INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS
Section 46a-68-93

The CHRO Reviewer found this section in the 2017 Plan to be in compliance in the last filing and there were no comments.

The development and implementation of programs not covered elsewhere in Sections 46a-68-75 through 46a-68-114, inclusive, is an important part of the road to affirmative action. Accordingly, UConn Health's Senior Management staff view these regulations as a minimum framework in which to further develop innovative comprehensive programs and, to create opportunities for potential and existing staff that may not otherwise be available. Such innovations work to ensure the full and fair participation of protected class persons in all areas of the employment process. UConn Health utilizes their Human Resources Department to notify and encourage employees to participate.

Examples of innovative programs are as follows:

(a) Summer employment programs;
(b) Youth programs;
(c) Apprenticeships;
(d) Work-study programs;
(e) Job sharing arrangements;
(f) Internships;
(g) Day care programs;
(h) Creation of new positions;
(i) Outreach for high school and college students;
(j) Reassignments
(k) Any positive, results-oriented program designed to achieve affirmative action.

UConn Health Center has developed the following initiatives to foster and garner achievements in the area of innovative programing.

1. Utilization of noncompetitive program

Opportunities were created that resulted in full and fair participation of all protected group members using promotions through re-classifications. Human Resources has a formalized policy for reclassifications of filled positions which sets forth a procedure to determine if an employee is performing duties outside of their current classification. Noncompetitive advancement is available in the medical technologist, physical therapy, social worker positions. In the area of nursing the Health Unit Clerk (Office Assistants) positions are under filled at the Clerk Typist level and the incumbents are reclassified after meeting the training and experience requirements. There are two (2) nursing clinical ladder programs, one for inpatient and one for outpatient nurses. Both programs have established criteria for promotion and employees can be promoted by applying for and meeting the standards. New graduate nurses are brought in at a CN1 Level and promoted to the journeyman CN2 Level after completion of the probationary period and orientation.
5. Internships/Externships

The Clinical Engineering department provided a clinical internship program for graduate students in the masters of Biomedical Engineering program. The internships afforded participants the opportunity to work in a health care environment. The internships are for a period of one (1) year.

The University Medical Group (UMG) has contracts with the following educational facilities to provide both internships and externships for students in the fields of nursing, medical assisting and other related areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stone Academy</th>
<th>Sawyer Business School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stony Brook University School of Nursing</td>
<td>University of Hartford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinnipiac University Branford Hall - Southington and Windsor</td>
<td>University of Connecticut Department of Communication Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Technical School</td>
<td>Porter and Chester Institute - Rocky Hill, Enfield, Watertown Campuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Healing Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>Fox School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Joseph College - Psychology</td>
<td>Northwestern Connecticut Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department/Advanced Practitioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodwin College</td>
<td>Gateway College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yale School of Nursing</td>
<td>Manchester Community College</td>
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<td>Tunxis Community College</td>
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</table>

We are continuing to develop contracts with other facilities to expand on this program.

6. Non-Paid Student Educational Experiences

This program allows departments to host/precept students that may be interested in pursuing a career in the health professions and would like to provide him/her with an observational or internship experience. Our goal with this program is to consistently pursue excellence and innovation in the education of health professionals; the discovery, dissemination and utilization of new knowledge; the provision of patient care; and the promotion of wellness.

7. Summer Employment Programs

UConn Health hires summer students to work in areas such as the library, pharmacy, volunteer service, clinics, nursing units, research, administration, etc. The Department of Orthopaedics has a program that is designed for students in undergraduate programs that provide knowledge of molecular and cell biology to work with biomaterials and tissue engineering. The program is for an eight (8) week period and designed to provide experience in biomaterials and tissue engineering and gives priority consideration to underrepresented minorities. All positions are posted allowing for an open and competitive process. The race and sex breakdown of the students were the following: eight (8) white males, eighteen (18) white females, three (3) black males, eight (8) black
females, one (1) Hispanic male, three (3) Hispanic females, two (2) other males, and three (3) other females.

8. Day Care Program

Creative Child Care Center is located on the lower campus of the University. It is primarily for UConn Health employees. It provides programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarten-aged children. The program has qualified, degreed teachers, low student to teacher ratios. The Center uses students from Early Childhood Education programs to assist in maintaining ratios as well as providing an educational experience for the students. This facility remained at full capacity throughout the plan year as employees welcome this excellent benefit that allows them full and fair participation in UConn Health employment.

UConn Health Center communicates its commitment to Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity by sponsoring the following diversity and inclusion events throughout the plan year in both media and print and in person educational seminars and symposiums. These include the following:

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Summer Research Fellowship Program and Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program Poster Presentations: College students, who participated in the Summer Research Fellowship Program and in the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, will be presenting their research posters on Thursday, July 27, 2017 from 1:00pm-3:00pm in Keller Lobby. You are invited to attend and support the efforts of the students and acknowledge the dedication of the faculty from the UConn Health who served as mentors. Refreshments served.

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Research Poster Presentation Summer Research Fellowship Program and Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program Poster Presentations: College students, who participated in the Summer Research Fellowship Program and in the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, will be presenting their research posters from 1 to 3 this afternoon in Keller Lobby. You are invited to attend and support the efforts of the students and acknowledge the dedication of the faculty from the UConn Health who served as mentors. Refreshments served.

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Cultural Competency in Medicine and Science hosted by David D. Henderson, M.D. Associate Professor, Family Medicine Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs, University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Area of Expertise: Since joining the faculty fulltime in 2003, Dr. Henderson has continued to pursue his interest in community involvement and service. He has been a physician advisor to the Community Advisory Team of Sister Talk Hartford, a community based research project involving a consortium of 12 churches in Hartford investigating health promotion strategies in the African American community. He has served as co-PI of a Title VII
funded HRSA grant one of the goals of which is to increase the number of graduating students choosing training and practice opportunities in medically underserved communities. He has also worked closely with the Health Careers Opportunities Program (HCOP) participating in enrichment programs with young students in the Hartford school system as well as working with post-baccalaureate students here at the Health Center. Target Audience: Individuals interested in pursuing careers as scientists and scholars in biological and biomedical sciences. Topics to be discussed:

- The definition and importance of cultural competency in medicine and science
- The role of culture in the cost and quality of healthcare
- Factors underlying health and healthcare disparities: access, socioeconomic status, environment, racial, ethnic, etc.
- The influence of stereotypes on decision-making in medicine and science.

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Workshops/ Inspire Young Women, Ortho MDs & ENGRs Do you know a young woman who would make a great orthopedic surgeon or engineer? UConn Health Orthopedics & Sports Medicine is proud to host a pair of workshops in October to inspire young women to become leaders in orthopedic surgery and engineering. Dr. Katherine Coyner hosting two workshops for those who are currently in high school and medical school. They will include hands-on mock orthopedic surgeries, case study presentations, and mentorship.

Friday, September 29, 2017

8:30a-Women in Surgery Lecture: Dr. Sandra L. Wong Department of Surgery Teaching Conference Improving Care: Measure Before (and after) You Cut Provided by University of Connecticut School of Medicine Office of Community and Continuing Medical Education and the Department of Surgery Target Audience: Department of Surgery Faculty, Residents, Mid-Levels/Clinicians, Medical Students Learning Objectives: Participants will (be able to):

1. Define role of measurement and evaluation in improving outcomes.
2. Identify component of a good quality measure.
3. Educate current practices in measuring and improving quality.

Friday, November 3, 2017

Resources and Best Practices to Enhance Diversity Update on Resources and Best Practices to Enhance Diversity -From Recruitment to Research Provided by University of Connecticut School of Medicine Office of Community and Continuing Medical Education and Academic Educational Affairs. Target Audience: Faculty, staff, and trainees at the UConn Health Center Learning Objectives: Participants will (be able to):

1. Increase knowledge of how to develop strategic planning and engagement to identify and meet diversity goals.
2. Identify the barriers and obstacles to meeting diversity goals.
3. Identify the successful strategies, interventions and resources that have worked to facilitate both diversity and inclusion.
January 16, 2018

UConn Health Center is very proud of the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunities Programs. Under the Founding Director, Marja Hurley, MD, this year has been another eventful and highly successful year for (Aetna HPPI). The department is an integral part of the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and Graduate educational community at UConn Health. The Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine are actively committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of diverse medical and dental students who are capable of providing culturally competent health care. Additionally, the Biomedical Science Graduate Program is also committed to supporting graduate students from diverse backgrounds who will discover the medical cures of tomorrow.

The department continues to support currently enrolled medical, dental and graduate students of diverse backgrounds and has expanded its programs for middle school, high school and college students to realize their dreams of becoming health professionals. The Aetna HPPI programs and activities are designed, coordinated and implemented through this department. They have proven to be top-notch because the participants in the programs have successfully completed their undergraduate degrees and have actualized their goals of entering medical, dental and graduate school. It is for this reason that the programs and activities sponsored through the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs are recognized as a national model. To date, we have accomplished our goals and continue to develop new programs and fine-tune existing ones. We had 192 middle school, high school and college students participating in our 2017 summer programs sponsored by the department through the Aetna HPPI. During the 2017-2018 academic year, we anticipate approximately 752 students participating in our after-school, partner high school, Aetna HPPI Saturday Academy and college programs. State Senator Douglas McCrory served as the keynote speaker at the 2016-2017 Academic Year’s Closing and Recognition Ceremony. Dr. Lenworth Ellis, assistant professor of medicine at UConn Health, served as our keynote speaker and Dr. Kristen Glasgow, surgeon. Critical Care Medicine, Bridgeport Hospital and UConn School of Medicine Class of 2009 graduate, served as our medical alumni speaker at the closing ceremonies of our 2017 summer programs.

All graduating seniors participating in the high school Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy were accepted into college. Congratulations to all the students for their hard work. I also offer special congratulations to the Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars in the School of Medicine (SOM) and School of Dental Medicine (SODM) graduating class of 2017. In the SOM, 14% of the graduating class are Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars, while 21% of the graduating class in the SODM are Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars. We are also proud that 60% of the underrepresented students currently enrolled in the SOM are Aetna HPPI pipeline students, and 53% of the underrepresented students currently enrolled in the SODM are Aetna HPPI pipeline students.

Granville Wrensford, PHD, Assistant Dean and Associate Director of the Health Career Opportunity Programs with UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, hosted an array of programs and activities. Interest among students, parents and educators alike continues to increase. Visits to many middle and high schools as well as colleges and universities throughout Connecticut, Rhode Island, Alabama, and Georgia.

