

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Health Equity Poster Session 2024



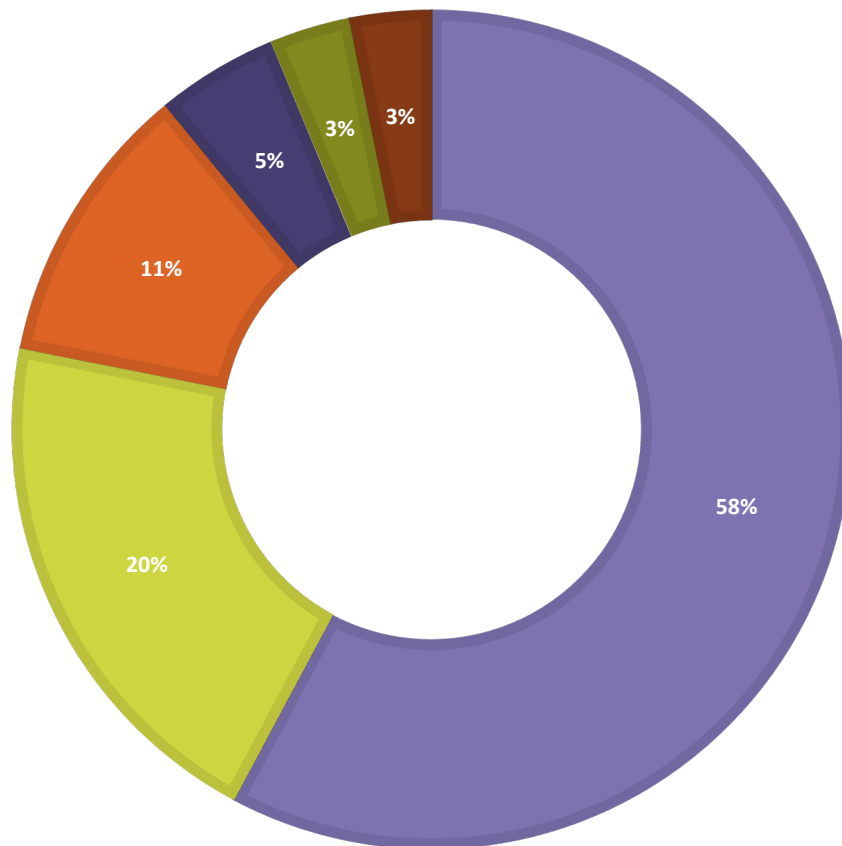
The Health Equity Poster Session showcases cutting-edge research and innovative solutions addressing health disparities across diverse populations and communities. Each poster highlights the work of professionals and researchers dedicated to advancing health equity, improving healthcare access, and achieving better outcomes for underserved populations.

Key themes include:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Access to Care
- Cultural Competence
- Community Based Interventions
- Policy and Advocacy
- Innovative Research and Technologies

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■ Student ■ Staff ■ Faculty ■ Postdoc ■ Resident ■ Fellow



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1. Internal Medicine Residents' Perspectives on Trauma-Informed Care - Presenter's Name: Uma Thachapuzha, BA

We sought to understand internal medicine residents' knowledge, opinions, and perceived competence regarding managing patients with trauma histories, and desires for future trauma-informed care (TIC) training and implementation. We surveyed 69 internal medicine residents at Northwestern Memorial Hospital to assess TIC knowledge, opinions, and practices. Ten residents participated in a focus group to explore perceptions of existing TIC protocols and training. Residents were knowledgeable and held favorable opinions of TIC but had low self-rated competence. Barriers to providing TIC included time constraints and lack of training. The focus group identified four major themes: barriers to trauma screening, prevalence of trauma disclosure without screening, importance of long-term outpatient care, and low perceptions of self-efficacy. Our results support the need for better trauma screening protocols, increasing TIC resident training, and further examining the impact of medical trauma on patient healthcare experiences.

Authors: Uma Thachapuzha, BA; Muriel Jean-Jacques, MD, MAPP; Yashoswini Chakraborty; Sarah Chuzi, MD, MSc; Marlise Pierre-Wright, MD, MPA

2. Optimizing Nutrition: Dietary Guidance for Pediatric Patients at Risk of Type 2 Diabetes - Presenter's Name: Rohan Bhargava, BS, BA

Diabetes is a significant public health issue in the US, with rising incidence among children. Early childhood intervention can reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes (T2D). We aim to create nutritional guides for children at risk of T2D, offering evidence-based dietary recommendations to caregivers and linking patients with community resources. Our goal is to encourage healthier eating habits and support long-term health and disease prevention. The guide will use the American Diabetes Association's Plate Method and be written in plain language for diverse health literacy levels. It will provide information on local resources like food pantries, SNAP/WIC programs, and nutrition groups. Guides will be distributed during clinic visits, and a short survey will assess changes in knowledge and self-efficacy regarding dietary modifications. This initiative promotes pediatric diabetes prevention through dietary guidance and community resource connection, establishing a model for broader application and community-based interventions.

Authors: Rohan Bhargava, BS, BA; Emma Pauer, BA; Kelly Bates, BA; Larisa Jesinskis, MD; Selina Thomas, MD, MPH



3. Leveraging Community Strengths and Resources to Combat Food Insecurity in Asian American Communities - Presenter's Name: Jane Gou

This study examines food insecurity among Asian Americans in metropolitan Chicago, a critical yet under-researched issue, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising anti-Asian racism. 12 interviews were conducted in 2024 with staff from Chicago-based organizations addressing food insecurity. Asian American older adults, immigrants, and those living with poverty, are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. Programs to combat food insecurity include public benefits assistance, food distribution, and communal dining, many of which adapted to continue serve communities during the pandemic. Anti-Asian racism worsened food insecurity, particularly for East Asian communities. Barriers to addressing food insecurity include lack of transportation and access to culturally relevant foods. The study emphasizes the need for culturally tailored interventions and policy reforms.

Authors: Jane Gou; Alec Zhang; Anthony Chen; Milkie Vu

4. An Updated Scoping Review of Disparities in Pediatric Atopic Dermatitis - Presenter's Name: Simone Gottlieb, BA

We performed a systematic scoping search of full texts and abstracts according to PRISMA guidelines to provide an updated summary of published research on disparities within pediatric atopic dermatitis (AD) in the United States. Fifty-three texts met our inclusion criteria, and disparities examined included prevalence of AD, health outcomes, and access to health care. These results will allow us to recognize gaps in our current knowledge and identify interventions that aim to reduce disparities.

Authors: Simone Gottlieb, BA; Krystal Madkins, MPH, MLIS; Peter Lio, MD

5. Trends and Disparities in Lower Extremity Amputation Rates for Illinois Residents, 2016-2023 - Presenter's Names: Isabel Cohen, BS & Samantha Watson, BS

Lower extremity (LE) amputation is a devastating consequence of peripheral artery disease (PAD) and diabetes mellitus. This study aimed to analyze changes in LE amputation rates for adult Illinois residents over an 8-year period across multiple sociodemographic populations. Hospital records for LE amputations from 2016-2023 were identified from the Illinois Hospital Association COMPdata database. Amputation rates per 100,000 were calculated by age, sex, race and ethnicity, and poverty level using data from American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates. There was a 67.5% increase in amputations from 2016-2023. Males aged 65-74, non-Hispanic Black residents, and patients living in zip codes with > 20% residents below the federal poverty level experienced the greatest increases in amputation rates across the study period. Given the increases in Illinois amputation rates, future efforts should focus on addressing



sources of disparities in PAD and diabetes care in populations at high risk for amputation.

