

SPECIAL EDITION 2009



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"Because health is more than medical care"



PLC Community Partnerships

PLC MISSION STATEMENT
To inspire and enable health care professionals to participate in community-based partnerships, evidence-based programs and advocacy to improve the health of children and families.

The **Pediatric Links with the Community (PLC) Program** was founded 13 years ago, in 1996, as a resident education program in community health & child advocacy, and will have trained **403** residents by the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. Each year, pediatric, medicine-pediatric, family medicine residents and pediatric nursing Students participate in a two-week community-based rotation where residents learn first-hand about critical community factors affecting child health, while interacting with over 50 community-based organizations in the Rochester area. The rotation serves as a connection between the residents and the community they serve.

In 2000, the PLC Program and the Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong were awarded a grant from the national Dyson Foundation which allowed the program to expand resident education to include the **Child Advocacy Resident Education Track (CARE)**. The CARE Track has facilitated additional partnerships between second and third year residents and the community, developing critical skills for residents while also benefiting children in the Rochester area as each resident works on a two-year longitudinal project. The CARE Track includes a two-week intensive training block for senior residents in public health policy, project development, implementation and evaluation, cultural competency, and leadership, along with mentoring from both community experts and academic faculty. Since the CARE Track was implemented, there have been **76** resident participants whose project areas have reflected a wide variety of child health issues and a growing number of community partners.

PLC continues to offer consultation and training to colleagues in the School of Nursing, Family Medicine, Community and Preventive Medicine, Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) and Child Psychology.

The 2008-09 Senior Chief Residents/Assistant Directors for PLC, Drs. Sandra Beirne, Deepa Camenga, Marc Lavender, Carolina Marcus and Kellin King have each contributed to the PLC experience this year through either direct involvement with residents on rotation, specific curriculum improvements, or through efforts to further develop community partnerships. Sandi Tu has continued to work in conjunction with *ABC Head Start*, to incorporate a health education curriculum at the Hart Street Center that is taught by residents on PLC. Dr. Caren Gellin teaches a session on legislative advocacy designed for residents on their PLC rotation, to provide them with skills that help them to advocate for children and families. Dr. Thomas-Taylor conducts a domestic violence and poverty session designed to teach the residents the essential learning objectives of the rotation and to provide them with resources for the children and families they serve.

CARE Track Resident Community Partnerships 3rd Year Residents

Asim Abbasi, MD and Kiran Raman, MD

Refugee children face special risks to their healthy development and available services are not always prepared to address these problems. Drs. Raman and Abbasi have developed an orientation photo-book to ease the severe adjustment of political refugees.

This project is funded by a grant from the CPAC Small Grants Program sponsored by the PLC Program and Dr. Michael and Mrs. Angela Pichichero.

Stephanie deWit, MD

Adolescent pregnancy continues to be one of our most challenging public health issues. This project focuses on effectively evaluating In-Control, a teen pregnancy prevention program in Rochester. Data supporting the success of this program will help increase grant funding and thereby further In-Control's mission of preventing teen pregnancy.

This project is funded by a grant from the CPAC Small Grants Program sponsored by the PLC Program and Dr. Michael and Mrs. Angela Pichichero.

Kristy Healy, MD and Dana Work, DO

Drs. Healy and Work share a concern with the low high school graduation rates in the city of Rochester. Variables such as absenteeism, early parenthood, violent behavior, and substance abuse are all factors that have been found to contribute towards low high school graduation rates. Mentoring programs, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, have been shown to have a beneficial effect on graduation rates through influencing these variables. Together with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Rochester, Drs. Healy and Work are working to develop a medically based curriculum, termed Healthy Connections, for individuals participating in the program. The seminar series is interactive and utilizes the knowledge base of local medical professionals who are experts in their fields.

Lindsey Nelson, MD

Dr. Lindsey Nelson is interested in improving literacy within the first grade "developmental window" through training and organizing a group of community volunteers in early literacy techniques. She has initiated a year-long intervention at School #12 with the help of Principal Liguori-Alampi and others, focused on professional development to enable volunteers to create positive, ongoing reading relationships with children. They have utilized the help of an outside consultant skilled in early literacy techniques based on the relational aspects of Reading Recovery.

This project is funded by a grant from the CPAC Small Grants Program sponsored by the PLC Program and Dr. Michael and Mrs. Angela Pichichero.

