

ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2019



***NAVIGATING THE
CANCER JOURNEY:
With Resources for
Early Detection to
Survivorship***

Join Our Cause
through Education,
Health Care, and
Research

FIGHTING CANCER EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



The Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (ChicagoCHEC) is a network of researchers, faculty, students, and community members working together to reduce cancer rates and improve health outcomes for those most affected.

We recognize that Chicagoans who live in neighborhoods that are underserved or who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups are more likely to suffer from cancer and less likely to receive the care they need. We want to change that. Our goal is cancer health equity. **All Chicagoans should have access to the best available resources to prevent, diagnose, treat, and manage cancer and to live satisfying lives as cancer survivors.**

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 fifth year, our commitment to design initiatives that expand community engagement, mobilize resources and build capacity 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 2019 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 2019

An overview of community engagement, research, education and training events ChicagoCHEC has been part of in 2019.

FEBRUARY 2019 – ChicagoCHEC hosts a **Community “CHEC-in”** with Instituto del Progreso Latino (Little Village) to talk about **cancer issues** and needs within their communities.

APRIL 2019: - ChicagoCHEC participates in the W.O.T. Foundation and Blue Hat Foundation’s “Truth Talking Tour: **Women’s Sexuality after Cancer**” event. ChicagoCHEC hosts a **CHEC-in** to talk about cancer at the **Diabetes Empowerment Center** (Humboldt Park). ChicagoCHEC fellows and investigators participate in a **Cancer Research Symposium** at UIC.

JUNE 2019 – ChicagoCHEC participates in the 26th Annual Lurie **Cancer Survivors Celebration Walk & 5k** and **jVive tu Vida!** Get Up! Get Moving! ChicagoCHEC investigators and staff attend the annual IDPH **Illinois Cancer Partnership meeting** in Springfield, IL. ChicagoCHEC participates in the “**Cancer Impacts All of Us: A Conversation with Survivors**” event.

FALL 2019 & BEYOND - The **4th Annual ChicagoCHEC Community Forum** takes place at Truman College in Uptown. ChicagoCHEC participates in the **African Festival of the Arts** in Washington Park.

JANUARY 2019 – ChicagoCHEC participates in **Cervical Health Month**. Application cycle for the ChicagoCHEC **Research Fellows Program** begins and we receive over 100 applicants.

MARCH 2019 – ChicagoCHEC hosts a **CHEC-in** with community partners **ALAS-Wings** and **Gilda’s Club** at Erie Family Health Center (West Town). The ChicagoCHEC team shares resources promoting cancer prevention and **diversity in clinical trials** at State Rep. Theresa Mah’s **3rd Annual Community Health Fair** at the Ping Tom Fieldhouse in Chinatown.

MAY 2019 – ChicagoCHEC participates in the 7th Annual W.O.T. Foundation **Butterfly Stroll** with Community Steering Committee Co-Chair Joanne Glenn. The **Citizen Scientist Research Project** Team hosts a **CHEC-in** about **prostate cancer** with Chicago Global Health Alliance at the NEIU Carruthers Center (South Side).

JULY & AUGUST 2019 – ChicagoCHEC participates in **Fiesta del Sol** in Pilsen and **HopeFest** in Humboldt Park and provides colorectal cancer education. **Senator Durbin** meets with ChicagoCHEC fellows to encourage them to pursue healthcare and science careers. **ChicagoCHEC summer fellows graduate** alongside researchStart, GUIDE and NEIU student programs.



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 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 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
Kathleen Boss, Gilda's Club Chicago
Amy Schwartz, CSC Affiliate
Esther Sciammarella, Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Carmen Velásquez, Founder and former Executive Director of Alivio Medical Center
Kyle Westbrook, Partnership for College Completion

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.



Henrietta Barceló (left) and Joanne Glenn (right)

COMMUNITY “CHEC-IN”

ChicagoCHEC is committed to working with communities to identify and address their needs regarding cancer health. One of the most important tools we use to do so is our Community “CHEC-In” program. A CHEC-In is a community conversation about cancer. Working with our Community Steering Committee, we identify community members and organizations and invite them to meet with members of the ChicagoCHEC team to answer questions and have a discussion about cancer. Our goal is to learn about people’s knowledge and experiences with cancer so that we better understand how we can help improve cancer prevention and care.

We have hosted CHEC-Ins with Women on Top of Their Game Foundation, Inc., ALAS-Wings, Gilda’s Club, Instituto del Progreso Latino, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center, and our very own Citizen Scientist project.



CHEC-In at Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy/
Instituto del Progreso Latino.



CHEC-In with ALAS-Wings and Gilda’s Club members at Erie
Family Health Center in West Town.



