COMMUNITY COUNTS:
IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO DEFEAT CANCER!

Join Our Cause through Education, Health Care, and Research
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 showing 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 ¡Vive 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 3rd 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, 12th 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 2nd 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 Doneghue, City of Chicago, Office of Mayor Rahm Emanuel
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.

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.
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.

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**COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS**

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**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

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National Outreach Network Events with CECIL, 2017
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.”

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!
We are excited to share some exciting news about how our research efforts have had measurable impact in ChicagoCHEC’s target communities!

The Mi Guía research team (Community Partner: ALAS-Wings) is beta-testing one of the first tailored smartphone applications for Hispanic breast cancer survivors.

Choose to Change research team (Community Partner: IL Tobacco Quitline & Near North Health) is the first research group to integrate an important referral component into the electronic health records (EHR) in a federally-qualified health

The WeCanConnect research team (Community Partner: Access Living) has developed and launched SreenABLE Saturdays, a health event, which has brought women with disabilities to cancer screening – some for the first time in their lives.
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!

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), ResearchStart (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.
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 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!
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We welcome questions and comments from our readers. Please direct correspondence to info@chicagochec.org.

Further information can be found at http://chicagochec.org/ Twitter: @ChicagoChec Facebook: ChicagoCHEC Instagram: checstudentinfo

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