



# Illinois SEARCH News

For Students, Preceptors & SEARCH Partners

Issue 2 • 2011

## SEARCH Students Work Together to Promote Staff Education and Medication Management

By Kangni “Connie” Zong, M4, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine

As a M4, it was the most exciting time of the year. . . I was in the midst of starting my applications for residency when, for the first time, the question of family medicine versus internal medicine occurred to me. I knew that I wanted to do primary care, however, I had not quite realized the many options that existed within the primary care field.

So, through my school, I arranged for an elective rotation through the Family Medicine Department to learn more about the family medicine specialty. Thomas J. Staff, M.D., medical director at PCC Community Wellness Center Austin, and faculty at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine, graciously worked my elective month into his already busy clinic, which mentors no fewer than six medical students and several residents at any given point in time. PCC Austin is a continuity site for the West Suburban Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program and, therefore, has two residents in each year of residency – each of whom will spend three years as part of the Austin practice.

I highly recommend that any student or clinician—or any individual in general—pay a visit to the PCC Austin center. The building itself is a marvelous piece of architecture, from its environmentally conscious green roof to state-of-the-art materials and fixtures inside the building. Its location right off the CTA green line makes it ideally situated to serve the large surrounding community.

In addition to getting to see patients one-on-one, the clinicians at PCC Austin allowed me to sit in on clinician meetings, during which I learned about

all the other services provided at the center, including full dental facilities and classrooms for EMR (electronic medical record) training and pregnancy “centering.”\* PCC Austin is truly a “community” center. Through SEARCH and the program’s cultural assessment exercises, I realized that the design of the entire community health center was targeted to serve this end.

Another valuable part of my elective was going to Interfaith House twice a week for their in-house clinic. Interfaith House, located on the border of the Austin community, provides residential care for homeless men and women in medical recovery who have one or more chronic medical problems. As the only agency of its kind in Illinois, Interfaith House fills a critical gap in housing and support for homeless individuals who have been discharged from area hospitals and emergency shelters. It is not just an emergency overnight shelter, but a respite shelter that provides a place where homeless people who are ill or injured can stay to recuperate. It truly becomes their short-term home, in that they do not have to leave during the day or line up to compete for a bed each evening. Residents stay until they complete their medical recovery plan, which is typically 30-60 days. During their stay, Interfaith House case managers assist them in transitioning to longer-term housing following discharge.

When Interfaith House was established in 1994, staff were challenged to find medical care for their residents. To meet this need, in 1999, Interfaith House partnered with PCC to open the Interfaith House Clinic for the Homeless. At the

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## Participation in SEARCH Program Proves Worthwhile for Whiteside Community Health Clinic

By Ruth Arway, SEARCH Coordinator, IPHCA

As an active participant in the Illinois Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) program, the Whiteside Community Health Clinic (a division of the Whiteside County Health Department) arranged training rotations for six SEARCH students throughout 2010. Students included four dental students, a nurse practitioner student, and a behavioral health student who is pursuing a degree in social work.

Whiteside Community Health Clinic (WCHC) is located about 120 miles west of Chicago, and its rural setting provides a valuable opportunity for students from a variety of disciplines to develop their skills and work as a member of a health care team that is addressing the needs of an underserved population.

WCHC is committed at all levels to the value of training health professions students in the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) setting. The clinic recognizes the potential for addressing primary care workforce needs through recruitment and participation in training and precepting students, as well as what engagement in these activities does to promote satisfaction among existing clinicians. In addition, through participation in SEARCH, WCHC receives compensation that helps cover financial costs for training, as well as an annual educational grant.

WCHC has recently experienced some significant positive outcomes from their commitment, time and efforts to train students.

### WCHC Welcomes New Clinician Following SEARCH Rotation

In May 2010, WCHC hired Brandon Klein, D.D.S., who had just completed a SEARCH clinical rotation there as a student at UIC Dental School.

Once hired, Dr. Klein applied for (and is currently receiving) loan repayment through the Illinois Department of Public Health. He notes that his transition from student to dentist has been very smooth and he finds his work at WCHC to be stimulating, as it offers variety and complexity in the cases that he sees.

