



***HEALING TOGETHER:***  
**From Surviving to Thriving**  
**“Our Lives After Cancer”**

Join Our Cause Through  
Education, Health Care, and  
Research

## FIGHTING CANCER EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



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 the inception of ChicagoCHEC in 2015, we have taken great strides in support of our mission. **These 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 fourth 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 aspire to foster and maintain respectful and meaningful collaborations with community partners to make a meaningful and sustainable impact in our communities.

In this 2018 report, we 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 will join us for the next phase of our work.

# SNAPSHOT: ChicagoCHEC in 2018

*An overview of community engagement, research, education and training events ChicagoCHEC has been part of in 2018.*

**FEBRUARY 2018** – Community partner, Gilda's Club, celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. ChicagoCHEC participates in the **UIC Intern & Part-Time Job Fair** where ChicagoCHEC Research Fellows alumni help recruit future Research Fellows.

**APRIL 2018:** - ChicagoCHEC participates in the **Lung Force Expo**. ChicagoCHEC trainees are honored at the **Chancellor's Student Service and Leadership Awards**. ChicagoCHEC Fellows present at UIC's **Student Research Day**.

**JUNE 2018** – ChicagoCHEC attends the **Obama Foundation Chicago Community Conversation, the Health Equity Leadership Institute (HELI), ¡Viva tu Vida!, and the Latina Expo**. Yamile Molina, PhD, MPH of UICSPH/UICC presents on breast cancer disparities and Community Steering Member Dolores Castañeda presents her work in the Little Village community.

**FALL 2018 & BEYOND** - The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ChicagoCHEC Community Forum** takes place at Kennedy-King College. ChicagoCHEC participates in the **African Festival of the Arts** in Washington Park.

**JANUARY 2018** – ChicagoCHEC participates in **Cervical Health Month**. Application cycle for the ChicagoCHEC **Research Fellows Program** begins and we receive over 100 applicants.

**MARCH 2018** – ChicagoCHEC participates in a **colorectal awareness event** at the Friend Family Health Center (South Side). The ChicagoCHEC team shares health & wellness resources at State Rep. Theresa Mah's **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Health Fair at the Arturo Velasquez Institute**.

**MAY 2018** – ChicagoCHEC joins community partners for the **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Survivor's Celebration Walk & 5K** for a walk against cancer. Community Steering Members host **On the Table 2018** conversations. The **WeCanConnect** pilot project launches.

**JULY & AUGUST 2018** – ChicagoCHEC participates in **Fiesta del Sol** in Pilsen, the **Avondale Health Fair**, and **HopeFest** with New Life Covenant in Humboldt Park.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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 25 community leaders, guides the direction of ChicagoCHEC along with two trained Community Health Educators (CHEs). Meet our Community Advisory Board and Leaders!

## OUR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

**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  
**Patricia Canessa**, Northwestern University  
**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  
**Shambreia McBrayer**, 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  
**Jered Pruitt**, Chinese American Service League  
**Fred Rachman**, Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services, LLC  
**Judy Panko Reis**, Access Living  
**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  
**Amy Schwartz**, CSC Affiliate  
**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 our 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. Visit IHSCA at <https://www.ihsca.org/>

### **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, Inc. Foundation (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 collaborations to promote "Healthier Lifestyles." Visit W.O.T. at [www.wotfoundation.com](http://www.wotfoundation.com).



Joanne Glenn (left) and Henrietta Barcelo (right) at the 2017 ChicagoCHEC Community Forum



## RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

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 **eleven** research teams through the **ChicagoCHEC Incubator, Catalyst Grant Program, and NCI supplement funding**. 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.**

### **ChicagoCHEC Incubator and Catalyst Pilot Projects:**

#### **ALAS-Wings**

*(Research Team: Mi Guía)*

#### **Illinois Tobacco Quitline**

*(Research Team: Choose to Change)*

#### **Near North Health**

*(Research Team: Choose to Change)*

#### **Access Living**

*(Research Team: WeCanConnect)*

#### **Project Brotherhood**

*(Research Team: Prostate Cancer Disparities & Citizen Scientist)*

#### **Puerto Rican Cultural Center**

*(Research Team: Obesity in Latino Men)*

**Mercy Hospital & Medical Center** *(Research Team: Breast Cancer Disparities)*

#### **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

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### ALAS Wings <http://alas-wings.org/>

*Asociación Latina de Asistencia y Prevención del Cáncer de Mama*

*ALAS-WINGS is making a difference in the Latino community by providing breast health awareness, education, and emotional support programs for Hispanic/Latina women and their families.*



