With the end of the spring academic semester already a month behind us, we reflect that we jumped from the bustle of classes and students into the equally hectic pace of summer “vacation”. While the halls of the building may seem quiet, our calendars are full. As soon as the semester ended, we barely had time to finish our grading before launching our inaugural writing retreat, which gathered our whole team together for two days of intense writing and discussion of manuscripts. With a focus that’s difficult to maintain outside of having such dedicated and uninterrupted time together, we made fantastic progress…and look forward to sharing more of our published research results soon!

Straight from the writing retreat, Dr. Quinn flew to London to present at the University College London (UCL) School of Life and Medical Sciences (SLMS) Academic Careers Office / National Institute for Health Research UCL Hospitals Biomedical Research Center’s Conference Series “Regulating Experimental Medicine during a Pandemic”. A main objective of this conference was to lay a foundation for beginning the process to revise the WHO’s guidelines on research ethics during a pandemic. Dr. Quinn spoke about how and why public perceptions, trust, and communication matter during pandemics, and why these factors should be considered when revising the guidelines set forth by the WHO.
On the heels of London, was the rest of the M-CHE team’s participation in the 5th annual Health Equity Leadership Institute (HELI). More on this program can be found in the Training and Education section of this newsletter, on Page 3.

While the semester was still winding down, Dr. Thomas presented a guest lecture at the NIH national Human Genome Research Institute class on the role of race and genetics in health disparities research. Dr. Thomas also served as a panelist at the annual Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE) annual meeting, speaking on The Color Line: Race, Ethnicity and the Elimination of Health Disparities. He also spoke at the University of Cincinnati’s Academic health Center Speakers Series and was a panelist for Leadership Maryland.

Still upcoming this summer is a presentation by Dr. Quinn at the Institute of Medicine this July and Dr Thomas’ keynote speech at the CIGNA Health Disparities Advisory Council Meeting in August.

In the midst of all the travel and talks, we continue to forge ahead with our Center of Excellence research studies, out community engagement efforts, and our commitment to training the next generation of health disparities research.
Our Vaccine Disparities research team, led by Dr. Quinn, is the successful recipient of a small grant from the Tel Aviv University-University of Maryland Joint Research Workshop Program. The TAU-UMD Joint Research Workshops are intended to help scholars at both institutions to identify complementary research strengths and explore potential collaborations. Dr. Quinn reached out to researchers in Tel Aviv and is delighted to have formed a great partnership with Drs. Dani Cohen, Baruch Valun, and Khitam Muhsen. The collaborative team’s proposal will focus on Understanding Public Attitudes and Behaviors related to Vaccines. The UMD team will include Drs. Quinn, Curran, and from the Department of Communication, Brooke Liu; additionally, two co-investigators from the research team, Drs. Freimuth and Kim, will join the UMD group for the workshop in Tel Aviv. Stay tuned for more details.

Read about some of the M-CHE’s recent research findings in these two new publications from the team:

**Preventing Depression in Older Adults**

Discussions with a dietary coach to learn about healthy eating were as effective as meeting with a counselor for problem-solving or “talk” therapy in preventing major depression among older black and white adults with mild symptoms of the mood disorder, according to researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maryland. Results of the study, which was led by Charles F. Reynolds, III, were published online recently in *Psychiatric Services*. A unique feature of the study was that researchers used innovative strategies to recruit and retain African-American study participants, building upon a culturally tailored approach developed by our M-CHE team, who are co-authors on the manuscript. “Because racial minorities are at greater risk for depression, in part due to socioeconomic disadvantages, lower educational attainment and a greater likelihood of other medical problems, we established a foundation of trust working through churches and community-based organizations in black communities,” said Dr. Quinn. Of the 244 participants, 90, or more than a third, were African-American. This study was funded by our previous NIMHD grant (P60MD000207; Thomas, PI).

This article, Early Intervention to Preempt Major Depression Among Older Black and White Adults, is available online in the June issue of Psychiatric Services.

Click [here](#) for the full article

**Parental Acceptance of a Pandemic Vaccine**

Although designated as a high-risk group during the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic, only about 40% of U.S. children received the vaccine, a relatively low percentage compared with high-risk groups in seasonal influenza, such as the elderly, whose vaccine rates typically top 70%. From a nationally representative survey of parents, the researchers found that the most important predictors of vaccine acceptance were "cues to action" at multiple levels, from intrapersonal to mass communication, including the influence of friends, family, the media, and modeling by the Obama family; costs and benefits and self-efficacy were also significant predictors of vaccine acceptance. Higher perceived levels of H1N1 risk, however, were not associated with vaccine uptake. The researchers suggest that traditional measures of perceived risk may not account for the cost-benefit analysis inherent in vaccine decision making, and that messages designed to emphasize disease risk may be ineffective. Instead, the authors recommend emphasizing cues to action that support norming and modeling of vaccine acceptance.

This article, *Determinants of Parental Acceptance of the H1N1 Vaccine*, was published in the June 2014 issue of Health Education & Behavior. Lead author Karen Hilyard was joined by Sandra Quinn, Kevin Kim, Don Musa, and Vicki Freimuth.

The full article is available [here](#).
TRAINING & EDUCATION

Celebrating Five Year of Health Equity Scholars

This year we commemorated the 5-year anniversary of the Health Equity Leadership Institute (HELI) with a special Alumni-centric program. HELI is an intensive weeklong “research boot camp” focused on increasing the number of investigators, particularly minority investigators, engaged in health disparities/health equity research that are successful in tenure track academic appointments in schools of public health, medicine and other health and behavioral health science disciplines, assisting them in achieving research funding through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The program is offered jointly by the M-CHE and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Collaborative Center for Health Equity, with support from the NIH’s National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. This year’s institute will have representation from each of the 4 previous cohorts – 5 Scholars from the 2010 class; 7 scholars from the 2011 class; 6 scholars from the 2012 class; and 7 scholars from the 2013 class! An additional few non-alum scholars from the Midwest were invited to participate, given that their career goals and scholarship are well matched for the program.

