



# **COMMUNITY COUNTS: IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO DEFEAT CANCER!**

Join Our Cause through  
Education, Health Care,  
and Research

# TAKING STRIDES TO BEAT CANCER

The Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative - a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded partnership between the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University (NU), the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) – strives to advance cancer health equity through meaningful scientific discovery, education and training, and community engagement.

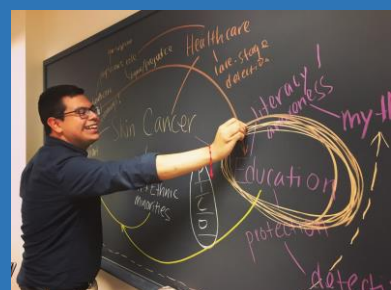
Since inception in 2015, ChicagoCHEC has taken great strides toward our mission. **Our successes would not have been possible without the guidance, engagement and continued motivation from our community partners – the true foundation of our work.**

As we enter ChicagoCHEC's third year, our commitment to design initiatives that expand community-engagement, mobilization of resources, and capacity-building efforts remains strong! At the center of our partnership with Chicago's underserved communities, we continue to seek the guidance of our key community stakeholders in order to fully execute our mission. We want to foster and maintain respectful and meaningful collaborations with community partners to make a meaningful and sustainable impact in our communities.

In this 2017 report, we will highlight a few of our key accomplishments across the three core areas of ChicagoCHEC: *community engagement*, *high-quality research*, and *education and training*.

We hope that you join us for the next phase of our work.

**It takes a village to defeat cancer!**



## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN, WHERE WE ARE, WHERE WE ARE GOING A SNAPSHOT OF COMMUNITY & RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST YEAR

**JAN 2017** – Launch of *Skinny Trees: An Exploration of Health Inequities in & around Chicago* podcast, and continuation of *Café, Salud y Vida*, a Spanish radio show focusing on health education for the Latino/Hispanic community

**APRIL 2017** – Circulation of the first **ChicagoCHEC Community Partner Resource Guide** to ~150 individuals. Participation of community partners in a **NIH-style review for the ChicagoCHEC grant program**. Community partners play an integral part in choosing the '17 Research Fellows Cohort. ChicagoCHEC participates in the **Chicago Asian Community Health Fair**

**JUNE 2017** – ChicagoCHEC community steering committee members organize and host Chicago Community Trust **On the Table** conversations about breast and colon cancer. ChicagoCHEC participates in the **jVive tu Vida! Get Up! Get Moving! Health Fair**

**AUG 2017** – **CECIL (Colon Cancer Education in the Community to Improve Learning) the Inflatable Colon** comes to life! CECIL goes on the road for Colorectal Awareness and the importance of screening. ~100 community members participate in the **National Outreach Network (NON) Screen to Save** Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative. Community Health Educators hold **stakeholder interviews of community partners** to assess resources and needs

**FEB 2017** – ChicagoCHEC enters Cycle 3 of the **Incubator & Catalyst Grant Program**. ChicagoCHEC participates in the **NEIU Health Fair**

**MAY 2017** – ChicagoCHEC joins community partners for the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Butterfly Stroll on the Boulevard** for a walk against Cancer!

**JULY to AUG 2017** – Research Fellows visit eight community sites as part of health disparities curriculum. ChicagoCHEC participates in: **Lurie Cancer Survivors' Walk & 5K, Hope Fest, 12<sup>th</sup> Ward Back to School Health Fair, NEIU Wellness Committee Events, Colon Cancer Talk at the Hispanic Center of Excellence, American Brain Tumor Association Conf., & African Festival of Arts**

**SEPT 2017** – ChicagoCHEC participates in the **Women in Science Conference** at NEIU and conducts the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ChicagoCHEC Community Forum**

**2017 & BEYOND:**  
**CONTINUE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS, CAPACITY BUILDING, CANCER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**



(Left to Right) Hope Fest, Danny K. Davis Back to School Picnic, Fellows & Dr. Winn (UIC) at Henrietta Lacks book signing, Dr. June McKoy (NU) receives Research Award from '17 Fellows

## OUR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We are committed to engaging, mobilizing, and supporting community capacity building efforts to improve health outcomes among Chicago's underserved communities. ChicagoCHEC's Community Steering Committee, a board of over 20 community leaders, guides the direction of ChicagoCHEC along with two trained Community Health Educators (CHEs). Meet our Community Advisory Board and Leaders!

