

# Healthy Signs

National Center for Deaf Health Research December 2014  
Rochester Prevention Research Center

## NCDHR Happenings

Prevention Research Centers  
Meeting

NCDHR to Give a Presentation

## Bridges

Gloria Wink Presents to UR  
New Scholars in the Bridges  
Program

## Research

CDC Grants Awarded to  
RPRC: Funding new projects

## HL2

Day of Hearing HL2  
Presentation

Where are they now?

Jennifer Hu

## Other Community Engagements

Fall Conference on CBPR:  
RPRC/NCDHR Attends

*Happy Holidays  
from RPRC*

**RPRC's New  
Approach  
to Community  
Engagement**

## RPRC's New Approach to Community Engagement

an article from Steven Barnett, RPRC Director



Click on the image above to watch this short vlog.

The Rochester Prevention Research Center (RPRC) has a strong commitment to community based participatory research (CBPR). CBPR is a way to involve community partners in all stages of RPRC research. RPRC has grown tremendously since we opened in 2004, and much of that growth has been with our work with the Deaf community. We want to continue to strengthen our community partnerships and collaborations, and our growth creates opportunities for new collaborations and partnerships.

### **An example of our growth**

In 2005, Deaf and hearing researchers and community members worked together on one (very large) RPRC research project: creating an accessible and appropriate health survey. In 2013, Deaf and hearing researchers and community members worked together on more than 14 distinct projects or programs associated with RPRC. Some of these were research projects (like [Deaf Weight Wise](#)), some were public health programs (like the [Deaf Farm Stand](#)), and some were education programs (like [Deaf Strong Hospital](#)).

*Continued on next page*

We value CBPR and carefully considered ways to grow our community partnerships to match the growth of RPRC projects and programs. After discussion with many stakeholders we decided on a new approach for RPRC collaboration with the Deaf Community. We are forming several small community committees, one for each RPRC project. This approach is based on a model used by Barbara Israel, a well-known CBPR researcher from the University of Michigan [see page 8 for a story on Dr. Israel's visit to URMC].

Some advantages of multiple small community committees, one for each project:

- More people from the community can be involved with RPRC activities
- With more people, RPRC will have the benefit of more diverse perspectives, improving our current projects and plans for the future
- Community members who want to work with RPRC will have more options to choose from (several community committees, one for each RPRC project)
- Community members can work with RPRC on a project (or more than one project) that specifically matches their interests
- Work on one small community committee means that more people with limited time can now work with RPRC projects

We are enthusiastic about implementing this approach. We look forward to continuing to work with the people and Deaf community organizations we know well, and to meeting and working with individuals and groups who are new to RPRC.

Please let us know what you think.

[NCDHR@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:NCDHR@urmc.rochester.edu) or VP: 585-512-8519



**Steven Barnett, MD**  
RPRC Program Director

Photo by Mark Benjamin

NCDHR  
Happenings

Bridges

Research

HL2

Where are they now?

Other Community  
Engagements

## Prevention Research Centers Meeting RPRC team members attend

Some members of the Rochester Prevention Research Center (RPRC) attended the Prevention Research Centers (PRC) Kick-off Meeting in Atlanta, held at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in early November. This PRC Kick-off Meeting was hosted by the PRC Program within the CDC, and included representatives from all 26 PRCs that are starting a new five-year project cycle.



Representatives from Rochester included:

**Steve Barnett**, RPRC Program Director / Principal Investigator

**Don Bataille**, co-chair of Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2), one of the community committees within RPRC

**Kelly Matthews**, RPRC Outreach Coordinator and Research Coordinator

**Erika Sutter**, RPRC Center Coordinator and Research Coordinator

**Dina Zeplin**, a Rochester Deaf community member involved with RPRC/NCDHR

The RPRC team had an opportunity to present about our Center's work, and described our community partnerships, core research projects, and education and training programs. We also learned more about research at other PRCs, other models of community collaboration, and opportunities for networking and collaboration within other divisions and programs at the CDC.

