



**Columbia University
Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian**

Community Pediatrics Projects

2011 Residents: Projects in Development

Anne Abbott Pierog, MD: Anne has partnered with the Healthy Schools Healthy Families Program at PS 152, a public elementary school in upper Manhattan, to develop a gardening project for the science curriculum for 3rd and 4th grade students. Anne is studying eating habits and behaviors of the children by administering surveys in the classroom and to parents before and after the project is implemented. Healthy Schools Healthy Families (HSHF) is an elementary school-based health promotion program for medically underserved children in New York City. HSHF identifies and addresses unmet health needs in the school community by partnering with the schools, the surrounding community, local and national stakeholders and private and public sectors.

Nadia Saldanha, MD and Zoe Shamash, MD: Nadia and Zoe will be teaching a health education class using the SHAPE curriculum created by former Community Pediatrics Residents to middle and high school students enrolled in the Lang Youth Medical Program. The Lang program is a science education and mentoring program for young people in Washington Heights. It partners with New York Presbyterian to provide experiences and an environment that supports and improves the social, personal and academic development of the Lang Scholars during their six-year enrollment. At the same time, it creates new connections between the Hospital and community. This project will allow increased resident exposure to the students as well as provide health education on common adolescent topics.

Amy Ost, MD: Amy is interested in creating a unique resident experience that will train residents to acquire the necessary skills for effective primary care coordination. The resident and mentor will pilot a comprehensive, care coordination approach to the medical care of children with complex, chronic medical illnesses in a community-based medical practice. The goal is to enroll 8-10 patients into a personalized resident continuity clinic and provide primary care services under the medical home model. The resident and mentor will organize a structured approach to regularly scheduled clinic visits and greatly broaden the assessment of these children and their families. This will include providing home and school visits as a central component of care. Other methodologies to employ are shared care planning and the introduction of advanced care planning early into the care relationship. Finally, the resident and mentor will pilot a tracking tool that will continually be tested throughout the project to examine whether early identification of these patients can ease the navigation of their care.

2010 Residents: Projects in Development

Robyn Greenfield, MD: Robyn is working to create a teen mentoring group around the issue of living with chronic illness (in this case focusing on youth with renal/ kidney disease). She hopes to bring together a group of older teens to serve as mentors to younger adolescents who are struggling with issues of illness while navigating the difficulties of puberty and life.

Janienne Kondrich, MD: Janienne is interested in working on a project that addresses the relationship between homelessness and utilization of emergency room services. She is in the process of a needs assessment to determine in what area she can focus her energies to improve care for this needy population

Kimberly Noble, MD: Kimberly will be working with the Health Schools, Healthy Families Program to investigate ways in which increasing physical exercise in schools may lead to improvements in cognitive and academic outcomes. She will help design and administer a battery of neurocognitive tests to assess this.

2009 Residents:

Brenda Ritson, MD: Brenda graduated from Yale Medical School. She spent one year as a Congressional Fellow working for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton as a health policy aide. She is interested in health care legislation and policy. She has, with fellow CP Tract residents, created a Legislative Advocacy curriculum implemented this year to introduce all Columbia pediatric residents to this issue as well as provide them with the skills necessary to be effective child health advocates.

Emily Rothbaum, MD: Emily is a graduate of Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. Before entering medical school, she interned at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington DC, focusing on health care issues. She has worked with Brenda Ritson in the development and implementation of the Legislative Advocacy curriculum.

Meg Sullivan, MD: Meg graduated from medical school at University of California-San Diego (UCSD). She spent two years working as a teacher in the South Bronx prior to medical school, and has a strong interest in school health and adolescents. Her project will take place in a local middle school and focuses on teacher's attitudes towards students' health and school health services and improving the relationship between the two.

2008 Residents:

Angkana Roy, MD*, *Partnering to WIN:* Angkana is working with the WIN for Asthma program, exploring the relationship between families of children with asthma and health care providers. She will conduct focus groups to gather qualitative data that can be used

to continue to improve outreach, patient/family education, and asthma disease management.

