# Increasing Awareness of the Immigrant Farmworker Community: Health Barriers and Solutions



Shireen Saxena, Candidate for Distinction in Community Health University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry



### Background

- Immigrant workers in the upstate NY region are a key part of the local economy and community.
- An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 migrant, seasonal, and dairy farmworkers across New York play an essential role in the state's multi-billion dollar agricultural economy.
- Yet, educational gaps prevent providers from properly addressing barriers to health care and providing patient-centered care specific to the lives of these individuals.

#### **Main Community Partner**

Alianza Agrícola







## Objectives

- To raise awareness about the immigrant worker communities in upstate NY and the specific barriers to healthcare they face
- To educate healthcare providers and providers in training on providing competent care to immigrant workers

RURAL &

## **Community Partners**













**GENESEO** 



## Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge Luis Jimenez and the other members of the Alianza Agricola, my co-organizers and fellow medical students including Jess, Chance, Mahima, V, Ari, Tresne, Betsy, and Allison, the multiple community partners & organizations, and finally, our foundational educators committed to community health, Dr. Theresa Green and Carolyn Settle for the life-changing experiences I have had in community health over the past 5 years.

### Methods

- In 2019, a pilot education event was held to raise awareness of the barriers faced by this marginalized population. URMC medical students collaborated with the Alianza Agricola leadership and the URMC Student Outreach office to organize a full-day conference on immigrant farmworker health.
- Conference attendees were encouraged to complete pre-conference and post-conference surveys.
- In 2021, to ensure sustainability of this work, a toolkit was created in addition to a new educational event and curricular development.

### Conference Results



Fig. 1: Pre-conference Survey. Conference attendees Fig. 2: Post-conference Survey. Conference attendees responded to 4 statements prior to the conference. responded to 4 statements after the conference.

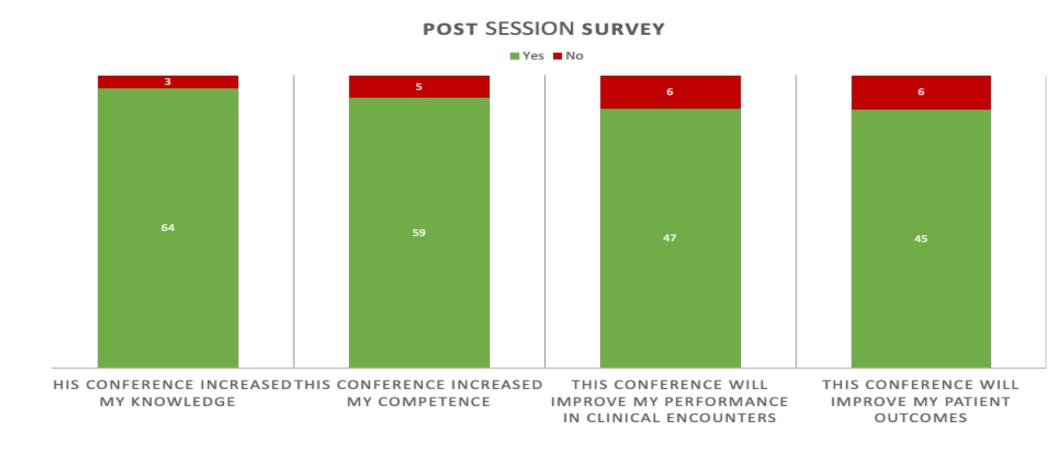


Fig 3. Post Conference Survey, (continued). . Additionally, in the post-conference survey, the majority of respondents agreed that the conference would impact their clinical care and their patient's health

Figures obtained from presentation by URMC medical students (Jess, Chance, Mahima, and Veronica)

### Conference Remarks

- There is a gap in medical education regarding the care of immigrant worker communities
- The conference successfully narrowed this gap by increasing: Knowledge, Competence, Future clinical care & patient outcomes (as expected by respondents)
- Additional outcome: Sustainable partnerships were built to advocate with and for the immigrant worker community