This past year, the department continued collaboration with West Middle School’s participation in the Great Explorations Program. This was facilitated by a grant from The Hartford. They also participated in their annual back-to-school event sponsored by the local Boys and Girls Club.
Later in the year, a group of 40 of the school's students visited UConn Health where they received information on careers in dental medicine and participated in hands-on activities.

The program continues to provide access and exposure to health careers and health professionals by hosting visits to UConn Health facilities and encouraging greater participation from the schools in Connecticut. This year, as in previous years, they had a number of students from various high schools who participated in the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program and our annual Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference. Peer interaction with numerous students during recruitment and informational sessions' garnered excitement about the health sciences careers. The success of our programs can be seen at various graduating high school seniors that have consistently performed at a higher level on the SAT compared to other students in the Hartford school district. Each year all of the graduating seniors have been accepted and matriculated in college. In addition, routinely, two or three of these graduating seniors have been selected as scholars in the Rowe Scholars Program at UConn Storrs. This year we also had three graduating students who each received full scholarships to attend Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Kerry-Ann Stewart, PhD, Assistant Director of Health Career Opportunity Programs and Assistant Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care with UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, ensures that the department has built will continue to assist students from diverse backgrounds that aspire to be physicians, dentists, and biomedical researchers. "It has been gratifying to witness the growth and development of participants of the middle school, high school, and college programs as they transition to the next level in their academic careers. It is always wonderful to see the outstanding research presentations given by the participants of the High School Student Research Apprentice Program, and the college participants of the Summer Research Fellowship Program and the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program" she remarks.

To expose the participants of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy to new areas of medicine including suturing, surgical knot-tying, and the radiology workstation is key. Professor Stewart commented that "It has been extremely rewarding to see all of the graduates of the Aetna HPPI Senior Doctors Academy go on to matriculate at distinguished colleges and universities, including UConn. Additionally, the participants of the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program were also introduced to new research and advances in medicine taking place at UConn Health including radiological imaging."

This academic year, included a commitment to strengthen the pipeline by expanding mentorship of undergraduate students preparing for medical school or dental school. The program has also continued to work closely with the UConn Chapter of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students and the John & Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars, and have met new students through the SchOALA2RS House Learning Community at the Storrs campus. The departments continued presence at local universities as well as regional and national conferences has been instrumental in recruiting the brightest talents to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine here at UConn. I am also proud of the Aetna HPPI college pipeline participants who have been accepted to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. The Med-ical/Dental Preparatory Program continues to allow undergraduate students to make greater strides as they prepare for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or Dental Admission Test (DAT), or as they prepare for the first-year curriculum and subspecialties as matriculating students to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine.
February 27, 2018

Young Innovative Investigator Program (YIIP)

Purpose: Since 2013, the aim of the Young Innovative Investigator Program (YIIP) is to provide academic training at UConn to underrepresented minority students who are dedicated to pursuing careers as scientists and scholars in biological and biomedical science with the intent of developing the next generation of innovative biomedical scientists and increasing diversity among the pool of academic scientists. The program provides tools for scholars to conduct research, succeed in an academic environment, and become competitive candidates for medical or graduate school. Scholarships will be available to scholars accepted into the program. Overview YIIP is a one to two year, full-time program for college graduates prepared to complete graduate level coursework and conduct supervised research in biomedical laboratories on the UConn Health campus. The program provides individualized mentorship, academic support, and career guidance. In the first year, the curriculum consists of a minimum of 6 course credits per semester. This Is NOT a post-baccalaureate program. The applicant must be prepared to complete graduate level scientific coursework. Upon successful completion of graduate courses and research, a scholar will obtain a Graduate Certificate of Research.

Experience in Biomedical Science from UConn. In year two, scholars who meet the academic qualifications and successfully complete the first year may have the opportunity to pursue a Master of Science in Biomedical Science. By successfully fulfilling the program requirements, YIIP Scholars will acquire the expertise necessary to enter a MD, MD-PhD or PhD program. Program eligibility includes: All applicants must:

• Have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum of an overall 3.0 GPA and a 3.3 science GPA. **Spring 2018 Bachelor degrees accepted.
• Demonstrate high motivation and potential to become a basic scientist with a goal of attaining a MD, MD-PhD or PhD.
• Be representative of the following racial and ethnic groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health professions and the sciences: Black, Hispanic, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Pacific Islanders who meet all eligibility criteria and have a high probability of fulfilling the social and educational goals of this program.
• Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

Application requirements include:

• Complete an online application to the UConn Graduate School.
• Provide two letters of recommendation, at least one from a science instructor. The letters of recommendation should be obtained from individuals with whom you are well acquainted and whose stature as well as expertise enable them to comment in detail on your academic preparedness related to your career aspirations.
• Submit official score reports for all that apply: SAT (or equivalent), ACT, and MCAT or GRE if already taken. We require reports of all previous standardized tests taken to be submitted with application.
• Submit a personal statement within the online application following the directions given on the CICATS website. Applicants should describe their background, talents, motivations and other factors that have shaped their career goals in medicine or science.
• Submit an essay within the online application per instructions provided on the CICATS website. The essay should demonstrate your interest, particularly previous research experience or exposure, in pursuing careers as scientists and/or scholars in the biological and biomedical sciences. Include a statement of how this program will assist you in achieving your career goals.
• Applicants must also submit an essay containing a five-year future plan that clearly outlines the applicant's intentions related to academic pursuits and career goals. It should include details on how the applicant will succeed in reaching the stated career goals.

Thursday, March 22, 2018
UConn Health Journal Celebrates Women in Medicine The spring 2018 Issue of UConn Health Journal is on line now. Feature articles celebrate the power of our women, exploring how UConn Health supports women in STEM and medicine and hearing insight from female practitioners and researchers on what it's like to care for other women.

Thursday, March 29, 2018
UConn Health Journal -Spring Issue The Power of Our Women Did you know that 73 percent of the total employees who fuel UConn Health's clinical care, research, and education Initiatives is female? And when it comes to our students, females make up 50.7 percent of the medical school and 52.5 percent of the dental school. Our dedication to the achievements of women in medicine and science dates back to our founding in 1968. Read more about it and UConn Health's other latest clinical, research and educational news in the latest edition of our UConn Health Journal.

March 29, 2018
PAWS Awards Announced
What are PAWS awards? They are awards given to employees that showcase our own for the quiet excellence performed every day. To receive a PAWS award, an employee must be Part of a team, have an Awesome attitude, Wonderful work ethic, and provide Superior service. These employees exemplify the culture that is the cornerstone of our mission here at the Health Center.

The PAWS awards celebration for the first quarter of 2018 was held today in Keller Auditorium. A number of employees were recognized for being part of a team, their awesome attitude, wonderful work ethic and superior service.

March 29, 2018
Health Career Opportunity Programs
Watch NBC CT's inspiring segment about how the longstanding Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) at UConn Health, founded by Dr. Marja Hurley, have been helping Connecticut's youth pursue their dreams of future careers in medicine and science.

March 29, 2018
UConn Health Hosts Junior Scientists: For the second year in a row, UConn Health hosted the statewide competition of the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS). This year around 200 students, teachers, and parents representing 40 schools took part in the all-day conference. It's designed to provide high schools students with a forum to share ideas about how to solve real world problems with STEM education. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics which are all essential to the future of our technology-driven world. In preparation for the competition, students submitted research proposals several months in advance that recognized a significant problem pertaining to human affairs. About 80 proposals were then rated by a panel of professionals in STEM science to be presented as oral or poster presentations. Needless to say, the scientific merit and rigor that went into these projects exceeded expectations and it was challenging to decide which projects were to be a part of the competition. The symposium included a keynote presentation by Stormy Chamberlain, an associate professor in genetics and associate director of the Genetics and Developmental Biology Graduate Program.
at UConn Health: Her talk focused on her research using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) from patients with Angelman syndrome, Prader-willi syndrome, and 15q duplication syndrome. Following the keynote, students were divided into groups to present or attend the poster and oral presentations. Students were also given the opportunity to attend a career panel session with young professionals in social work, nursing, pharmaceutical science, medical science, research, public health, and dentistry. Students asked the panel questions pertaining to career motivations, challenges with career decisions, college or high school course preparation, J internships, college planning, loans, etc. Another option for students was touring some of our research labs, including the virtual anatomy lab, to participate in hands-on activities and learn about the exciting research being done here. Graduate students in the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program, including Matthew Sticco (Neurosciencen), Nicholas Wasko (Immunology), Rajamani Selvam (Neuroscience), and Shubham Khetan (Genetics) led the tours. They each created a short module that consisted of hands-on activities as well as career advice for students interested in pursuing careers in research. At the end of the event, top presentations were announced. The effort and scientific merit that went into this year's projects was nothing short of amazing. It's important to note that last year's first place national winner was one of Connecticut's JSHS winners last March. JSHS is nationally organized by the Academy of Applied Sciences with sponsorship from the U.S. Army, Naval, and Air Force. Connecticut's program would not have been made possible without the dedication of Connecticut Area Health Education Center Network (AHEC) and the staff at UConn Health: We wish the best of luck to the five Connecticut representatives at the national competition in May.

Friday, April 6, 2018
High School Students Apply Now for IWEM Workshop UConn Health Is excited to announce the first IWEM (Inspiring Women in Engineering & Medicine) workshop will take place on May 5, 2018, at the Musculoskeletal Institute at UConn Health from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We invite females in high school (grades 9-12) In New England to apply. This will be a FREE, four-hour hands-on workshop and participants will get to perform three different mock Orthopaedics surgeries, hear from prominent women surgeons, and interact with other successful women In the medical field, such as physical therapist and advanced practicing registered nurses. The deadline to apply is April 14, 2018. We will accept up to 36 participants.

Thursday, April 19, 2018
Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs is hosting its annual Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference for high school and college students to promote diversity in the health professions and to raise awareness about health and biomedical science careers. Participants will also learn about the admissions process for medical, dental, and graduate schools. The guest speaker will be Jonathan J. Nunez, M.D., Physician at the Johnathan Lax Treatment Center of Philadelphia Fight Community Health Centers. Dr. Nunez participated in several of the department's programs and is a graduate of UConn's School of Medicine. Faculty, students and staff are cordially invited to attend Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Keller Auditorium. This event is funded by the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative and the John & Valerie Rowe Endowment Funds.