Lindsey Tilt, MD, *Development of Grassroots Advocacy Network*: Lindsey is working with the MS-CHONY Center for Children's Health Advocacy (CCHA) to development a grassroots advocacy network for the Hospital community. Using licensed software, she will develop strategies to empower faculty and staff to participate in the legislative process and to communicate with elected officials. She will also help shape the Hospital's advocacy agenda and monitor participation in advocacy efforts in collaboration with the CCHA.

Taisha Benjamin, MD, Taisha is working on forming a partnership with Phoenix House and its Changing Youth Thinking Program (an adolescent drug treatment program). Through this partnership, pediatric residents would both tour and participate in group settings at the Harlem location. In addition, she is exploring the formation of a minority recruitment program at Columbia in an attempt to increase minority representation in our training program.

2007 Residents:

Nana Coleman, MD, *Development of Critical Care Services in Resource-Limited Communities*: Resource-limited communities through-out the world face many challenges in trying to provide health care for critically ill children. As a first step towards making critical care services available in Ghana, West Africa (Nana's country of origin), Nana is conducting a study to evaluate current knowledge, attitudes and practices of the medical staff and administrators in a designated regional hospital center there. She anticipates that the results of this study will inform her long-term goal of establishing a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Ghana. (nana@post.harvard.edu)

Monique Collier, MD*, *FREEdom (Focusing on Redefinition, Education, & Empowerment)*: Monique is working with formerly incarcerated youth, conducting a series of workshops about health and health care. She is particularly interested health promotion for these adolescents and in teaching skills that will enable them to establish medical homes as they re-integrate into mainstream society. (mjc2103@columbia.edu)

Rachelle Gandica, MD, *Healthy Snacks, Healthy Kids*: Working with the Healthy Schools, Healthy Families coalition of school health partnerships, Rachelle is working to change snacking patterns and habits of school-aged children in partner elementary schools in Washington Heights. She conducted focus groups of kids to determine current snacking habits and developed a teaching module. In addition, she is working with community partners to develop an effective strategy to partner with bodega owners to improve children's access to healthy snacks in the vicinity of their schools. (rg2216@columbia.edu)

Other Resident Projects:

Cindy Katz, MD, *Girls in Action*: Using a curriculum developed by former CHONY Dyson residents Evelyn Berger, MD and Mara Minguez, MD*, Cindy is conducting an

eight-week workshop series for adolescent girls, providing regular activities, education and mentorship, in order to help the girls build self-esteem and to empower them to make healthy choices. Participants complete a pre and post-intervention self-administered survey to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Sarah Nowygrod, MD, *Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative*: Residents have spear-headed a Hospital-wide effort to implement changes in Hospital policy and procedures so that Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian will become a Baby Friendly Hospital, a World Health Organization designation recognizing hospitals that actively promote and encourage breastfeeding. A multi-disciplinary task force has been formed and is meeting regularly, chaired by former resident project leader Stacey Tavel, MD and neonatologist Helen Towers, MD.

Past Resident Projects:

Saeed Ahmed, MD, Maria Kim, MD, et al: A group of CHONY residents worked to integrate *global health* into the pediatric training at CHONY. Several residents have participated in electives abroad. As of November 2006, an elective in Global Health has been formally developed through the Community Pediatrics program.

Lisa Eiland, MD, *Disparities of Infant Mortality: A Comparison of NYC Neighborhoods*: Lisa examined data from a variety of sources to look at differences in infant mortality, comparing Washington Heights, Harlem and East Harlem to New York City, looking particularly at disparities related to race.

Sangeeth Gnanasekaran, MD, *Children with HIV in the Community*: Sangeeth worked at the Family Care Center at Harlem Hospital, where comprehensive medical care, mental health services and support services are provided to HIV-infected children and their families. She did a preliminary study of the feasibility of developing a home visitation program for direct-observed therapy to improve medication adherence in adolescents with HIV/AIDS.

Jennifer Huang, MD *College Preparation at George Washington High School*: In order to address the issue of the relative scarcity of minorities working as health care professionals, Jennifer worked in the local high school, where over 90% of students are Latino, to help prepare students for college entrance. Through a survey of graduating seniors, she identified the students' perceived barriers to college admission as the lack of preparation for standardized tests (PSAT and SAT), lack of information about financial resources, and lack of guidance through the process. Jennifer worked with the school administration to overcome some of these barriers.

