

# Healthy Signs

National Center for Deaf Health Research February 2015  
Rochester Prevention Research Center

## First Town Hall Meeting

Discussing Results from Deaf Health Survey 2013



Sharing RESULTS  
from the new survey

### NCDHR Happenings

Data Blitz at the University  
of Rochester: Hosted by the  
RPRC

### Bridges

New Scholars in the Bridges  
Program: Lorne Farovitch

## NCDHR Happenings

## Bridges

# First Town Hall Meeting

## Discussing results from Deaf Health Survey 2013

The first of three Town Hall Meetings/ Community Forums was hosted by the Rochester Prevention Research Center on Wednesday, January 28th from 4pm-7pm. Meeting attendees were able to learn about the most recent Deaf Health Survey results. The following results were shared and discussed: who took the survey, including education and income levels, and general deaf demographics. Cardiovascular risks were also discussed: obesity, diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol, smoking cessation, etc. The NCDHR team would like to say "THANK YOU" to those who were able to attend. We thoroughly enjoyed all discussions and receiving feedback on the results shown. We look forward to continuing our work with the community.



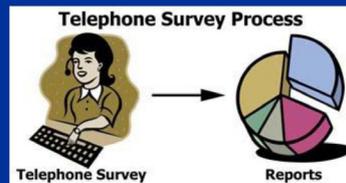
### Health Surveys in Rochester

- Monroe County Department of Public Health
  - Telephone surveys every 5 to 6 years
  - Random selection of household phone numbers
  - Between 1,500 – 2,500 respondents
  - Surveys are used to monitor community health and select health priority topics



### But...

- Deaf people are not included!



So how do we learn about the health of the Deaf community?

**SAVE THE DATE  
FOR THE NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING  
February 24th, 2015!**

Time and location will be announced soon, please [check our website for updates](#).

For more information regarding upcoming town hall meeting please contact:

**Kelly Matthews**  
[Kelly\\_Matthews@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Kelly_Matthews@urmc.rochester.edu) 585-512-8519. (VP)

## NCDHR Happenings

## Bridges

### Data Blitz at the University of Rochester

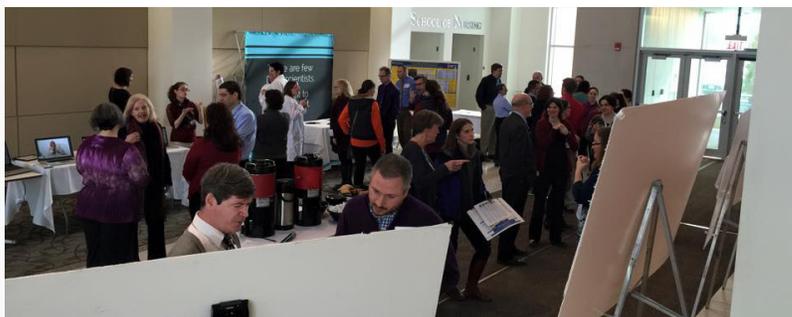
Hosted by the Rochester Prevention Research Center

On Wednesday, January 21, the Rochester Prevention Research Center (RPRC) hosted a one-hour “Data Blitz” in the Saunders Research Building at the University of Rochester Medical Center. The “Data Blitz” monthly series in the Saunders Research Building allows different research groups to showcase their work to others in the building as well as to the University community. RPRC had over 10 different displays and activities happening during the hour, some of which included:



- Research posters presenting methods and findings from the recently completed Deaf Weight Wise research program
- Research posters presenting findings from Dr. Scott Smith’s research on Cardiovascular Health Literacy in Deaf Adolescents
- Poster display describing RPRC’s sign language-based survey software, developed along with NTID/RIT faculty member Dr. Vincent Samar
- Meet and greet with faculty, staff, and students from the Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate Program, the UR and RIT partnership that works with deaf and hard-of-hearing students in RIT MS programs as they transition to PhD programs
- Information about research happening now related to the topic of Informed Consent with Deaf Adults, a partnership with the Deaf Wellness Center
- A large display showing several American Sign Language videos, developed and produced by RPRC/ NCDHR, including a video from the Deaf Moms and Breastfeeding community-led project
- Q & A about Deaf Strong Hospital, a role reversal exercise for first-year medical students, hosted annually by RPRC
- A representative of one of RPRC’s Community Committees, Don Bataille, Co-Chair of Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2), talked about HL2 and set up an Induction Loop System for people to try out using a headset, to simulate one type of assistive listening device used by people who wear hearing aids.

Over 50 people attended the Data Blitz, which was a great way for the University Community to learn more about RPRC’s activities and accomplishments.



All photos by Jessica Cuculick and Nikki Cherry

NCDHR  
Happenings

## Bridges

### New Scholars in the Bridges Program

Lorne Farovitch

I was born in Vancouver B.C., Canada and grew up in Arizona. My wonderful deaf parents raised me along with two hearing siblings. I went to Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind because my parents wanted me to have full access to learning through American Sign Language. After graduating from high school, I went to Gallaudet University and graduated with two degrees in Biology and Chemistry. I am fascinated with science. Science has many different and interesting areas that I was not sure about until I saw Rochester Bridges to Doctorate Program.

The Bridges Program is perfect for me because it helps me narrow down to an area of science that I am most interested in. Currently, I am a graduate student in environmental science and am interested in doing research on the survival of various pathogens in surface water, sediments and soils.

Story from <http://deafscientists.com/about/bridges-scholars/>



## What is the Bridges program?

Deaf people and people with hearing loss are strikingly underrepresented among doctoral-prepared biomedical and behavioral scientists in the U.S. The long-term goal of the Rochester Bridges Program is to increase the number of Deaf students and students with hearing loss who go on to research careers in the behavioral and biomedical sciences. RPRC is working with faculty from NTID to help bridge between RIT and UR programs. The objective of this project is to develop, implement, and evaluate a model program, which integrates individual and institutional activities to improve students' preparation as they advance toward completion of doctoral degrees in biomedical and behavioral sciences.

To learn more about the bridges program, go to [www.deafscientists.com](http://www.deafscientists.com).



**Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate**

NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF | UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



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



265 Crittenden Blvd. • Box 708 • Rochester, NY 14642  
Phone: (585) 275-0560 • VP: (585) 286-2776 • Fax: (585) 276-1256  
[www.urmc.edu/ncdhr](http://www.urmc.edu/ncdhr) • [ncdhr@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:ncdhr@urmc.rochester.edu)

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