

# Healthy Signs

August 2011

**Mission of NCDHR:**  
To promote health and prevent disease in the Deaf and hard of hearing populations through community-based participatory research.

## National Center for Deaf Health Research

### This Issue's Topics

As Fall Approaches, NCDHR Continues to Work Hard  
Recent Publications  
NCDHR Welcomes the New Fellows  
Welcome Back Erika Sutter  
Saying Goodbye to Poorna Kushalnagar  
The Interns Complete Their Work with NCDHR

Working for a Healthy Deaf Community

**NCDHR has some research Opportunities for you!**

There are a few research opportunities at the National Center for Deaf Health Research!

Please click on the links to the right to learn more and sign up to take our research studies!

## As Fall Approaches, NCDHR Continues to Work Hard

### Ice Cream Social

On Tuesday evening, August 23, NCDHR opened its doors for the first official open house in the new Saunders Research Building. This was no ordinary open house, however; this was an Ice Cream Social! Guests gathered in the atrium to learn about the different research projects, collect their free tote bags or wrist bands, take the Deaf Healthcare Survey if they desired, and eat ice cream.

To read the full article, [click here!](#)



### Another Successful Deaf Strong Hospital

On Friday, August 26, 40 Deaf Community members arrived early in the morning to prepare for yet another Deaf Strong Hospital, hosted by NCDHR and the University of Rochester. After hours of preparation and training, the community members were ready to begin. The rules of the day were, no voice, ASL only, and have fun!

To read the full article, [click here!](#)



### Meeting at NTID with President Gerry Buckley

On August 8, Dr. Thomas Pearson (NCDHR Director) and Dr. Steven Barnett (NCDHR Associate Director) attended a meeting at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) with Gerry Buckley (NTID President) and Jim DeCaro (NTID President Emeritus). The four discussed past, current and future collaborations between NTID and NCDHR including specific grant opportunities for deaf people to get the education needed to pursue biomedical research careers and the National Task Force on Health Care Careers for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people.

For more information about the Task Force on Health Care Careers, [click here!](#)

### Michael McKee Receives a Fellowship Opportunity

NCDHR is happy to announce that Dr. Michael McKee has recently been selected as one of 11 scholars chosen by the Virginia Commonwealth University School for Medicine's Department of Family Medicine to participate in a Grant Generating Project.

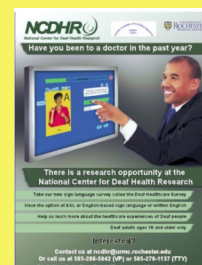
To read more on this project, [click here.](#)

## Deaf Weight Wise



First EVER healthy lifestyle research program for Deaf people.  
← Click here!

## Deaf Healthcare Survey



Help us learn more about healthcare experiences of Deaf people!  
← Click here

265 Crittenden Blvd. · CU 420644 · Rochester, NY 14642  
Phone: (585) 275-0560 · TTY: (585) 276-1137 · VP: (585) 286-2776 · Fax: (585) 461-4532  
www.urmc.edu/ncdhr · ncdhr@urmc.rochester.edu

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**NCDHR NEEDS YOU!**

NCDHR recently publishes the following articles. To read the full article, please click on the links provided.

## Recent Publications

- McKee M, Barnett S, Block R, Pearson T. **Impact of communication on preventive service use among Deaf American Sign Language users.** [Full Text](#)
- McKee M, Schlehofer D, Cuculick J, Starr M, Smith S, Chin NP. **Perceptions of Cardiovascular Health in an underserved Community of deaf adults using American Sign Language.** [Full Text](#)
- Mathews J, Parkhill A, Schlehofer D, Starr M, Barnett S. **Deaf Strong Hospital: A Role-Reversal Exercise Emphasizing Cultural Competency and Awareness.** [Full Text](#)
- Barnett S, McKee M, Smith S, Pearson TA. **Deaf sign language users, health inequities and public health: Opportunity for social justice.** [Full text](#)

## NCDHR Welcomes the New Fellows



**Tamala David**, PhD, MPA, MS, FNP, a Rochester native, received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing and her Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Healthcare and Non-profit Management from the State University of New York College at Brockport.

She also received her Master's degree in Nursing, with a specialty as a Family Nurse Practitioner, from the University of Rochester School of Nursing while concurrently completing her PhD in Health Practice Research at the same institution.

Dr. David grew up in a household with a deaf family member, so she also studied American Sign Language and Interpreting Education at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology during her undergraduate and graduate studies.

Dr. David's research interests include gaining an understanding of the health knowledge, health beliefs, and health behaviors of Deaf Sign Language users and identifying ways to promote health and prevent or manage diseases among under-served populations

(including racial/ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and especially, Deaf Sign Language users).



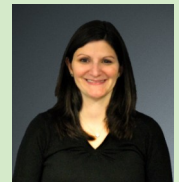
**Lisa M. Lowenstein**, PhD, MPH, RD is a new Preventive Cardiology Fellow in the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine. She is joining NCDHR from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she received her doctorate and Masters in Public Health in the

Department of Nutrition. Her dissertation examined barriers and facilitators to provide obesity counseling in pediatric primary care practices at the individual provider level, interpersonal level (provider-parent communication), and organizational level.

As a postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Lowenstein will focus on Deaf Weight Wise. In addition, she will pursue her other research interests regarding provider-parent communication about weight, diet, and physical activity and interventions to improve the assessment and management of childhood obesity in primary care practices.

## Welcome back Erika Sutter!

NCDHR is happy to welcome back Erika Sutter! Erika recently gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby boy named Lucas. He was born on April 25, 2011. After being on maternity leave, Erika has recently come back to continue working with NCDHR. We are all happy to have her back!



## Saying Goodbye to Poorna Kushalnagar!

Poorna Kushalanagar has recently accepted a teaching/research position at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Due to this recent hire, she will be leaving NCDHR. As she moves on, NCDHR wishes her the best of luck and thanks her for all her hard work.



## The Interns Complete their Work with NCDHR

After a lot of hard work, NCDHR is saddened to say goodbye to the three interns, Heather Anderson, Kyle Gahagan, and Tara Holaday. These three interns worked very hard and assisted NCDHR in many different ways. They were always very friendly, cheerful and a lot of fun to have around. NCDHR greatly thanks them for all their efforts and wishes them the best of luck in their futures!