Sheryl Jawetz, MD and Laura Robertson, MD*, *Postpartum Depression Advocacy Project*: Sheryl and Laura raised pediatric provider awareness about the prevalence and the effects on children's health of maternal post-partum depression. They identified a screening tool to use in our pediatric clinics, compiled a list of treatment resources in the community and worked with the Alianza Dominicana, a community-based organization, and the Department of Psychiatry to establish a post-partum depression support group for Spanish-speaking mothers.

Karen Jooste, MD, *A Partnership for Better Health for Children in a Special Education School*: Karen's project was based at a Special Education School in Harlem, New York City with approximately 100 children with severe cognitive and physical disabilities. She formed a communication link between school's teachers and nurses, and the children's parents and pediatricians, and educated the teachers, physical and occupational therapists and school nurses about common medical issues. She also organized a Professional Development Day, with several workshops addressing various health issues to allow school staff to enhance their knowledge and provide optimal care for the children.

Maria Kim, MD, *Dominican Nutrition Guidebook*: In order to address the childhood obesity epidemic particularly affecting inner-city Latino communities, Maria worked with community agencies and residents to develop a Dominican Nutrition Guidebook. The book includes relevant, culturally appropriate nutritional information, stories about food told by community members, and healthy Dominican recipes collected from Washington Heights residents. Information obtained during several focus groups inform the guidebook's content.

Ellen Lee, MD, *Domestic Violence Screening in Pediatrics*: Ellen improved provider awareness of the importance of domestic violence recognition and screening in pediatric practice by educating pediatricians and pediatric residents about domestic violence and its impact on children, teaching appropriate methods of screening all parents for the presence or risk of domestic violence in the home, and training pediatricians to refer patients to appropriate community agencies.

Eric McCollum, MD, *STREET Ball*: Choices that teens make during their turbulent adolescence have the potential to create patterns and behaviors that may persist into adulthood and cause health, educational and/or social problems. Eric worked with partners in the psychology field to adapt and implement STREET Ball, a program that utilizes basketball to teach health and healthy lifestyles skills to at-risk teenagers in Washington Heights.

Cecilia Penn, MD, *Patient and Provider Satisfaction with Telephone Interpreter Use*: Cecilia studied the impact of residents' use of phone interpreter services in their clinical practice. In conjunction with community pediatrics faculty member Dr. Hetty Cunningham, they evaluated patient satisfaction and degree to which physician-patient communication improves when residents use the phone interpreters for all clinical encounters in which the patient or parent does not use English as a primary language versus relying on rudimentary Spanish skills or an ad-hoc interpreter.

Lesley Stephens, MD *Media Violence Education and Violence Prevention*: Lesley's project addressed the role and impact of media violence in adolescents' lives and provided media violence education in order to empower young teens and their families to mitigate media's negative influences. She developed and taught a curriculum to both a 10th grade class and a middle school class. In addition, she worked with GPGP providers to improve knowledge and increase anticipatory guidance provided to patients in our practices.

Jennifer Verani, MD, MPH, *Student Interpreters in Continuity Clinics*: Language discordance between patients and providers is often-cited explanation for health care disparities. Jennifer recruited bilingual medical and nursing students to serve as

interpreters for first year pediatric residents in their continuity practices. The students gain from the opportunity for clinical exposure and experience, and the interns benefit from the facilitated communication with their Spanish-speaking patients. The program is now being offered on an on-going basis through a medical school “selective.”

Catherine Yen, MD, MPH, *Healthy Lifestyles in the Classroom*: Led by Dr. Mary McCord, Community Pediatrics has developed a unique model for providing health care to a defined population. The Health Partnership at PS-128, a local elementary school, is designed to address the health care needs of students at the school using population-level health concepts. As part of the effort to teach healthy lifestyles and reduce the risk of childhood obesity for the children in the school, Catherine created curricula to integrate nutrition concepts into classroom teaching.

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