"My clinical rotation at WCHC and my current experience as a new dentist has provided great exposure to all aspects of general dentistry. In addition, the clinic sees many patients who are taking extensive medications, which provides an additional opportunity to develop knowledge and skills related to pharmacology." The majority of patients are Medicaid recipients under 21, but the clinic also treats a growing number of adult patients. Dr. Klein has enjoyed becoming more familiar with patients and the ability to see them through to the completion of their treatment plans. In addition, the clinic also employs dental assistants, and he appreciated having an opportunity to train with an assistant while doing his SEARCH rotation. Although Dr. Klein grew up in Amboy, Illinois—just 30 miles from the Whiteside Community Health Clinic—he did not know about the clinic before pursuing his clinical rotation.

Dr. Klein believes the most challenging aspect of his work is seeing adolescent patients who present with extensive oral health needs – a hint at the severe needs of the population in the area and the critical role of WCHC in helping to overcome barriers to oral health services. In addition, these patients face significant difficulties in accessing specialty care and oral surgery due to financial barriers and a lack of providers in the area.

Despite these challenges, Dr. Klein finds that working within the FQHC setting is very rewarding, primarily because he can make a positive impact on patients who present with emergencies. "With the ability to treat all patients regardless of their financial means, patients are never turned away and always leave with an immediate solution," Klein said. He also notes the value of training and working in an environment that is well managed, highly efficient, and provides high quality patient care. "As far as public

health dentistry is concerned, you can't beat Whiteside Community Health Clinic. It is an excellent clinic," said Dr. Klein.

### WCHC Receives Glowing Reviews From Dental Students

Dr. Klein and his UIC classmate, Dr. Logan Bell, who also completed a SEARCH clinical rotation at WCHC, shared their experiences with other UIC dental students who, in turn, have requested rotations at the clinic. Both talk very highly of their experiences with Dr. William Yemm who was their preceptor during their SEARCH rotation.

"I had an amazing experience during my rotation," said Dr. Bell, who is currently pursuing a dental residency program. "Dr. Yemm is very enthusiastic about teaching which made my rotation more enjoyable. He was always willing to answer questions when I was having trouble with a procedure or just curious about something." Bell also noted that the staff



*Bill Yemm, D.D.S. (standing), dental director and SEARCH preceptor, and Brandon Klein, D.D.S., a newly hired dentist who completed a SEARCH clinical rotation at Whiteside Community Health Clinic, utilize the center's new digital x-ray machine for patient education and diagnosis.*

were extremely pleasant to work with and they all seem to enjoy their jobs.

## **SEARCH Student Helps WCHD Expand Services to Patients with Developmental Disabilities**

In summer 2010, Rosa Leland, an APN student from the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Lexington, Kentucky, completed a SEARCH rotation at WCHC. Leland made significant contributions to the organization which included helping the center expand services to patients with developmental disabilities – a critical need in the counties that WCHC serves.

Lynne Schweppe, director of operations, directed Rosa in writing a proposal for WCHC and partnering agencies for the development of a model to provide comprehensive primary care services to 300 individuals with developmental disabilities from Whiteside and Lee counties. In September 2010, the proposal was funded by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities which is the state agency that focuses on a wide range of programs to help improve opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, including education, employment, transportation, community living and health care.

Through the initiative, WCHC is partnering with Kreider Services, Inc. and Self-Help Enterprises, Inc. to address the many challenges that patients with developmental disabilities and their families face in receiving quality primary health care. Funding provided through the grant will be used to develop a model that will address and

overcome barriers, such as, 1) Lack of knowledge and training of health care providers on the needs of persons with developmental disabilities, including biases, lack of sensitivity and communications difficulties; 2) Access issues, such as inadequate insurance coverage, lack of health care providers that accept public aid, and lack of knowledge about insurance coverage and where to go for health care services; 3) Transportation and mobility issues; and 4) Sensory impairment and behavioral issues.