Communication access was provided through sign language interpreter services, real-time captioning, and assistive listening devices. Two sign language interpreters from Rochester, Patti Gates and Lisa Prinzi, worked together with another interpreter team from the Atlanta area. Our team would like to thank everyone involved in ensuring communication access throughout the meeting.



We would like to thank community members Dina Zeplin and Don Bataille for travelling to Atlanta with us and representing RPRC's work with two communities: the Rochester Deaf community and the community of people with hearing loss. RPRC looks forward to more opportunities to share our work and to learn from other PRCs and the CDC.



## NCDHR Happenings

### RPRC/NCDHR to Give a Presentation Come and learn more about our work

The Saunders Research Building (SRB), at the University of Rochester Medical Center, has a new monthly series called a "Data Blitz." Each Data Blitz is one hour, and allows different departments/research groups in the SRB to showcase their work to others in the SRB as well as across the University (it is open to anyone).

RPRC/NCDHR was selected to give our Data Blitz on **Wednesday, January 21st**, from **12:00-1:00pm** in the **SRB Atrium/Lobby at 265 Crittenden Blvd. Rochester, NY 14642.**

We look forward to seeing you there!

## NCDHR Happenings

### Bridges

### Research

### HL2

### Where are they now?

### Other Community Engagements

## Measuring the Emission Efficiency & Nicotine Delivery of Electronic Cigarettes

### Gloria Wink presents to UR

On November 13, 2014, Gloria Wink, a second-year scholar in the UR/RIT Bridges to the Doctorate program, gave a presentation at the University of Rochester (UR) on emission efficiency and Nicotine delivery of electronic cigarettes.

#### What was her presentation about? Gloria Wink explains:

Electronic cigarettes have emerged in the marketplace with very little research having been conducted on their health impact to users and to others, especially in an indoor air environment. To remedy the gap in knowledge about electronic cigarette emissions, we have developed a technique to measure their emission efficiency and nicotine delivery. Prior to puffing, the disposable electronic cigarettes were dissected, the nicotine containing solution was extracted with methanol, and analyzed gravimetrically and

by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) to determine the contents of un-puffed devices. The aerosolized emissions of electronic cigarettes were collected on filter pads through our in-house built puffing machine, the contents of the filters were extracted, and also analyzed gravimetrically and by GC-MS. Five popular brands of electronic cigarettes (Blu, Criss Cross, Encore, Swisher and White Cloud Fling) were studied and showed varying emission efficiencies under our puffing regime that corresponded to differing levels of nicotine delivery. Our results also shows that there are discrepancies between the nicotine concentrations reported on packaging by manufacturers and our analytical results. This study works toward a better understanding of the health impact of relatively new electronic cigarettes on consumers and also to those in the indoor air environment.



Picture compliments of Nikki Cherry

NCDHR  
Happenings

**Bridges**

Research

HL2

Where are they now?

Other Community  
Engagements

## New Scholars in the Bridges Program

This month highlights Madeline Beach



Photo by Mark Benjamin

New scholars in the UR/RIT Bridges to the Doctorate program have just begun their coursework. This month, Healthy Signs is focusing on Madeline Beach, a past intern with RPRC/NCDHR.

“I recently graduated from Boston University with a B.A. in Mathematics, specializing in statistics. I am currently working towards an M.S. in Applied Statistics through the Center for Quality and Applied Statistics at RIT. After earning a Masters, I hope to continue on with a PhD either in Biostatistics or Statistics with a specialization in biostatistics. I am interested in pursuing research in the field of mental health, specifically issues of quality of life and depression among the Deaf and geriatric populations.

In the next week I'll be finishing up my first semester at RIT towards an MS in Applied Statistics. As part of the Bridges program, students attend a professional conference their first year. This fall I was able to join Dr. Peter Hauser and Dr. Jessica Cuculick of the Bridges program at HARC, the Health Literacy Annual Research Conference in Washington, D. C. to see what it's like to travel to conferences as a researcher.”

We wish Madeline luck as she continues to pursue her educational goals.

## Research

## CDC Grants Awarded to RPRC Funding new projects

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the University of Rochester new grants for three projects to address chronic disease prevention with populations at risk for poor health outcomes.