Authors: Isabel Cohen, BS; Samantha Watson, BS; Margaret Reilly, MD, MS; Samantha Minc, MD, MP; Karen Ho, MD; Joseph Feinglass, PhD

6. Is Insurance Type Associated with Patient Reported Outcomes as Measured by PROMIS Following Ankle Fracture Surgery? - Presenter's Name: Steven Hadley, BA

It remains unclear whether insurance influences functional outcomes after ankle fracture surgery. This retrospective study of 182 patients who underwent ankle fracture surgery assesses the relationship between insurance type and Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS) scores of physical function (PF) and pain interference (PI). We found that anatomic fixation of ankle fractures results in patients achieving population mean PF regardless of insurance type. Despite appropriate repair and no functional differences, Medicaid patients still experience higher PI and higher proportions of fear of reinjury. To reduce such disparities, fear of reinjury and higher pain in Medicaid patients should be addressed.

Authors: Steven Hadley, BA; John Peabody, MD; Sarah Westvold, MPH; Rachel Bergman, MD; Shaun Chang, MD; Milap Patel, DO; Anish Kadakia, MD

7. Evaluation of Demographic Disparities in Hypocalcemia Care Following Total Thyroidectomy for Non-Malignant Thyroid Disorders in the United States - Presenter's Name: Cyrus Abrahamson

Hypocalcemia is a significant complication following thyroidectomy, and this study sought to investigate the role of demographic factors on patterns in care and the risk of hypocalcemia following total thyroidectomy for non-malignant thyroid disorders. This project utilized the ACS NSQIP database and identified 4,068 patients (18+) from 2020-2022. Of note from our findings, patients under 50 had increased odds of hypocalcemia and within the under 50 group, patients with Graves' Disease were significantly more likely to experience hypocalcemia than their counterparts with other benign indications. Our findings also identified racial differences in rates of hypocalcemia, monitoring, and supplementation that differed based on the indication for total thyroidectomy.

Authors: Cyrus Abrahamson; Daniel Chelius; Jill D'Souza; Amy Dimachkieh; Anthony Sheyn; Jeffrey Rastatter

8. A Qualitative Study Assessing Experiences of Occupational Pregnancy Discrimination - Presenter's Name: Jaclyn D. Borrowman, PhD

Occupational pregnancy discrimination is associated with poor maternal and child health. Our qualitative study aimed to assess the experiences and perceptions of occupational pregnancy discrimination. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 20 full-time US employees who were currently pregnant. Most participants successfully identified various forms



of pregnancy discrimination (e.g., poor social treatment, loss of opportunities, lack of workplace accommodations). Participants' perceptions of why pregnancy discrimination occurred was due to systemic issues of inequity and beliefs that women are weak. Most did not report pregnancy discrimination due to fear of retaliation, lack of awareness of policies or procedures in place, and feelings that action would be futile. Social support was an important factor in participants experiences, with reports of seeking advice of family and friends in place of formal reporting procedures. With more childbearing aged individuals in the workforce, effective policies concerning pregnancy discrimination are critical to promote maternal and child health.

Authors: Jaclyn D. Borrowman, PhD; Mackenzie Unke, MS; Melissa Jones, PhD; Kara Whitaker, PhD, MPH

9. The Invisible Minority Group: Exploring Lifestyle Correlates in Hypertension and Hyperlipidemia Among the MENA-American Community - Presenter's Names: Ramzy Issa, BA & Osama Hassan, BA

Middle Eastern North African Americans (MENAA) are an understudied minority group. Their classification as White in the U.S. racial categorization system limits health data available on this group, posing challenges when conducting research on MENAA health needs and experiences. With an estimated 3.5 million MENAA living in the U.S., it is vital to collect disaggregated health data and conduct focused research on MENAA to better understand the unique health challenges that the MENAA community faces and to inform the development of tailored interventions that promote cultural competence and address the disparities impacting the MENAA community. This study aims to compare factors and lifestyle correlates contributing to hyperlipidemia (HLD) and hypertension (HTN) among MENAA versus White individuals using data from the NIH's All of Us (AoU) Research Program.

Authors: Ramzy Issa, BA; Osama Hassan, BA; Sammer Marzouk, BA, MA; Sawsan Alkhalili, BS; Sara Muttar, BA; Muhammad Taaha Hassan, BHSc

10. Supporting Equitable Diagnosis and Treatment of Knee Osteoarthritis Through the Capture of Patient-Reported Outcomes - Presenter's Name: Martha Burla

Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common cause of disability in the United States. However, it is not screened for in primary care, and disparities in treatment among minority populations are well documented. The goal of this project was to pilot a patient-reported outcome (PRO) screening for equitable diagnosis and treatment of knee OA in primary care within a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). We contacted patients from a FQHC who had a diagnosis of knee pain or OA and invited them to complete a standardized PRO screening of pain and function. Both responders and non-responders were then invited to a brief phone interview evaluating the screening's acceptability. PRO scores revealed high rates of pain and functional limitation, and interviews found patients were willing to complete PROs to help



inform care, indicating the system has promise as a way to improve equity in OA diagnosis and treatment.

Authors: Martha Burla; Finola Summerville; Jake Selph; Patricia Franklin; Linda Suleiman

11. Association between Household Sleep Environment and Sleep Health Characteristics in Middle-Aged Adults: The Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA)—Sleep Study - Presenter's Name: Swaty Chapagai

Household environmental factors and sleep behaviors may contribute to poor sleep health. We identified association of household sleep environment with self-reported and objectively measured sleep health characteristics in White and Black adults. Our study showed that poor household sleep environment was associated with self-reported poor sleep quality, and actigraphy-measured shorter sleep duration and sleep irregularity. Interventions to mitigate sleep disruptors and promote healthy sleep practices may help to improve sleep health.

Authors: Swaty Chapagai; Thanh-Huyen Vu; Shaina J Alexandria; Kathryn Reid; Sabra Abbott; Katharine Harrington; S. Justin Thomas; Cora E. Lewis; Pamela J. Schreiner; Mercedes Carnethon; Kristen Knutson

12. Integrative Transcriptomic, Epigenomic, and Immunological Analysis Reveals Potential Drivers of Racial Disparities in High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer - Presenter's Name: Hao Huang

This study examines the molecular and immunological differences in high-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC) between Black and White women, aiming to understand the disparities in outcomes. Analyzing tumors from 66 patients, researchers identified significant differences in DNA methylation, gene expression, and immune cell profiles. Key findings include increased expression of INSR and FOXA1 in tumors from Black patients, which were linked to increased tumor sensitivity to cisplatin and reduced cell proliferation. Additionally, tumors from Black patients showed a lower proportion of CD4+ T-cells and regulatory T-cells. These results highlight potential molecular drivers of the higher mortality seen in Black women with HGSOC, warranting further research into targeted treatments.