Since October 2010, activities of the initiative have included staff training; development of new marketing materials to promote customer awareness of available services; outreach, including clinic tours, health fairs and smoking cessation classes; development of tools for behavioral change (focusing on patient self-care priorities and health care decision making); and case management to assure access and continuity of care for primary and specialty health care services. Two staff will also be trained in the evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) to offer a class to empower individuals for self-care.

According to Cindy Bonheur, RN, case manager, "This pilot is really an opportunity to expand our learning and bridge the gaps of access that are sometimes experienced by those with developmental disabilities. As we help patients navigate through some of the obstacles they experience, it is our hope that we can help them overcome barriers to quality health care."

## **WCHC To Welcome New SEARCH Students**

In the coming weeks, WCHD will be welcoming some new SEARCH students for dental clinical rotations through UIC. These dental students will be participating in the initiation of a new digital imaging and electronic patient education system, as well as electronic dental records (EDRs). The new EDR system will be completely integrated with the medical clinic once its electronic medical records (EMR) goes live in July.

"Students who are doing clinical rotations are especially resourceful when it comes to sharing the latest research and techniques," said Beth Fiorini, executive director/public health administrator of WCHC. "Investing time in their education is worth it when it comes to the contribution they pay forward, not only to our center but to future public health collaborations."

Lynn Schweppe adds, "The SEARCH program is one of our best tools for engaging future providers in our mission to provide quality health care for the underserved. Even the smallest contribution can make a difference in ensuring awareness of community health center quality, as well as recruitment of future providers."

Schweppe is an active member of the Illinois SEARCH Advisory Committee that includes faculty at Illinois health professions training programs, clinical and executive staff at community health centers, and government and other specialized entities relevant to the program. The advisory committee meets semi-annually to make recommendations for program organization, data collection, evaluation,

curriculum and new initiatives.

WCHC is also participating in other Illinois SEARCH activities this summer. WCHC is partnering with the Illinois SEARCH Program to offer the 2011 SEARCH Summer Pre-Clinical Curriculum and will be hosting students through site visits, shadowing and pre-clinical rotations. ■



## **Student Testimonial**

*"I was amazed at the ancillary resources at the clinic site. It was an extremely useful and good educational experience to explore these resources and appreciate their value. The SEARCH program added immensely to my rotation experience, given the goals and structure it provided."*

—Tiffany Chin, a medical student at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, completed a SEARCH rotation at Lawndale Christian Health Center.

## SEARCH Curriculum Presented to Students of Several Health Professions Programs in Illinois

As the SEARCH program continues to develop relationships with medical schools and other health professions training programs, program staff have received an increasing number of requests to share its unique curriculum with medical and other health professions students.

The Illinois SEARCH curriculum includes a student orientation program, a community-assessment inventory, a cultural assessment questionnaire, and an optional community-oriented project. Through this curriculum, students gain knowledge of issues relating to health professional shortage areas, quality

improvement, electronic health records and the patient-centered medical home concept; as well as information about community health centers (CHCs), National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, community-oriented primary care and cultural competency.

A few examples of ways in which program staff are working with universities to share the SEARCH curriculum are as follows:

In conjunction with Midwestern University faculty, the SEARCH project director developed "Understanding America's Underserved," a course for second-year

*Continued on page 7.*

### *SEARCH Students Work Together to Promote Staff Education and Medication Management, continued from page 1.*

clinic, PCC physicians are scheduled five days per week, in half-day sessions, to provide primary medical care for residents. The vast majority of residents do not have a regular primary care provider. The clinic's main goal is to establish a primary care relationship, one that can be continued after discharge from Interfaith House.

Interfaith House itself is not a medical facility; rather it primarily serves as a social service entity. Although all of its residents have a medical diagnosis, residents' main problems tend to be social in nature. Interfaith House provides comprehensive psychological and social support services that are critical to helping homeless individuals return to good

health and break the cycle of homelessness and transience. In addition to providing shelter and respite, staff work to motivate and assist residents to begin addressing underlying issues that may contribute to their homelessness, such as mental illness and substance abuse. In addition, they help residents secure appropriate housing or treatment opportunities and ongoing support services.