Services offered include:

- Yoga classes and support groups
- Early detection and education
- Navigation through treatment

Associated Research Project: **Mi Guía**

### Access Living <https://www.accessliving.org/>

*Access Living's mission is to foster the dignity, pride, and self-esteem of people living with disabilities and enhance the options available to them so they may choose and maintain individualized and satisfying lifestyles.*



Services offered include:

- Peer-oriented independent living services
- Public education and awareness development
- Real-life training on practical know-how for living independently
- Disability rights advocacy at the individual, community, and national level

Associated Research Project: **WeCanConnect**

### Illinois Tobacco Quitline <http://quityes.org/index.php>

*The Illinois Tobacco Quitline is a free telephonic resource for individuals wanting to quit tobacco or tobacco-related products. The quitline's counselors all have at least 25 years of medical experience.*



Services offered include:

- Free educational tools
- Personal counseling and quitting programs
- NRT patches

Associated Research Project: **Choose to Change**

## Near North Health <http://www.nearnorthhealth.org>



*The mission of NNHSC is to provide access to high quality health care to improve the health, well-being, and safety of the diverse populations and communities they serve.*

Services offered include:

- Education, disease prevention, healthy behavior promotion
- Medical services (primary care, senior care, women's health, pediatrics, dental, pharmacy)
- Comprehensive services (mental health, domestic violence counseling, substance abuse)
- No one is denied services, regardless of income and immigration status

Associated Research Project: **WeCanConnect**

## Project Brotherhood <https://projectbrotherhood.net/>

*Project Brotherhood has developed a community based outreach and prevention program for African American men residing in Woodlawn and other surrounding south side communities of Chicago.*

Services offered include:

- Doctor visits
- Job readiness and resume development
- Manhood development
- Fatherhood classes



Associated Research Projects: **Prostate Cancer Disparity in Chicago-Area African American Men** and **Engaging Citizen Scientists to Combat Prostate Cancer**

## Puerto Rican Cultural Center <http://www.prcc-chgo.org/>

*The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) is a community-based, grassroots, educational, health and cultural services organization.*



Services offered include:

- Housing initiatives (El Rescate, El BOHIO Housing Services, Paseo Boricua Arts Center)
- Health initiatives (Trans Chicago, Diabetes Empowerment Center, L-Act)
- Education initiatives (Consuelo Lee Corretjer Day Care, PRCC-CPS Safe Passage Program)

Associated Research Project: **Reducing Obesity Among Puerto Rican & Mexican Men**

## Mercy Hospital & Medical Center <https://www.mercy-chicago.org/>

*Mercy offers services at locations throughout the diverse communities of Chicago. They provide a wide range of services across many medical specialties.*



Associated Research Project: **Molecular Approaches to Breast Cancer**

# OUR FUTURE LEADERS

## 2018 ChicagoCHEC Research Fellows



## Fellows Spotlight



### Juan Rojas -2016

Received a full scholarship to the prestigious Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago



### Randy Colon - 2017

Attending a 4 year university and is applying for a PhD



### Rut Ortiz - 2017

Recently employed as a Research Assistant in ChicagoCHEC, will attend graduate school



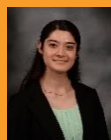
### Ricardo Ramirez - 2017

Obtaining a Masters degree in Occupational Therapy at UIC



### Afolake Olakanye - 2017

Recently employed by Aetna as an analyst



### Jessica Delgado -2017

Currently completing nursing school



### Elizabeth Breen-2016

Current PhD candidate at the University of California Berkeley

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

ChicagoCHEC fellows also provided near peer partnership to high school students that were part of the *Lurie CHASE your Dreams Discovering Healthcare Careers Program* by facilitating college preparation workshops. Fellows also participated in learning communities at UIC to strengthen health equity research knowledge. The learning communities were attended by students from UIC's *ResearchStart* and *GUIDE* programs. Fellows also participated in *Career 911: Your Future Career in Medicine & Healthcare*, a Massive Open Online Course developed by the Simon Lab at 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 reduce 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.



ChicagoCHEC at HopeFest in Humboldt Park, August 2018



ChicagoCHEC interns at the Avondale Health Fair.



ChicagoCHEC staff at the PACHE conference in Washington, DC.



Community organizations at the Avondale Health Fair.



Dr. Winn speaks at the official graduation of the 2018 ChicagoCHEC Fellows.

## 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



Lidia Filus, 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 2019 Annual ChicagoCHEC  
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@chicagochech.org](mailto:info@chicagochech.org).

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

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