

## Community Health Improvement Course (CHIC)

### Case for Action:

Student Doctors need to learn:

- How to improve significant community health issues affecting one's community.
- The appropriate methods to develop epidemiological studies using both quantitative and qualitative approaches.
- How to assess and control common community health problems.

### Description:

- Community Health Improvement Course (CHIC) is a required course for U of R 4<sup>th</sup> year Medical Students, which has 5 "Blocks" that last 4 weeks each. The Community and Preventive Medicine course number is PM400.
- Students are required to do a project that impacts the health of a specific population or community in the Rochester area. Students may put together their own project or choose from a growing number of projects that have been designed for a 4-week time period. The goal is to learn about, and participate in, public health interventions.
- Projects can be continuous from one block to the next or from one year to the next. A student or team of students can make a certain amount of progress, or impact, and a subsequent set of students can pick up where they left off.

### Partners/Funding:

Major partners with CHIC projects have included:

- UR Community & Preventive Med
- UR Office of Medical Education
- New York State Dept. of Health
- Monroe County Health Dept.
- American Heart Association
- Charles Settlement House
- American Cancer Society
- Smoking Research Program
- US Department of Justice
- US Depart. Of Environmental Medicine

### Outcomes:

A number of continuing and successful projects that have come from CHIC students include:

- Educational Presentations at School 17 (Enrique Fermi Elementary School): In 2002-2003 there were 4 educational classes/workshops to 6<sup>th</sup> graders during gym and/or health class periods.
- UR Well Student Outreach at St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center is a student-run initiative aimed at closing health care access gaps in the Rochester area.
- Strong Stories: One student created a video educating about helmet safety and accidental injury. This has developed into WXXI wanting to do a series of educational videos.

### For more information contact:

Scott McIntosh, PhD, Director  
RC PO Box 278969  
Rochester, NY 14627-8969  
(585) 758-7816

Duncan Ververs, Coordinator  
(585) 758-7827