Medication management is a significant challenge for this population because the majority of residents have severe health conditions that are controlled through a variety of prescription medications. Interfaith House assists residents through a system of individual lockers and scheduling, helping residents to manage their medications in order to improve health. All residents have regularly scheduled medications that are kept in individual lockers. While staff members do not administer the medication, they do help provide restricted access so that the medications do not get confused between residents.

While these staff are not medical professionals, they regularly face many questions

from residents. As part of my SEARCH community-oriented project, I decided to address this need with Maya Ragavan, a M3 student doing a clerkship at PCC Austin, who was also participating in the SEARCH program.

I designed a simple overview of common drug endings, as well as a worksheet of common drugs in each of these categories. For example, the "-sartan" ending refers to blood pressure medications. Maya designed an educational portion to familiarize staff with the use of these new resources. Dr. Staff, my SEARCH preceptor, oversaw our project – he helped us by verifying the accuracy of our materials and assisting us in simplifying and streamlining the materials so that they are easy to use.

As two students working together, we hoped to leave some of the knowledge that we had gained through our clinical experiences with the staff at Interfaith House. Throughout my month at PCC Austin and Interfaith House, I felt I learned about much more than medicine and being a clinician. With my participation in the SEARCH program and the encouragement of Dr. Staff as a mentor, I concluded the

month feeling as though I knew the community of Austin better than I had before my rotation.

The Austin area of Chicago carved a special place in my heart. Throughout my recent residency interviews, I consistently brought up the SEARCH and community-oriented project experience as a reinforcement of why I wanted to enter primary care and work within a community. I believe that even small actions, such as our project, can create ripples that exert large community effects. I am currently preparing to start an internal medicine residency at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, knowing that I already have the tools to make a difference. In the upcoming years, I look forward to honing my skills further so that I may return to a community like Austin and truly begin my career as a clinician.

*\*PCC Austin runs several Centering Pregnancy groups that utilize a proven model and curriculum through which women receive their prenatal care in a group setting with a cohort of women of the same gestational age. Studies have shown improved perinatal outcomes, particularly for underserved African-American women. ■*



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## Illinois SEARCH Developing Preceptor Recognition Program

The coming issues of *Illinois SEARCH News*, will recognize the contributions of Illinois SEARCH site/CHC clinicians in “training our future health care heroes.” These clinicians are also being thanked for their efforts and commitments with a small token of appreciation from the Illinois program. For this issue, the Illinois SEARCH program would like to acknowledge preceptors at the following SEARCH Sites:

### Asian Human Services Family Health Center

Ayesha Hussain, M.D.,  
Medical Director

### Community Health Partnership of Illinois

Susan Bauer, Executive Director  
Amy Barudin, NP  
Deborah Karas, NP  
Debra Morrisette, D.D.S.

### Erie Family Health Center

Frank Castillo, M.D.,  
Director of Medical Student Education

### PCC Community Wellness Center

#### PCC Lake:

Paul Luning, M.D., Chief Medical Officer  
Kimi Suh, M.D., Medical Director  
Karole Lakota, M.D., Medical Director for Performance Improvement  
Sarah Carreon, M.D.  
Kristen Ellensohn, APN  
Kerry Marcheschi, M.D.  
Sherif Milik, M.D.  
Natalie Parker-Renfroe, M.D.

#### PCC Salud:

Jesy Yopez, M.D., Medical Director  
Natasha Diaz, M.D.  
Jules Eckersley, M.D.  
Tamajah Gibson, M.D.  
Nancy Kuo, M.D.  
Toni Lullo, D.O.  
Kathy Lynch, M.D.  
Jen Rossato, M.D.  
Tuwanda Williamson, M.D.  
Alex Wu, M.D.

#### PCC Austin:

TJ Staff, M.D., Medical Director

Andrea Caplea, M.D.  
Katie McDonough, M.D.  
Chrissy Swartz, M.D.  
Alisha Thomas, M.D.  
Brooke Turnock, M.D.  
Audrey Wen, M.D.