Monday, April 30, 2018
Group on Women in Medicine and Science Annual Symposium (GWIMS), you are cordially invited to the GWIMS Annual Symposium and Recognition of Outstanding Women Faculty and Medical Students, on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 5:00pm in Massey Auditorium with a Reception prior at 4:30pm in the Academic Lobby, UConn Health. Our keynote speaker is Judith
D. Singer, PhD, Senior Vice Provost of Faculty Development and Diversity and James Bryant Conant Professor of Education of Harvard, University. The talk will be followed by the recognition of UConn's Outstanding Women Faculty and Medical Student(s). We hope all could attend to hear the well-known speaker, Dr. Judith Singer of Harvard University and join the recognition of UConn's Outstanding Women Faculty and Medical student.

Thursday, May 3, 2018

**AmeriCorps Program Recruiting (CT AHEC Network)** Health360 is currently accepting applications for the CT Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network AmeriCorps program. The Connecticut AHEC Network AmeriCorps Program aims to improve academic engagement of economically disadvantaged students through participation in the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) and Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC) service learning programs, as well as workshops. The YHSC and CHSC programs are health careers recruitment programs that engage diverse students as leaders in meaningful service learning that address community health issues. AmeriCorps members recruit, train and manage students in the YHSC and CHSC programs. Student volunteers are trained to serve in health care settings that serve the underserved. Students are exposed to entry level health care careers and learn how to successfully enter onto upwardly mobile health care career ladders. The program will increase AmeriCorps members' educational and professional status by providing a vast amount of experience in the field. Benefits: Training, living allowance, education award upon successful completion of service, childcare assistance if eligible.

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

**Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy Closing Ceremony held at the Massey Auditorium. Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy Annual Academic Year Program Closing and Recognition Ceremony:** Middle and High School students who participated in the Aetna Health Professions Partnership initiative Great Explorations, JumpStart Program. Junior Doctors Academy, and Senior Doctors Academy at UConn Health, will be honored at our Annual Academic Year and Recognition Closing Ceremony on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 in Massey Auditorium from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. The keynote speaker for this event will be Mr. Jay Williams, President of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Faculty, students and staff are cordially invited to attend and support the efforts of the students and their dedication to the programs. Refreshments will follow the ceremony in the Academic Lobby.

Monday, May 21, 2018

**Interested in Diversity and Inclusion? Join RISE**
The Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs will be Introducing RISE (Reaching Inclusive Excellence)-a diversity education program, to all first year students this August 201. The program will be a 1.5 hour Interactive workshop led by a co-facilitator team (Faculty/Staff /Graduate Student & Undergraduate Student). The program will be a 1.5 hour Interactive workshop led by a co-facilitator team (Faculty/Staff /Graduate Student & Undergraduate Student). The facilitator teams will participate in a Train the Trainer session to be led by CreativTEAM, Inc. You can learn more about CreativTEAM, INC here: http://creativeteam.com/ The two day Train the Trainer sessions will be held in Storrs from 9am-4pm on: Facilitators would have to commit to attending ONE of the above 2-day Train the Trainer sessions and be available during the RISE (Reaching Inclusive Excellence)-a diversity education program time on Saturday August 25th from 6:30pm-8pm. Facilitators who are current residential students will be allowed to extend their housing in May or arrive early in August in order to attend the training sessions. You can sign up here: RISE-A Diversity Education Program
Diversity Youth and Professional Careers Outreach:

Great Explorations:

The Great Explorations Program is an enrichment program designed to provide extracurricular activities in math, science, and language arts to seventh- and eighth-grade middle school students. A total of 228 students who participated in the Great Explorations Program in 2016-2017 were enrolled in one of eight middle schools: Jumoke at Hartford Conservatory, Jumoke SMART Academy, Kennelly, CREC Academy of Science and Innovation. Sport and Medical School.

Great Explorations also offers a six-week summer academic enrichment program (or rising eighth-grade participants and a 30-week Saturday Academy for eighth-graders. The summer activities are conducted at the Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science and the Saturday Academy is held at the UConn Greater Hartford campus. During the summer of 2017 there were a total of 24 students participating in the summer component. A total of 24 students participated in the 30-week academic year component of the program. This included 21 of those who participated in the summer.

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy (Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy) is designed to provide educational opportunities which may not be available to a number of Connecticut high school students. The Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy consists of the Jumpstart 9 and 10 programs and the Junior and Senior Doctors Academies. The purpose of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy high school program is to provide access multiple preparation to students interested in health professions who come from backgrounds where they are the first in their family to earn a four-year degree, come from modest family means, and/or are from backgrounds traditionally under-represented in health care. Students participating in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy are generally recruited from the Hartford area schools and strive to become physicians, dentists, biomedical research scientists, pharmacists, nurses and other health professionals.

The Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy has two major components, the summer program and the academic year program. Both components are offered at the UConn Greater Hartford campus. The summer and academic year programs are designed to advance students' academic skill levels in math, science and English. The programs promote personal growth through extracurricular experiences designed to help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and the American College Test (ACT). A total of 127 students participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy during the 2016-2017 academic year.

High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series

The High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series offers eight weekly lectures and demonstrations presented by faculty members of the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Topics include molecular biology, pharmacology, cardiology, oncology, and dental medicine. Sixty-six Connecticut high school juniors and seniors participated in the 2018 program.
Participants are 11th- and 12th-grade students who are in state residents and selected by their school guidance coun-selors or science teachers. All students have shown a strong interest in pursuing careers in medicine, dental medicine and the biological sciences. Sessions are also broadcast live to high schools throughout the state of Connecticut.

Epidemiology

The Epidemiology Pro-a series of five classes, is held for students from the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation to introduce basic concepts and ter-minology used in 1he study of epidemiology. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Wetstone, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health, the program provides an introduction to general epidemiology as well as descriptive, applied, and analytical epidemiology and screening. Fourteen 11th- and 12th-graders attended sessions at UConn Health on four occasions and Drs. Wetstone and Stevens visited ASI on one occasion.

High School Student Research Apprentice Program

Thirteen students had the opportunity to be a part of a research team and learn laboratory techniques in the 2017 High School Student Research Apprentice Program as part of the 2018 program, seven students commuted daily to Central Connecticut State University and nine students commuted daily to the UConn Health cam-pus for their research project. At the end of the summer, the students gave oral and poster presentations of their research results during a special research symposium.

CREC Academy of Science and Innovation, UConn Health, and Central Connecticut State University College Science Partnership

Seventy-two ninth- and tenth-grade students from the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation participated in the 2016-2017 College Science Partnership Series sponsored by the. Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Martin. Chair of the Department of Biomolecular Sciences at Central Connecticut State University, students participated in five biology and chemistry labs at Central Connecticut State University. The lab enrichment provided by the pro- gram helped the students in scientific techniques. The stu-dents who participated in the College Science Partnership Series exhibited higher-level scientific skills than those who did not.

Teens as Teachers

The UConn School of Medicine’s Delivery of Clinical Care (DoCC) curriculum is the clinical training component for medical students. The course helps students prepare for the clinical aspects of medicine by training them in history taking, physical examination, utilization of community resources and community collaboration for improved patient care. Part of the course involves training on adolescent health. Medical students learn about the importance and specialized aspects of the ado-lescent history, and practice their skills with real teens re-cruited from the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation (ASI), who act as patient instructors. The medical students then receive feedback on their perform-ance from the adolescent patient instructors.
Eleven students from ASI participated in the program last year. Under the leadership of Dr. Stacey Brown, director of community based education in the UConn School of Medicine, the participating adolescents are given health education workshops and training prior to their participation in the course.

Pre-College Enrichment Program

The Pre-College Enrichment Program is a residential enrichment program primarily for incoming students at UConn and other four-year institutions. Designed to provide solid development of scientific, mathematical, communications, problem solving, and test-taking skills, it is intended to enhance the college preparedness of college freshmen. It allows the students to experience life on a college campus at UConn Storrs or Central Connecticut State University prior to their matriculation to college in the fall. Students participate in the academic track (completion of academic courses) at UConn Storrs or Central Connecticut State University.

This past summer, 10 students participated in an academic track in collaboration with the UConn School of Engineering Bridge Program at Storrs and seven students participated in an academic track at Central Connecticut State University. All Pre-College Enrichment Program participants along with eight Bridge Program participants also engaged in numerous enrichment activities at UConn Health including the Clinical Skills Lab.

The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is a seven-week clinical enrichment experience designed for rising college sophomores, juniors, seniors or recent graduates. In the summer of 2018, 16 students participated in the program. The program is designed to provide the following: clinical research and enrichment experiences, an introduction to health disparities across cultures, principles of clinical medicine, public health issues, research and interventions, an overview of cultural definitions, and discussions of specific techniques for working with diverse populations in community settings. All of the participants completed a clinical research project and presented a poster with their results at the end of the program.

The community partners who participated in the 2018 program were:
- Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services
- Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
- UConn Health
- Commission on Equity and Opportunity
- Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health
- The Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity, Saint Francis Hospital
- Family Life Education
- Hartford Department of Health and Human Services
- Health Equity Solutions (HES)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Connecticut
- North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc.
- Oak Hill Center
- Partnership for Strong Communities

The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is made possible by the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Health Equity award.
Medical/Dental Preparatory Program

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program students are selected from various universities throughout the United States to work on academic skills to prepare for medical school or dental school admission. Participants of the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 1 prepare for either the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or the Dental Admission Test (DAT), while the participants of the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 2 take courses in the basic medical sciences to prepare them for the first year curriculum of medical and dental school. A total of 44 college students and recent college graduates participated in academic classes, guest lectures, test-taking strategies and other enrichment activities at the UConn Health campus during the six-week summer 2018 program.

Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Summer Research Fellowship Program is a nine week research enrichment experience designed for college sophomores, juniors, seniors, and recent graduates who are interested in a career in medicine, dental medicine or biomedical research and for applicants who have completed some college coursework in biology and chemistry (preferably through organic chemistry). Minority Access to Research Careers (MARCH) students are encouraged to apply.

A faculty sponsor is identified for each student. Faculty develops and makes available suitable project descriptions. The student contacts his/her faculty sponsor in April or May and develops a research protocol. Students devote approximately 32 hours per week on a research project and 8 hours per week to clinical experiences. In the summer of 2018, a total of seven students participated in the program. At the end of the summer, the students gave a poster presentation of their research results during a special research symposium.