2nd Year Residents

Jennifer Cameron, MD, Sarah Collins-McGowan, MD, Sue Gasparino, MD, and LeKeyah Quinn, MD

This team will build on the success of the project of Dr. Stephanie deWit (see above) using the same approach as at In-Control; they will expand evidence-based outcomes evaluation to other youth development programs in the Rochester area including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Rochester, the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester and Successful Pathways, Inc.

Jara Johnson, DO

Dr. Johnson will collaborate with the School of the Holy Childhood, an educational facility for children and adults with developmental disabilities, to develop a school garden program to maximize youth development.

Melissa Schafer, MD

There are many reasons kids with asthma suffer from uncontrolled disease in our community. The parents, pediatricians, and school nurses are all seeking the same goal, and yet still the needs of the patient go unmet. An area of need was identified when the Rochester Community Asthma Network (RCAN) met with school nurses in August of 2008 and the nurses voiced frustration with lack of communication between themselves and the pediatricians. This is a pilot, which seeks to close the communication gap, and bring kids with uncontrolled asthma to the attention of the pediatrician in a more timely manner.

Steve Schulz, MD

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) is a nurse home visiting program that works with first time mothers from low socioeconomic backgrounds in order to help them develop the skills to provide the best possible care for their children. It works with families prenatally through 2 years of age. It is estimated 10-20% of families will need continued support beyond this age. Our aim is to collaborate with Parents As Teachers (PAT) and Incredible Years (IY) to provide this additional support.

1st Year Resident

Andrew Sherman, MD

Dr. Sherman will be continuing work he began as a medical student, delivering insecticide-treated bed nets and health education to impoverished malaria-infested areas in West Africa.

Child Psychology Post-Doctoral Fellows

Sabrina Chow, PhD

Dr. Chow is interested in implementing a mental health intervention for parents from low-income families by increasing overall mental health awareness and reducing psychological symptoms in parents in order to improve child mental health outcomes.

Michael Teisl, PhD

This project describes a collaborative effort to develop training modules on child development and emotional wellness issues for kinship care peer-mentors. In addition, the goals of the project include measuring the effectiveness of the modules, which may contribute to the dissemination of the program to other communities. Funding for the project comes from a Multigenerational-Civic Engagement Initiative grant awarded by the National Council on Aging with an overall objective of identifying, elevating, and replicating "locally derived exceptional programs."

With Thanks to Our Many Community Partners,

Including:

911 Rochester Emergency Communications Department
ABC - Head Start Program
ABVI / 2-1-1
Advocacy Center
AIDS Rochester, Inc.
Alternatives for Battered Women (ABW)
American Lung Association
ArcWorks
Baby Love/REEP
Bethany House
Better Days Ahead Meeting Group
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Rochester
Bivona Child Advocacy Center
The Boys and Girls Club of Rochester
Building Healthy Children
Cameron Community Ministries
Camp Broncho Power - Asthma Camp
Catholic Family Center
Child Protective Services
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Children's Center
Coffee Connection
CompassionNet
CP Rochester
Crestwood Children's Center
Crisis Nursery of Greater Rochester
Culver Medical Group
Daystar
DePaul: Avenues to Independence
Early Intervention
East Rochester School District
Epilepsy Foundation
Facilitated Enrollment (CHIP)
Family Resource Centers of Crestwood
Foodlink, Inc.
Grace Community Village, Inc.
Harley School
Healthy Home
Hillside Children's Center
In-Control
Jennifer House - Male and Female Prison Outreach
Lakeside Child and Family Center
Lifetime Care
Mary Cariola Children's Center
Mercy Outreach Center
Monroe County Courts
Mount Hope Family Center
Nielsen House
Parents as Teachers
Pathways to Peace
Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region, Inc.
Peter Castle Family Resource Center
RCAN
REACH Program
Rochester City Police Department Ride Along Unit
Rochester Committee on Refugee Resettlement
Rochester Parent Network
Rochester City School District
Rochester School for the Deaf
School of the Holy Childhood
Society for the Protection and Care of Children (SPCC)
Southwest Family Resource Center
Starlight Pediatrics
Successful Pathways, Inc.
Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services
Volunteers of America
Wilson Commencement Park
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
YMCA

&

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