**Henrietta Barcelo** (Co-Chair), INSTITUTO Health Sciences Career Academy & Instituto del Progreso Latino

**Joanne Glenn** (Co-Chair), W.O.T. Foundation Inc.

**Diane Burrell**, Howard Brown Health

**Dolores Castañeda**, Community Member

**Jeffrey Donoghue**, City of Chicago, Office of Mayor Rahm Emmanuel

**Marcus C. Evans, Jr.**, Illinois State of Illinois, Legislative District 33

**Kristina Hamilton**, American Lung Association in Greater Chicago

**LauraJane Hyde**, Gilda's Club Chicago

**Sheronda Kimbrough**, Chicago Public Schools

**Jose López**, Puerto Rican Cultural Center

**Linda Rae Murray**, former Chief Medical Officer, Cook County Health & Hospital System

**Kirsten Peachey**, The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation

**Fred Rachman**, Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services, L3C

**RoseMarie Rogers**, Patient Advocate

**Joanna Rudnicka**, Amber Coalition, Polish-American Breast Cancer Program

**Ivonne Sambolin**, Chicago Department of Public Health

**Jeanette Santana-González**, Gilda's Club Chicago

**Esther Sciammarella**, Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition

**Esther Wong**, Chinese American Service League

**Carmen Velásquez**, Founder and former Executive Director of Alivio Medical Center

**Kyle Westbrook**, Partnership for College Completion

**Tom Wilson**, Access Living

## Meet the ChicagoCHEC Community Steering Committee Co-Chairs

**Henrietta Barcelo**, INSTITUTO Health Sciences Career Academy (IHSCA) & Instituto del Progreso Latino (IDPL)

Henrietta is ChicagoCHEC's Community Steering Committee (CSC) Co-Chair. She serves as the Healthcare Industry Liaison at the IHSCA, where she builds health science partnerships to provide experiential opportunities for underrepresented students. As an educator and leader, Henrietta has been actively involved in connecting ChicagoCHEC's capacity-building activities (e.g., NEIU's health fair and our Research Fellows Program) with IHSCA and various Latino communities.

**Joanne Glenn**, RN MBA, W.O.T. Foundation, Inc.

As a nurse born and raised on the Southside of Chicago, Joanne is ChicagoCHEC's Community Steering Committee Co-Chair. As a community health expert and leader in the cancer field, she is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of *Women on Top of Their Game Foundation, Inc. (W.O.T.)*, an organization that advocates for breast cancer survivors while addressing the potential service gaps in health care. W.O.T. does training mentorship, advocacy and myriad of collaboration to promote "Healthier Lifestyles." Visit W.O.T. at [www.wotfoundation.com](http://www.wotfoundation.com).



*As community health experts and leaders in their respective fields, Henrietta and Joanne have been instrumental in coordinating the efforts of key community members and leaders who guide and support ChicagoCHEC's strategic efforts. They are actively cultivating relationships, advising research projects, providing mentorship and experiences for students, and planning successful community events around Chicago.*



## SURVIVOR'S CORNER

### Antonio & Marta Mendoza

Antonio was diagnosed with prostate cancer 5 years ago, after undergoing screening (prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test) at a community health fair. He underwent surgery and chemotherapy treatment and is currently **CANCER FREE!** His support system was strengthened by his wife, Marta, a **BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR!**



### Antonio & Marta's Advice

*Do not be afraid of undergoing cancer screening tests! Have them done for your family and offspring's sake! Make sure you are in good medical care and seek family support. – Antonio*  
*You need a strong support system! A cancer diagnosis is traumatizing. – Marta*

***The Mendoza's found support at Gilda's Club Chicago!***

### Candace Henley, Founder, Blue Hat Foundation, Inc.

After multiple visits to the ER, Candace was diagnosed with a colon tumor the size of a grapefruit. Now **CANCER FREE**, Candace is an advocate, educator and founder of the *Blue Hat Foundation, Inc.*, an organization dedicated to colorectal cancer awareness.