Parental Seminar Series

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative’s Parental Seminar Series is an opportunity for students and parents to learn more about important health issues affecting their community. Parents are asked to submit a survey on the topics they are most interested in learning about and the series of lectures are then tailored to their needs. The 2017-2018 Parental Seminar Series included a college admissions panel which included Aida Silva, associate director of admission, University of Connecticut, Jane Gardner, assistant director of admissions at Central Connecticut State University, and Bill Jack, associate dean of admissions and financial aid, Wesleyan University. They discussed college financial aid and the admissions process. Dr. Gary Rule, director of Health and Human Services, Hartford, presented information on anxiety and stress. The Parental Seminar Series also included a presentation on genetic links to cardiovascular disease by Dr. Annabelle Rodriguez, professor of cell biology, Center for Vascular Biology, UConn Health.

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

The 2018 Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference was held on Saturday, April 22, with approximately 152 high school and college students participating. The students were brought together with UConn Health faculty, staff, medical, dental and graduate students to interact in a series of activities to raise awareness about health and biomedical science careers and the admissions process for medical, dental, and graduate schools. The Department of Health
Career Opportunity Programs, the UConn Chapters of the Student National Medical Association/Latino Medical Student Association, the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association, and the John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Fund sponsored this year's conference.

The keynote speaker, Dr. John Zyro, an UConn School of Dental Medicine Class of 2016 graduate and a general dentistry resident at Danbury Hospital, spoke to the students about his personal journey through college and dental school. Enrichment activities for high school students included presentations on Test your Knowledge presented by Ms. Ashley Arthur, incoming dental student, Class of 2021, UConn Health; dentistry by Dr. Geraldine Wein-stein, associate professor, Division of General Dentistry, Department of Craniofacial Science, UConn Health; and cardiology by Dr. Peter Schulman, professor of medicine and director of Cardiology Fellowship, Calhoun Cardiology Center, UConn Health. During the morning's events, the high school students also participated in a college admissions panel with several Connecticut college/universities.

The Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference also included hands-on activities for the high school students such as suturing and knot-tying, professionalism, and networking, which were led by members of the Student National Medical Association/Latino Medical Student Association. High School students also had the opportunity to participate in a virtual anatomy presentation led by Dr. John Harrison, associate professor, Craniofacial Sciences, UConn Health, and medical, dental, and graduate students. Additionally, Dr. Michael Goupil, associate professor, Division of Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery, UConn School of Dental Medicine, along with UConn dental students, presented a dental forensic hands-on workshop for high school students.

For college students specifically interested in dental medicine, the Dental Impressions Program led by Dr. Sarita Artega, UConn School of Dental Medicine associate dean for students and associate clinical professor of reconstructive sciences, held a series of information sessions which included hands-on activities such as taking dental impressions and touring the dental labs at UConn Health.

College students who participated in enrichment seminars learned about the admissions process for graduate and medical programs offered at UConn Health. The college students also participated in a mock admissions process where they served as potential admissions committee evaluators. Student participants ranked prospective applicants based on their academic profiles, letters of recommendation and MCAT scores. Led by Dr. Thomas Regan, UConn School of Medicine assistant dean for admissions and student affairs, and associate professor of emergency medicine; Omar Allam, first-year medical student; Maschal Mohiuddin, second-year medical student; and Fludiona Naka, third-year medical student and MPH candidate, the participants engaged in discussions and activities similar to the admissions committees at UConn Health. This process helped the students better understand what admissions committees are looking for in qualified candidates.

Both the high school and college students had opportunities to listen to personal anecdotes from students currently enrolled at the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, and the UConn graduate program in public health. The medical, dental and graduate students shared their progression through their respective health professions program and allowed the high school and college students to ask questions.
Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association UConn Health Chapter Hispanic Heritage Month Event

Each year the UConn Chapter of the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association (SNDA/HSDA), in collaboration with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the Hispanic culture of the UConn Health community through food, song, dance, and other artistic presentations. Last year’s event took place on October 20, 2017, at the UConn Health campus. The event included authentic Hispanic cuisine, raffle prizes, and entertainment. Local Hispanic restaurants provided delicious dishes such as beef Chaufa and beef noodles from Polin (Peru), empanadas and rice with pigeon peas from Aquí Me Quedo (Puerto Rico), pollo asado, pollo guisado, white rice, beans and maduros from Caribe Restaurant (Dominican Republic), tacos and pico de gallo from El Tepeyac Mexican Restaurant, and pupusas and salad from Casita del Sabor (El Salvador).

Student National Medical Association - UConn Health Chapter Culture Shock Event

Each year the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) hosts Culture Shock, an event sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the diversity of the UConn Health community through food, poetry, fashion, song, dance and other artistic presentations. Participants enjoy a wide array of local and inter-national cuisine, which is obtained through donations from many restaurants and individuals from UConn Health. Last year, Culture Shock was held on December 9, 2016, in UConn Health's Keller Auditorium. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation in Hartford.

SNMA is a nationally run student organization whose mission is to "support current and future underrepresented minority medical students, to address the needs of underserved communities, and to increase the number of clinically excellent, culturally and socially conscious physicians." Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation is dedicated to empowering homeless persons to become independent so they may live and work with dignity and respect" by "providing housing, food, job training and access to medical services, and basic human needs." The UConn Chapter of SNMA chose to donate to Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation because of its previous relationship with this organization. Additionally Mercy House's work with those who are socio-economically challenged within the Hartford community was something that SNMA felt strongly about. SNMA has since held several volunteer events at Mercy House, serving its residents. Addition-ally, SNMA wanted to raise awareness concerning home-lessness and food instability as a major factor in the development of disparate health outcomes that dispro-proportionately affect marginalized groups such as minorities and individuals with mental health issues.

Student National Medical Association UConn Health Chapter Hosts the Pre-Med Experience

The UConn Student National Medical Association Chapter hosted undergraduate pre-medical students for an enrichment visit at UConn Health on March 31, 2018. The participants heard presentations from UConn Health faculty and staff about UConn School of Medicine, the medical school application process, and financing a medical school education. The undergraduate students also interacted with current medical students who spoke about their personal journeys to medical school. The day's activities also included virtual anatomy tutorials,
a mock team-based learning exercise, and work-shops on resume building, medical school applications, and life as a medical student. The event ended with a tour of UConn Health.

West Middle School Enrichment with the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association -UConn Health Chapter

On February 16, 2018, the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs hosted 40 seventh and eighth grade students from Hartford's West Middle School for a day of enrichment focused on dental medicine at UConn Health. The enrichment workshops were facilitated by Dr. Sarita Arteaga in the School of Dental Medicine and the members of the UConn Chapter of the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association. Throughout the day, the middle school students heard from a panel of current dental stu-dents, participated in a jeopardy game on dental hygiene and oral health, and visited the Grasso Dental Simulation Lab for hands-on activities to learn more about dentistry. This event was funded by The Hartford.
Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pipeline

- Great Explorations Doctors Academy (6th - 8th grades)
- Jumpstart Doctors Academy (9th - 10th grades)
- Bridge to the Future Science Mentorship Program (10th - 11th grades)
- Junior Doctors Academy (11th grade)
- Senior Doctors Academy (12th grade)

- High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program (11th - 12th grades)
- High School Student Research Apprentice Program (11th - 12th grades)

- Pre-College Enrichment Program (FCEF)
  (College Pre-Freshman)
- Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program (HDCSRFP)
  (College Sophomores)
- Summer Research Fellowship Program (SRFP)
  (College Juniors)
- Medical/Dental Preparatory Program (MDPP)
  (College Juniors/Seniors)

- University of Connecticut
  Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine, and Graduate School
- Post-Baccalaureate Program
  (Postbac. Students)
Congratulations to...

Mark Fleming, M.D.
Physician, Medical Student, Mentor

Dr. Mark Fleming graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2017.

After graduating high school in 2009, Dr. Fleming enrolled in Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia. He graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in chemistry. He then enrolled in the UConn School of Medicine during the fall of 2013.

Dr. Fleming decided that he wanted to be a doctor at the age of 6. He says, “I have always enjoyed visiting my pediatrician and learning about the human body. In addition, I watched my father struggle with his health as I was growing up and it only inspired me to strive to help people like him in the future.”

Dr. Fleming became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs when he was accepted into the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 2 prior to his first year of medical school. During this time he also became involved in the mentoring program with the Actna HPPI Doctors Academy students. Dr. Fleming says, “Being able to watch them journey through high school as they aspired for college and beyond was very fulfilling. I am happy I was able to be there as a mentor and friend to these young adults.”

Dr. Fleming is currently completing his general surgery residency at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. His future plans include landing a pediatric surgery fellowship becoming a pediatric surgeon as well as teaching at an academic institution.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making his dream a reality, Dr. Fleming responded, “I would like to thank Dr. Hurley for her support and leadership in helping me to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor. My education was made possible because of the generosity of her office and I wouldn’t be here without it. I would also like to thank Dr. Henderson for his support and for always being there to lend an ear or word of advice. Lastly, I would like to thank Dr. Grimm for seeing the potential in me to develop as a medical student leader and for her continued encouragement.”

Dr. Fleming would like to thank and express his gratitude to the following people: “My professors and preceptors for everything they taught me along the way. Specifically, I would like to say thank you to Dr. Buchanan, my student continuity practice (SCP) preceptor, for refining my clinical reasoning and skills on a weekly basis and for being one of my closest mentors in medicine.”

He leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “Always pay it forward. Never give up on your dreams and remember that you can do anything you put your mind to.”
Dr. Maria Vargas graduated from the UConn School of Dental Medicine in May 2017.

Dr. Vargas attended Midwood High School in Brooklyn, New York. After graduation she enrolled at Hunter College, a City University of New York. She graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry and a minor in mathematics and music.

Dr. Vargas decided to become a dentist right after high school when she started working at a local dental office. At that time, she didn’t have any money saved up for college and due to her immigration status, she could not apply for financial assistance, so she couldn’t attend college right away. She heard that a dentist was looking for help around the office and she decide to take the opportunity to save money for college. Dr. Vargas says, “I have never considered a career in dentistry until I started working there. I learned a great amount from the dentist and quickly knew it was what I wanted to dedicate my life to.”

Dr. Vargas became involved with the Health Career Opportunity Programs Department since the day of her interview at UConn. She says, “I met Dr. Hurley that same day and I knew immediately that I wanted to be a part of the UConn Community. She was incredibly kind, helpful and welcoming. I am very thankful for all the opportunities that the Health Career Opportunity Programs has given me throughout the years at UConn. Every single experience has opened another door and allowed me to grow as an individual and future dentist.”

Dr. Vargas expresses how grateful she is for the continuous support she has received from faculty and friends. She would like to thank and express gratitude to the following people: “The entire operative and prosthodontics faculty, who have watched us grow from the start of dental school and supported us every single day. They are not only our most important mentors but also our friends. I feel blessed to have created a second family at UConn.”