For more information, [click here](#).

NCDHR  
Happenings

Bridges

Research

HL2

Where are they now?

Other Community  
Engagements

## HL2 Gives a Presentation

### During the Day of Hearing

By Donald Bataille

The 2014 Day of Hearing Program HL2 workshop presentation was an overwhelming success. The HL2 workshop was part of a full day program that included hearing health programs by area audiologists, audiology screenings and equipment demonstrations held on November 6th at Life Span in Rochester, NY. The workshop and PowerPoint program presented by Steve Barnett, MD, RPRC/NCDHR



Photo by Art Maurer



Photo by Art Maurer

Director, and Mary Chizuk and Donald Bataille, HL2 co-chairs, was well attended and generated numerous discussion topics about hearing loss and related health concerns.

This was the first presentation of the recently completed Summary Report and PowerPoint program co-authored by HL2 members. The HL2 presentation focused on HL2's Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) process, the group's goals and activities and the Summary Report findings, outlining (9) Healthcare, Mental Health, Cognition, Social and Audiology research priority topics related to individuals with hearing loss. It was noted that Hearing loss impacts over 48 million individuals and is the most common disability in the US. The workshop program response

demonstrated a clear need to continue HL2's vision: To support public policy with evidence-based research, to identify health risks associated with hearing loss and promote solutions.

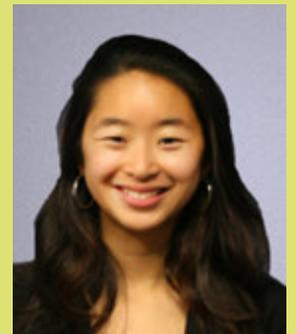
HL2 is one of the many community committees of the RPRC.

### Where are they now?

Jennifer Hu is a past summer intern from RPRC/NCDHR. This past June, Jennifer graduated from Swarthmore College, where she majored in English literature and minored in Chinese and biology. She is currently a first-year medical student at the University of Rochester. In addition to studying medicine, she also hopes to learn more about public health, health policy, and the changes the Affordable Care Act will have on the delivery of health care in the U.S.

Jennifer is scheduled to graduate in 2018, but is considering taking a gap year to either pursue a second degree or work in international health.

## Jennifer Hu



NCDHR  
Happenings

Bridges

Research

HL2

Where are they now?

Other Community  
Engagements

## Fall Conference on CBPR RPRC/NCDHR Attends

On October 28, 2014, staff and committee members from the Rochester Prevention Research Center (RPRC) attended the University of Rochester's Fall Conference, "Growing the Next Generation of Community-Based Researchers."

The afternoon-long conference focused on Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) taking place here in Rochester and nationally. This year's keynote speakers were Barbara Israel, PhD, professor at the Michigan School of Public Health and Principal Investigator of the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center, and Zachary Rowe, Executive Director of Friends at Parkside in Detroit Michigan. Dr. Israel and Mr. Rowe both emphasized the importance of the community's input in all aspects of the research process, and how a successful community partnership can provide ongoing opportunities for both researchers and the communities involved.

RPRC staff and partners also attended a breakout session titled "Patient Centered Outcomes Research: Engaging the Community." This panel featured several UR researchers and each discussed the importance of patient participation in guiding research and decisions regarding healthcare. The researchers featured on this panel study represented various health fields including Parkinson's Disease, HIV Treatment, Chemotherapy and Depression.

To conclude the conference, the RPRC presented three posters:

**Poster 1:** Violence and suicide attempts: Results of a survey of adults deaf since birth or early childhood (Lori DeWindt, Erika Sutter)

**Poster 2:** Community and multi-disciplinary collaboration to develop an accessible clinical trial of a behavioral health intervention with Deaf adults (Kelly Matthews, Jackie Pransky)

**Poster 3:** Video Enabled Surveys (Vince Samar & Tamala David)



Barbara Israel and Zachary Rowe present.  
Photo by Don Bataille



**Mission of RPRC:** To promote health and prevent disease with populations of Deaf sign language users and people with hearing loss through community-based participatory research (CBPR).



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