Authors: Hao Huang; Russel Keathley; Ujin Kim; Horacio Cardenas; Ping Xie; Jianjun Wei; Ernst Lengyel; Kenneth P. Nephew; Guangyuan Zhao; Zhen Fu; Emma L. barber; Masha Kocherginsky; Victoria Bae-Jump; Bin Zhang; Daniela Matei

13. Childhood Food Security and Cardiometabolic Health in Young Adulthood - Presenter's Name: Emily Lam, BA

In this longitudinal cohort study, we examined the associations of childhood food insecurity with young adult suboptimal cardiovascular health and cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic syndrome stage and the modifying effects of participation during



childhood in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Our results found that childhood food insecurity is associated with worse cardiometabolic health in young adulthood, particularly among female children and children whose families did not participate in SNAP.

Authors: Emily Lam, BA; Abigail M. Gauwen, MS; Namratha R. Kandula; Daniel A. Notterman, MD; Noreen Goldman, DSc; Donald M. Lloyd-Jones, MD, ScM; Norrina B. Allen, PhD, MPH; Nilay S. Shah, MD, MPH

14. Disparities in behavioral health treatment engagement: Examinations from a collaborative care model implementation - Presenter's Name: Zachary Bean, MD

Collaborative Care Models (CoCM) integrate psychiatry and mental health services into primary care settings and aim to improve access for care of disorders such as depression and anxiety. We looked at data from the first two years of implementing these models into NMH clinics and evaluated whether there were any social disparities in who was eligible and able to access this care.

Authors: Zachary Bean, MD; Allison Carroll, PhD; Emily Fu, MS, MPH; Andrew D. Carlo, MD, MPH; Lisa J. Rosenthal, MD; Jeffrey Rado, MD, MPH; Jen Brockmeyer, MD; Sarah Philbin, MPH; Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD; Neil Jordan, PhD; C. Hendricks Brown, PhD; Justin D. Smith, PhD

15. The American Heart Association Life's Essential 8 and Heart Failure in Black Individuals: An Analysis of the NHANES Registry - Presenter's Name: Kiersten Rasberry

Self-reported Black individuals (BIs) are disproportionately impacted by heart failure (HF) incidence, hospitalization, and mortality. The American Heart Association (AHA) summarized cardiovascular health into eight variables entitled Life's Essential 8 (LE8), which include: diet, physical activity, nicotine exposure, body mass index (BMI), fasting blood glucose, total cholesterol, blood pressure, and sleep quality. In this study, we evaluated the association between the AHA's LE8 and HF incidence amongst BIs. Through the utilization of logistic regressions to calculate odds ratios at 95% confidence intervals, we determined five out of the eight variables to be associated with heart failure development in BIs. BMI, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes were associated with increased odds of HF. Physical activity was associated with lower odds of HF in BIs. Adherence to LE8 can serve as an effective tool to address HF in all populations.

Authors: Kiersten Rasberry; O, Oputa; T, Adesiyun; TA, Awoyemi; G, Jing; R, Harap; T, Wu; Ositelu, K; Princewill, O; QR, Youmans; AA Lewis; IS Okwuosa



16. The ADEPT (Advancing Disability Education for Pediatric Trainees) Project: Partnering with Patient-Families to Improve Healthcare Disparities for Children with Disability Through Provider Education - Presenter's Name: Michael Navarro Jr., BS

Children with disability (CWD) face unique barriers to accessing health care. Enhancing pediatric provider knowledge and competence about health care needs for CWD may reduce barriers to care for this population. Our research aims to study the experiences of CWD and their families, teachers, and health care administrators (HCA) to identify ableist behaviors and knowledge gaps that may negatively impact care and determine the necessary information to develop an ideal curriculum regarding CWD. We conducted a series of virtual focus groups composed of CWD, parents/caregivers, teachers, and HCA. Themes identified amongst the focus groups included a desire for providers to practice humility when interacting with CWD and their families, a willingness to question and explore the "unknowns," identifying and mitigating stereotyping/profiling, and creativity regarding resources available for the provision of care.

Authors: Michael Navarro, BS; Cara Coleman, JD, MPH; Mary McBride, MD, MEd; Carolyn Foster, MD, MS; Lucas Bruton, MD, MEd

17. Association between race, cardiology care and the receipt of guideline-directed medical therapy in Peripartum Cardiomyopathy - Presenter's Name: Ikeoluwapo Kendra Bolakale-Rufai, MD, MS

This study examined the impact of race and cardiology care on the receipt of GDMT in Black and White patients with peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM). Analyzing data from 2008 to 2021, we found that race did not influence whether a cardiologist was involved in patient care during hospitalization. However, cardiology involvement significantly increased the likelihood of receiving beta-blocker prescriptions for White patients but not Black patients. Triple GDMT therapy was rarely prescribed overall, with no Black patients receiving it without cardiology care. The findings suggest that while cardiology involvement benefits medication adherence, further efforts are needed to ensure equitable treatment across races.

Authors: Ikeoluwapo Kendra Bolakale-Rufai, MD, MS; Shannon M. Knapp, PhD; Amber Johnson, MD; LaPrincess C. Brewer, MD, MPH; Selma Mohammed, MD; Daniel Addison, MD; Sula Mazimba, MD; Khadijah Breathett, MD, MS

18. Assessment of Neighborhood-level Social Determinants of Health Impacting PrEP Uptake Among Latino/a/x Adults in Cook County, IL - Presenter's Name: Jacob Fries, BS

Despite modern successes of HIV prevention and treatment, new infections are disproportionately high among Latino/a/x individuals. Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, has been a significant tool for HIV prevention. Using a needs



assessment that recruited Latino/a/x adults in Cook County, IL, we analyzed survey data to investigate factors possibly associated with PrEP use within this population. Our findings illustrate that an individual's living environment, as indicated by the Social Vulnerability Index linked to their home address, is significantly associated with PrEP uptake. However, an adjusted regression model suggests that these differences are mediated by specific healthcare access measures including insurance status and the time since an individual's last provider visit. This indicates that targeted interventions within areas of high social vulnerability that specifically address these social needs will be crucial to close the gap in PrEP uptake.

Authors: Jacob Fries, BS; Harita Shah, MD; Pedro A. Serrano, MPH, CPH

19. Outcomes of Isotretinoin Therapy for Acne in Black and Hispanic Adolescents - Presenter's Name: Samantha Garcia

Acne vulgaris is the most prevalent skin condition among adolescents, with Black and Hispanic patients having significantly lower odds of receiving isotretinoin for severe acne. However, there is limited research on outcomes of isotretinoin in this population. A multicenter retrospective chart review was conducted nationally among pediatric patients of Black race and/or Hispanic ethnicity between the ages of 11 and 18 who were enrolled in iPLEDGE for treatment of acne with isotretinoin. Acne characteristics, comorbidities, isotretinoin dosing, adverse effects, and therapeutic outcomes were assessed among these patients. A high rate of premature discontinuation was found among these patients, but this may be linked to other social determinants of health which require further investigation. Isotretinoin successfully treated acne vulgaris in this cohort of Black and Hispanic adolescents.

