

POP HEALTH CENTRAL

RUTGERS POPULATION HEALTH CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER



Edited by: Kathryn Corpuz & Mary O'Dowd (RBHS)

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Event Highlights from Rutgers

"A Regional Symposium Brings Together New Jersey Researchers, Policy Makers, and Trainees to Discuss Ideas for Mitigating Climate-Driven Impacts on Planetary and Human Health"

Contributing Authors: Neil Grant (Director for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Research Training, RBHS) and Adrienne Ettinger (Chief of Staff for Research, RBHS)



For recommendations on future newsletter topics or to be a contributing author, contact us at:

 vcpherbhs.rutgers.edu

Rutgers University hosted a regional symposium on Climate Change, Planetary, and Human Health: Challenges and Opportunities on Friday, October 28th that brought together over 100 researchers, policy makers, and trainees at the Cook Campus Student Center in New Brunswick, NJ.

Climate change is one of the single biggest threats to planetary, human, and population health. The impacts of climate change are already being observed through air and nonrecyclable waste pollution, extreme weather events, food insecurity, forced displacement, illness, and pressures on mental health.

The goal of the symposium was to stimulate innovation and foster collaboration among teams from Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute for Technology (NJIT), Princeton University, and Stevens Institute for Technology who co-organized the day-long event that was sponsored, in part, by RWJBarnabas Health. Thematic areas of the symposium included:

- Climate change and climate science
- Health impacts of climate change: vulnerability and disparity
- Food safety and security in a changing climate
- Healthcare systems and climate change
- Role of technology and engineering tools to combat health impacts of climate change

Following introductory remarks by Brian L. Strom, Chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) and the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs at Rutgers University, the event kicked off in earnest. "We are addressing the most urgent and critically important topic of our time, ensuring planetary and human health for generations to come by taking immediate and meaningful actions to combat climate change," said Strom. Many of the presentations focused on efforts to develop global solutions for global problems, but others focused on problems closer to home, specifically on issues affecting New Jersey. The symposium was one of several climate-related events to be held in the region as it happened to coincide with the tenth anniversary of Super Storm Sandy's NJ landfall on October 29, 2012. This only strengthened the resolve of attendees to build on the energy created by the symposium. Participants were eager to share ideas and identify new alliances aimed at mitigating climate-driven impacts on health that will benefit the population of NJ and beyond through interdisciplinary research and action.



Brian L. Strom (Chancellor of RBHS)



Rebecca Mark (Director, Institute for Women's Leadership) with Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, and Mary O'Dowd

"What the Eyes Don't See: Stories from the Flint Water Crisis"

On November 17, 2022, the Rutgers Institute for Women's Leadership Consortium, Rutgers Global, and the Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA) hosted the Anita Ashok Datar Lecture on Women's Global Health. This lecture series draws to campus groundbreaking pioneers, researchers, field workers, and activists to explore growing international health challenges and the vital role that the United States and leaders from across the globe must continue to play in addressing them.

The conversation for this lecture featured Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha (a *pediatrician, scientist, activist, and author*) and Mary O'Dowd (*Executive Director of Health Systems and Population Health Integration at RBHS*). Dr. Hanna-Attisha was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World and recognized as one of USA Today's Women of the Century for her role in uncovering the Flint Michigan water crisis. She is a professor and author of the widely acclaimed and New York Times 100 most notable book, "What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City."

In this lecture, Dr. Hanna-Attisha shares her dramatic story of how she used science to prove that children were exposed to poisonous levels of lead. The recording of the lecture can be accessed with this [link](#).

"The Governor's STEM Scholars 2022-2023 Class Kick-off"

On October 29, 2022, the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP) hosted the Governor's STEM Scholars kick-off event for the class of 2022-2023. There were about 125 high achieving students who participated in the event, representing 20 of New Jersey's 21 counties. During the event, the scholars had the opportunity to hear from a variety of outstanding speakers representing a range of STEM-focused roles. Joseph Barone (*Dean of EMSOP*) also spoke to the STEM scholars about EMSOP and its programs like the PharmD/MD dual degree and the various roles of pharmacists and their importance in the healthcare team. More information about the Governor's STEM Scholars program can be found [here](#).



