

Increasing Access to GI Care and Cancer Screening at the UR Well Student-Run Clinic

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Introduction

- A gap in GI care was identified by staff at St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center in Rochester, NY
- Poor access to GI care in the population is likely due to:
 - GI provider shortage (↓ supply, ↑ demand)^{1,2}
 - Systemic barriers to accessing health care (SES/insurance status, language, health literacy, etc.)
- Minority racial/ethnic groups have lower cancer screening rates, higher incidence rates, and higher years of potential life lost (YPLL) for certain cancers:
 - Colorectal cancer screening rate 32% (Hispanic) vs 71% (white, non-Hispanic)³
 - Cervical cancer incidence rate 12/100k (Hispanic) vs 10/100k (African American) vs 7/100k (white, non-Hispanic)⁴
 - Breast cancer YPLL rate 292/100k (African American) vs 216 (Hispanic) vs 188 (white, non-Hispanic)⁵

Community Partners

- St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center ("St. Joe's")
 - Community health/resource center founded in 1993
 - >1400 patients, >5000 visits/year
 - Must be uninsured/underinsured to receive care
 - UR Well at St. Joe's provides student-led primary and specialty care services on Tuesday evenings
- NYS Cancer Services Program
 - Provides free colorectal, breast, and cervical cancer screening to uninsured/underinsured patients
 - CSP Finger Lakes division administered by URM
 - Also provides follow-up diagnostic testing, care coordination, and enrollment in Medicaid Cancer Treatment Program (if needed)

Community Health Improvement Project

PART 1: UR Well Gastroenterology Clinic

- Established a UR Well GI clinic and conducted 3 pilot clinic nights in Fall 2023
 - Faculty preceptors: Drs. Danielle Marino and Amulya Penmetsa
 - Team structure: preceptor + MS1/2 + MS3/4 (+/- pharmacy student)
 - Clinic infrastructure and resources provided by St. Joe's/UR Well (EHR, check-in paperwork, process for obtaining imaging/labs, etc.)
- 12 appointments available (4 per GI night)
 - 8 appointments booked; 5 appointments completed
 - Reasons for cancellation: 1 COVID, 1 work-related, 1 family issue

PART 2: UR Well-Cancer Services Program Partnership

- Established a partnership between UR Well and the NYS Cancer Services Program; piloted integration of CSP into UR Well on the 3 GI nights
 - CSP staff present for 2 of 3 GI nights; staff consented/enrolled patients in CSP and distributed FIT kits (to average-risk patients in need of CRC screening)
 - CSP staff not present for 1 of 3 GI nights; UR Well student volunteers consented patients; patients then called by CSP staff to complete enrollment over the phone
- 16 patients total (across 3 nights) offered CSP participation
 - 8 consented; 5 completed enrollment and received/scheduled screening

References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis. National and Regional Projections of Supply and Demand for Internal Medicine Subspecialty Practitioners: 2013-2025. 2016.
2. Burba K. GI physician shortage "a significant concern" affecting both providers, patients. Heallo Gastroenterology. Published December 28, 2022.
3. Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates: New York Finger Lakes Region and Western New York. Common Ground Health.
4. Cervical Cancer Incidence and Years of Potential Life Lost Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Female: New York Finger Lakes Region and Western New York. Common Ground Health.
5. Breast Cancer Incidence and Years of Potential Life Lost Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Female: New York Finger Lakes Region. Common Ground Health.

Conclusions

- A student-run GI clinic is administratively feasible, educationally valuable, and effective at providing high-quality patient care
- The UR Well-CSP partnership is administratively feasible, mutually beneficial for UR Well and CSP, and effective at helping patients obtain much-needed cancer screening
- Future efforts should focus on improving community engagement, assessing patients' experience with the clinic, maximizing appointment fill rate, and expanding the CSP integration to other UR Well specialties

Sustainability Plan and Ongoing Work

- Spring 2024:
 - 4 GI clinic dates scheduled (16 appointments total)
 - CSP integration now expanded to all UR Well specialties using formalized protocol for new clinic workflow; potential reach up to 140 patients
- Continuity of student/faculty involvement:
 - Created 2 new student leadership positions (GI Clinic Director and UR Well-CSP Partnership Liaison); both will transition each spring
 - Continued involvement by 2 core faculty preceptors ensures continuity of care despite new leadership
- Enhanced evaluation and community engagement:
 - Developed key informant interview guide; will conduct interviews with all GI clinic patients from 2023-2024 year to better understand experience
 - Created original promotional materials for GI clinic
 - Ongoing work to promote services through Common Ground Health, Celebration of Life Community Inc., Charles Settlement House, and the Community Cancer Action Council