Authors: Samantha Garcia; Abigail Katz; Gabriel Santos Malave; Sharlene Martin; Saud Binsufayan; Lucia Diaz; Cassidy Nguyen; Grace Lee; Harrison Zhu; Brandi Kenner Bell; Karina L. Vivar; Sarah Stein; Raphaella Lambert; Lara Wine Lee; Elliott Lyles; Sophia Daniel; Nicholas Strat; Carol Cheng; Renae Tessem; Sasan Noveir; Charlotte Wahle; Nanette Silverberg

20. Cancer fatalism among Asian American adults by origin group (2012-2022) - Presenter's Name: Justine Liu

This study examines cancer fatalism: the belief that cancer is predetermined and unpreventable among disaggregated Asian American groups, including Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, and other Asian respondents (e.g. Korean, Japanese). Using data from the Health Information National Trend Survey (HINTS) from 2012-2022, the study observed participants' responses to cancer fatalism-related statements. The findings reveal differences in cancer fatalism among Asian origin groups, with Filipino and Vietnamese respondents showing higher levels of fatalism and Indian respondents showing notably lower fatalism. This study emphasizes the need for more disaggregated data collection with Asian American populations in the future. Importantly, it also underscores the significance of culturally tailored interventions for cancer fatalism that address unique background and cultural factors.



Authors: Justine Liu; Yenan Zhu; Ryan Suk; Milkie Vu

21. Filling the coverage gaps: A survey of US Organizations providing grants & financial assistance to patients with infertility - Presenter's Name: Preeta Kamat

Given the rising costs of fertility treatment and a lack of awareness of options for financial assistance, this study provides an overview of U.S. organizations providing grants and financial assistance to patients with infertility. Non-profit and for-profit organizations were surveyed regarding characteristics, eligibility criteria and patient demographics. Survey responses suggested that most organizations are relatively new, require demonstrated financial need and do not require a diagnosis of infertility. While these grants create an avenue for expanded access to fertility treatment, care gaps persist based on the large number of people affected by infertility and the total costs of care, which surpass the capacity of grant-providing organizations.

Authors: Preeta Kamat; Onyinye Ohamadike; Sarah Cromack; Elena Hogenesch; Olamide Akin-Olugbade; Eve Feinberg

22. The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Patient Trust in Physicians - Presenter's Name: Marlise Pierre- Wright, MD, MPA

This study looks at the association between trust in physicians and adverse childhood experiences. We found that higher adverse childhood experiences were associated with a statistically significant increase in a patient's trust in their physician when controlled for demographic data. Based on interviews with patients who had high childhood adversity, we found that with the right support and resources, patients with high ACEs can have higher trust in their physicians.

Authors: Marlise Pierre-Wright, MD, MPA; Ibrahim Badreldin Mokhtar, BA; Uma Thachapuzha, BA; Yashoswini Chakraborty; Revika Singh, BA; Jing Song, MS; Julia Lee, PhD; Maria E. Theodorou, MD; Christine Schaeffer, MD; Kimberly Collins, BA; Muriel Jean-Jacques, MD, Mapp

23. Applying Community-Engaged Implementation Science to Improve the Referral to and Utilization of Mental Health Services among Chinese American Populations - Presenter's Name: Marym Zaheeruddin

Asian American, particularly Chinese American, communities often face structural and social barriers that hinder their use of mental health services (MHS). To address this, the Pui Tak Center (PTC), a community-based organization in Chicago's Chinatown with three decades of experience, launched reduced-cost MHS in 2023. Despite this effort, optimizing referral processes to boost MHS utilization remains a challenge. A community-academic partnership used an implementation science framework to study referral strategies. Interviews with PTC leaders and staff revealed that multilingual counselors and the co-location of MHS within PTC were beneficial. However, barriers included staff's difficulty in



identifying potential patients and competing priorities. Community-wide stigma and low perceived MHS priority also posed challenges. The study suggests increasing outreach and awareness through community venues could enhance MHS utilization. These findings offer insights for improving MHS accessibility and acceptance in underserved Chinese and Asian American communities.

Authors: Marym Zaheeruddin; Maya Lee; Jane Mann; Eunice Lao; David Wu; Katherine Szydlo; Anh Doan; Loretta Hsueh; Kiarri Kershaw; Sam Battalio; Madison Hartstein; Milkie Vu

24. Racial differences in epinephrine self-administration prior to emergency department visits for food anaphylaxis- Presenter's Name: Niraj Lawande, BS

Our retrospective study investigated patients presenting to an urban emergency department for food anaphylaxis. After searching the electronic medical record by ICD9/10 codes, 333 patients met the inclusion criteria. We observed that white patients were significantly more likely to self-administer epinephrine pre-hospital compared to black patients. However, once in the ED, there were no association between race and severity of the allergic reaction as measured by need for ICU admission, epinephrine doses, or hospitalization. Given the severity and urgency of food anaphylaxis, healthcare providers must focus on education efforts for epinephrine usage and maximizing access to epinephrine, with a specific emphasis on black populations.

Authors: Niraj V. Lawande BS; Daina Ringus MD, PhD; Thanh-Huyen T. Vu, MD, PhD; Anna Pawlowski, MBA; Anju T. Peters, MD

25. Explaining racial and ethnic inequities in SARS-CoV-2-related outcomes: Results from a serosurvey in Chicago - Presenter's Name: Christopher Eyo, MA

We were interested in the extent to which sociodemographic characteristics explained racial/ethnic differences in SARS-CoV-2 serostatus, COVID-19 symptom severity, and antibody concentration among a cohort of 5976 adults in Chicago. After adjusting for these factors, there were substantial racial/ethnic disparities that persisted, raising the question of the role of structural racism in perpetuating inequities in COVID-19-related outcomes.

Authors: Christopher Eyo, MA; Joshua Schrock, PhD; Christina Hayford; Daniel T. Ryan; Rana Saber; Nanette Benbow; Michael Newcomb, PhD; Alexis R. Demonbreun

26. Analysis of Culturally Tailored Initiatives and Workforce Diversity in Liver Transplant Programs in the United States - Presenter's Name: Valentina Velasco

Access to liver transplantation in the U.S. is disproportionately limited for ethnic minorities, with few culturally tailored initiatives available. An analysis of 141 active liver transplant program websites found that only 26% offered information in languages other than English, and just 13.5% reported any culturally targeted initiatives. While 89.9% of sites had at least one physician (transplant surgeon/hepatologist/gastroenterologist) who spoke a



language other than English, only 56.1% had at least one physician who spoke Spanish. These findings highlight the need for more diverse and culturally competent care to improve liver transplantation access for growing minority populations.

Authors: Valentina Velasco; Fabian Rodriguez, MD; Luis Lopez; Jairo Chavez; Juan Carlos Caicedo, MD, FACS

27. Implementation of multicultural psychological services in a Polish community health clinic - Presenter's Name: Maya Navarro, BS

Mental health services are negatively stigmatized in the Polish-speaking, immigrant community, leading to worse long-term patient outcomes. To address the lack of mental health resources available for this underserved population, we strengthened a partnership between the Association for Multicultural Behavioral Health "a multicultural psychological service that works with Polish-speaking patients" and Oak Street Health, Harwood Heights: a clinic that primarily serves Polish-speaking patients to provide patient visits back-to-back with individualized therapy sessions. While we are still gathering data, we expect that this partnership should lead to better medication and follow-up visit adherence, and, ultimately, improved overall patient outcomes.

Authors: Maya Navarro, BS; Alexander Szymczak, BA

28. Exploring Nonsuicidal Self-Injury severity, treatment history, and insurance coverage across race and ethnic groups - Presenter's Name: Israel Ramirez

This study examines Nonsuicidal Self-Injury (NSSI) among racial and ethnic minorities, focusing on NSSI severity, treatment history, and insurance coverage. Significant differences in NSSI frequency, thoughts, and suicidal ideation were found across racial and ethnic groups, with the most notable differences between White and "Other" categories. These findings highlight disparities in mental health care access and NSSI experiences among different racial and ethnic groups.