### Lawndale Christian Health Center

Prosper Wang, M.D., Director of Medical Student and Resident Education  
Gabriella Barber, M.D.  
Thomas Bockle, M.D.  
David Buchanan, M.D.  
Heather Bunting, M.D.  
William Bush, PA-C  
Susanna Chang, M.D.  
Wayne Detmer, M.D.  
Daisey Dowell, M.D.  
Phoebe Foltz, PA-C  
Barbara Gardner-Haas, M.D.  
Kara Greeley, M.D.  
Meghan Hazra, D.O.  
Sandra Hoogland, M.D.  
Art Jones, M.D.  
Dae Kwak, M.D.  
Catherine Lin, M.D.  
Amy McAuley, M.D.  
Anne McLaughlin, APN  
Jim Melia, M.D.  
Donna Nielsen, M.D.  
Olivia Pan, M.D.

Bruce Rowell, M.D.  
Eugenia Sanders, M.D.  
Jewel Scott, APN  
Matthew Standridge, M.D.  
Josh Underhill, M.D.  
Amy Williams, M.D.

The SEARCH program is also in the initial stages of developing an initiative for outstanding SEARCH preceptors, and plans to feature preceptors and their training efforts in upcoming issues of *Illinois SEARCH News*. ■



### Student Testimonial

*“I am glad to see that each clinic continually expands its services to meet the needs of its patient population. Patients at these clinics often cannot afford transportation to another site for their needed services, such as mental health, addiction counseling, dental care or eye care. The more relationships these clinics develop within the community to provide all-inclusive services to patients, the more improvements that can be made in the health outcomes of the population served.”*

– Jennifer Albrecht, an osteopathic medical student at Midwestern University, completed a SEARCH rotation at Chicago Family Health Center.

## SEARCH Offers Annual Faculty Development Workshop, Developing Additional Teaching Tools

Due to the favorable response received from the 2010 SEARCH Faculty Development Workshop that featured Gary Ferenchick, M.D., chief, Division of General Internal Medicine, and associate professor, Michigan State University, Dr. Ferenchick presented again to SEARCH preceptors on April 19. The half-day workshop for, “Teaching Effectively in Community Health Settings: Incorporating Teaching into Busy Clinical Practice,” included vignettes and interactive case studies. Twelve new SEARCH

preceptors attended and gave the workshop high ratings.

In addition to offering training for new preceptors, SEARCH program staff are undertaking efforts to compile other tools and resources, particularly online resources, that will be helpful to SEARCH preceptors and other clinicians who teach in community health center settings, including more seasoned preceptors. SEARCH program staff recently commissioned a survey to assess IPHCA members’ involvement in teaching/training students

and residents in the CHC setting, with responses received from 18 health centers. All were involved in training students, and about half were also involved in training primary care residents. They all provided insights on challenges and barriers, and suggested that there was a need for more financial and training/teaching resources for preceptors. Staff solicited additional input and suggestions from the SEARCH advisory committee at their February 2011 meeting. A small workgroup is being formed within the advisory committee

that will compile teaching resources, including manuals and other tools, that can be disseminated online and shared with SEARCH sites and other CHCs. ■

## SEARCH Expands Activities to Assess the Program's Impact – Preliminary Findings of Evaluation Efforts

The Illinois SEARCH program, and 27 other programs across the county, assists the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Services with recruitment and retention of health care professionals for primary health care service. By providing training opportunities in community health centers (CHCs), students may later choose to practice in these settings to address the primary care workforce shortage and increase access to quality health care for the underserved. The program also works to enhance the teaching capacity of CHCs by facilitating and strengthening community/academic linkages and providing mentoring opportunities for students.

Since 2000, IPHCA has maintained a database of SEARCH participants. In 2010, efforts were expanded and additional mechanisms developed to promote ongoing follow-up with students in order to track their future career paths and to evaluate the program. These include:

### SEARCH Exit Questionnaire

The SEARCH exit questionnaire seeks to collect both quantitative and qualitative data from students about their rotation experience and future career plans.

When asked, all SEARCH participants said they would recommend the SEARCH program to other students. Each provided positive feedback about their rotation experiences, their preceptors and other staff at the centers, the curriculum and assessment tools, and the program in general. A suggestion for improvement was to provide the assessment tools in a fillable PDF format, which is currently underway.