CHEC-In at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center – Diabetes
Empowerment Center in Humboldt Park.



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 its 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.

Using Smartphones to Advance Cancer Screening, Treatment, and Survivorship Support

Mi Guía (My Guide)

(Community Partner: ALAS-Wings)

Mi Guía makes use of the latest technology to address cancer health issues in Chicago communities. Mi Guía has partnered with ALAS-Wings to build an educational and support app that can be downloaded to a smartphone. This app helps improve symptoms and quality of life during and after treatment among Hispanic breast cancer survivors. My Guide was developed with assistance from Hispanic patients and community-based organizations.

WeCanConnect

(Community Partner: Access Living)

The We Can Connect app will offer people with disabilities and cancer one-to-one peer support, a community forum on relevant issues, and a virtual library of educational resources. Participants get to choose how they engage with the tool and with whom they interact. This ability to customize the user experience allows for personal choice and control, issues that are central to the disability rights movement.

Smoking and Cancer Health

Choose to Change

(Community Partner: Near North Health)

Choose to Change reduces cigarette smoking in our community and is meant to serve those in Chicago's underserved areas. Working with the Near North Health Community Health Centers and the Illinois Tobacco Quitline, CHEC has created a unique and new approach that helps cigarette smokers throughout our city's health centers. Choose to Change sends community health center patients a letter via mail followed by a text or voice message that is motivating, encouraging, and caring. Choose to Change offers free stop smoking coaching and free nicotine replacement medication from the Illinois Tobacco Quitline.

Engaging Community Members to Fight Prostate Cancer

Empowering Citizen Scientists

(Community Partner: Project Brotherhood)

ChicagoCHEC's research project, Citizen Scientists, trains community members to partner and participate in research that combats prostate cancer in African American men. The CHEC research team includes our community partner Project Brotherhood. The citizen scientists participating in this project collaborated with researchers to plan community events and to engage with their social networks with the goal of informing others about prostate cancer health and recruiting participants for the research.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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

Asociación Latina de Asistencia y Prevención del Cáncer de Mama

ALAS-Wings is an organization that provides breast health awareness, education, and emotional support for Hispanic/Latina women and their families.



Associated Research Project: **Mi Guía**

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



Near North is one of the largest providers of community-based primary health care in Chicago. They provide medical services, social services, and nutrition education to medically indigent and uninsured individuals and families.

Associated Research Project: **Choose to Change**

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

The Illinois Tobacco Quitline is a free resource to help people quit tobacco. They provide these resources via telephone and through their website. Their quitline counselors are highly experienced, with at least 25 years.



Associated Research Project: **Choose to Change**

Alliance Chicago <https://alliancechicago.org>

Alliance improves personal, community and public health through innovative collaboration. Their efforts are focused in information technology, research and education, and health care collaboration.



Associated Research Project: **Choose to Change**

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

Project Brotherhood is a community-based outreach and prevention program for African American men residing in Woodlawn and other southern communities of Chicago.

Associated Research Project: **Citizen Scientists**



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

As a community partner of ChicagoCHEC, Access Living worked closely with our researchers and software team to help develop a unique and specialized application that empowers Chicagoans with disabilities to live fully-engaged and self-directed lives.

Associated Research Project: **WeCanConnect**



W.O.T Foundation, Inc. http://www.wotfoundation.com/about_us

Women on Top of Their Game

The W.O.T. Foundation is not traditional and fondly known as a support group. It is a place to come for resources, assistance and navigation through the Survivorship journey and individualized care plan management.



**For more information on our community partners
please check out our Community Resource Guide!**

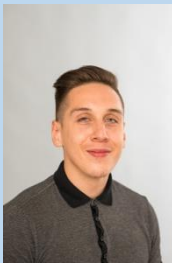
<https://chicagohec.org/resources/resource-guide/>

OUR FUTURE LEADERS

2019 ChicagoCHEC Research Fellows



Emamoke Oshobe



Kevin Muñoz



Oluwadamilola
Oyaluade



Mir Hassan



Jonathan Banks



Everardo Tafolla



Vanessa Martinez



Jacqueline Contreras



Viviana Uribe



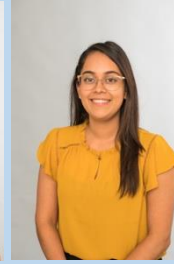
Alivia Heuer



Tynetta Hill



Nene Bah



Mayra Trujillo



Lashonya Phillips



Patrycja Budzky



Sarah Davis



Nihmotallahi Adebayo



Carmen Ward
Senior Fellow



Jasmine Richmond
Senior Fellow



Nnaemezie Ezeife
Senior Fellow

Every summer, ChicagoCHEC hosts its Summer Fellows Program. This eight-week training program provides Chicago university students from underrepresented groups with the opportunity to learn about cancer health equity from doctors, researchers, professors, and community organizers. Our goal is to both inform and inspire these Fellows as the next generation of physicians and cancer researchers who will carry ChicagoCHEC's mission forward.