Authors: Israel Ramirez; Theresa Nguyen; Kaylee P. Kruzan

29. Impact of Outpatient Simulation's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives for Feinberg Learners - Presenter's Name: Ana Sferruzza, MEd, MS

Significant barriers remain to quality healthcare for marginalized populations within our nation's healthcare system. Factors contributing to patient wellness must include the intersections of gender identity, ability, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, and sexual orientation. (1, 2) Medical schools must balance individual identities within community populations to understand how our country's patient population is unique and universal. Standardized patients (SPs) are crucial in medical training, providing realistic, controlled environments for students to develop clinical and communication skills. Traditionally, SP pools have lacked diversity, potentially limiting students' exposure to diverse patient populations and contributing to



implicit biases. Increasing the diversity of SPs can redefine DEI within medical education. Specifically, at Northwestern Simulation, we emphasize the effectiveness and authenticity of patient simulation's reliance on diverse standardized patients (SPs), culturally relevant case scenarios, skilled training based on iterative and adaptive models, and continuous involvement from faculty physicians, staff, and SPs.

Authors: Ana Sferruzza, MEd, MS; Jason Nettum; Toshi Uchida, MD

30. Health-Related Social Needs and Cervical Cancer Screening in Alliance Chicago Community Health Centers (CHCs) - Presenter's Name: Carla Salazar, MPH, CPH

This study explores the relationship between health-related social needs (HRSNs) and cervical cancer screening (CCS) among community health center (CHC) patients. We analyzed data from March 2020 to March 2023 for women aged 24-64. HRSNs were assessed via: 1) HRSN questionnaire, 2) HRSN-questionnaire + keyword search for HRSNs (expanded HRSN capture), and 3) homelessness flag. Before HRSN screenings, women reporting any HRSNs had lower rates of CCS (31%) compared to those without HRSNs (40%). Among those with no CCS before HRSN screenings, women with HRSNs had greater increases in CCS than those without; 13% with any HRSN, 12% with food insecurity, 17% with housing insecurity, 20% with food and housing insecurity compared to 1% among those with no HRSNs. Among women reporting food insecurity, disparities were no longer seen after HRSN screenings in adjusted analyses. This suggests that addressing patient-level social needs can positively impact preventive health behaviors.

Authors: Carla Salazar, MPH, CPH; Eve Walters; TA-Yun Yang; Mita Sanghavi Goel

31. Building Community-Academic Partnerships to Improve HIV Care for Latine Communities in Chicago - Presenter's Name: George J. Greene, PhD

Addressing HIV-related healthcare disparities facing the Latine population is critical in the effort to lower the incidence of HIV, but little to no data exists about the barriers facing specific Latine subgroups or the new challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, while community-based organizations (CBOs) have been identified as the ideal facilitator for HIV prevention interventions, CBO employees' perspectives on priorities for community-based HIV research are under-studied. This study aimed to gain insight into the perspectives of CBO staff on barriers to HIV care among specific Latine subpopulations, the effects of COVID on HIV services, and recommended future directions for community-oriented HIV prevention research through semi-structured interviews with the staff and leadership of five CBOs that provide HIV prevention and/or treatment services in the Chicago metropolitan area. The interviews were then analyzed using rapid qualitative analysis.

Authors: Lauren S. Kang, AB; Harita Shah, MD; Pedro Alonso Serrano, MPH, CPH; George J. Greene, PhD



32. The Hispanic Breast Cancer Clinic at Northwestern University: Progress and Impact - Presenter's Name: Jorge Heneche, SrCRC & Claudia Tellez, MD

In this longitudinal cohort study, we examined the associations of childhood food insecurity with young adult suboptimal cardiovascular health (CVH) and cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM) syndrome stage and the modifying effects of participation during childhood in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Our results found that childhood food insecurity is associated with worse cardiometabolic health in young adulthood, particularly among female children and children whose families did not participate in SNAP.

Authors: Claudia Tellez, MD; Jorge Heneche, SrCRC; Michelle Nava, RN; Marie Fuentes-Harris LCSW CHP-SW; Renee Gracey, NP; Daniel Antonio, MPH; Jacqueline Renteria, MA; Anayenci Maslat, PSR; Aileen Contreras, PSR; Albert Regalado, PSR; William Gradishar, MD

33. Barriers to Adaptive Sports Participation Among Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury: A Call for More Equity-Focused Research - Presenter's Name: Brian Carter, JD & Rolando J. Casas Fuentes, BS

Adaptive sports (AdS) provide physical, psychological, and social benefits to individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI), but many do not participate in AdS. A literature review of articles addressing barriers to AdS participation for individuals with SCI identified several categories of barriers. However, all studies focused primarily on those already engaged, limiting our understanding of barriers to those who do not engage in AdS and possibly potentiating health inequities. Research focused on individuals with SCI who do not participate in AdS would improve our understanding of barriers and facilitate the development of targeted interventions that extend the benefits of AdS to more individuals.

Authors: Brian Carter, JD; Rolando J. Casas Fuentes, BS; Prakash Jayabalan, MD, PhD

34. Association Between ICU Delirium and Language Preference: A Retrospective Observational Study - Presenter's Name: Cara Pritchett, MD

There is a known relationship between language barriers and poorer healthcare outcomes in children. Delirium is a common complication among intensive care unit patients. We hypothesized that use of a language other than English (LOE) would be associated with delirium. In this retrospective, cohort study of patients admitted to the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit (PCICU), there was a higher prevalence of delirium among the Spanish speaking patients. However, use of an LOE was not independently associated with delirium after controlling for covariates known to impact delirium.

Authors: Mary Pilarz, MD; Cara Pritchett, MD; Quinn Tentinger, APRN-NP2; Jiafeng Li, MS; Adrian Zurca, MD



35. A Narrative Review of the Prevalence and Manifestation of Eating Disorders in Individuals with Physical Disabilities - Presenter's Name: Emma Raffman, BS

Individuals with physical disabilities (IWPD) are at increased risk for mental disorders such as anxiety, depression, poor self-esteem, and body dysmorphia as well as chronic physical conditions including diabetes, anxiety and cancer. Taken together, the presence of a physical disability, mental illness, and chronic conditions makes the study of eating disorders (EDs) in IWPD especially pertinent, given the likelihood that these factors and the presence of an ED demonstrate a multidirectional relationship, where exacerbation of one diagnosis can mediate exacerbation of the rest. This study reviews the current literature on how EDs manifest and their prevalence among individuals with a variety of disabilities, including spina bifida, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, rheumatic disease, and more.

Authors: Emma Raffman, BS; Prakash Jayabalan, MD, PhD

36. Spanish-Speaking Parkinson's Community in Focus: Improving Education and Support through Short On-Demand Videos - Presenter's Name: Eric Espinoza, BA

We created 27 short, engaging YouTube videos in Spanish to support and educate the Spanish-speaking Parkinson's community. Covering essential topics like Parkinson's basics, mental health strategies, rehabilitation interventions, creative therapies, additional resources, and research, these on-demand videos cater to the preference for concise, accessible content. Moving beyond traditional webinars, our series has significantly expanded reach and impact. This project underscores the importance of culturally relevant resources in enhancing support for those with Parkinson's disease. Proudly supported by a Parkinson's Foundation community grant.

