

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

Welcome to our November 2017 newsletter. As we approach the holiday season, we would like to focus this issue on one of the vulnerable populations that our center is committed. Beth Shin is a consultant for the National Center for Medical Education, Development Research. A noted expert who focuses on people who identify as homeless, we hope that her insights below will assist you in your work toward transforming medical education.

We have several upcoming events this month including a webinar on November 29, 2017 at 2:00pm CST. The title of the webinar is ***Transforming Medical Education for Vulnerable Populations: LGBTQ and the Impact of Social Media on HealthCare***. Please visit our website: www.NCMEDR.org to register.

With your contributions this newsletter will provide a continuous evidence-based health information loop for health care educators, residency directors, and community physicians who are serving vulnerable populations. We look forward to staying engaged with you as we continue our work. If you are interested in being featured in the newsletter, have an exciting update on great news in your daily work, or have ideas to share, please contact me directly at Kbrown@mmc.edu. It is an exciting time at the National Center for Medical Education, Development & Research. Thank you for making this possible. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katherine Y. Brown, Director, Communities of Practice

What Physicians Should Know About Homelessness Marybeth Shinn, Ph.D. Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor, Vanderbilt University Center Affiliate



Unless you work for a dedicated homeless health care program or perhaps in emergency medicine, you might think you do not need to worry about homelessness in your medical practice. You are probably wrong.

Pregnancy is a risk factor for homelessness, so OB/GYNs should be concerned. Pediatricians should take note that the age at which a person in the United States is most likely to stay in a homeless shelter is infancy. Many episodes of poverty begin with the birth of a child, and that is true of homelessness as well.

Rates of shelter use remain high in the pre-school years, until children get to that subsidized form of child care called public school. But homelessness defined more broadly remains very high. Counting children in families who live in hotels or double up in the same unit with another family because they cannot afford a place of their own, The National Center for Educational Statistics estimates that 3.4% of school children in cities and over 2 % of those living in suburbs, towns, or rural areas were homeless in 2014-2015. Estimates of the number of young people under 25 who experience homelessness (including couch surfing) for a night or more range as high as 1.7 million a year. LGBT young people are at special risk, and college students are not immune.

The largest group of people experiencing who stay in shelters or on the streets are single adults who may be seen by practitioners of internal medicine. The Veteran's Administration asks every patient served in a VA medical facility two questions annually about housing instability in the recent past and projected instability in the near future, and refers those who screen positive to prevention services. These efforts have contributed to cutting rates of Veteran homelessness nearly in half in the past few years. Although it may not make sense for medical personnel who have no prevention services to offer to screen your patients, it certainly makes sense to ask whether anything would interfere with their following your medical advice. That could surface a variety of issues, including some related to poverty and homelessness.

It might seem that only gerontologists are exempt from working with patients who may experience homelessness – but people who living on the streets experience all the chronic and acute conditions of aging, and do so about a decade earlier than their housed peers. Thus, gerontological expertise is important too.

Perhaps the most important fact for physicians to know is that far more people experience homelessness over the course of their lives than are homeless on any given day. Most who become homeless are homeless only once for a fairly brief period, although they may retain some scars. Some have return bouts, and some find it difficult to extricate themselves and become chronically homeless. Back in 1990, before the current epidemic of homelessness, 7% of adults in a representative national telephone survey of people in conventional dwellings reported having been literally homeless – 14% if one included people who defined themselves as homeless while living with others. If you think homelessness is not part of your practice, think again!

Each quarter we will feature a webinar or in person learning opportunity for our community of practice. Check out our upcoming learning opportunities below!

TOPIC	DATE	TIME
Focus on LGBTQ	November 29, 2017	2:00 pm CST
Focus on Homelessness	February 28, 2018	2:00 pm CST
Focus on Migrant Farm Workers	May 30, 2018	2:00 pm CST
Community of Practice Conference	Summer 2018	TBA

Review our online Community of Practice Calendar and monthly newsletters to stay connected with us.