With regard to students' and residents' career plans, overall, a significant portion of students who recently completed rotations through SEARCH (January 1 – March 31) indicated an interest in pursuing a primary care career at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) upon completion of training. Specifically:

- Ninety percent of respondents indicated plans to pursue primary care careers.
- Ninety percent indicated plans to practice in an underserved area and the remaining 10 percent said they were "undecided."
- Eighty-one percent said they are considering future practice in a CHC and 14 percent responded "undecided."
- Two students (9.5 percent) were National Health Service Corp (NHSC) scholars, and over half of respondents

indicated plans to apply for loan repayment.

### National Resident Match Program (NRMP): Data and Reports

In collaboration with a SEARCH advisory committee member, SEARCH staff were able to access NRMP Match Data to determine which residency programs SEARCH participants will be starting in 2011. Preliminary results look positive, with the majority choosing to pursue residency training in primary care specialties. Of 16 students who were matched to programs in 2010 or 2011, 14 matched to primary care programs.

### Graduation Questionnaire

During 2010, the SEARCH advisory committee developed an evaluation plan and "graduation questionnaire," which seeks to obtain information about graduation and licensure date and credentials, as well as career plans, scholar or loan repayer status, employment status (including employment site), willingness to serve as future mentor, and contact information. Due to the significant number of 2010 SEARCH participants who have graduated or are graduating, the questionnaire was sent to 90 students and primary care residents that participated in the first year of the current SEARCH contract. As of March 28, 2011, the program had received 41 completed questionnaires. Four of the questionnaires were from the same students noted in the NRMP Match Data above, so these have been excluded.

Preliminary results of those who responded indicate that respondents who graduated

in 2010 or will graduate in 2011 are as follows:

- Seven additional medical students indicated plans to enter a primary care career, four indicated plans to practice in an underserved area, and the remaining three were undecided.
- Eight physician assistant students responded to the questionnaire. Seven plan to practice primary care; eight plan to work with the underserved. One respondent is currently employed at an FQHC and SEARCH site. Another is currently working at a CHC in another state.
- Five advanced nurse practitioner or family nurse practitioner students responded. Four indicated plans to practice primary care in an underserved area.
- Of two dental students who responded to the questionnaire, one indicated plans to pursue primary care and to work with the underserved.

The following is a summary of respondents, excluding the medical students already captured in the Match Data above. Some of these respondents have graduation dates of 2012 or later.

- Twenty-three students and primary care residents indicated plans to practice in an FQHC.
- Five had recently applied to the NHSC for loan repayment. Eleven said they would be applying to NHSC, and three indicated plans to apply to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for loan repayment.

## Illinois SEARCH Students & Residents

We are very interested in sharing your articles about your community-oriented projects and SEARCH experiences with other students, preceptors, CHCs and other SEARCH partners via our newsletter. Please submit articles or ideas to Ruth Arway, SEARCH site coordinator, at [rarway@iphca.org](mailto:rarway@iphca.org) or (312) 692-3030.

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## SEARCH Develops Summer 2011 Pre-Clinical Curriculum

**S** EARCH program staff have developed a two-week pre-clinical curriculum that will be offered in summer 2011.

The curriculum will provide a variety of learning experiences for medical students in their pre-clinical years, including discussions, FQHC site visits and mentoring opportunities. Chicago, suburban and downstate health center

sites will participate, giving students access to urban and rural settings, as well as behavioral health programs and those that serve special populations, e.g., homeless and migrant individuals.

FQHC sites that will participate include Erie Family Health Center (Chicago), Heartland Community Health Clinic (Peoria), Heartland Health Outreach (Chicago), PCC

Community Wellness Center (Chicago) and Whiteside County Health Department (Rock Falls). Medical directors and other clinicians will meet with and present to students. In addition, other experts will contribute to the learning experience, including CHC chief executive officers and clinicians, as well as other public health experts.