Authors: Eric E. Espinoza, BA; Miriam Rafferty, PhD, PT, DPT

37. Music for Child Wellbeing Initiative: Leveraging Music and Breathwork to Support Youth Wellbeing Globally - Presenter's Name: Nicole St. Jean, Psy.D

The Music for Childhood Well-Being Initiative (MCWI) examines the use of guided breathwork, and group singing as an intervention to mitigate stress and increase the psychological and social well-being of children globally. Young people are particularly susceptible to anxiety and depression and the effects of COVID-19 have bolstered these mental health concerns leading to a global mental health crisis. To address the growing need for equitable mental health support, MCWI was developed as an 8-week group intervention that is low cost and may be used across global settings. This study will examine the changes in mental health pre-post MCWI across three global sites (Mexico City, MX; York, England; Evanston, IL, n=68). The pilot sites stratify community and school-based settings and include both high and low resourced communities. Comparisons will be made across and between the groups to begin to explore the potential impact MCWI has across the varied global populations.



Authors: Nicole St. Jean, Psy.D.; Sarah Bartolome, PhD; Jodi Miller, PhD; Grace Jee Nga, MA; Yiyue Mao, BA; Jacob Treub, BS,MCS

38. The Pricing Premium on Allergen-Free Breads, Pastas, Nut Butters, and Ice Creams - Presenter's Name: Pranav Bajaj, BA

Food allergy costs US families over \$25 billion dollars annually, yet the exact pricing differences for allergen-friendly alternatives has yet to be thoroughly researched. The prices of gluten-containing bread, gluten-containing pasta, dairy-containing ice cream, and peanut butter, along with the prices of their allergen-free counterparts were compared among 5 large midwest grocery stores. On average, allergen-free items are 2.43 times as expensive as their allergen-containing counterparts. This price difference likely adds to the economic burden of food allergies, making it challenging for low-income families with celiac disease or gluten, dairy, and peanut allergies to obtain safe foods.

Authors: Pranav Bajaj, BA; Preena Shroff; Samantha Sansweet; Madeleine Kanaley, BA; Chloe Milliron; Evann Oleshansky; Kethan Bajaj; Margaret Goldman; Cate Weiser; Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH

39. Proteome analysis reveals activation of IL1/IRAK1/NF-kB axis in the healthy African American skin - Presenter's Name: Patrick Grudzien

Proteomic and Genomic study observing potentially increased inflammatory pathway activation in the skin of African Americans (AA) versus White Non-Hispanic Americans (WNH). Specifically, we observed activation of NFkB and related effectors as well as MAPK and STAT pathways. This favorability of inflammatory activation may be an underlying cause for the increased risk of certain skin diseases in the AA population.

Authors: Dimitri Trubetsky; Patrick Grudzien; Lam C. Tsoi; Bethany E Perez White; Irina Budunova

40. Home Repairs as a Viable Approach to Advance Health Equity for Older Adults - Presenter's Name: Dianne Oladejo

This study highlights the impact of home repairs on the health and residency of low-income older homeowners, who often face unsafe living conditions due to delayed maintenance. Researchers partnered with Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly (H.O.M.E.) and a Community Advisory Board to enroll 25 participants, primarily African American women with an average age of 77. The majority reported improvements in physical and mental health, fall reduction, and the ability to remain in their homes after receiving various repairs, such as bathroom modifications and plumbing work. The findings highlight the importance of accessible home repair programs in enhancing health and preserving homeownership among older adults.



Authors: Dianne Oladejo; Sarah Filec; Anastasia Smith-Becker; Mike Laz; Gail Schechter; Rachel O'Connor

41. Urban Tree Canopy, Temperature, and Mortality: A Machine Learning Analysis of Chicago Neighborhoods - Presenter's Name: Harrison Garcia

This study explores the relationship between urban tree canopy, temperature, and mortality in Chicago from 2011-2021 using machine learning. Findings reveal that increased tree canopy cover is linked to a significant reduction in mortality, with each standard deviation increase in canopy cover associated with an 8.3% decrease in mortality. Higher temperatures were linked to increased mortality, but the protective effects of tree canopy were even stronger in hotter neighborhoods. Notably, neighborhoods on Chicago's South and West Sides, which have faced historical disinvestment, showed the most significant associations between low tree cover, high temperatures, and increased mortality.

Authors: Harrison Garcia; Peter Graffy; Benjamin Barrett; Maxime Visa; Ashwin Sunderraj; Jenny Jia; Daniel Horton

42. Exploring an association between patient characteristics, interpreter use, food insecurity screening, food insecurity, and connection with resources in the pediatric emergency department - Presenter's Name: Michelle Roh

Our study evaluated the association between interpreter use and other patient characteristics with food insecurity screening, presence of food insecurity and connection with food resources within a pediatric ED. We found that patients who used an interpreter were screened for food insecurity less often than those who did not, but screened positive significantly more, indicating a social and healthcare disparity for patients who speak English as a second language.

Authors: Michelle Roh; Lindsey Arenberg, MPH; Cienn Joyeux, MPH, Susana Marchan-Rojo, MBA; Sheila Hickey, LCSW; Mark Adler, MD; Karen Sheehan, MD, MPH; Megan Attridge, MD, MS

43. Assessing Communication Between Clinicians and People with Mobility-Related Disabilities - Presenter's Name: Tiwaladeoluwa Adekunle, PhD

People with mobility-related disabilities (PwMD) experience more barriers to healthcare access and lower healthcare quality than people without disabilities. As a population with higher levels of healthcare usage and increased comorbidities, shared decision-making and effective communication is particularly critical for PwMD. This study addresses this gap by assessing PwMD's perspectives of communication with healthcare providers (HCPs) and identifying areas for intervention. A preliminary qualitative analysis of PwMD's communicative encounters with HCPs revealed the following themes: i. PwMD were forced to self-advocate when they experienced or anticipated bias related to disability and/or other marginalized dimensions of identity; ii. PwMD's needs were commonly ignored or overlooked, leading to



unmet healthcare needs and delays in care; and iii. HCPs play a critical role in fostering agency and facilitating shared decision making.

Authors: Tiwaladeoluwa B. Adekunle, PhD; Sara Shaunfield, PhD; Jissell Torres; Tara Lagu, MD, MPH; David Cella, PhD; Susan Magasi, PhD, OT; Carol Haywood, PhD, OTR/L

44. Social Influencers of Health and Resource Utilization in the Pediatric Cardiac Care Unit: A Needs Assessment for Future Intervention - Presenter's Name: Candace Mannarino, MD, MS & Casey Vogel, PT, DPT

Pediatric patients with congenital heart disease and (CHD) cardiac dysfunction are medically complex and often require more resources for discharge to home. Our goal was to determine how length of stay (LOS) is associated with COI for patients with cardiac dysfunction in the Pediatric Cardiac Care Unit. This project will help our team identify targets for future process improvement interventions and resources needed for our patients with lower COI scores before discharge to home.

