We’d like to first wish everyone a wonderful holiday season, and to say that we are very excited about all that 2013 has to offer for the Center.

In this inaugural CBUHP newsletter, we highlight some of the programs and projects our faculty and students are involved in. This will be a quarterly publication, and on the back page you’ll find instructions for submitting material to the Spring 2013 edition. We hope that you keep it in mind as a means to share information about your research, collaborations, and upcoming events. And please feel free to share with your colleagues.

Until 2013!

Crystal, Kathy, and Marla
The MA in Urban Bioethics program has just finished its inaugural semester with great success. The program is headed by Dr. Nora Jones, who joined TUSM in August as an Assistant Professor of Bioethics. We matriculated 15 MD/MA students, a mix of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd years. TUSM interviewees are increasingly asking about the dual degree program, and we’ve already received application inquiries from newly admitted class of 2017 students.

Dual Degrees.

The DPT/MA dual degree has been endorsed by the CHP and is working its way through central administration for final approval. We are in talks with the Beasley School of Law and the Kornberg School of Dentistry as well, and will hopefully gain approval for both a JD/MA and DMD/MA dual degree by the summer.

Student Achievements.

In September, Dr. Jones forwarded to the MAUB listserv information about the American Journal of Bioethics (AJOB) system of Target Articles and Open Peer Commentaries (OPC). In each AJOB issue, Target articles are accompanied by a series of short OPCs that engage the Target article. Anyone can sign up to receive the announcements of new Target articles and are given a chance to competitively submit a proposal for an OPC. Andrew Coulter, a 1st year MD/MA student, submitted a proposal in response to a target article from AJOB: Neuroscience about deep brain stimulation (DBS) research in patients with treatment resistant depression. His proposal was accepted and his OPC “DBS Research Protocols and Depressive Patients with Previous Suicidality: We Can’t Afford to Lose Focus,” will be published in Volume 4, Issue 1, in January 2013. Mr. Coulter entered medical school after two years working as a therapist in a psychiatric hospital, and chose to do the dual degree in anticipation of the issues he will face as he pursues his career choice of inpatient psychiatry.

Sarah Sodhi, a 2nd year MD/MA student has received IRB approval for his protocol “Trauma Stories” and will begin data collection in January. Sarab and his research team will conduct interviews with patients seen at Temple Hospital’s Trauma Clinic. From his abstract: The study aims: 1) to educate the medical community (as well as society in general) about the lives of trauma patients, who are often harshly judged and considered at fault for their own trauma. This judgment may lead to a bias that a provider may hold towards a patient that can be detrimental to the patient’s best care; AND 2) to measure empathy medical students display towards trauma patients before exposure to real-life trauma patient stories, and then to determine if a shift in empathy occurs after exposure.

Questions about the MA program can be directed to Dr. Jones (nora.jones@temple.edu)
Temple University’s Grand-Aides program, headed by Dr. Kathy Reeves, employs trained health workers to improve health care monitoring and education for patients in their homes after hospital discharge for congestive heart failure. As mature adults who are members of the community, Grand-Aides are culturally suited to be trusted partners with patients and families. They relay information – for example vital signs, medication adherence, clinical symptoms - in real time through an iPad, which can include a video connection from the patient’s home to a program nurse working in a Temple office. The nurse then makes the necessary care decisions, which are conveyed back to the patient by the Grand-Aide. The in-home monitoring occurs every day for the first week after discharge and is then tapered according to a program algorithm, depending on the patient’s health status.

Goals of the program include providing safe affordable care so that more intensive hospital resources are freed up; educating patients in self-care; and enhancing the lives of Grand-Aides who want to give back to their community. We are studying the protocol for congestive heart failure to see whether it reduces hospital re-admission rates 30 days post-discharge and beyond. Temple is collaborating with the University of Virginia, where the national program was developed, in protocol implementation and data collection. Questions about Grand-Aides can be directed to Dr. Mary Segal (segalm@temple.edu).