To date, 15 medical students from Midwestern College

of Osteopathic Medicine and the University of Illinois at Chicago, as well as one out-of-state student are enrolled and will participate this summer. About half have also applied to work on community-oriented projects at assigned SEARCH sites. ■

*SEARCH Curriculum Presented to Students of Several Health Professional Programs in Illinois, continued from page 4.*

medical students that allows them to complete a pre-clinical rotation through the SEARCH program that includes SEARCH student curriculum, a community health assessment project and visits to several CHC sites. Students are also exposed to a variety of issues that relate to community health and underserved people. Students provided very favorable evaluations of the course and noted that it will have a positive impact on their future career plans.

SEARCH staff recently participated in the spring 2011 elective and arranged site visits for students during April and May at four Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) sites, including Circle Family HealthCare Network, Erie Family Health Center and two PCC Community Wellness Center locations.

Upon request from additional academic programs, portions of the SEARCH curriculum were presented to medical

students at the University of Illinois at Chicago Urban Medicine Program in March 2011. This presentation included a detailed discussion of the SEARCH community assessment tool, as well as a hands-on community assessment exercise.

SEARCH staff also presented a session to Midwestern University physician assistant (PA) students and facilitated a community health assessment exercise. ■



### Student Testimonial

*"My SEARCH rotation at Lawndale opened my eyes to the needs of the underserved in Chicago, and I want to pursue underserved medicine as a result of my experience."*

—Jonathan Foelber, D.O., completed his SEARCH rotation (while a medical student at Midwestern University) at Lawndale Christian Health Center.

*SEARCH Expands Activities to Assess the Program's Impact – Preliminary Findings of Evaluation Efforts, continued from page 6.*

Since March the program has received additional questionnaires from fourteen students, and these are currently being analyzed. Staff continues efforts to increase the response rate.

#### Anecdotal Data

In addition to preliminary findings of the questionnaire, a dentist who participated in SEARCH last year is currently employed at a SEARCH site (see Whiteside article, page 2). A medical

director and preceptor at a SEARCH site also recently informed SEARCH staff about two clinicians, former SEARCH participants during a previous contract, who worked at that FQHC – one is still currently employed at the center and one is working at a FQHC in Indiana. Additionally, at another SEARCH site, two current clinicians and three primary care residents who are training at the center also participated in SEARCH during their training.

#### IPHCA Placement Assistance

IPHCA offers a wealth of resources to students at various points of the SEARCH rotation. Students are provided with information about careers in community health, as well as NHSC and IDPH scholarship and loan repayment programs. In addition, through its clinician recruitment and workforce development service, IPHCA provides complimentary recruitment assistance to candidates interested in

working at a community health center in Illinois.

The Illinois SEARCH program continues to explore additional strategies to evaluate the program and promote ongoing follow-up with students in order to track their future career paths. ■

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## Tell Us What You Think

*Did you find this newsletter to be helpful or informative? What kind of stories would you like to see in future editions?*

*Do you have something to share for a future issue? We are looking for articles about students' and residents' projects and SEARCH experiences; as well as stories about community health center clinicians and other information and resources relating to training students in community health and working with the underserved.*

*Please contact Ruth Arway, Illinois SEARCH site coordinator, at [rarway@iphca.org](mailto:rarway@iphca.org) or at (312) 692-3030. ■*

## SEARCH Program Staff

**Rajesh Parikh, M.D.**  
Project Director

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SEARCH Student Coordinator

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The Illinois Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) program is among 28 programs in the United States funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) National Health Service Corps (NHSC). The program was started in Illinois in 2000, and since then, Illinois SEARCH has trained over 850 students.

The program provides training opportunities in community health centers so that students may later choose to practice in these settings which will address the primary care workforce shortage and increase access to quality health care for the underserved. The SEARCH program also works to enhance the teaching capacity of CHCs, facilitate and strengthen community/academic linkages, and provide mentoring opportunities for students. Students eligible to participate in SEARCH include allopathic and osteopathic medical students; physician assistant, nurse practitioner and certified nurse midwife students; dental and dental hygiene students; some behavioral health students (MSW, Psy. D, LCPC, LCSW); and primary care residents.

*Illinois SEARCH News* compiled by Ruth Arway, SEARCH site coordinator, IPHCA.