gain valuable experience and skills that align with their long-term career goals.*

SPOTLIGHT: The THSP and Teen Anti-Violence Alliance (TAVA)

The THSP is a [proud partner](#) in the TAVA, an effort led by the UPMC Department of Surgery to reduce violence in Rochester and introduce young people to careers in surgery. The THSP connects talented young people participating in the TAVA with meaningful health care employment opportunities across the UR.

Looking Ahead

The THSP is committed to growing and strengthening partnerships and creating new pathways in high-demand health care fields. The THSP will also work with UR departments to integrate summer exploration programs, providing interested local students with year-round employment opportunities.



“

One of the amazing things about this program is that I was offered a position as a Nurse Assistant at UPMC.

Jonathan
Student, TAVA Participant

* The UR received a U.S. Department of Labor Community Project grant in the amount of \$300,000, constituting 100% of the funding for the Healthcare Careers Pathway Program over 24 months.

SUPPORTING SCHOLARS IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Future Generations Mentored in Community Health

A total of **20 students**, including medical students, undergraduate and graduate student interns, and an AmeriCorps member, took part in various community-engaged learning opportunities provided in partnership with CCHP.

Community Health Improvement Courses (CHIC)

Medical students enrolled in CHIC, directed by Theresa Green, PhD, MBA, director of Community Health Education and Policy, gain unique perspectives by partnering with community-based agencies and programs. Students learn first-hand how social drivers impact health outcomes, and how evidence-based interventions can improve the health of our community and eliminate disparities.

Last year, 39 medical students completed the CHIC course and worked with various programs within CCHP and a variety of community partners, including the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County, Refugees Helping Refugees, EAST High School's Biomedical Sciences Pathway, Trillium Health, MC Collaborative, Wellness Initiative Supporting Health (WISH)/Healing through Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law (HEAL), St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, Foodlink, and more!

Students of Distinction Shine

In 2024, **6 URSMD medical students were recognized at graduation as MD with distinction in Community Health**, an option for students who make significant longitudinal contributions to community service, excel in CHIC and engage in learning about current issues and topics in community health throughout medical school. One distinction awardee also received the Costanza Community Impact Award and two were honored with the Fiscella Excellence in Community Health Award.

This process is coordinated by Dr. Green and Carolyn Settle, MPH, community health education coordinator.

Celebrating 2 Years of AmeriCorps Partnership

CCHP has partnered with [Flower City Public Health AmeriCorps](#) for the last two years. In 2024, SUNY Brockport senior Ayanfe "Fe" Adebajo spent **1,700 hours** with the Center supporting Promote HEALTH and Got Health? talks.

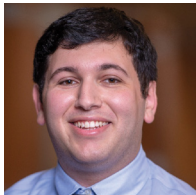
In December, the UR, including our Center, was recognized by the City of Rochester AmeriCorps program with a Pipeline Award. **"The Center for Community Health & Prevention has truly embraced Flower City Public Health Corps members as a part of their team,"** shared Walida Monroe-Sims, director of Public Services for the Department of Recreation and Human Services/AmeriCorps Programs with the City of Rochester.

1,221 The number of people who attended [Public Health Grand Rounds](#) (virtually and in person) in 2024.

A total of 6 different accreditations, covering a variety of specialties, are now available for continuing medical education for these presentations. These talks are provided in partnership with the Department of Public Health Sciences and UR CTSI.



M. Satheesh



Y. Kadan



H. Jackel-Dewhurst



C. Eiduson



D. Clark



A. Bowden

HONORING CHANGEMAKERS AND UNLOCKING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER



1st Place: Saabirah K. Campo was awarded up to \$2,500 in publication costs or dissemination fees for her poster "Health Equity Through Hair Care."

UR Breaking Down Silos: A Joint Symposium

UR faculty, staff, and doctoral students came together in April for a joint symposium that served as a bridge between the important work teams are leading, both at the Medical Center and River Campus. The [half-day event](#), hosted by the CCHP and Warner School of Education, featured a networking session and poster symposium with monetary prizes that could be used for things like publication costs, dissemination fees, travel costs, or professional development.



David Linehan, MD, CEO of the URM and dean of the URSMD.

Dr. David Satcher Community Health Improvement Awards

Sacoby Wilson, MS, PhD, director of Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health at the University of Maryland School of Public Health, delivered the keynote address for the [15th annual event](#). New in 2024 – A Team category was added to the award nominations, highlighting group contributions to the URM community health mission.



HONOREES

Senior Faculty Awardee

Tarun Bhalla, MD, PhD
Vice Chair, Regional Neurosurgery
Chief, Division of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery
Director, Mobile Stroke Unit Program
Associate Professor, Neurosurgery, Neurology, and Imaging Sciences



Junior Faculty Awardee

Maria Quiñones-Cordero, PhD
Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, School of Nursing
Leader of the Hispanic and Latino Engagement sub-core, National Institute of Aging-funded Rochester Roybal Center for Social Ties and Aging Research



Staff Awardee

Susan Rietberg-Miller, MPH
Senior Public Health Project Specialist, OBGYN Research Department



Team Awardee

EAST-UR Collaborative – This collaborative is made up of a variety of EAST-UR programs that work together to support students at EAST High to achieve greater academic and career success.