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in health professions: “As the oldest in my family, my cousins look to me for advice and guidance. The same words I share with the younger generation. I have to admit that at times, I felt scared and doubted myself when applying to dental school, but my family helped me believe in myself and I took many leaps to obtain a better education. Once you find something you are passionate about, work hard and be patient, and you’ll achieve great things. Take in all the negative moments and use them as fuel to grow into a better individual. Always look forward and surround yourselves with wonderful people.”
Dr. Keisha White graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2017.

Dr. White attended Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2012.

Dr. White decided she wanted to become a pediatrician at a very young age. She says, “It’s the only thing I have always wanted to do. I had an amazing pediatrician, Dr. Pender, who really took the time to teach me about my body and make my experiences fun! I have always enjoyed working with children and have loved the science of human physiology and pathology.”

Dr. White became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs when she participated in the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program while she was in college. She had an excellent experience and was able to work at the Connecticut Department of Public Health in the Primary Care office working to better understand the areas of need in the state for oral health and working to improve data collection for application for health professional shortage area designation by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Dr. White is currently completing her pediatrics residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Her future plans include working with children and families from underserved communities.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making her dream a reality, Dr. White responded “Petra Clark-Dufner for consistently pushing me to do better, exposing me to new experiences and being an excellent mentor. Dr. Aruna Ramanan for helping me to develop clinical acumen, for being an excellent mentor, and for welcoming me into pediatrics with open arms.”

Dr. White would like to express gratitude to the following people: “My parents and family for being supportive of me over the years. Dr. Hurley and the Health Career Opportunity Programs office for making my M.D. more easily obtainable and for providing a space of inclusiveness and support on campus.”

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in health professions: “It is a marathon, not a sprint. There will always be difficulties along the way but you can do it if you keep your eyes on the prize.”
Congratulations to...

Titus Wongk, D.M.D.
Dentist, Dental Student, Mentor

Dr. Titus Wongk graduated from the UConn School of Dental Medicine in May 2017.

Dr. Titus Wongk attended Houston County High in Warner Robins, Georgia. During his senior year of high school he did an externship for five hours a day at a local private practice. This opportunity allowed Dr. Wongk to truly see what the field of dentistry is like. After graduation in 2009, Dr. Wongk enrolled at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. He graduated in 2013 with his degree in biomedical science.

Dr. Wongk became involved with the Health Career Opportunity Programs through the summer Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 2. One of his best experiences was working as a teacher assistant for the Health Career Opportunity Programs Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 1 DAT Prep.

Dr. Wongk is currently completing his Advanced Education in General Dentistry at New York University Lutheran in Bessemer, Alabama. His future plans include enjoying life in a private practice general dental environment. He is not planning on specializing and would like to work mostly with the adult population.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making his dream a reality, Dr. Wongk responded, “Dr. Arteaga, Dr. Agar, and Dr. Grimm-Jorgensen. They are the most influential because at the times when I was overwhelmed or stressed about how to successfully complete the tasks at hand, they were there in full support to offer guidance and words of encouragement.”

Dr. Wongk would like to thank and express gratitude to the following people: “My patients that I have seen over the years who provide small gems of advice on how to become a great care provider. To my professors who took personal interest in my well-being through my years at UConn, and lastly to friends and family who pledged to place their teeth in my care even before I knew what dentistry was.”

He leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “While the dental profession is not for everyone, it is certainly attainable for everyone who desires [it]. The key is never to give up.”
Congratulations to Our Mentors and Past Program Participants - UConn Medical, Dental and Graduate School 2017 Graduates

Nicole Becker, D.M.D.
Kamisha Byas, M.D.
Daniel Camacho, D.M.D.
Daniel Carozzi, D.M.D.
Christine Farag, M.D.
Mark Fleming, M.D.
Tracey Modeste, M.D.
Cléa Moore, M.D.
Salvatore Rizzuto, D.M.D.
Josué Santos, M.D.
Alexis Thompson, M.D.
Keisha White, M.D.
Titus Wongk, D.M.D.

Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) Medical/Dental Student 2017 Bridge Mentoring Award

Mark Fleming, M.D.
Maria Vargas, D.M.D.
Keisha White, M.D.
Titus Wongk, D.M.D.

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs recognized two dental students and two medical students for their continued participation and involvement with the Aetna HPPI Programs with the Bridge Mentoring Award. The 2017 recipients were: Mark Fleming, M.D., General Surgery, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, Maria Vargas, D.M.D., General Practice Residency, Bellevue Hospital Center, New York City, Keisha White, M.D., Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, Titus Wongk, D.M.D., Advanced Education in General Dentistry, New York University Lutheran, Bessemer, Alabama.
The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs provides John & Valerie Rowe Scholarships in the form of book awards to Senior Doctors Academy students from the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy who will enroll as freshmen at UConn. John D. Rowe, M.D., and Valerie A. Rowe, Ph.D., are longtime donors to UConn, supporting students and institutional advancement. The Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Endowment has helped hundreds of students from underrepresented populations succeed in UConn’s undergraduate, medical, and graduate programs through scholarships, academic, and experiential opportunities.

Dr. John Rowe is a professor of health policy and management at Columbia University and former chairman and CEO of Aetna, Inc. He previously served on the UConn Board of Trustees and the UConn Health Board of Directors. Dr. John Rowe was awarded the Carole and Ray Neag Medal of Honor for his remarkable contributions to medicine and UConn Health in 2012. Dr. Valerie Rowe is a retired clinical associate professor at the Graduate School of Education at Fordham University. “Jack and Valerie Rowe understand that the gift of education transforms lives. We are immensely grateful for their investment in the prestigious Rowe Scholar program, which has assisted dozens of talented students from underrepresented backgrounds succeed at UConn,” said Joshua R. Newton, president and CEO of the UConn Foundation.

The 2017 John and Valerie Rowe Scholarships were awarded to Bruno Casanova, Kiara Dutschin, Angel Green and Wesia Malik. The scholarships were awarded to each recipient by Dr. Marja Hurley, professor of medicine and orthopaedic surgery, associate dean for Health Career Opportunity Programs, and founding director of Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative. Angel Green and Wesia Malik have also been accepted into the UConn Honors Program as Rowe Health Professions Scholars.

From left: Dr. Granville Wrensford, Dr. Marja Hurley, John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship recipients Bruno Casanova, Kiara Dutschin, Angel Green and Wesia Malik, Boake L. Plessy Scholarship recipient Justin Ude, and Dr. Kerry-Ann Stewart.
Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs
Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. 2017 Scholarship Recipients

In honor of Dr. Boake Plessy’s contributions, UConn Health has established a scholarship fund that is used to support educational enhancement for students who participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy and are planning to continue their education at the post-secondary level.

The Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs – Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship was awarded to Jeffrey Narcisse and Justin Ude at the Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony. Mr. Narcisse and Mr. Ude will be attending UConn.

To contribute to the Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship Fund or for more information about philanthropy to support the Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health, please contact: Abigail O’Brien, director of development for health sciences, UConn Foundation at 860-679-4524 or aobrien@foundation.uconn.edu.

[Click on this link to contribute to the Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship Fund: health.uconn.edu/hecop/donate/]

The Greater Hartford Chapter of the Links, Inc.
Scholarship Recipients

The Greater Hartford Chapter of the Links, Inc. presented scholarships to graduating seniors of the Doctors Academy during the Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony held on May 17, 2017. The Links, Inc. is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of professional women of color in 285 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. It is one of the nation’s oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

The scholarships were awarded to help the students with college expenses. Receiving scholarships were Kiera Flynn, Shamar Hall, Giovanni Jones, Alana Morgan, and Tiana Starks.

Members of the Greater Hartford Chapter of the Links, Inc., with scholarship recipients (In white coats, left to right) Kiera Flynn, Shamar Hall, Giovanni Jones, Alana Morgan, and Tiana Starks.
Congratulations to the Senior Doctors Academy
Graduating Class of 2017!

Hard Work
Career-Focused
Optimal Performance
Persistence
Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy and Great Explorations
Academic Enrichment Experiences

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative (Aetna HPPI) Doctors Academy students (The Jumpstart 9 and 10, Junior and Senior Doctors Academies) took enrichment trips to Mystic Aquarium, the American Red Cross, Hartford Stage, and the UConn Health and UConn Storrs campuses. The Great Exploration students also visited the UConn Health campus, plus the Institute of Living, the Trinity College campus, the Central Connecticut State University campus and the Connecticut Science Center.
Dr. John Zyzo was raised in Southbury, Connecticut, about an hour outside of New York City. His involvement with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs began when he enrolled at UConn in 2008. It was through his participation in the summer enrichment programs that Dr. Zyzo developed his interest in dental medicine and built upon his science background. He was a participant in the Pre-College Enrichment Program Research Component the summer of 2008, the Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program (now known as the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program) the summer of 2009, the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 1-DAT Prep the summer of 2010, the Summer Research Fellowship Program the summer of 2011, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 2-BMS the summer of 2012.

As an undergraduate, Dr. Zyzo majored in molecular and cell biology while also minoring in business administration. He also attended the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program Conferences from 2009 through 2011 before serving as a Road to Success Panelist for the college portion of the conference from 2012 through 2015.

Aside from studying, Dr. Zyzo was involved in numerous community outreach programs and continued his participation throughout dental school. He devoted time to programs such as Connecticut Mission of Mercy, Migrant Farm Workers Clinic, Give Kids a Smile, Healthy Adolescent Smiles, and South Park Shelter for the Homeless.

Although Dr. Zyzo enjoyed his time providing oral health education at these various community programs, his greatest memories are of his three service trips to Honduras. On two occasions as an undergraduate, he was able to volunteer at a dental clinic and assist local dentists as they provided comprehensive dental care in very underserved areas of Honduras. Fast forward about five years as a third-year dental student, Dr. Zyzo returned to Honduras on a similar service trip and was able to provide comprehensive dental care himself. This proved to be a surreal experience for him, as he was able to take part in a similar trip to Honduras and provide even more services with his newly attained skills and knowledge of dental medicine.

Dr. Zyzo graduated with a B.S. degree as a Rowe Health Professions and Honors Scholar May of 2012 and matriculated at the UConn School of Dental Medicine the following August. After completing his first year of dental school, Dr. Zyzo served as a tutor for undergraduate students studying for the Dental Admissions Test as part of the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program.

