



A Research Center at the University at Albany, SUNY

The Amsterdam Minority Health Task Force is Back!

The Amsterdam Minority Health Task Force includes stakeholders and members of the community to define, measure and address key health concerns and needs that affect the Amsterdam community. Through partnerships with faculty at the University at Albany, we aim to implement projects to address community needs.

The Amsterdam Minority Health Task Force meets almost monthly. Thus far, discussion among task force members has resulted in the identification of the following community concerns:

-Behavioral Health/Primary Care Providers' Services: There is a need to train providers in cultural competency, substance abuse, and stress management in Amsterdam. Services addressing mental and physical health need to be better integrated in order to meet patients' needs.

-Migrant/Immigrant Populations: There is a need to focus on culturally-competent healthcare provision for these populations and raise awareness as to the distinction between the migrant and immigrant population in Amsterdam.

-Child Development: There is a need



to promote breastfeeding, particularly among Latina mothers. Families would benefit from increased education on childhood development.

All faculty and community members who may be interested in partnering with members of the Amsterdam community are invited to attend the next Task Force meeting. For more information or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. L. Schell at CEMHD@albany.edu

Keep your eyes open for announcements of the

Listening Sessions

Newsletter

Spring 2016

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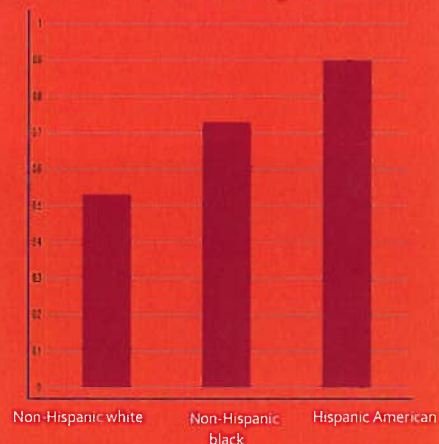
Welcoming the newest addition to the

Center

FAST FACTS ON

Did you know?

Hispanic American and Non-Hispanic Black American pregnant women between the ages of 18-49 have higher blood lead and mercury levels.



Geometric mean blood lead levels in pregnant women aged 18-49 years of age by race, ethnicity: United States 2003-2008

Contact Us

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Community Partners and Supporters

Albany • Amsterdam Resource Center for Independent Living • Black Child Development Institute, Albany Chapter • Centro Civico of Amsterdam, Inc. • Capital District African-American Coalition on AIDS • Centro Civico Hispanoamericano, Albany • Capital Area School Development Association • The College of Saint Rose • Empire State College • Fulton Montgomery Community College • HealthNow New York, Inc. • Healthy Capital District Initiative • Hudson Valley Community College • Internships in Aging Project • Macedonia Baptist Church • Montgomery County Community Services • Montgomery County Office for Aging • NYS Department of Health • St. Mary's Hospital, Amsterdam • United Way of Northeastern New York, Inc. • Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood • Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center

Upcoming Community Events and Activities

Finding My Own Voice

Monday April 11-

Friday April 15, 2016

8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

As part of the National Crime Victims Rights Week, this exhibit will feature works by those whose lives have been affected by crime.

Art Exhibition

Reception:
Monday April 11
3 p.m.- 6 p.m.
Opening Ceremony at 3:00
Amsterdam City Hall
61 Church St
Ginger Cato: 518-342-3489
Or
gingercato@co-fm.org

Conversations for Juvenile Justice Reform

Bridges Out of Poverty

When: Wednesday & Thursday, April 13 & 14, 2016

Where: Children's Home, 122 Park Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12304

9:00am - Sign-in & network with coffee and light snacks

9:15 to 4pm - Program beginning & end times w/lunch Noonish

Who: Nathan Mandsager, Director of Schenectady Works for the City Mission of Schenectady, Chris Parsons, Bridges Trainer & Getting Ahead Coordinator, Eddie Polanco, Training Coordinator for Bridges & Getting Ahead Facilitator, Dona Fragnoli, Coordinating Consultant & Bridges Trainer.

RSVP: If you wish to attend, reply to this email by noon on Friday, April 8, 2016 – please include: your title, contact info (email address and phone number), organizational affiliation, and county.

Email Elizabeth at elizabeth.greathouse@schenectadycounty.com or call her at 518.337.7579



"Research for the Community"

Exposure to PCB's and DDE (polychlorinated biphenyls and dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene) both toxic chlorinated chemicals commonly found in the environment, have caused some concerns in the community. Although products containing PCBs are no longer produced in the US, and the use of DDE, a pesticide, is banned in this country, they can still be found in the environment putting individuals at risk for developing diabetes, cancer, and other chronic diseases.

A study was done to examine the effects of PCBs and DDE levels on the hormone testosterone in adolescent males exposed to these chemicals pre- and post-natally. Testosterone is a hormone that plays an important role in growth and development. The study revealed that these environmental toxicants disrupted the endocrine system and resulted in changes in testosterone levels. Exposure to PCBs reduced, while exposure to DDE increased, testosterone levels among adolescent males indicating that though these chemicals are alike in structure, they do not act similarly.

Effects of PCBs and DDE vary depending on race and ethnicity, gender, and level of exposure but nonetheless, have a significant effect on the development of those exposed.

See: Schell LM, Gallo MV, Deline GD, Nelder KR, DeCaprio AP, Jacobs A. Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment. 2014. Relationships of polychlorinated biphenyls and dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (p,p'-DDE) with testosterone levels in adolescent males. *Environ Health Perspect* 122:304-309



Please join the Center in welcoming the newest addition to our team, Ms. Lauren Dasen!

Lauren Dasen is currently a fourth-year student in the University at Albany's Counseling Psychology Ph.D. program. As a first-generation Panamanian/Cuban-American, Lauren's interest in CEMHD is both personal and professional. Lauren received her bachelor's of science degree in psychology from the University of Florida. Throughout her undergraduate and graduate career, she has conducted research in various laboratories pertaining to neurophysiology, social psychology, and counseling psychology. Her academic research interests include investigating sociocultural determinants of mental and physical health among Latinos.

At the 2015 American Psychological Association convention, Lauren presented a scientific poster focused on *marianismo* (traditional Latina gender role beliefs) and its association with various health outcomes among recent Latina immigrants. As part of her current graduate training, Lauren also teaches undergraduate courses, assists with a graduate course on cognitive assessment, and conducts psychotherapy and psychological testing in a hospital setting. She incorporates social justice principles into her teaching, research, and clinical work (which she conducts in both Spanish and English). Lauren would like to continue her involvement in these areas after graduation and promote health at both individual and community levels.