The LIVE! Breast Cancer Awareness and Action Coalition will host a roundtable discussion on December 9, 2017.

“Christmas Goes Pink in Nashville” will discuss breast cancer and mortality rates of African-American women diagnosed with the disease. African-American women are diagnosed later and are twice as likely to die from the disease. The event will focus on this disparity in an effort to raise awareness of breast health in the African-American community. Vendors who will provide information to African-American women will be in attendance. Mammograms will be offered. Together, the Coalition and organizations from across the state of Tennessee will mount a major community summit on the disease.

We would love to have you participate. Click [here](#) to register.

THE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND ACTION COALITION PRESENTS



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017 • 8 am – 2 pm

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE • CAL TURNER FAMILY CENTER • 1011 21ST AVE. NORTH

“LIVE! AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN SURVIVING BREAST CANCER THROUGH EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, SCREENING AND TREATMENT” SUMMIT

“LIVE! African-American Women Surviving Breast Cancer through Education, Early Detection, Screening and Treatment” Summit

This event will gather a group of 600 Black women who are breast cancer survivors, Black women who consider themselves at risk for the disease, or whose lives have been altered or touched in some way by breast cancer. Learn how to be an advocate for breast cancer education, early detection, screening and treatment among family, friends and community!

Register and Receive Free:

Manicures and seated mini-massages • Refreshments, including breakfast and lunch • Gift bags
Access to a variety of health care industry vendors

Register in advance at: www.livejustasyouare.com

Registration is FREE!

Follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/LiveJustAsYouAre or on Twitter at: twitter.com/livejustasweare

Breast Cancer Awareness and Action Coalition

- 100 Black Women
- American Cancer Society
- Bethel Village, Inc.
- Carin' and Sharin' Breast Cancer Education and Support Group
- Cervical Cancer Coalition
- Claiborne Family of Faith
- Common Table Health Alliance
- Connect Us Ministry
- Greater Christ Temple Church
- Greater Revelation Baptist Church
- Intercultural Cancer Council
- The Links, Inc. Parthenon Chapter
- Metro Public Health Department
- Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance
- Nashville General Hospital at Meharry
- PWC – People Who Care
- Saint Thomas Health Mobile Mammography Coach
- SelfMade Health Network
- Sisters Network Memphis Chapter
- Tennessee Cancer Coalition
- Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination
- Tennessee Men's Health Network
- Tennessee State University

MEET THE TEAM

Faculty



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Share your story

We want to hear from you. Have you received an award? Will you be presenting at a conference? Are you hosting a conference? Please e-mail: Katherine Brown Kbrown@mmc.edu. The deadline for each newsletter is the 1st of each month.

Can you name our year one research topics?

- Identify how medical schools are teaching students to address implicit physician bias towards vulnerable populations; and
 - Find out how they are preparing students to introduce preventive measures such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to vulnerable patients in order to prevent HIV.
 - Click [here](#) to visit our website and learn more about our work.
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Let's Stay Connected!

Click the icons below to visit us on social media.

Please join our pages and don't forget to use our hashtags [#communitiesofpractice](#) [#NCMEDR_Meharry](#)

About the National Center for Medical Education, Development and Research (NCMEDR)

Meharry Medical College was recently funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish a new academic administrative unit under grant number UH1HP30348. The new center is an academic unit (AU) housed in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Meharry Medical College through a cooperative agreement with HRSA to evaluate the evidence-base for primary care interventions targeting vulnerable populations to transform primary care training in medical education and clinical practice in Tennessee and within the United States. The goal of the center is to transform primary care training and clinical practice in the United States through curriculum transformation in primary care.

Mission

To use a systems-level research framework to identify and evaluate primary care interventions targeting vulnerable populations in order to be effective in transforming primary care training and clinical practice to enhance models of care for vulnerable populations.

Vision

To enhance primary care training for health care professionals in improving the quality of health for vulnerable populations.

Disclaimer: This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number UH1HP30348, entitled academic Units for Primary Care Training and Enhancement. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

[Visit our website](#)