Programming highlights included a special Zen Leadership session, 2.5 days of grant consultation opportunities, two Scholar mock study review sessions and a presentations and activities with M-CHE Director Stephen Thomas and Associate Directors James Butler III and Mary Garza.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Healthy College Park Campaign

One of the M-CHE’s missions is to improve the health of Marylanders, with particular attention to those who live in the neighborhoods surrounding the UMD College Park Campus. In keeping with this mission, the M-CHE has established relationships with several neighboring communities as part of our Healthy College Park Campaign (HCPC). These community projects include 1) The Healthy Lakeland Project, which springs from our partnership with the Embry Center for Family Life, and is dedicated to improving the health of residents of Lakeland, a historic African American community adjacent to College Park; 2) Healthy Al-Huda, a program to teach healthy lifestyles among student in the Al-Huda School, a K-12 Muslim school in the Dar-us-Salaam community; and 3) programs in partnerships with Mary’s Center, a health care center in Adelphi, MD with a predominantly Latina patient base that provides high quality care to women during pregnancy and after childbirth.

Each project will involve community input through establishment of a HCPC Workgroup and the participation of selected members from each community on the Maryland Community Research Advisory Board (MD-CRAB).
Making Maryland Smile

MCHE is partnering with The Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy to offer the 2014 Mid-MD Mission of Mercy & Health Equity Festival. This event is a collaborative effort by the dental and health care community, Catholic Charities of Washington and the M-CHE to provide free emergency dental care to the poor and underserved. Additionally, the group seeks to enhance the overall health of this population by creating a caring environment for health screening, education and referral services.

The event will be held September 5-6, 2014 at the Comcast Center on the UMD campus. Licensed dentists and hygienists will be on hand to offer free dental procedures, including cleanings, fillings, extractions, and root canals. Additionally, visitors will receive other services, such as health screenings, dental care passport, prevention and disease management information, and community resources (social services). Spanish translators and sign language interpreters will be present.

Last year’s event involved 482 volunteers including dentists, dental assistants, hygienists, and pharmacists who provided nearly 700 patients with free cleanings, root canals, restorative fillings and extractions. With the Comcast Center as this year’s venue, we hope to make the 2014 event even more successful than last year! Volunteers are needed—click here if you are interested in volunteering time, money or goods for the event.

STUDENT AND STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Associate Director Craig Fryer, recipient of this year’s George F. Kramer “Practitioner of the Year” Award. Given annually by the UMD School of Public Health, this award is presented to a faculty member for doing an outstanding job of putting theory into practice. Great job, Craig, for receiving this honor and for doing the work it recognizes!

And cheers to our student workers, Amelia Jamison and Danielle Motley. Amelia graduated this spring with her Master’s Degree in Anthropology. We are happy to note that Amelia will be continuing to work with us in the Center while pursuing her MPH in the SPH. Danielle will be graduating with her MPH this summer. She plans to stay in the area, working with the community, hopefully with a non-profit company or community based organization. Danielle has been a valued member of our team for the past two years, and we are sorry to see her go. But we wish her the best of luck with her new career and know we will see wonderful things from her.
UPCOMING EVENTS

September 5-6, 2014: Mid Maryland Mission of Mercy & Health Equity Festival
Comcast Center, University of Maryland, College Park
This Mid Maryland Mission of Mercy event is a gathering of volunteer dental professionals who offer a free two-day dental clinic for adults in need of emergency dental care. Click here for more information or to volunteer for the event.

September 18-19, 2014: Health Across Borders: Migration, Disease, Medicine, and Public Health in a Global Age
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
The Center for the History of the New America and the Center for Health Equity at the University of Maryland will co-host a conference exploring the connections between migration, race, disease, and public health. Dr. David Satcher, 16th Surgeon General of the United States, will be the keynote speaker.

NEWS WORTH READING:

Gender Imbalance in the Lab
Federal health officials are taking steps to correct a longstanding gender imbalance in laboratory research on potential drug treatments.

Why We’re Shocked by White Heroin Use
By Ishmael Reed, June 4, 2014, The Nation.
Do white pundits, reporters and TV producers have a no-snitch policy on exposing crises in the white community?
http://www.thenation.com/article/180134/why-were-shocked-white-heroin-use#

Hospital Charges Surge for Common Ailments, Data Shows
Charges for some of the most common inpatient procedures surged at hospitals across the country in 2012 from a year earlier, some at more than four times the national rate of inflation, according to data released by Medicare officials on Monday.
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/business/Medicare-Hospital-Billing-Data-Is-Released.html

You’re Never Too Old to Be Studied
PALO ALTO, Calif. — WHEN older patients seek health care, they are unwittingly enrolling in an experiment: Will medical procedures that have been proved effective mainly on the young also help the elderly?
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/23/opinion/youre-never-too-old-to-be-studied.html?
module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3Aaw%2Cf%22Rl%3A8%22%2C%22Rl%3A18%22]&r=0

Killing a Patient to Save His Life
By Kate Murphy, June 9, 2014, The New York Times
PITTSBURGH — Trauma patients arriving at an emergency room here after sustaining a gunshot or knife wound may find themselves enrolled in a startling medical experiment.
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/10/health/a-chilling-medical-trial.html

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