Bernard Guyer, MD, Lecture Series and Special Public Health Grand Rounds

The fall event featured a performance by Pillsbury House Theatre's interactive ensemble "Breaking Ice," a keynote presentation, and an expert panel discussion – all centered around health equity and Black maternal and child health. Keynote speaker Dorcey L. Applyrs, DrPH, MPH, presented "Are Black Women Safe Giving Birth: The Hard Truth of How Racism and Discrimination Perpetuate Disparities in Maternal Mortality."

The motivating and moving day encouraged difficult conversations and inspired many to come together to make a change in Black maternal health in our region and beyond.



CBPR Day – Power of Community in Research

The first [Community-Based Participatory Research \(CBPR\)](#) Day, co-sponsored by the CCHP and UR CTSI, was a success, **bringing more than 80 researchers together, from URMC and our local community**, for breakout sessions, a keynote address, and 4x4 lightning talks (4 slides shared in 4 minutes).

"CBPR is an approach to research that emphasizes the agency and expertise of community members and patients in knowing their health needs and that of their communities," said Laura Sugarwala, MBA, RD, director of Community Partnerships at our Center.



Grants Help Elevate Community Health Improvement Work

Community Health Mini-Grant Recipients

The [Mini-Grants](#), supported and funded by the CCHP and UR CTSI, are one-time grants up to \$2,000 that provide URM-community partnerships with additional funding for concerns such as transportation, childcare, meeting space rental, and more. Two projects were awarded in 2024.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: “Medication Lock Box Program”

Recipients: Erin Agnello, BSW, program coordinator for the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Rochester, and Mary Beth Dreyer, MEd, health education program manager for Upstate New York Poison Center

This project focuses on the proper storage of medications to reduce the number of unintentional poisonings, especially in homes with children under the age of 6. The grant allows for the distribution of medication lock boxes at a variety of local community events. Along with the lock boxes, residents will receive literature about proper medication storage from the Upstate New York Poison Center.

CHIW Grant – Improving Access to Behavioral Screening of Refugee Children

The CCHP provides management support and leadership for the [Community Health Improvement Workgroup \(CHIW\)](#), which offers a [mini-grant program](#). In 2024, the Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services received a grant for its project “Behavioral Screening of Refugee Children.”

Through this work, **206 refugee children were screened and connected to behavioral health services when indicated**. Results identified a significant need for behavioral health intervention among children aged 6 years and younger and an increased need within the Bantu community.

CBPR Training Course Pathway-to-Pilot Awardees

Two teams that graduated from the 2023-2024 CBPR training course, co-administered by the CCHP and UR CTSI, received funding support of up to \$15,000 for their community-partnered research with [Pathway-to-Pilot awards](#). Both projects focus on improving the health of adolescents and young adults (AYA).



Learn more about the CBPR Pathway-to-Pilot awardees and their projects:

“Health Literacy and Community Informed Determinants of Self-Care Utilization for Health Promotion Among Adolescents and Young Adults”

This project is funded by the UR CTSI.

Danielle C. Alc  na-Stiner, PhD, RN, assistant professor at the UR School of Nursing, and **Jackie Dozier**, director of Community Health and Wellbeing at Common Ground Health, aim to develop youth-informed interventions that will empower AYA to make informed health decisions as they transition to adulthood.

“Analysis of Stakeholder Feedback to Inform Coordinated Care for Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer”

This project is co-funded by Wilmot Cancer Institute’s Office of Community Outreach & Engagement and the Division of Supportive Care in Cancer in the Department of Surgery.

AnnaLynn Williams, PhD, assistant professor in the Division of Supportive Care in Cancer in the Department of Surgery at the URM, and **Lauren Spiker**, executive director of 13thirty Cancer Connect, have designed the Needs Exploration, Experiences, Determinants and Support in AYAs (AYA-NEEDS) with cancer study. This research will identify needs specific to the Rochester-area community and help determine if disparities exist by race/ethnicity, income, insurance, and more, and also model future interventions to alleviate existing bias.

Health Equity Pilot Awardees

The Center’s Office of Health Equity Research funded two research projects in community-identified priority areas focusing on violence prevention and caregiver support.

“Intergenerational Mentoring to Promote Healthier and Safer Communities”

With funding from the award, **Corey Nichols-Hadeed, JD**, (PI) assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at URSMD, and **Kimberly Van Orden, PhD** (Co-I and mentor), leader of the URM Helping Older People Engage (HOPE) lab, will work to reduce community violence by promoting intergenerational social connection.

“Building Social Connections for Caregivers of Persons with Dementia from Underserved Communities”

Sandhya Seshadri, PhD, (PI), associate director of research in the Neuropalliative Care division of the Department of Neurology, **Paula Amina Alio, PhD**, (Co-I) professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, and **Benzi M. Kluger, MD**, the Julius, Helen and Robert Fine Professor of Neurology (Co-I) will use funds awarded by the OHER Pilot Study, co-funded by the University of Rochester Aging Institute, to develop an intervention that will help build social connections and decrease social isolation among Black caregivers.



The URM Community Advisory Council, made up of members representing communities throughout the Finger Lakes, continues to shed light on the health priorities and harmful inequities of our region. The Center is honored to convene this group in collaboration with the UR CTSI.

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