Authors: Casey Vogel, PT, DPT; Rohit Loomba, MD; Molly Heaney; Henry Rosh, MSW; Kiona Allen, MD; Candace Mannarino, MD, MS

45. Formulating a Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Curriculum For Medical Trainees - Presenter's Name: Bukky Tabiti, MD

As physicians, it is important to have a comprehensive understanding of SDOH. Northwestern medical students are now provided a lecture on SDOH prior to their medicine rotations. Our study assessed if these sessions affected medical students' ability to address SDOH in patient care. We provided students with a pre and post lecture survey assessing their knowledge and comfort in addressing SDOH. The study found that there was a significant difference in pre and post test responses with a singular lecture. This substantiates the use of a standardized SDOH curriculum to promote health equity within the medical education realm.

Authors: Deepa Daryani, MD; Arati Gangadharan, MD; Bukky Tabiti, MD; Bruce Henschen, MD

46. Demographic Factors and Self-Efficacy in Patients Undergoing Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation - Presenter's Name: Andrew Yoon, BA

There is a lack of literature studying demographic factors and their association with self-efficacy with patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT). Patients were divided into quartiles depending on their self efficacy scores. Fisher's exact tests were then utilized to determine demographic factors and their relationship with the top and bottom quartile. Participants with low self-efficacy had lower annual household income ($p=0.037$) and worse baseline Karnofsky performance status ($p=0.026$) than those with high self-efficacy. The 2 self-efficacy groups did not differ in age, gender, race, relationship status, education, employment status, insurance status, diagnosis, transplant type (Auto vs. Allo), HSCT



comorbidity index, or GVHD status. These findings suggest that self-efficacy: a patient's confidence that they can manage practical and emotional HSCT challenges are affected by SDOH, highlighting the need for further efforts to minimize these.

Authors: Andrew Yoon, BA; Yonathan Lean, BS; Alexander Szymczak, BA; Dr. Christine Rini, PhD

47. Attenuation of Black-White Disparities in Cardiovascular Disease Incidence and Total Mortality by Life's Essential 8 - Presenter's Name: Mariam Ardehali, MD

Higher cardiovascular health, as measured by Life's Essential 8 score, is associated with lower mortality and incident cardiovascular disease. This study used data from the Cardiovascular Lifetime Risk Pooling Project to compare incidence rates and hazard ratios for incident cardiovascular disease and total mortality between Black and White participants. We found that in young and middle-aged adults, adjustment for cardiovascular health score partially attenuated Black-White disparities in incident cardiovascular disease events and mortality.

Authors: Mariam Ardehali, MD; Hongyan Ning, MS; John T. Wilkins, MD; Donald Lloyd-Jones, MD, ScM

48. Using the Social Determinants of Health as a Framework to Explore Predictors of Mental Health Service Utilization and Depression, Anxiety and PTSD Outcomes among Black and Hispanic/Latinx People living with HIV - Presenter's Name: Angela Freeman, MPH

Using electronic health data from the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, this study leverages the Health Equity Implementation Framework [HEIF] (Woodward et al., 2019, 2021) as well as the updated Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research [CFIR] (Damschroder et al., 2022) to Examine predictors and social determinants of completion and elevated mental health screens for PLWHA to better understand implementation of universal, routine mental health screening in a large HIV primary care setting.

Authors: Angela Freeman, MPH; Alida Bouris, PhD, MSW; Andrea Dakin, PhD, MA; Charlesnika T. Evans, PhD, MPH; Judith Moskowitz, PhD, MPH

49. Postpartum Depression Screening and Resource Referral in Pediatric Care: Inequities & Barriers - Presenter's Names: Logan McLennan, Eliana Davis, Stephanie Lux, & Larry Wang

This is a scoping review compiling existing literature on postpartum depression (PPD) for mothers with babies under one year old in primary care settings, specifically exploring whether physicians are performing screening tests, what screening tools are effective, and what interventions are being implemented. Further, this poster explores what barriers (e.g. mother's race, level of family support, education, number of children, and the status of her infant's health) impact these three outcomes.



Authors: Eliana M. Davis; Stephanie C. Lux; Logan R. McLennan; Larry W. Wang; Krystal Madkins; S. Darius Tandon

50. Use and Clinical Performance of Diagnostic Codes for Identifying Housing Instability: A Citywide Cohort Study - Presenter's Name: Sharon Langshur, MD

People experiencing housing instability (PEHI), represent a population at high risk for poor health outcomes. Despite more frequent healthcare visits by PEHI, screening for housing status and documentation of the results are rare in healthcare settings. A retrospective cohort study was conducted using data on housing status from one large Healthcare for the Homeless program in Chicago as well as electronic health record data from area health systems. Performance characteristics for ICD-10 codes specific for housing instability were calculated. Results demonstrated poor sensitivity and specificity of codes for detecting housing instability and suggest the need for improved screening and documentation.

Authors: Matthew O'Brien, MD; Andrew Owen, PhD; Sharon Langshur, MD; Bruce Doblin, MD; Maria Vargas; Keiki Hinami, MD; William Trick, MD; Abel Kho, MD; Eve Walter, PhD; David Liss, PhD

51. Racial Discrimination, Mental Health, and Substance Use Among Academically High-Achieving Black Adolescents - Presenter's Name: Ren Mondesir

"This study aims to explore the relationship between racial discrimination, mental health symptoms, and substance use among academically high-achieving Black adolescents in selective enrollment public high schools in Chicago, Illinois. Despite their academic success, these students face unique challenges that may increase their risk for mental health issues and substance use. The study also investigates the barriers to accessing care, including criminalization, stigma, and mistrust in healthcare providers. By understanding these relationships, this research will ultimately contribute to the development of targeted interventions and equitable healthcare practices to support this vulnerable population."

Authors: Ren Mondesir

52. Result of Selection Committee Diversification in URiM Recruitment for NM Pre-Med Internship - Presenter's Names: Lindsay Lucas-Kamm, MD & Vessa Baraku, MD

The Northwestern Medicine (NM) pre-med summer undergraduate internship program supports the physician pipeline by immersing promising undergraduate students into clinical environments for research, shadowing and lectures. In an effort to influence the diversity of the future physician workforce, emphasis is placed on selecting students with diverse backgrounds and experiences which are Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM). By engaging the employee resource groups (the NM Champion Network) to support review and selection,



students representing URiM communities in the program increased from 59% in 2023 to 77% in 2024.

Authors: Micah Eimer, MD; Vessa Baraku, MD; Lindsay Lucas-Kamm, MD

53. Project Synapse: Efficacy of a Youth Outreach Program to Increase Diversity in Neurosurgery - Presenter's Name: Rya Muller, BA

There is a lack of diversity within neurosurgery which impacts health equity and surgical outcomes. Project Synapse, a youth outreach initiative, aims to diversify the neurosurgical workforce by exposing youth from URM backgrounds to neurosurgery. After attending a Project Synapse session, middle and high school students were more likely to indicate interest in neuroscience and becoming a neurosurgeon. Youth outreach programs are effective in stimulating URM student interest in neuroscience and neurosurgery, contributing towards increasing health equity in the field.

Authors: Rya Muller, BA, Aaron Palmer, MD, Aruna Ganju, MD

54. Retrospective Fall Prediction in Lower Limb Prosthesis Users - Presenter's Name: Junyao Li

Falls are a major concern for lower limb prosthetic users (LLPUs), but traditional assessments like the Timed Up and Go (TUG) test offer limited predictive value. The current study explored using machine learning to improve fall prediction by combining functional assessments with amputation levels. While the TUG test showed some significance, no single functional measure effectively predicted falls. However, machine learning models, especially with extreme gradient boosting, improved accuracy when amputation levels were considered. This research highlights the need for more refined tools, potentially incorporating gait analysis, to better predict fall risks in LLPUs.