Upon completing his D.M.D. degree in 2016, he decided to continue his dental education by doing a one-year general practice residency at Danbury Hospital. After finishing his residency, Dr. Zyzo hopes to continue practicing dentistry in Connecticut.
Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative 2016-2017
Academic Year Doctors Academy Closing Ceremony

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs hosted its annual Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony for the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative (Aetna HPPI) Doctors Academy on May 17, 2017 in Keller Auditorium at UConn Health. The Aetna HPPI is an education consortium offering a comprehensive program of educational enrichment and support activities to increase the competitive applicant pool of diverse students who are interested in careers in the health professions.

This Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony marked the culmination of a very positive academic year enrichment experience for middle and high school students from the Greater Hartford area who participated in the Great Explorations Doctors, Jumpstart Doctors, Junior Doctors, and Senior Doctors Academies. Remarks were given by Dr. R. Lamont MacNeil, UConn School of Dental Medicine dean and professor of oral health and diagnostic sciences, and Mr. Chris Montross, senior managing director, community relations and urban marketing at Aetna. The keynote speaker was State Senator Douglas McCrory of the 2nd District, who spoke about the importance of education and the need for health care professionals. He encouraged the students to continue on their paths towards becoming health professionals. Senator McCrory also spoke about building relationships and the need for students to seek out mentors to help them along this journey.

Student reflections were given by Kiera Flynn, a Senior Doctors Academy participant and Class of 2017 graduate, and Michael Tassavor, Senior Doctors Academy Class of 2008 graduate, UConn Class of 2012 graduate, and UConn School of Medicine Class of 2018 candidate. Ms. Paula McDonald, a parent, also gave an inspiring speech on the positive effects the programs have had on her daughters and family members who have participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy. All of the Senior Doctors Academy graduates are currently attending college with seven of them enrolled at the UConn. Bruno Casanova, Kiara Dutchin, Angel Green and Wesia Malik were each awarded the John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship.
Kristen Glasgow, M.D., grew up in North Salem, New York, and matriculated to Wesleyan University in 2000. Prior to starting her undergraduate career, Dr. Glasgow participated in the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pre-College Program the summer of 2000. She then participated in the Wesleyan University Clinical College Enrichment Program at Connecticut Valley Hospital the summer of 2001, the Summer Research Fellowship Program the summer of 2002, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program the summer of 2003.

Dr. Glasgow graduated with a degree in biology in May 2004 and spent a year after doing research at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. She then matriculated to UConn School of Medicine, where she received her medical degree in May 2009. At UConn, Dr. Glasgow developed her interest in surgery and matched at the Hospital of Saint Raphael Surgery Residency program, then finished at the Yale New Haven Hospital Surgical Residency.

After residency, Dr. Glasgow completed a fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch and Shriners Hospital, where she spent a year learning burn surgery and critical care. For the past two years, she has been working as an acute care surgeon at Bridgeport Hospital covering trauma, general surgery, burn surgery and critical care.

Lenworth Ellis, M.D., graduated with honors from the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of the West Indies in 1993. He completed an internship and worked as a medical officer in Jamaica before attending Howard University, where he completed his residency in internal medicine. Dr. Ellis then completed a fellowship in public health and occupational medicine at Johns Hopkins University where he also earned a Master's Degree in public health. Dr. Ellis then joined the staff of Access Healthcare as a general internist and subsequently started his own medical practice, which he operated with his wife, Hyacinth, for seven years.

After leaving private practice, Dr. Ellis joined the faculty at UConn Health as a clinical assistant professor of medicine in July 2016. He has a clinical interest in cardiovascular disease prevention through risk factor modification. He is also interested in community-based approaches for improving public health. Dr. Ellis is the father of two teenage children and enjoys reading spy novels and is also trying to learn to play tennis.
Recently received awards and honors by faculty, staff, and students in the medical and dental schools include:

The UConn Health Board of Directors recently named two new endowed chairs:

**Dr. Brenton Graveley**, Health Net, Inc. Chair in Genetics and Developmental Biology

**Dr. David McFadden**, Murray-Heilig Chair in Surgery

https://today.uconn.edu/school-stories/medical-dental-school-awards-honors/
Four University of Connecticut employees have been selected as “Women of Inspiration” by the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF). CWEALF is a statewide nonprofit organization that advocates for and empowers women and girls in Connecticut, especially those who are underserved or marginalized.

- Lana Angelo, Program Coordinator for the Young Innovative Investigator Program at the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, for her leadership in mentoring and training underrepresented students interested in biomedical research;
- Sarah McAnulty, Ph.D. candidate in the Nyholm lab, for her pioneering leadership in creating the Skype a Scientist program;
- Jessica McBride, Manager of Research Communications at the Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Connecticut, for her passion and commitment to highlighting innovative research discoveries; and,
- Brandi Welles, Research Assistant at the Southeast HIV and AIDS Research and Evaluation (SHARE) project at the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP), for her role in creating positive health outcomes for individuals with HIV and AIDS.

Albert Cheng, 33, has been named to CT Magazine’s 40 Under 40: Class of 2018. A genome engineer with a Ph.D. from MIT, Cheng became an assistant professor at the Jackson Laboratory and UConn Health at age 31. A rising star in the field, he is building a molecular “operating system” for the genome called “Casilio” that will advance the abilities of the CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing tool. He moved to the U.S. from Hong Kong a decade ago and has since contributed to more than 30 scientific publications and several patents, some of which have been licensed by biopharmaceutical startups. He has recently been awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop a new genome-engineering technologies.
Timothy Mason, UConn undergraduate student, is the recipient of the Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D. Travel Fellowship Award from the Society for Biomaterials. The award supports under-represented minorities in the field of biomaterials by providing an undergraduate student resources to attend the annual meeting of the Society For Biomaterials, and to become a member of the Society. The goal of this initiative is to stimulate/encourage recipients to pursue a career in biomaterials.

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UConn Health Hosts State Contest for Junior Scientists

Posted on March 29, 2018 by Carolyn Pennington

By Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. candidate Brittany Knight and JSHS event organizer

For the second year in a row, UConn Health hosted the statewide competition of the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS). This year around 200 students, teachers, and parents representing 40 schools took part in the all-day conference. It's designed to provide high schools students with a forum to share ideas about how to solve real world problems with STEM education. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics which

Genetics researcher Stormy Chamberlain giving the keynote talk during the JSHS event held March 24, 2018. (Photo by Brittany Knight)
are all essential to the future of our technology-driven world.

In preparation for the competition, students submitted research proposals several months in advance that recognized a significant problem pertaining to human affairs. About 80 proposals were then rated by a panel of professionals in STEM science to be presented as oral or poster presentations. Needless to say, the scientific merit and rigor that went into these projects exceeded expectations and it was challenging to decide which projects were to be a part of the competition.

The symposium included a keynote presentation by Stormy Chamberlain, an associate professor in genetics and associate director of the Genetics and Developmental Biology Graduate Program at UConn Health. Her talk focused on her research using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) from patients with Angelman syndrome, Prader-willli syndrome, and 15q duplication syndrome.

Following the keynote, students were divided into groups to present or attend the poster and oral presentations. Students were also given the opportunity to attend a career panel session with young professionals in social work, nursing, pharmaceutical science, medical science, research, public health, and dentistry. Students asked the panel questions pertaining to career motivations, challenges with career decisions, college or high school course preparation, internships, college planning, loans, etc.

Another option for students was touring some of our research labs, including the virtual anatomy lab, to participate in hands-on activities and learn about the exciting research being done here. Graduate students in the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program, including Matthew Stocco (Neuroscience), Nicholas Wasko (Immunology), Rajamani Selvam (Neuroscience), and Shubham Khetan (Genetics) led the tours. They each created a short module that consisted of hands-on activities as well as career advice for students interested in pursuing a career in research.

At the end of the event, top presentations were announced. The effort and scientific merit that went into this year's projects was nothing short of amazing. It's important to note that last year's first place national winner was one of Connecticut's JSHS winners last March.

JSHS is nationally organized by the Academy of Applied Sciences with sponsorship from the U.S. Army, Naval, and Air Force. Connecticut's program would not have been made possible without the dedication of Connecticut Area Health Education Center Network (AHEC) and the staff at UConn Health. We wish the best of luck to the five Connecticut representatives at the national competition in May.

This entry was posted in Education, Events, Pulse, Research.
Happening Today

1p-Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

Research Poster Presentation

Summer Research Fellowship Program and Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program Poster Presentations:

College students, who participated in the Summer Research Fellowship Program and in the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, will be presenting their research posters from 1 to 3 this afternoon in Keller Lobby. You are invited to attend and support the efforts of the students and acknowledge the dedication of the faculty from the UConn Health who served as mentors. Refreshments will be served.

Anastasia Rollins
x3484

For more information, contact: Anastasia Rollins at 860 679-3484

Other stories from the UConn Health Lifeline for Thursday, July 27, 2017 >>
MEETINGS AND EVENTS

7/28 Aetna Health Professors Partnership Initiative

Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

Research Symposium and Closing Ceremonies

Keynote Speaker: Lenworth Ellis, MD, UConn Health, School of Medicine

Alumni Speaker: Kristen Glasgow, M.D., UConn Health School of Medicine, Class of 2009

Date: Friday, July 28, 2017

Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Place: Keller Auditorium & Keller Lobby

High School Student Research Apprentice Program Symposium: High School students who participated in the High School Student Research Apprentice Program at the UConn Health and Central Connecticut State University will be giving oral presentations and displaying research posters on Friday, July 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in Keller Auditorium. You are invited to attend and support the efforts of the students and acknowledge the dedication of the faculty from the UConn Health and Central Connecticut State University who served as mentors. Refreshments will be served.

Closing Ceremonies: The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs is hosting the closing ceremonies for the Great Explorations, JumpStart Program, Junior Doctors Academy, Senior Doctors Academy, High School Student Research Apprentice Program, Pre-College Enrichment Program, Pre-College Academic Program, Medical/Dental Preparatory Program, Summer Research Fellowship Program, and the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program on Friday, July 28, 2017 in Keller Auditorium. The Keynote Speaker Dr. Lenworth Ellis is an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, UConn Health, Farmington, CT; the Alumni Speaker, Dr. Kristen Glasgow is a General Surgeon of New England Medical Group, Bridgeport Hospital, Bridgeport, CT and graduate of UConn Health School of Medicine, Class of 2009; and the Faculty Recognition Recipient is Laksmi Nair, PhD, SCTIMST, Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery. Closing ceremonies will begin at 12:00 p.m., Keller Auditorium followed by a reception in Keller Lobby. Faculty, students and staff are cordially invited to attend.