***For me, cancer was a hurricane. It hit my life and I've been rebuilding it ever since. I will do anything I can to save somebody else's life from this disease. – Candace Henley***

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the fourth most common cancer in the United States and second leading cause of cancer death. Increasing colorectal screening rates is one of the 10 recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel for the Cancer Moonshot and endorsed by the National Cancer Advisory Board. In response to these recommendations, the NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) launched the national Screen to Save (S2S): NCI Colorectal Cancer Outreach and Screening Initiative. From March to September 2017, ChicagoCHEC Community Health Educators (CHE) Melinda Monge from UIC and Elena Navas from NEIU led many colorectal cancer educational activities. The CHEs utilized CECIL the inflatable colon this past summer to educate community members on colorectal cancer and the importance of screening. CECIL visited the Englewood, McKinley Park, and Washington Park communities. One hundred community members completed an educational tour of CECIL and completed pre and post surveys to assess the use of our inflatable colon as a valuable educational tool to increase screening intentions and CRC knowledge.

In Fall 2017, Maggie Nava will be joining the team as the new CHE from Northwestern!



National Outreach Network Events with CECIL, 2017

## RESEARCH

We are committed to supporting cancer research with a health equity lens that integrates community organizations as equal partners in addressing research questions.

Since inception, ChicagoCHEC has funded **eight** research teams through the **ChicagoCHEC Incubator and Catalyst Grant Program**. Such grants are intended to encourage collaborations among diverse teams of investigators (including students and trainees) across our three institutions. **They are also designed to be inclusive of community partners and organizations, therefore each research team consists of one or more community stakeholders as an integral member of the research team.**

### Expansion on a Global Scale

The ChicagoCHEC UIC team established a partnership with the Cuban Ministry of Health to address training, research, and community engagement for lung cancer outcomes.

### New Curriculum at the Forefront of Medicine for Undergraduate Students

The ChicagoCHEC NEIU team has developed two courses in Cancer Health Policy Studies and are working towards establishing a Minor in Health Policy Studies.

### Addressing Tobacco Use among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer (LGBTQ) Populations

The Choose to Change research team has expanded their smoking cessation work to include a tailored smoking reduction program for LGBTQ individuals. Dr. Phoenix Matthews (UIC) released a policy statement to support policies to reduce smoking among LGBTQ. Dr. Matthews and colleagues recommend that policies should include LGBTQ individuals “in all local, state, and national tobacco prevention & control activities.”

### MI GUÍA (MY GUIDE)

Building an educational and support app to improve symptoms and quality of life during and after treatment among Hispanic Breast Cancer survivors

### CHOOSE TO CHANGE STUDY

Reducing tobacco use in partnership with community health centers and the IL Tobacco Quitline

### WECANCONNECT

Using mHealth to connect physically disabled cancer patients with matched disabled survivors

### PROSTATE CANCER DISPARITY IN CHICAGO-AREA AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

Developing cell models to improve tailored prostate cancer risk assessment & treatment among African American men

### REDUCING OBESITY AMONG PUERTO RICAN & MEXICAN MEN

Evaluating an obesity intervention program for Latino men to reduce obesity

### ENGAGING CITIZEN SCIENTISTS TO COMBAT PROSTATE CANCER

Training citizen scientists to engage, partner, and participate in research to combat prostate cancer in African American men through screening

### MOLECULAR APPROACHES TO BREAST CANCER

Analysis of breast tissue from African American women with respect to environmental exposure to examine disparities between African American and White women

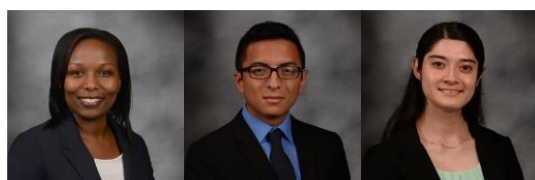
**UPDATES FROM THE FIELD:** After going Smoke-Free in July 2015 on the NEIU campus, the amount of tobacco litter has decreased significantly, motivating a **cleaner** & **HEALTHIER** campus!