The Urban Warriors program was created as a tool to help combat the high prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension in African American men in the North Philadelphia community served by Temple. The Urban Warriors program will engage young men ages 16-22 in an intergenerational health messaging and educational program with men 35 and over who have been diagnosed with diabetes and/or hypertension. The young men, or “Urban Health Warriors,” will be trained to work one-on-one with the men in a culturally supportive relationship to encourage healthy eating choices and exercise, become more adherent to monitoring glucose and blood pressure levels, and increase engagement in chronic care self-management. This model can potentially be customized for other minority populations. Questions about Urban Warriors can be directed to Ms. Marla Davis Bellamy (marladb@temple.edu).
Urban Bioethics is a new and growing field that points a critical lens on the extreme inequalities of health and access to medical, legal, and other resources that leaves many urban dwellers and communities distinctly disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and vulnerable. Urban bioethics focuses a theoretical, conceptual, and methodological critique of contemporary bioethics. Specifically this relates to a shift from the monologic approach that dominates much of bioethics thinking to a dialogic approach required in the face of the multiculturalism and diversity inherent to urban life.

Some examples of under-explored ethical questions that take center stage in an urban environment include:

- The need for increased training of mental health providers working with clients from distinct clinical populations presenting with ethical issues related to minority cultural backgrounds or with stigmatizing problems or illnesses
- The implications for a social justice approach to public health ethics from the negative impact of malnourishment in the first year of life on an individual’s adult and offspring’s health
- The study of unexamined biosocial norms in the DSM and clinical education and how those norms apply to individuals from minority populations

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Philadelphia CeaseFire, a violence reduction program run through the School of Medicine’s Center for Bioethics, Urban Health, and Policy, will receive a $1.5 million federal grant that will allow it to continue fighting gun violence in Philadelphia.

CeaseFire is modeled after an initiative that started in Chicago and has spread to more than 15 cities and five countries around the world.

“The program itself is a public health violence intervention program that was actually started in Chicago about 12 years ago,” Philadelphia CeaseFire program director Marla Davis Bellamy said. “It was founded by an epidemiologist in Chicago who thought that he could utilize his public health approach to stop the spread of disease, of HIV/AIDS in Africa, to stop the spread of violence in Chicago.

Treating violence as a disease to be eradicated, the program uses outreach workers to target “carriers,” or young people engaged in high-risk activity that leads to gun violence, Bellamy said. “What we’re trying to do is identify those people who are engaged in high-risk activity so if in fact you are able to infiltrate them or able to treat them or provide some type of intervention, they’ll turn their lives around,” Bellamy said. “[This program] was not a law enforcement kind of approach, it was community-based, and given that it really kind of centered on the involvement and engagement of community.” (continued next page)
Outreach workers spend two to three hours a day canvassing neighborhoods and speaking with community members to identify members of the target population, which consists of people ages 18 to 25.

The workers are expected to maintain a caseload of 15 clients and help create a risk-reduction plan by compiling information about the clients’ education and work history and their goals and ambitions.

The outreach workers, who Bellamy said act as mentors or role models for their clients, typically have backgrounds and personal histories that allow them to connect to the target population and gain credibility in the community.

“These are individuals who have made mistakes in their lives, and now are committed to help other young people not make the same mistakes,” Bellamy said. “All too often, we talk to young people who have not had the same kind of parenting, mentoring growing up and often times these outreach workers serve in that capacity for them.”

Case managers are required to visit their clients at home six times per month, as well as speak with them on the phone three times per week.

“One of the clients in ‘The Interrupters,’ documentary [about Chicago CeaseFire], talks about his outreach worker being kind of like a gnat, somebody who’s constantly in your ear,” Bellamy said. “That’s the whole point, to constantly stay in their ears about turning their lives around, about doing something differently, leaving the whole life of crime behind them.”

The program operates in the 22nd Police District, where Bellamy said homicide and gun violence rates have historically been some of the highest in the city. In addition to the OJJDP grant, the group has also received funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to expand its efforts in the 24th and 25th Police Districts.

Temple students have also been able to participate in the program as part of their studies. This summer, Bellamy said that criminal justice majors worked with clients directly to help them develop their résumés and gain employment.

Ida Goldkorn is a second-year Ph.D. student in the criminal justice department who works with CeaseFire to evaluate program impact and interpret violence data. Goldkorn said the target area’s proximity to Temple gives the program a greater sense of reality and immediacy.