For more information, contact: Anastasia Rollins at 860 679-3484

Other stories from the UConn Health Lifeline for Thursday, July 27, 2017 >>

http://dailydigest.uconn.edu/publicEmailSingleStoryView.php?id=82482&cid=75&iid=2648 11/6/2017
MEETINGS AND EVENTS

7/27 Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

Research Poster Presentation

Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Summer Research Fellowship Program and Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program Poster Presentations:

College students, who participated in the Summer Research Fellowship Program and in the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, will be presenting their research posters on Thursday, July 27, 2017 from 1:00pm–3:00pm in Keller Lobby. You are invited to attend and support the efforts of the students and acknowledge the dedication of the faculty from the UConn Health who served as mentors. Refreshments will be served.

Anastasia Rollins
x3484

For more information, contact: Anastasia Rollins at 860 679-3484

Other stories from the UConn Health Lifeline for Wednesday, July 26, 2017 >>
Program Overview
The Health Research Program offers a pathway into undergraduate research for students with interests in health and the biomedical sciences. By facilitating connections between UConn Health researchers and UConn undergraduates, this program will involve more students in the cutting-edge research at the Farmington campus. The Health Research Program includes a combination of academic year and summer research opportunities, offering undergraduates and their faculty mentors a structure for sustained engagement in research projects, maximizing student learning and preparation for graduate study and/or careers in the health professions.

Program Pilot
For the initial pilot of the program, eighteen spring 2017 research opportunities were offered. Details about that phase can be found on the Spring 2017 Pilot Program page.
In the next phase of the pilot, twenty-four summer 2017 research opportunities and six academic year 2017-18 research opportunities were offered. Details about that phase can be found on the Summer 2017 & Academic Year 2017-18 Program page.

Summer 2018 Program

UConn Health faculty interested in mentoring undergraduate researchers this summer are invited to develop research projects for inclusion in this program. Summer placements will involve students in hands-on research for 9 or 10 full-time weeks (approximately 360 hours total) between May 7 and August 24, 2018. We encourage the use of a standard May 29-August 3 research period, but understand that the particularities of faculty and student schedules may require adjustments to that research period. The Office of Undergraduate Research (CUR) will develop an opportunity description and application based on the information you submit via the Summer 2018 Research Opportunity Description Form. You will review the applications submitted for your research opportunity, identify and interview top candidates, and select the student you wish to offer a research opportunity.

As this program aims to support students' sustained engagement in research projects, all summer 2018 opportunities are expected to continue into academic year 2018-19, contingent upon satisfactory student research progress and continued interest by both student and faculty (in addition to the student's full-time enrollment and good standing at the university). A mid-summer assessment process will allow you to indicate whether adequate research progress is being made and will ask both student and faculty to confirm their interest in continuing the research placement beyond the summer. When submitting a research opportunity description, faculty will be asked to specify the parameters for academic year research (e.g., expected time commitment, schedule constraints), so that student applicants can assess the feasibility of continued research engagement in the fall semester.

New for 2018: The Health Research Program is a member organization in the Partnership for Innovation in Education, a collaborative, grant-funded initiative led by Dr. Caroline Dealy. Additional details are forthcoming, but we are excited by the additional learning opportunities that this collaboration will offer, including weekly seminars and a summer symposium for students.

Please note that we reserve the right not to post a submitted research opportunity should we receive more faculty requests than we can accommodate or should the opportunity described not conform to the parameters of the program. In either case, the decision not to post the opportunity will be communicated to faculty by OUR staff.

Timeline

Application Process
Friday, December 29, 2017: Deadline for faculty to submit a Summer 2018 Research Opportunity Description Form.

https://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/hrp/faculty/
January 6-26, 2018: Research opportunity descriptions and applications are available to students.
Friday, January 26, 2018: Deadline for students to apply to individual research opportunities.
January 29-February 14, 2018: Faculty review applications and interview leading applicants.
Friday, February 16, 2018: Deadline for faculty to provide OUR with a ranking of top applicants.
Monday, February 19, 2018: OUR will extend formal offers to the selected students on this date.
Wednesday, February 28, 2018: Deadline for student to accept research opportunity offer.

Summer Research Placement
The specific weeks during which the student will be engaged in summer research are to be determined by each student-faculty pair and communicated to the Office of Undergraduate Research. As research dates may vary, so too will several of the dates below, as indicated.
Friday, April 20, 2018: Deadline for student completion of program documentation requirements (including background check, health requirements verification, articulation of a learning plan, and review of orientation documents). Laboratory safety training (where applicable) should also be completed prior to the end of the spring semester.
Start date of research: Secure badge, complete safety checklist with faculty host.
End of week 5 of research: Deadline for student and faculty to submit mid-semester progress assessment.
Wednesday, August 1, 2018: Anticipated date of summer symposium
End date of research: Student and faculty end-of-summer surveys due.

Fall Research Placement
Monday, August 27, 2018: Start of fall semester and fall research placements.
Friday, October 12, 2018: Deadline for student and faculty to submit mid-semester progress assessment. This assessment determines whether the research placement will continue into the winter or spring.
Wednesday, October 24, 2018: Fall Frontiers Poster Exhibition on the Storrs campus. All HRP students will be expected to present at the fall or spring Frontiers exhibition.
Friday, December 7, 2018: End of fall semester classes.
Tuesday, December 18, 2018: Fall grading deadline. Student end-of-semester report and faculty feedback must be provided prior to this date so a grade can be recorded by the instructor of record.

Faculty Terms and Conditions
Faculty participants in the Health Research Program for summer 2018 must agree to the following terms:

- To provide a research opportunity description no later than Friday, December 29, 2017.
- To make a ranking of top applicants and inform OUR of this ranking no later than Friday, February 16, 2018. If no applicants are suitable, you are under no obligation to select a student.
• To develop a learning agreement in collaboration with the student to structure his/her learning experience.
• To collaborate and communicate with a Storrs-based faculty member in the student’s major for course credit purposes during the academic year. If you do not have an appointment at Storrs, it is likely that a Storrs faculty member will need to be the instructor of record for the student’s research/independent study course. Clear communication between Storrs faculty and UConn Health faculty regarding learning goals and student performance will be essential to the integrity of the learning experience and to course-related processes being completed in a timely manner.
• To assist the student in completing any necessary UConn Health approval processes in order to be able to participate in undergraduate research.
• To ensure that training requirements are communicated to the student and that training is completed in a timely manner.
• To ensure the student is added to any relevant research compliance protocols (e.g., IRB, IACUC) in a timely manner.
• To establish a mutually agreeable research schedule with the student, and to ensure that appropriate supervision is provided during research hours.
• To provide constructive feedback to the student on his/her achievement of learning goals.
• To complete a mid-summer/mid-semester assessment of the student’s research progress by the relevant deadline.
• To provide an end-of-summer/end-of-semester assessment of the student’s research progress. In fall and spring, this evaluation will form the basis of the student’s grade.
• To share any questions, concerns, and/or recommendations with the Office of Undergraduate Research as they arise.

Financial Support

Supply Support to Faculty
During each term of the program (summer, fall, spring), you may request up to $500 in support for expenses associated with an undergraduate research opportunity offered through this program. This request must be accompanied by an itemized budget and a statement certifying that available funds cannot be directed to cover these expenses.

Stipend Support to Students

• Students participating in the summer 2018 program will receive a $4,000 stipend for a commitment of 360 hours of summer research (9 or 10 full-time weeks).
• Students may receive a maximum of one HRP summer stipend over the course of their participation in the Health Research Program.
• Academic year student researchers may be eligible for a $1,000 winter research stipend if they commit to completing 90 hours of winter break research.
FAQ

What time commitment is expected of a student researcher in this program?

Must all students participating in this program earn academic credit for the academic year?

What transportation options are available for students?

Can I select more than one student to work with me?

I have a joint appointment at UConn Health and UConn Storrs. Can I participate in this program?

I am already supervising a UConn undergraduate researcher. Can we participate in this program?

I am already participating in the Health Research Program. Can I advertise another opportunity and recruit another student?

What time commitment is expected of a student researcher in this program?

A time commitment of 360 hours (9 or 10 full-time weeks) is expected of summer student researchers. A time commitment of 3-9 hours/week is typically expected of student researchers during the academic year. During the academic year, our expectation is that students will be earning academic credit, and the standard formula for academic credit is 1 credit for each 3 hours of weekly research. Accordingly, we encourage you to determine whether a commitment of 3, 6, or 9 hours/week is appropriate for a research opportunity with you.

Must all students participating in this program earn academic credit for the academic year?

It is our expectation that students will earn academic credit associated with their participation in undergraduate research for the fall and spring. However, if earning academic credit is not appropriate given a student’s individual circumstances, the CUR would work with that student and his/her faculty advisor to make alternate arrangements.

What transportation options are available for students?

Shuttle service to between Storrs and Farmington is available at no cost to students. The planned summer shuttle schedule would allow students living in Storrs to work 9am-4pm. For fall 2018, we expect to again make arrangements for a mid-day shuttle run; our expectation is that the shuttle will allow Storrs students to work 9am-12pm, 12pm-4pm, or 9am-4pm. We encourage you to take the shuttle schedule into consideration when setting the parameters for possible work schedule when you complete the relevant Research Opportunity Description Form. Some students may elect to use other modes of transportation.

Can I select more than one student to work with me?
Due to limited resources, we expect to be able to accommodate only one student per faculty mentor this summer. If you are able to commit to jointly funding a student, there may be some flexibility to take more than one student. We are unable to make an absolute determination until all expressions of faculty interest are received.

I have a joint appointment at UConn Health and at UConn Storrs. Can I participate in this program?

Yes, as long as the research project proposed will be conducted at UConn Health. This program is not intended to support students’ involvement in research at Storrs.

I am already supervising a UConn undergraduate researcher. Can we participate in this program?

This program is focused on developing new research opportunities and involving more undergraduate students in research at UConn Health. We would be happy to talk with you or your student at any time about other OUR funding opportunities that could help support your research together.

I am already participating in the Health Research Program. Can I advertise another opportunity and recruit another student?

You are welcome to submit an opportunity. However, if we see more interest from faculty than we can accommodate, we will prioritize the inclusion of faculty who have yet to participate in the program and/or who will not have an HRP student after spring 2018.