# OUR FUTURE LEADERS

*Our commitment to educating, training, mentoring and supporting a diverse workforce that includes students (undergraduates and graduates), early stage investigators, junior faculty members, researchers, and health care professionals remains strong!*



(Above) 2017 ChicagoCHEC Research Fellows & Senior Research Fellows (Left)

Students and young professionals are actively contributing to advancing the nation's goals of addressing and reducing cancer health inequities.

During the 2017 *ChicagoCHEC Research Fellows Program*, 19 undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students from Northeastern Illinois University, Northwestern University, the University of Illinois at Chicago and City Colleges of Chicago successfully completed an 8-week comprehensive learning experience focused on the development of academic, technical and professional skills in preparation for careers in social, behavioral, and biomedical research and healthcare.

Due to our collaboration with community partners, ChicagoCHEC fellows walk away with the knowledge, connections, and understanding **to make a difference at the community-level**. The 2017 ChicagoCHEC Research Fellows toured the facilities, learned, and actively engaged with community members from Access Living, Access Center for Discovery and Learning, Gilda's Club Chicago, Near North Health, Imerman Angels, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Mile Square Health Center, and Instituto del Progreso Latino.



The ChicagoCHEC Research Fellows also partnered to conduct a near peer mentorship college prep workshops with *Lurie CHASE your Dreams Discovering Your Health Careers (NU & NEIU)*, *ResearchHStart (UIC)*, and *GUIDE (UIC)* programs to strengthen health equity research knowledge. Students also participated in *Career 911: Your Future Career in Medicine & Healthcare*, a massive open online course from Northwestern University.



# YOUR VOICE, YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR HEALTH

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### Stay Involved with ChicagoCHEC

ChicagoCHEC updates its website weekly. It is jam-packed with information and resources, along with information on the many ChicagoCHEC-sponsored community events throughout the city. Visit [www.chicagochec.org](http://www.chicagochec.org) for more information.

### Be a Partner with ChicagoCHEC

We want to hear from you and the needs of your community! Over the next year, we will be providing additional workshops and education programming for organizations like yours! Help us tailor programming to meet the needs of your community.

### Be a Connector

Network with other organizations, listen to the voices of residents, and serve as a connector for resources and linkages to improve health disparities!

### Help us Empower our Future Generation of Scientists and Physicians

If you or your organization works with underrepresented minorities who are interested in Science and Medicine – or in being a part of something larger – link them to ChicagoCHEC! We have an annual Research Fellows Program and several other opportunities for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students.



W.O.T Foundation Butterfly Stroll, 2017



Top/Bottom: W.O.T Foundation, Butterfly Stroll Middle: ¡Vive tu Vida! Get Up! Get Going!

## ChicagoCHEC Leadership



Melissa Simon, MD MPH  
Robert H. Lurie  
Comprehensive Cancer  
Center of Northwestern  
University



Robert Winn, MD  
University of Illinois Cancer  
Center Chicago



Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD  
University of Illinois Chicago



Christina Ciecierski, PhD  
Northeastern Illinois  
University



Moira Stuart, PhD  
Northeastern Illinois  
University



Joseph Feinglass, PhD  
Northwestern University

We are indebted to our community leaders and partners, faculty members, research and administrative staff, and students/trainees for their engaged participation and continued support.

**We look forward to seeing you at next year's 2018 ChicagoCHEC Annual Community Forum!**



**THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS  
AT  
CHICAGO**



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We welcome questions and comments from our readers. Please direct correspondence to [info@chicagochec.org](mailto:info@chicagochec.org).

Further information can be found at <http://chicagochec.org/>  
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