“We live on campus and we kind of have our own world and we hear about these shootings that are happening off campus and a lot of people just avoid the area completely because it’s just so dangerous but it’s right there,” Goldkorn said. “That’s part of what made the collaboration with Temple a natural thing because it’s our backyard, it’s where we go every day, it’s very real to us. It makes sense that Temple was involved from the start given the high level of violence in the 22nd [Police District].”

Philadelphia CeaseFire was initially funded by a $250,000 grant from the state that allowed it to establish the program and operate for two years. The new grant will come from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, part of the Department of Justice.

Bellamy said that collaboration with the City of Phila. is what allowed the program to win the grant. The program became fully operational in 2010.

“This particular grant was limited or restricted to cities only, so given those requirements, we reached out to PhillyRising [Collaborative], which is doing a lot of community engagement work,” Bellamy said.

Goldkorn also emphasized the importance of collaborating with organizations and groups that are already doing similar work in neighborhoods around the city.

“There are already a lot of organizations in Philadelphia that address youth violence in particular but they’re quite disconnected,” Goldkorn said. “They didn’t really know about each other or what they did. It was really important to have a place for all of these people to connect and see what’s already out there and how they can complement one another. That’s one key aspect, verbalizing these agencies, churches as well, that provide resources to the target population.”

The grant will allow the program to hire more outreach workers, bringing its total staff from four to 11. It will also enable the program to expand into the 39th Police District and thus begin servicing another area afflicted with high rates of gun violence and homicide.
CBUHP Facebook page

The Center now has a CBUHP Facebook page –
www.facebook.com/CBUHP

Please like it and encourage your friends and TU colleagues to like it as well

AND,
even more importantly, post stories that you find that relate to the themes of bioethics, urban health and policy, broadly defined, and comment on stories that are posted.

Our goal is to make this a vibrant active page with academic and community participation

Telemedicine

The Center has been working with Drs. William Santamore and Fred Bove in the Department of Cardiology utilizing telemedicine to improve the overall health of members of the North Philadelphia community.

Medically underserved communities are at higher risk for cardiovascular disease. One way to reduce this risk could be to improve health literacy—to empower people with a better understanding of health information.

With a $100,000 grant from Verizon Foundation, Temple launched Telemedicine Light, a program that creates community health education via targeted, customized e-mail messages based on the unique needs and concerns of those living in an urban environment. Telemedicine is still being used by Dr. Santamore and his colleagues today.

For more information contact Dr. Santamore (wsantamo@temple.edu)

Community Ambassadors

The CBUHP’s Community Ambassadors are key community leaders and representatives who provide insight and linkage with the broader community, and ensure that research will be the most community responsive.

The Community Ambassadors have already contributed to proposals to NIH and initiated health education and enrichment activities in the community. After training in research strategies, they will work with all parts of the CBUHP to develop clear priorities, procedures, and effectiveness measures before embarking on their mission of facilitating community education and research.

Faculty that have been instrumental in the development and ongoing sustainability of this program include:

Sarah Bass, PhD, MPH
Raul De La Cadena, MD
Beth Galinsky
Nina Gentile, MD
Thomas Gordon, PhD
Alice Hausman, PhD, MPH
Anuradha Paranjape, MD, MPH
Donald Parks, MD
Ellen Tedaldi, MD
Francis Walker
1.15.13  **Phila CeaseFire Community Coalition Meeting**  
(2\textsuperscript{nd} Tuesday of Every Month)  
6:00pm  
Honickman Learning Center  
1936 N. Judson Street, Phila., PA 19121  
Open to the public. Call 215-204-3321 for more information

1.24.13  Community-Driven Research Day  
9 am – 1 pm  
Drexel University, Room TBD  
www.phillyviolenceprevention.org/research-day/

3.9.13  Health Policy Symposium, TUSM

4.25.13  Health Disparities Research at the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Disability: A National Conference (2 days) Washington, DC  
ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/institute-on-development-and-disability/public-health-programs/project-intersect/index.cfm

Spring, TBA  Temple Emergency Action Core (TEAC) Symposium – Theme for 2013: Urban Health

To submit an event for the Spring 2013 ‘Upcoming Events’ calendar or to share a story or story idea, please email:

CBUHP@temple.edu