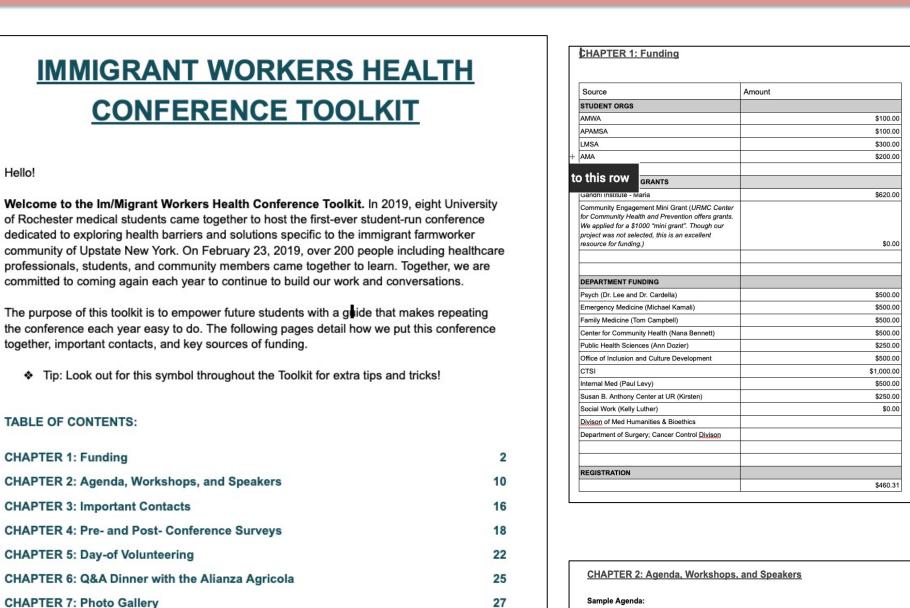




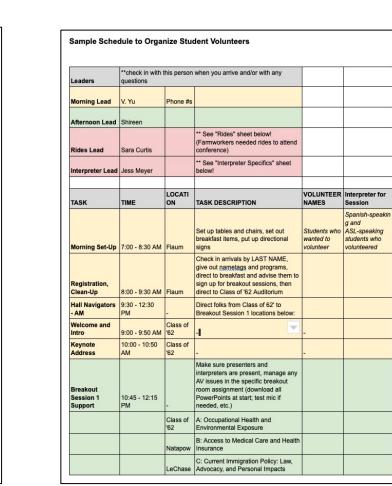


## Rebuilding Sustainable Collaboration

#### (1) Immigrant Health Conference Toolkit – Key Deliverable



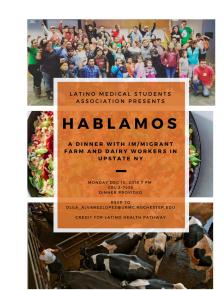
CONFEDENC	:E PROGRAM	im/migrant worker conference HEALTH CARE BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS							
08:30 - 09:00	REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST Foyer and Flaum Atrium								
09:00 - 09:10									
09:10 - 09:50	WELCOME  IMMIGRATION 101: IMMIGRANT FARMWORKERS IN WNY Paola Macas Betchart, Workers Justice Center of New York  Class of 62 Auditorium								
09:50 - 10:00	BREAK	#*	****						
0:00 - 10:50	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: OUR STORIES, OUR HEALTH Members of the Alianza Agrícola Class of 82 Auditorium								
10:50 - 11:00	BREAK	SPONSORS	PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS						
1:00 - 12:00	BREAKOUT SESSION ONE Various Locations, see page 3	This conference is reade possible by directions from our generous operance;  Closed & Translational Science Institute, presenting queries:	A special thanks to the following organizations for lending their time and expertise to n conference possible:						
12:00 - 01:00	LUNCH AND TOPIC TABLES Foyer and Flaum Atrium	Come for Community Search & Searches  They of Entrangency Searches  The Entrangenc	Allanza Agricola  Campaign for NY Health						
01:00 - 02:00	BREAKOUT SESSION TWO Various Locations, see page 4	State of Parallel State of Sta	Finger Lakes Community Health Mujeres Divines New York Cyll Liberties Union						
02:00 - 02:10	BREAK	Steps of Public Warehit Sciences Science & Advisorate Contrast Science & Advisorate Contrast	Ragid Response Network						
2:10 - 03:00	CLOSING REMARKS Members of the Alianza Agricola Class of '62 Auditorium	© NITTION  Additionally, the following souther group operators  Left World in South Association  Association in the Southern Sout	hard Milgrant Ministry SURV Genesion Worker Justice Center of New York University of Rochester						
		American Medical Worker's Association Association Association Medical Studies Association	And to the Center for Advocacy, Community Health, and Education and Diversity (CAC) UISSMO for their unwavering support and generosity						
		And a special thank you to frager Lukes Coffee for their generous direction							
			·						



