CONNECTING QI AND COMMUNITY: REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES THROUGH RESEARCH AND SERVICE LEARNING

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THEORY
LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM
CHALLENGE AND PLANNING AWARD

6 Challenge Awards
$6,000 each

Collaboration

7 Planning Awards
$10,000 each

IMPROVED HEALTH FOR ALL

Health Equity Research
Quality Improvement Research
EHR Research
QI → HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
(LHS CHALLENGE WINNER)

- 2006, analyze key quality measures by race, ethnicity and language
- Annual Report on Equity in Healthcare Quality
  - Robust internal communication strategy
- Disparities Solutions Center & Center for Quality and Safety
- New measures, patient outcomes, standard process measures
- Increased access to research funding, focus on community health centers
MGH; OPPORTUNITIES

- Disparities Leadership Program
- Use Annual Reports to track progress and evaluate efforts
- Use Annual Report to educate (across the continuum) about salient inequities
- CLER visits, QI and Healthcare disparities
ID HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES → INTERVENTION SELECTION
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1. Which inequities to target?
   - Texas A&M Health Science Center SOM (LHS Planning Applicant)

2. How to implement and evaluate interventions?
   - University of Chicago, Pritzker SOM
Finding Answers
Disparities Research for Change

Roadmap to Reduce Disparities

1. Linking Quality and Equity
2. Creating a Culture of Equity
3. Diagnosing the Disparity
4. Designing the Activity
5. Securing Buy-in
6. Implementing Change

FEATURED
- Save the Date: Twitter chat with AHRQ
  Join us for a Twitter Chat with the Agency for...
TEXAS, CHICAGO; OPPORTUNITIES

- Link students, researchers to communities
  - Novel data source for research projects, patient- and community-centered

- “Roadmap to Reduce Disparities”
  - Health Care Disparities Toolkit
  - 6-step framework
  - Database of effective interventions
  - “Accelerating the Integration of Equity and Quality into Medical Education”
INTERVENTION SELECTION → COMMUNITY CONTEXT
MEHARRY-VANDERBILT ALLIANCE
(LHS CHALLENGE WINNER)

Community Review Board

- Systematic and facilitated inclusion of patient and community stakeholder perspective
- Benefits for researchers and students: better science, increased recruitment, buy-in, increased understanding and sensitivity to diverse populations, efficient
- Benefits for communities: better science, increased understanding of the research process, noted sense of pride as community input impacts research
MEHARRY-VANDERBILT; OPPORTUNITIES

- Replicable model
- If PIs are engaged, trainees and students are engaged
  - Learn the benefit of including community stakeholders and how to shape an evidence-based intervention to fit the context
BRIEF DIGRESSION AND OPPORTUNITY: COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CHNA)
COMMUNITY-CONTEXT, CHNA

Community Health Needs Assessment: an opportunity for faculty, students, researchers and clinicians to better understand their local context.

- How to incorporate into medical education?
  - Data collection, data analysis etc.
- How to utilize existing community-engaged resources and researchers?
- How to use results to shape clinical care and interprofessional prevention efforts?
COMMUNITY CONTEXT → SERVICE LEARNING

In 2013:

- 47% of medical students report participation in structured service learning
- 41% report elective/voluntary field experience in community health
- 28% report having completed an elective/voluntary community-based research project
- 69% report elective/voluntary experience related to health disparities

Opportunity: Tailor service learning and other educational efforts to disparities identified via QI and CHNA efforts. Evaluate!

1 AAMC Graduate Questionnaire (GQ) data (2013)
COMMUNITY CONTEXT → SERVICE LEARNING
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
(LHS PLANNING APPLICANT)

• Develop a formal evaluation tool for interprofessional education experiences as they relate to the practice of health equity and community outreach in alumni clinical practice.
  • Define most effective elements
  • Adapt Index of Interdisciplinary Collaboration survey
  • Ongoing community outreach in practice

• **Will answer:** How do service learning experiences impact subsequent health professional practice? IMPORTANT

• **Won’t answer:** How do service learning programs impact community health? IMPORTANT, too
HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM
(LHS PLANNING WINNER)

Health Equity Scholars Program

- Year-long, monthly series
- 20 scholars, from mid- to upper-level leadership
- Goals:
  - Create internal experts in the field of health care equity
  - Implement multiple QI or research projects that address system wide disparities
  - Integrate lessons learned from successful projects into HFHS policies, processes and infrastructure
  - Achieve quality benchmarks, reduce costs, address barriers
Health Equity Research and Policy

The AAMC recognizes that health inequities and disparities are deeply rooted in the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. Achieving a state where all people have the same opportunity to attain their full health potential—a state of health equity—will require solutions discovered through the full spectrum of research and collaborative efforts from all sectors of society.

Read “Making Equity a Value in Value-Based Health Care”—Academic Medicine, November 2013

Challenge Award Winners

AAMC has selected the Learning Health System Challenge and Planning Awards winners that recognize programs within the AAMC membership that are building key aspects of learning health systems.

Learn more:
Thank you!

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