



PAIR field trip to the African
American Museum Dec 2022



Dr. Chris Chesley speaks at
the 2022 Roybal Retreat



Community Service Project
Mystery School Mar 2023



PAIR welcomes Penn's Urban
Health Lab Jan 2023

Black History Month 2023

Saluting Heroes in
Health Equity

The  **pair** Center

Kickoff Event

January 31, 2023



PAIR welcomes Penn's
Urban Health Lab
Jan 2023



Nicole Thomas and Dr. Gina
South, Urban Health Lab
Jan 2023



PAIR members listen in during
the Penn Urban Health Lab's
presentation
Jan 2023

The Palliative and Advanced Illness (PAIR) Center and the
Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Division (PACCD) present

Creating Community-Academic Partnerships Rooted in Trust, Authenticity, and Shared Power

A Presentation by the Penn Urban Health Lab

Eugenia South, MD, MS

Faculty Director, Urban Health Lab, Perelman School of Medicine

Nicole Thomas, MBA, CDP

Director, Urban Health Lab, Perelman School of Medicine

And the Urban Health Lab Team

When

January 31, 2023
2:00 — 3:00 PM

Where

Biomedical Research
Building, Room 1412
421 Curie Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Zoom

Meeting ID
941 5176 7401
Passcode
899076



The PAIR Center

Urban Health Lab

Penn Medicine

Week 1

February 1, 2023

Dear PAIR Center personnel, colleagues, and friends,

Welcome to the first day of Black History Month 2023!

We are pleased to present this year's program: Saluting Black Heroes in Health Equity. This program is an upbeat expression of our Center's commitment to go beyond the figurative and literal walls of our Center and the University and partner with community-based organizations and influencers in West Philadelphia.

With this month-long poster series, we will celebrate diverse professionals working in and outside of the health care system to improve social determinants of health (SDOH). SDOH are nonmedical factors, the conditions in which people are born and grow, and broader forces and systems that shape conditions of daily life. Following yesterday's highly informative presentation from the Urban Health Lab (UHL) entitled, "Creating Community-Academic Partnerships Rooted in Trust, Authenticity, and Shared Power", we are motivated to launch Black History Month with a focus on neighborhoods and the built environment.

Did you know that West Philadelphia continues to experience higher concentrations of lead exposures, despite citywide declines as of October 2022? Continuous effects of exposure to high lead levels can result in stunted growth and development in children, as well as learning disabilities, and behavior and cognitive problems.

West Philadelphia, like other communities of color, is exposed to numerous environmental hazards and burdens. This is due to Philadelphia's industrial past intermixed with longstanding racism and discriminatory practices and policies (such as exclusionary zoning, racial covenants, and redlining, to name a few). The consequences are that communities, like West Philadelphia, experience significantly more health burdens as indicated by greater rates of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature death.

Interventions and policy changes at local, state, and federal levels can help reduce these health disparities. For example, UHL is increasing green spaces and reducing the number of abandoned lots in West Philadelphia to promote safety and to help improve health and quality of life.

We are thrilled to salute Dr. Eugenia South (and her dynamic team) at UHL as our first local health equity hero. Quite remarkably, their work is tackling systemic racism and changing lives one building and newly planted tree at a time.

Please learn more about UHL at <https://www.urbanhealthlab.org>, and enjoy our 'collectable' feature poster attached.

Also, for more information about SDOH and the built environment, please visit: <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/neighborhood-and-built-environment>



Dr. Gina South

Jan 2023

Week 2

February 8, 2023

Today, we hope that you will pause your busy day to join us in celebrating this week's local health equity hero as part of the PAIR's Black History Month 2023 program Saluting Black Heroes in Health Equity: Kathy Epps and the Urban League of Philadelphia.

Since 1917, the Urban League of Philadelphia has been a powerful civil rights and advocacy organization in Philadelphia, dedicated to empowering Black and other underserved people through a wide array of services to promote economic independence and social mobility. Three notable foci of the Urban League include Workforce Development, Housing Counseling, and Health & Wellness – all of which are determinants directly related to economic stability and economic justice.

Tragically, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed the unemployment rate of Black workers to a peak of 19.5% in Philadelphia, higher than anywhere else in the nation. Black workers in Pennsylvania continue to experience the second highest unemployment rate in the country (9.6%) compared to national unemployment rates (6.1%). Further, Black workers continue to experience unemployment at rates twice as high as white workers.

The Urban League works tirelessly to connect job seekers to skills development and career opportunities and to connect local businesses to quality talent from a diverse pool of candidates. They help families build equity and stability with first-time homebuyer and financial literacy programs. Most recently, under the leadership of Kathy Epps, they developed their Health and Wellness program designed to educate and empower Philadelphians around healthy eating and immunizations. Kathy has leveraged her expertise to develop a grassroots initiative to promote this program and build strong public and community partnerships.

After many years of admirable service, Kathy recently retired from her role as the Director of Operations of the Urban League. She continues to partner with PAIR as a member of the Healthy Lungs Stakeholder Advisory Committee. We are beyond grateful for her stewardship and for the hard work that the Urban League continues to do to empower Black and other underserved people to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights.