Р	ost-	Conference S	Survey:											
	lm/r	nigrant Wor	ker Confer	ence: Hea	alth	care Barri	iers and	Sol	utions	Post-S	urvey			
1.	Please rate the impact of of the following learning objectives.													
	As a result of attending this conference, I am better able to:						Strong Agree		Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Stro		
		reciate the expe k and their barrie	upstate New											
		gage and build pa anizations advoc												
		r healthcare prov	uired skills to											
2.		Please mark	the session y	ou attended	d du	ıring Breakoı	ut Sessio	n On	e:		•	•		
	_	☐ Occupational Health and ☐ Current Immi						gration Policy:						
3.		Please rate ti	ne above sess	ion:										
		Excellent	Above Avera	ge	Av	erage	Below Av	erage		Poor				
4.		Please mark	the session v	ou attended	d du	ıring Breako	ut Sessio	n Tw	o:					
	0	The Southern Border  Gommunity-Based Research in Im/migrant												
5.		Please rate ti	ne above sess	ion:										
		Excellent	Above Avera	ige	Av	erage	Below Av	erage		Poor				
6.		I am familiar	with the advo	cacy organ	izat	ions working	with im/	migra	ant work	ers in NY	:			
		Strongly Agree	Agr	ee	Ne	eutral	Disagree		Strong	gly Disagre	е			
7.		This program	was fair, bala	anced, and	free	from comm	ercial bia		. No -1		I			
								_	i No, pi	ease expla	in:			
8.		Overall, I was	s satisfied wit	h this educ	atio	nal conferen	ce:		ı No					
9.		[For healthca	re providers/	students] P	leas	se rate the im	pact of t	his a	ctivity o	n the follo	wing:			
	This o	onference increa	sed my knowled	ige				Yes,	please d	escribe:			N	
	This o	onference increa	sed my compet	ence				Yes,	please d	escribe:		ū	N	
	This o	onference will im	prove my perfor	mance in clir	nical	encounters		Yes,	please d	escribe:		0	N	
	This o	onference will im	prove my patier	nt outcomes			٥	Yes,	please d	escribe:		٥	N	

### (2) Hablamos: Annual Dinner with the Alianza Agricola

#### (3) Educational Curricular Development



WOMEN'S HEALTH | Louise Slaughter Room Librada Paz, Rural Migrant Ministry Mia Bocanegra, Mujeres Divinas "Farmworkers, Migrant workers: Living Life 101"

This year, to ensure sustainability of the work that was started in the past few years, I have connected current leadership of LMSA with the Alianza Agricola toward the above three aims:

- (1) A toolkit to ensure easy running of a future conference has been handed down
- (2) A Q&A Dinner session for the Alianza leadership in partnership with medical students in March 2022
- (3) Meetings with faculty are ongoing to explore addressing this critical gap in our education in a sustainable way

## Reflections and Impact

- Overall, this project has really been a humbling experience, which has shown me the power we as a community hold when we come together behind a single cause.
- The unexpected expansion of this distinction project was an incredible lesson to me about the importance of space for community members to self-determine needs and goals of a community project as it grows. This led to part 2 & 3 of the "Rebuilding Sustainable Collaboration" portion of this project.
- Meaningful structural change requires persistence, time, and community-based initiative. I consider myself lucky to have been able to work longitudinally with the Alianza Agricola for the past 5 years; however, the relationship must be between sustainable institutions not just a few individuals. Thus, I am very grateful for all the other medical students and faculty here at the U of R who are committed to carrying on the work we have started together with the Alianza leadership for years to come.
- Future Paths: (1) One educational event annually with the Alianza. (2) Can explore creation of an elective or outreach group for students to go to farms directly and offer healthcare. Please see my classmate Jess' excellent project addressing access to healthcare for the migrant farmworker community.