2019 ChicagoCHEC LEaP Fellows



Norah Fanning



Alma Lechuga Ramos



Alexis Bains

Former ChicagoCHEC Fellows are encouraged to apply to our post-fellowship program, Learning Experiences and Programs (ChicagoCHEC LEaP), which offers a more traditional one-on-one mentoring experience. Through LEaP, fellows are matched with a mentor and provided an immersion experience in cancer research.



William Mati



Robynne Alegado



YOUR VOICE, YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR HEALTH

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Stay Involved with ChicagoCHEC

The ChicagoCHEC website 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 your community organizations! We work with organizations like yours by collaborating to provide education and outreach events, training opportunities, and other cancer health initiatives. 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

Are you or your organization working with underrepresented minorities who are interested in science and medicine? Link them to ChicagoCHEC! We have an annual CHEC Fellows Program and more! We have opportunities for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students



ChicagoCHEC Summer Fellows met with Senator Dick Durbin to discuss the importance of pursuing health equity research careers.



Vive Tu Vida – Get up Get Moving! 2019



Community partner Dolores Castañeda graduates with her Masters in Public Health from UIC.



Dr. Karriem Watson discussing prostate cancer with community members.



Robert H. Lurie Cancer Walk & 5K

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 2020 Annual ChicagoCHEC
Community Forum!**

Funding support for ChicagoCHEC is provided by the National Cancer Institute (grants U54CA202995, U54CA202997, and U54CA203000).

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

We welcome questions and comments from our readers. Please direct correspondence to info@chicagohec.org.

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

Twitter: @ChicagoChec

Facebook: ChicagoCHEC

Instagram: @teamchicagohec

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**THE
UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
AT
CHICAGO**



In The Loving Memory of Marca Bristo

Marca Bristo, founder of Access Living (a cherished community partner), passed away after a long battle with cancer on September 8, 2019. Marca was a community rights activist, co-founder of American National Council on Independent Living, founder of Access Living, our dear friend, and much more. Her impact on the Chicago community was wide spread and her legacy lives on within all those who practice what she preached.



"Marca Bristo leaves an incredible legacy of making the world most just and accessible for everyone in her community. Her work will live on with the countless friends and colleagues she inspired, including me. My thoughts are with Marca's family at this sad time."

– Governor J.B. Pritzker

"Marca Bristo was a force of nature. I was blessed to have known and learned from her, and disability rights took major leaps forward because of her tenacity."

– Bob Morgan

"Marca Bristo was one of the 1st people to reach out after my role at AAPD was announced. It meant the world to know how excited she was for me and for the community. Marca was a mentor, a friend, and at times a kind of parental figure. Rest in Peace, dear friend."

– Maria Town

"From the bottom of our hearts we thank Marca for her vision and her endless contribution towards creating both: an inclusive Chicago and uplifting livelihoods for ppl w/ disabilities. Rest in Peace."

– McCormick Foundation

"Today one of my best friends Marca Bristo passed away. Her leadership and love will continue through the lives of all she has touched. My heart goes out to her family who she loved so dearly."

– Judy Heumann

"Saddened to hear of the passing of Marca Bristo, a fierce advocate for disability rights who changed lives through the nationally-recognized nonprofit

she founded, Access Living. Her leadership will be missed. Keeping her family in my prayers during this difficult time."

– Mayor Lori Lightfoot

"An indefatigable advocate, teacher + dear friend of mine for over 20 years, Marca improved the lives of countless people with disabilities + made everyone she touched a better person."

– Valerie Jarrett

"Marca had a remarkable way of bringing out the best within us. For me, she was a trusted voice and a persistent, buoyant spirit – an example that progress can be slow, but it's always possible. We'll miss her, but we are better off because of her fight."

– Former President Barack Obama

"We mourn the loss of Marca Bristo – Political mentor, friend, and one of our nation's leading disability rights advocates. We will miss your love, spirit, optimism + advocacy."

– Ted Kennedy JR

"Saddened to hear that our beloved Marca Bristo has passed away. She was a true pioneer and taught us all the role we must play to bring full equality to people with disabilities."

– Helene Gayle

"[I was with her] Only a few weeks ago on July 23rd at AAPD 29th Anniversary Celebration – the landmark disability civil rights law she helped crafted. Had I known this was our final encounter, I'd have hugged her a little tighter."

– Claudia L. Gordon