Kathy Epps (third from right),
Healthy Lungs Stakeholder
Advisory Summit
Sep 2022

Week 3

February 15, 2023

This past December, many members of the PAIR Center met up at the African American Museum in Philadelphia to view the Black Healthcare Studies exhibit. Our experience was deeply rewarding, in large part to the tour led by docent Morgan Lloyd, this week's local health equity hero. As we find ourselves at the mid-point of PAIR's Black History Month 2023 program Saluting Black Heroes in Health Equity, we reflect on the mission of the museum and how it promotes anti-racism and social justice and, therefore, health.

Founded in 1976, the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP) was the first institution funded and built by a major municipality to preserve, interpret and exhibit the heritage of African Americans. Programs that educate communities on the Black experience – like the Black Healthcare Studies exhibit – push us to reflect on the larger social justice issues that continue to persist in our country.

According to a recent report, Black Americans have a clear vision for reducing racism but little hope it will happen. For example, many Black adults say institutional overhauls are necessary, with about 95% of Black adults saying that policing, the courts and judicial process, and the prison system need to be completely rebuilt for Black people to be treated fairly. However, over 50% of Black adults also say that such changes to address racial inequities are unlikely. Furthermore, we must also identify and act on everyday opportunities to be anti-racist. We hope you will take a few minutes to review the online resource of the National Museum of African American History & Culture about what it means to be anti-racist and how to take anti-racist action.

We are grateful to Morgan Lloyd for amplifying the stories of the Black Americans celebrated at the AAMP, a key first step in addressing social injustice, and we take great joy in saluting her as this week's health equity hero.



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Dec 2022

Week 4

February 22, 2023

AIR's Black History Month 2023 program Saluting Black Heroes in Health Equity is to celebrate diverse professionals working in and outside of the health care system to improve social determinants of health. This week, we want to take a moment to celebrate a local health equity hero among us – Chris Chesley, MD, MSCE – with whom we have the privilege of working towards making health care more just for all.

We are all keenly aware of the ongoing disparate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic, police brutality, and hate crimes have had on people of color. The effects of these incidents are further compounded by the constant exposure to inequitable health care rooted in racism and discrimination. Researchers and practitioners have been trying to identify pathways to more equitable health care and health systems in the US over the years, with the Lancet and NASEM both attempting to capture the many factors that lead to disparities in health care. More recently, in 2021 the Commonwealth Fund released an extensive analysis of how health care systems are failing people of color in every state. Their hope is that this tool will push health system leaders and policymakers to investigate the impact of health policies and practices across racial and ethnic groups and take steps to ensure a more equitable and antiracist health care system.

Understanding the various pathways through which standard hospital operations exacerbate disparities among patients from historically disadvantaged background is a critical priority for Dr. Chesley. As a postdoctoral fellow, he secured funding through the NHLBI to study the impact of hospital-wide capacity strain on the care quality for patients with acute respiratory failure and sepsis. He was named the recipient of the 2021 American Thoracic Society Health Equity Fellowship as a result of this work, and last year published the results. His ongoing work will address health system-level determinants of disparities for critically ill patients.

We are inspired by Dr. Chesley's work to date and are humbled for the opportunity to celebrate him today.



Dr. Chris Chesley speaks at the 2022 Roybal Retreat

Week 5

February 28, 2023

Thank you for joining us this past month as we've saluted Black Heroes in Health Equity and reflected on extraordinary efforts from local Philadelphians. To closeout our campaign, we'd like to highlight one more issue that disproportionately impacts the health outcomes of Black Americans and Philadelphians and an organization and individual who seek to address it.

The Healthy People 2030 initiative from the Department of Health and Human Service prioritizes education access and quality as a key social determinant of health. The initiative states that "people with higher levels of education are more likely to be healthier and live longer."

Children from under-resourced schools may face barriers to educational attainment, and kids in schools with bullying or violence problems may also face similar attainment barriers: "Children from low-income families, children with disabilities, and children who routinely experience forms of social discrimination — like bullying — are more likely to struggle with math and reading," the initiative says on its website. "They're also less likely to graduate from high school or go to college. This means they're less likely to get safe, high-paying jobs and more likely to have health problems like heart disease, diabetes, and depression." Kids from low-income families might also be affected by weathering, or the exhaustion born from living in poverty and dealing with the effects of structural racism. This can impact brain development and ultimately impact performance in school.

Mastery Schools, a network of 24 charter schools with over 14,000 students in Philadelphia and Camden, was established to promote student achievement, calling it THE civil rights issue of our time. Over 90% of Mastery students are living in poverty and over 95% identify as Black and/or Latinx/Hispanic. Mastery's mission is to ensure that all students learn the academic and personal skills they need to be truly prepared for post-secondary success and able to pursue their dreams. Mastery believes that joyful classrooms create academic excellence. Their academic program is designed to bring students rigorous, engaging instruction in a fun environment. They do this through a relationship-driven classroom culture, thoughtful use of data and a continuum of student supports.

Marvin Lovell provides essential support to the students and staff at Mastery Charter Schools. In his role as Director of Psychological and Social Services, he manages a team of social workers and psychologists who provide vital services to Mastery students and families. We are grateful to Mr. Lovell who has been an invaluable partner for Dr. Joanna Hart and her team as they explore the impact and burden of caregiving responsibilities on young people.

For all that they have done and continue to do to improve education and the lives of young people in our region, The PAIR Center salutes Mastery Schools and Marvin Lovell. We look forward to the PAIR Center's Day of Service this Friday, March 3rd at Mastery Shoemaker School.



PAIR Community Service Project at Mastery School

Mar 2023



PAIR Community Service Project at Mastery School

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