Governor's STEM Scholars Class of 2022-2023

Population Health in Action

"ScreenNJ Expands Free Access to Cancer Screening Patient Navigation Statewide"

Contributing Author: Emily Carey Perez de Alejo (Program Manager, ScreenNJ)

ScreenNJ is a statewide initiative focused on increasing the number of screening-eligible patients receiving timely and appropriate cancer screenings. ScreenNJ's efforts address multiple cancers including colorectal and lung cancer – which are among the most prevalent cancers in New Jersey – and screening for breast, skin, prostate cancers, HPV (human papillomavirus)-related cancers such as cervical cancer, hereditary cancers, and tobacco cessation as a critical cancer prevention tool. ScreenNJ is managed by the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey for the benefit of people throughout the state regardless of health system affiliation or insurance status and is funded by the New Jersey Department of Health.

ScreenNJ has a special focus on reducing cancer disparities

and is implementing a statewide free multi-cancer community-based screening navigation program. This new program provides pathways to cancer prevention and screening services, direct navigation services for patients, and follow-up linkage to necessary diagnostic and treatment follow-up care. According to Monica Townsend (*ScreenNJ Program Director, Social Services*), "This approach is instrumental in breaking down access barriers to cancer screening and improving inter-agency collaboration between New Jersey's highly competitive health systems, especially for medically disconnected patients where cost/insurance pose a major barrier to screening. Our services help fill in the gaps to patient care and support by addressing social determinants of health, promoting health equity and improving patient health literacy."

Since its inception in FY2018, ScreenNJ has financially supported increased staff capacity at partner sites to deliver cancer screening patient navigation, an evidence-based intervention known to increase cancer screening rates especially for patients who face barriers to accessing care. Prior to COVID but exacerbated by it, many partner sites struggled to recruit, train, and retain screening-focused navigation staff – partners statewide indicated that having a centrally trained and supported team of ScreenNJ Navigators who they could utilize and who could provide coverage to each other would resolve many of these challenges (including varied hiring and salary scales, varied access to barrier reduction supports for patients, and varied restrictions on continuing employment when funding is year-to-year).

Over the past year, ScreenNJ has been expanding program support for screening navigation to include a mix of three approaches:

1. "Partner-employed Navigator": Provides funding support to partner sites that directly employ a staff member focused on conducting cancer screening navigation services.
2. "Hosted Navigator": Provides Rutgers Cancer Institute-employed ScreenNJ Navigators as a dedicated staff resource, who are hosted within and working as additional staff for designated partner sites.
3. "Community Navigator": Provides community-based centralized navigation services delivered by Rutgers Cancer Institute-employed ScreenNJ Navigators statewide.

All navigation efforts refer patients to sites that perform cancer screening services (including FQHCs, NJCEED

agencies, hospitals, cancer centers, and primary care sites including independent facilities and those affiliated with health systems) and to partner sites that are best able to meet the needs of the specific patient (based on their location, preferences, insurance/payment options, transportation and other barriers). Patients with a positive screening result are not required to receive treatment from the same site/organization that provided the screening. ScreenNJ encourages all cancer treatment programs statewide to align with or initiate screening programs both to shift the stage of diagnosis within their catchment area to earlier more treatable stages as well as to build relationships with patients.

ScreenNJ is specifically intended to break down barriers between health systems and provider agencies statewide to ensure patients in need of screening receive service. ScreenNJ Navigators are available to help any patient who is eligible for screening (even if they have insurance) to schedule and access screening statewide.



If you are a patient or provider looking for assistance in accessing cancer screening services or connecting your patients to cancer screening services, please contact our ScreenNJ Patient Navigation team at patientnavigation@cinj.rutgers.edu and 833-727-3665 today!

"The Unveiling of ScreenNJ's 'LifeSaver' Mobile Health Unit"

Contributing Author: Emily Carey Perez de Alejo (Program Manager, ScreenNJ)



ScreenNJ Lifesaver Mobile Unit (Photo Credit: Joe Campbell)

To further advance ScreenNJ's ongoing efforts to combat cancer, ScreenNJ's "LifeSaver" mobile health unit was unveiled on November 15, 2022 with Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey - CINJ and the New Jersey Department of Health. This vehicle will support efforts to provide cancer screenings, follow-up care, and health education to underserved and hard-to-reach residents in New Jersey. The colorful design on the unit is the result of an art contest sponsored by ScreenNJ, which features the work of winning entries by high school students from Scotch Plains and Westfield, New Jersey. More information about the unveiling can be found [here](#).