Authors: Junyao Li

55. Socioeconomic Disparities in Post-Lumbar Puncture Headache Incidence: A Retrospective Analysis Utilizing the All of Us Database - Presenter's Name: Divy Kumar

Lumbar punctures are common diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, but they can lead to post-operative headaches (PLPH). In this study, we analyzed data from the All of Us database, focusing on 4,086 patients who underwent LPs. Among them, 701 experienced PLPH. Our findings revealed several important insights: Women had 1.93 times higher odds of experiencing PLPH than men ($p < 0.0001$). African American patients had 2.18 times higher odds of developing PLPH than White patients ($p < 0.0001$). Patients in communities with high income assistance, low median income, low high school completion, high poverty, high housing vacancy, and high deprivation index had significantly increased odds of PLPH (all $p <$



0.0001). PLPH occurrence was directly associated with age (OR: 1.01, 95% CI: 1.01-1.02, $p < 0.001$). These findings highlight the need for increased awareness of socioeconomic disparities in PLPH incidence and the importance of considering these as factors in patient care and management.

Authors: Sammer Marzouk, Rolando Casas Fuentes, BS; Najib El Teclé, MD; Divy Kumar

56. Food Insecurity Screening Within an Eating Disorder Clinic: A Quality Improvement Study - Presenter's Name: Jessica Feuerstein, DO

This quality improvement study aimed to further examine the feasibility and sustainability of FI screening and distribution of food resources (food bags, meal replacement shakes) in an Eating Disorder clinic.

Authors: Jessica Feuerstein, DO; Isabella Charfoos; Lance Nelson, MD

57. A Structured Model for Inter-ICU Transfer: Formative Perceptions of the NM Health System - Presenter's Name: Chuanfen Ni, MSW

"Currently, no uniform guidance exists to help clinicians decide who, when and how patients should be transferred from a lower-resourced hospital to a higher-resourced hospital. This lack of guidance contributes to inequities and delays in transfer leading to negative impacts on quality of care and patient-centered outcomes.

We conducted surveys of ICU clinicians, subsequently developed a novel structured transfer model (STM) using a modified Delphi method, and conducted in-depth interviews with ICU clinicians. 86 ICU clinicians from 7 hospitals responded to survey. 72% of respondents felt identifying patients that will benefit from transfer was feasible and 91% felt an earlier decision would be ideal for patient outcomes. Interviews revealed that patient needs, clinician beliefs, hospital resources and culture, communication networks, and tension for change are key themes related to transfers. The lack of structure was a recurring theme and majority clinicians perceived the STM as comprehensive yet, adaptable. "

Authors: Chuanfen Ni, MSW; Kelli Scott, PhD; Jeffrey P. Huml, MD; Bassam Hashem, MD1; Laeeq Syed Shamsuddin, MD; Cahren Cruz, MBA, RN, NE-BC; Nandita R. Nadig, MD, MSCR

58. Acute Peripartum Presentations to the Emergency Department - Presenter's Name: Sara Siddiqui

Higher cardiovascular health, as measured by Life's Essential 8 score, is associated with lower mortality and incident cardiovascular disease. This study used data from the Cardiovascular Lifetime Risk Pooling Project to compare incidence rates and hazard ratios for incident cardiovascular disease and total mortality between Black and White participants. We found that in young and middle-aged adults, adjustment for cardiovascular health score



partially attenuated Black-White disparities in incident cardiovascular disease events and mortality.

Authors: Sara Siddiqui, BA; Camila Vendrami, MD; Hannah Recht, MD; Frank Miller, MD; Jeanne Horowitz, MD; Anugayathri Jawahar, MD

59. Clinical and Socioeconomic Differences Amongst Participants in Post-Mortem Tissue Donation in Pediatric Central Nervous System Tumors: A Single Institution Chart Review - Presenter's Name: Lauren Boland, MD

In our single institution retrospective chart review, we found that despite universally approaching all pediatric neuro-oncology patients over a 2-year period, patients from racial and ethnic minorities continued to be underrepresented in our post-mortem tissue donation program. Our finding is significant because tissue donation is a critical resource in advancing our understanding of pediatric brain tumors and broad generalizability of research findings requires a representative population to participate in pre-clinical studies. We aim to address our findings in part through training in-person interpreters on specific language related to post-mortem tissue donation to improve our non-English speaking patients' access to participation in post-mortem tissue donation.

Authors: Lauren Boland, MD

60. A Pilot Study of Breast Reconstruction Patients' Surgical Care Experiences: Does Race Matter? - Presenter's Name: Tokoya Williams, MD

Breast reconstruction informational disparities disproportionately impact women of color. Hispanic and Asian women are particularly vulnerable to feelings of not being heard by their surgeon. Patients of all races experience low information quality with regards to postoperative management.

Authors: Tokoya Williams, MD; May Li, BA; Bradley Melnick, BS; Madeline O'Connor, BA; Kelly Ho, BS; Tarifa Adam; Annie McFarland, BS; Jayla Alums, BA; Johna Joseph, BA; Robert Galiano, MD FACS

61. A Theoretical and Conceptual Framework for Building Healthcare Career Exposure Programs to Serve Historically Underrepresented High School Students - Presenter's Name: Joshua Jenkins

Project MED, a student-led organization serving 266 students across four Chicagoland high schools, aims to increase healthcare career exposure for historically underrepresented groups (HUGs). A mixed-methods survey identified three key features for a theoretical framework: (1) hands-on learning, (2) near-peer mentorship, and (3) professional development. Students showed strong interest in dissection workshops, mentorship opportunities, and healthcare professional panels. The program employs interactive



demonstrations, mentorship, and professional tools to enhance student self-efficacy. This tailored model addresses specific needs of high schoolers from HUGs and informs the design of healthcare pipeline programs. Future research will evaluate its effectiveness in boosting college enrollment and healthcare career progression among HUGs.

Authors: Joshua Jenkins; Rishi Jain, BA; Irene Quan, BA; Aru Singh BA; Nikhil Sriram, BA; Valentina Velasco, BA; Angeliue Dueñas, PhD; Dr. Melissa Simon, MD, MPH

62. Empowering Voices: Inclusive Education for Chronic Pelvic Pain Management in Underserved Communities - Presenter's Name: Sydney Cush

This project develops bilingual educational programs for underserved women with chronic pelvic pain, promoting inclusivity, informed decision-making, and holistic care through virtual and in-person sessions, enhancing patient-provider collaboration and empowerment.

Authors: Sydney Cush

63. Increasing Medication Affordability and Adherence in a Community-Based Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC): A Quality Improvement Initiative - Presenter's Names: Morgan Kinsinger & Alec Jotte

We designed an intervention to screen patients for medication affordability and provide counseling on relevant financial resources with the goal of increasing medication access and adherence within a single Erie FQHC in Chicago, Illinois. This project demonstrates that training medical students in standard affordability screening questions and resources may lead to better characterization of medication-associated cost burden among low-income populations and help to bridge socioeconomic gaps in medication access.

Authors: Morgan Kinsinger; Alec Jotte

