

Updates for the Community Advisory Board

December 2022

Staff News: We are pleased to welcome our new staff members to the Center! **Leo Valadez** is a Research Assistant for the LINKED-HEARTS and LINKED-BP studies. He is a dual degree graduate student at JHU and is experienced in leading teams and working with Latino communities. **Nigel Opoku-Achampong** is a Research Student Intern providing support as needed within the MACCHE Core Groups. He is experienced in leading teams and working with Black communities and currently finishing up his last semester as an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Center Projects:

RESTORE: The Community Engagement Core has been continuing its collaboration with the RESTORE Statistical Core on the roll-out of the standardized stakeholder engagement tracking form to assist projects with recording partner engagement activities. In October, Dr. Lisa Cooper led the RESTORE Executive Committee in a discussion about the network's community engagement strategies. In November, she described the community engagement goals of the RESTORE Network at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Workshop on Advancing the Science of Community-Engaged Health Disparities Research. We held our 2nd RESTORE Community Engagement Committee (CEC) meeting on December 8, 2022, where the Core, RESTORE Projects, and CEC representatives began to refine the mission, vision, and goals for the group. We have scheduled our quarterly CEC meetings and RESTORE CE Core + Projects meetings for the 2023 calendar year. **The LINKED-BP Program** has recruited 15 out of 20 sites needed for study implantation. Two research assistants and one Community Health Worker (CHW) have been added to the study team. The IRB application has been approved and the CHW Intervention protocol is being finalized.

Mid-Atlantic Center for Cardiometabolic Health Equity (MACCHE): The Administrative Core is happy to announce the launch of the MACCHE [website](#)! The team is also working with the Data Workgroup to collate and record training materials for the project teams. **The Community Engagement Core** continues to review and update current evaluation tools for the CAB and Coordinating Councils and has finalized a process for Community Engagement Advisors to further support each project. During our monthly meetings with the three projects, the Core continues to discuss ways to support their engagement efforts. Projects are using the stakeholder engagement tracking form to record engagement activities with partners. In the coming months, we will review data to assess engagement activities for each project and as a collective. **The Investigator Development Core** has awarded seven Pilot Project Awards to new and early-stage investigators who are affiliated with institutions in Maryland and Washington D.C. The scholars have submitted IRB applications and are waiting on approvals.

- **LINKED-HEARTS:** The LINKED-HEARTS program has recruited 14 out of 16 sites needed for the study implementation. A pharmacist, CHW, and two bilingual research assistants have joined the team. The team plans to submit the protocol and study documents to the IRB by December 15, 2022.
- **UNLOAD-Heart Failure:** The UNLOAD-Heart failure team has finalized its exercise and safety protocol. The study will start recruiting CHWs and health coaches this month. The team also plans to submit the study protocol and supplemental materials to the IRB soon.
- **Healthy for Two (H42):** The Healthy for Two program has hired their last health coach, who will function as the study interventionist. They have conducted site visits with several home visiting programs in preparation for home visitor training and launch in early 2023. IRB and clinicaltrials.gov applications have been approved.

AFFIRME: The AFFIRME Project has provided training to Harriet Lane Clinic resident physicians regarding who CHWs are, what they do, and strategies for effective engagement. They have hired the CHW (Ms. Muriel Rogers), who has extensive experience. The AFFIRME team has submitted a workshop proposal to the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting with NYU colleagues. They have also participated in a moderated panel discussion for NYU Langone’s “Innovations in Community Health Worker” conference. Lastly, they are continuing their IRB submission efforts and plan to submit this by the end of December 2022.

Combatting Racism through Medical Management Training (CoMMiT): The CoMMiT project is currently engaged in teaching another cohort of Master of Health Administration students. They had two live sessions in September and two in November. The final two “booster” sessions will occur in January. Survey data from this cohort will be used with the previous two cohorts to evaluate the effects of the training.

The BUILD Project: The BUILD project has been conducting monthly bi-directional capacity-building training with project partners. The team successfully completed collaborative development of study materials and plans to begin data collection shortly, pending IRB approval. Additionally, they are looking to hire a bilingual research assistant and co-hosting a house meeting with BUILD food delivery program leaders in December 2022.

Working through the Pain: An Assessment of Pain and Pain Management Strategies among Construction Workers: The team has been meeting with representatives of the four health and welfare funds in New England states. They are currently translating the survey that will be administered with construction workers in the next few months (in Spanish and Portuguese).

Five, Plus Nuts and Beans for Kidneys Study: In November, our [4-month primary results](#) were presented at the American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week during the *High-Impact Clinical Trials Session*, and a poster on guideline-recommended medications among Five Plus participants was also presented. Additionally, we are happy to report that the [PhotoVoice paper](#) has been e-published in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes!*

RICH LIFE Project: We are very excited to have the results of this ground-breaking study and have already begun to work with our Center for Health Equity Community Advisory Board and key RICH LIFE stakeholders to share the results! Our 12-month results were presented in a [Late-Breaking Science Session](#) at the 2022 American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. We published four papers this year! Our team continues to work on remaining papers and looks forward to sharing more in the coming months.

Training Updates: The CHE has hosted three Jam Sessions this fall -- September, October, and November—with topics including reproductive health equity, disparities in cardiac rehabilitation, and geriatric health equity. Our December Jam Session is scheduled for December 14, 2022 and will focus on racial biases in medical devices.

The Baltimore Sun recently published an article interviewing Executive Director of the Men & Families Center and CHE CAB member, **Leon Purnell**. To read the article, click [here](#). Immediate Past President of the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) and CHE CAB member, **Richard Knight**, was recognized with the [U.S. Presidential Volunteer Service Award](#) by President Joe Biden. This award is the highest level of recognition that recognizes an exemplary level of volunteerism. Founder of the Quarter Century Club and CHE CAB member, **George Franklin**, was featured as a 50 Year Kidney Hero in the cover story of the magazine, [Transplant Nation](#), after receiving the Male Athlete of the Year award at the 2022 [Donate Life Transplant Games](#).

The workshop *Advancing in Science of Community Engaged Health Disparities Research* was hosted by the NHLBI Center for Translational Research and Implementation Science on November 14-15, 2022. **Dr. Lisa Cooper** delivered the keynote address at the beginning of Day 2. To view the videocast, please click the following links: [Link 1](#) and [Link 2](#).