Forms and Materials

Summer 2018 Research Opportunity Description Form
Learning Agreement Template – Chart Format (Coming Soon)
Learning Agreement Template – List Format (Coming Soon)
Mid-Summer Progress Assessment – Faculty (Coming Soon)

Upcoming Events

UConn IDEA Grant Summer Funding Application Deadline

https://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/hrp/faculty/
Leaders Address Shortage of Black Men in Medical Profession

WASHINGTON—Concerned with the disparities in the medical field, experts and university administrators gathered in the nation's capital this week to strategize on solutions.


"Hopefully we can come up with things that are brave and bold," said Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, a distinguished professor at the University of Connecticut and chair of the planning committee for the workshop.

Attendees included faculty and university administrators as well as personnel from nonprofits and accrediting agencies. "There's a commonality in the belief that we have to attack this issue from a number of different standpoints," Laurencin said.

A report published in June and co-authored by Laurencin shows declining numbers of Black males in medical schools since the 1970s.

Dr. Louis Sullivan, former president of Morehouse School of Medicine and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services from 1989 to 1993, gave the opening keynote. Over a decade ago, Sullivan pioneered research on the lack of minority populations in the health professions. That work was a precursor to these contemporary discussions of equity in medicine and health sciences.

For Sullivan, these disparities in the profession have a profound impact on the patients.

"We are not seeing many minorities getting the health services that they need and should have," he said. "I often say that a good health outcome depends on someone who is certainly well grounded in the sciences but also understands and appreciates the culture and the language and is able to develop trust."

**Leading Educators: All Students Need Data Analytics Courses**

As the panels began, however, the scope of the conversation expanded beyond health professions and medical school to recognize larger systemic inequities.

The first panel addressed the broader context of institutional racism. Speakers including Dr. Camara Jones, a senior fellow at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine, spoke about how, early on, Black boys are not properly supported in their education and discouraged to pursue difficult careers.

She was joined on the panel by Dr. Roger Mitchell Jr., the chief medical examiner for the District of Columbia. Mitchell recalled how his grandfather, who was also a physician, inspired him to overcome his odds as a Black man in the medical field.

During his presentation, Mitchell cited a 2015 report from The Boston Globe that used data to contradict negative stereotypes surrounding Black men. He argued that the high numbers of Black men graduating from high school should encourage the leaders in the audience to be more proactive in engaging the demographic.

Subsequent panels proposed reaching out to students at K-12 schools. Dr. C. Reynold Verret, president of Xavier University of Louisiana, advocated fostering these early relationships.

"We rise to expectations, and we fail to them," Verret said. "We need to forge pipelines and bring students to the table because there is a lot of talent out there that we can use."

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, contributed a more data-centered perspective. He explained that collecting data forces institutions to look into the mirror and recognize their own inequities.

**Xavier University Selects Verret as Next President**

In addition to an emphasis on analytics, he wants the same importance placed on the paucity of Black males as there is on studying cancer.

"You have very high achieving people here who want to make a difference," he said. "We need to change the culture of science itself."

Lively discussions followed each of the panels. Some students were also in attendance.

Jalen Daniels, a senior at Vanderbilt University and a prospective medical school student, said it was exciting to know that these leaders and role models were aware of the struggles he has experienced as an aspiring doctor.

"It's so important to have mentors and be in the presence of physicians at a young age to really inspire you to go into medicine," he said. "If you can't envision it, you can't do it."

**Joseph Hong can be reached at jhong@diverseeducation.com**

http://diverseeducation.com/article/105363/
K Career Development Award Programs and Scholars

CICATS Pre-K Scholar Award Program

Accepting applications
Deadline is Wednesday, January 31, 2018.
For additional information, read the 2018 Funding Announcement.
Apply now!

Created in 2013, the CICATS Pre-K Scholar Award Program is a 2-year interactive program designed to equip junior faculty with the knowledge and competencies to effectively apply for an NIH Research Career Development Awards (K award) as well as become leaders in clinical and translational science. The long-term goal is to increase the pipeline of researchers applying for K awards and a culture that supports this goal. CICATS awards 30% protected time to promising junior faculty planning to apply for a NIH K award as well as funding for travel to national conferences. The Pre-K Scholar Award Program curriculum assists faculty in writing a successful NIH K award by focusing on finding mentorship, writing specific aims, developing research plan, determining career development needs, obtaining letters of support, institutional support, etc. (Open to all UConn Health/UConn with the rank of assistant professor. Faculty outside of UConn/UConn Health are eligible to apply only if their respective institution will cover 30% of their protected time and related travel costs.)

Program Goals:

1. Develop skills to write a successful K award
2. Promote collaborative learning with CICATS investigators and research staff
3. Select the optimal mentorship team to support a successful research career

Pre-K Scholars:
• The current cohort
• 2014 Cohort
KL2 Program

Not accepting applications at this time.

As part of its goal to promote current and future clinical and translational research, CICATS has a strong focus on education, training and career development. CICATS works collaboratively with other programs in the University and with community partners to create a transformational environment that will train investigators and support staff on effective ways to contribute to current and future clinical and translational research. To address the scarcity of scientists prepared for future translational research, CICATS has developed a KL2 mentored career development program that includes mentored research experiences and career development training for junior faculty leading to research independence.

The plan described here includes:

1. A KL2 program to provide an intensive mentored research experience for promising junior faculty;

2. Mentor training to maximize the potential of the mentors for training future researchers; and

3. Leadership training to develop the necessary skills among the next generation of researchers.

All KL2 scholars will be required to complete the MSCTR and to participate in all core curriculum activities. The Master of Science requirement may be waived or modified depending on the credentials of the applicant. For example, if an applicant has already completed advanced research training in a Ph.D. program, the requirement may be waived. KL2 scholars will be required to attend a monthly seminar series sponsored by CICATS.

Other core activities include:

1. Monthly research series that will provide a forum for scholars to present their research proposals and preliminary research findings. In addition to scholar presentations, in each year the seminar series will include programs in responsible conduct of research, power-point presentation techniques, scientific writing, funding opportunities and oral presentation skills;

2. Mentoring workshops aimed at developing and improving the skills necessary to be successful as both a mentor and a mentee;

3. Leadership training; and presentations at the annual CICATS Research Trainee Day KL2.

Past CICATS KL2 Scholars:
Biree Andemariam, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine; Director, New England Sickle Cell Institute at UConn Health
Katie Martin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor-In-Residence of Allied Health Sciences, University of Saint Joseph
Happening Today

10a-West Middle Enrichment Visit 2018

Enrichment Visit for Hartford's West Middle School

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs is hosting an enrichment visit for Hartford's West Middle School from 10 this morning to 2 this afternoon in the Friends Auditorium. The enrichment visit will be held to raise awareness about health careers. Greetings will be given by Ms. Sarah Morin, Community Relations, Corporate Sustainability, The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) – UConn Chapter will be presenting on areas of medicine. Under the direction of Dr. John Harrison, the West Middle School students will participate in a virtual anatomy demonstration. The students will also have the opportunity to listen to personal anecdotes from SNMA students and ask questions during a panel and Jeopardy game session.

This event is funded by a grant from The Hartford to Associate Dean, Dr. Marja Hurley.

For more information, contact: Tracey Higgins at x8031

Other stories from the UConn Health Lifeline for Friday, February 23, 2018 >>
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12p-Neurocritical Care Series-Vasospasm (Bulsara)
12p-Cell Biology/CVB/Cardiology Research Seminar
12p-Scholars in Cancer Lecture Series C. Jobin
12p-Neuroscience Research in Progress: Cory Willis

Facilities Information
3/29 Fire Alarm Tests in Garages 2 & 3 Tomorrow Morning

HealthONE: What's New?
Today: Second Login Labs for HealthONE Training Continue
3/29 New Dragon Dictation Training Starts Tomorrow

Human Resources and Benefits
Lactation Room at Connecticut Tower Now Available

Lectures and Presentations
4/2 Schwartz Center Rounds
6/25 Mystic Immunology Conference

Meetings and Events
3/30 Please Donate Blood Friday
5/11 Networking Event Around Community-Engaged Research

Research, Funding, and Awards
4/23 Student & Staff Spring Awards Nomination Survey
IBACS Call for Seed Grant Applications
Recruiting: Young Innovative Investigator Program
Join UConn KIDS - Participants Requested
We Need People Who Smoke
4/19 Annual UConn Public Health Poster Session

Please join us for our Annual UConn Public Health Poster Session!

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018
Time: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
Location: UConn Health, Academic Lobby
Light Refreshments to be served
Please RSVP to Morgan Spencer at mhspencer@uchc.edu or 860-679-5489
For more Information, contact: Morgan Spencer at mhspencer@uchc.edu

Other stories from the UConn Health Lifeline for Thursday, March 29, 2018 >>
Group on Women in Medicine and Science (GWIMS)

Save the Date

2018 Annual Symposium
and
Recognition of Outstanding Women Faculty & Students

Guest Speaker: Judith D. Singer, PhD
Senior Vice Provost of Faculty Development and Diversity and James Bryant Conant Professor of Education, Harvard University

Topic of Discussion:
“Lessons Learned in Fostering Faculty Development and Diversity”

DATE: Monday, April 30, 2018
RECEPTION: 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Academic Lobby
SEMINAR: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
& AWARDS Massey Auditorium

Judith D. Singer is Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity and James Bryant Conant Professor of Education at Harvard University. An internationally renowned statistician and social scientist, Singer’s scholarship focuses on improving the quantitative methods used in social, educational, and behavioral research. Her contributions on multilevel modeling, survival analysis, and individual growth modeling have made these and related statistical methods accessible to empirical researchers. Her publications include numerous papers and book chapters as well as three co-authored books: By Design: Planning Better Research in Higher Education, Who Will Teach: Policies that Matter, and Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis: Modeling Change and Event Occurrence. Singer was the first woman to be both elected a member of the National Academy of Education and as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. She is also a fellow of the American Educational Research Association. She has also been honored with a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. In 2012, her nomination by President Obama to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Board of Education Sciences was confirmed by the US Senate; she was re-nominated by the President to the Board in 2014. In 2014, she received the Janet L. Norwood Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in the Statistical Sciences. She is also a founding Board member of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. Appointed Assistant Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) in 1984, Singer was promoted to Associate Professor in 1988 and Professor in 1993. She was named the James Bryant Conant Professor of Education in 2001. From 1999 to 2004 Singer served as academic dean of HGSE and acting dean from 2001 to 2002. She received her B.A. in Mathematics, summa cum laude, from the State University of New York at Albany in 1976 and her Ph.D. in Statistics from Harvard University in 1983.