The Hoekelman Center

(CARE Block 2017)

"Connecting, Advocating, Researching, and Educating in our communities to do what works for health"

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The Hoekelman Center is a unit of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Rochester.
CARE Track & Global CARE
The Community Health & Advocacy Resident Education (CARE) Track is an elective longitudinal experience starting in the second year of residency. More than 177 residents have done CARE Track. CARE starts with a two-week “mini-MPH” block, which covers the essentials of health policy, project development, evaluation, cross cultural communication, leadership and other areas needed for effective community-based projects. CARE project areas are determined by residents’ interests. Current CARE projects involve: addressing social determinants of health in clinic, decreasing diabetes morbidity and infant mortality in India, fighting obesity, improving health literacy, STD prevention, education for refugee families, preventing malaria, etc.

Selected Former CARE Projects

Contraceptive Implant Training for Residents
Emily Nebzydoski, MD
Dr. Nebzydoski in collaboration with the LARC initiative (see below) organized training in Nexplanon insertion for all the pediatrics residents. This will help remove an important barrier to teen pregnancy prevention. She presented research on her project at the 2016 PAS meeting.

Evidenced-Based Contraception
Hilary Yehling, MD and Anne Huber, MD
Drs. Yehling and Huber did academic detailing in primary care clinics to encourage use of evidence-based contraception. This project led to the community-level LARC initiative, supported by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation. This project provides information on Long Acting Reversible Contraception to adults who talk to teens in medical settings, as well as in the community.

Coping Power
Sara Horstmann, MD
Dr. Horstmann’s CARE project Coping Power that she started with three fellow residents grew to be in 17 schools in the Rochester City School District. She replicated PLC/CARE in Albany where a team of residents won the 2014 AAP Dyson Award for community projects. She is now replicating PLC/CARE in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Kids Thrive 585
Megan Lasaponara, MD
Dr. Lasaponara’s, former CARE project continued as Kids Thrive 585, a nonprofit that empowers all those who advocate for children to connect with passionate and committed community-based organizations in the greater Rochester area.

Helping Babies Breathe
Oliver Salmon, DO
Dr. Salmon is one of several residents who have helped to deliver the AAP sponsored Helping Babies Breathe program. Dr. Nirupama Laroia, a URMC neonatologist has mentored several residents on trips to India. They presented on their work at the 2017 PAS meeting.

Medical School PLC or Care Block Courses
Peds 661 – Child Advocacy Elective (CARE Block) – Advanced 2-week elective to enhance skills in community health practice and advocacy.

Peds 662 – Pediatric Links with the Community (PLC) – 2-week elective that enhances knowledge about community-oriented and community-based health care.

CHIC - The Community Health Improvement Course-4th year medical students can spend the 4-week CHIC block working on a CARE project with residents. Research Students can work longitudinally on community health research projects in the Hoekelman Center. Some have spent the summer doing so.

Since 2015, all 1st year medical students in the primary care clerkship participate in the innovative Rochester Exploration Experience.

Since 2018, residents can receive credits toward an MPH for participation in CARE Track.