Latest Health Updates on COVID-19

"Effectiveness of Bivalent mRNA Vaccines in Preventing Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection - Increasing Community Access to Testing Program, United States, September - November 2022"

On September 1, 2022, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended the new bivalent COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. These vaccines consist of components from the original COVID-19 strain and Omicron BA.4/BA.5 strains and were designed to address the reduced effectiveness of the COVID-19 monovalent vaccines as the cases of the Omicron variants became more widespread. On October 12, 2022, the recommendation for the bivalent vaccine was expanded to include children ages 5 to 11 years. At the time of the recommendation, immunogenicity data from clinical trials of the bivalent vaccines was available. However, there was no clinical efficacy data yet. This study analyzes the effectiveness of the bivalent booster formulation against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection using data from the Increasing Community Access Testing (ICATT) national SARS-CoV-2 testing program. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

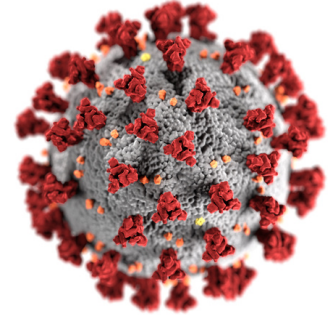
"Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Outpatient Treatment of COVID-19 - United States, January-July 2022"

Outpatient medications are effective at preventing severe COVID-19 and important in efforts to mitigate the pandemic. The most commonly prescribed and preferred outpatient medication for eligible patients is Paxlovid. This CDC MMWR highlights the racial and ethnic disparities that persisted in outpatient COVID-19 treatment through July 2022. During April-July 2022, the percentage of COVID-19 patients aged ≥ 20 years treated with Paxlovid was 36% and 30% lower among Black and Hispanic patients than among White and non-Hispanic patients, respectively. These disparities existed among all age groups and patients with immunocompromise. The findings noted in the

report emphasize the need to expand programs to increase awareness of and access to these COVID-19 treatments to ensure that persons at high risk for severe illness are protected and equitable health outcomes can be further facilitated. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

[“Municipal Ethnic Composition and Disparities in COVID-19 Infections in New Jersey: A Blinder–Oaxaca Decomposition Analysis”](#)

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Latinx and Black communities in the United States. In this study by Wang et al. (2022), these researchers used a novel municipal dataset to examine COVID-19 health disparities across New Jersey’s diverse 565 localities, which range from 0 to 78% Latinx and 0 to 86% Black. They found a strong relationship between a municipality’s ethnic composition and its COVID-19 case rates during the first 18 months of the pandemic. This relationship was well explained by characteristics of the municipalities’ socioeconomic and physical environments. These findings are of interest to local stakeholders seeking to understand health in their own communities, researchers interested in structural racism and population health, and state policymakers aiming to advance health equity in the Garden State and beyond. The full study report can be accessed [here](#).



[“Sociodemographic Variation in Early Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccine and Parental Intent and Attitudes Toward Vaccination of Children Aged 6 Months–4 Years – United States, July 1–29, 2022”](#)

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective; however, data has shown that COVID-19 vaccination coverage among children under 5 years old is low. Data notes that 4% of children aged 6 months–4 years had received ≥ 1 doses of COVID-19 vaccine based on interviews conducted during July 2022; 59% were unvaccinated, but the parent was open to vaccinating their child; and 37% were unvaccinated and the parent was reluctant to vaccinate. Among parents open to vaccination, 25% reported receiving a provider recommendation, and 57% were confident of the vaccine’s safety; confidence of vaccine safety varied by race or ethnicity and household income. This data reflects the importance of a strong health care provider recommendation for this vaccine in order to help efforts to increase vaccination coverage among young children. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

CONSORITUM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Mobile Cancer Screening Unit - A Partnership between UH-Rutgers-NJMS-Connie Dwyer Foundation will continue to provide vital access to Mammography and other Cancer Screenings

Contributing Author: Ana Natale-Pereira (Associate Professor of Medicine, Division Director - General Internal Medicine, & Assistant Dean for Primary Care and Community Initiatives, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School)

The New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection–Screening Access of Value for Essex (NJCEED-SAVE) program started in 1996, and it continuously grew over the next 12 years, through aggressive community engagement and building incredible community partnerships. The State has been funding the program for the last 26 years, continuously. Since its inception, the program has expanded screening access to more than 27,500 medically underserved women.



In 2008, with support from the Komen Foundation, the then UMDNJ Foundation spearheaded the initiative to expand our services using a mobile mammography van. The unique vehicle provided mammography service to the hardest to reach populations of the Essex County Area, and also expanded access through corporate contracts all over the state. At the time of the UMDNJ dissolution, the integration of NJMS into Rutgers, and the separation from University Hospital, there was a need to re-organize how the services were to be provided. University Hospital remained committed to this partnership and supported the use of the Mobile Unit with all the operational expenses. The NJCEED-SAVE Program remained an NJMS contract, and it provided all the educational and cancer screening services as expected. Rutgers NJMS Internal Medicine and Family Medicine Doctors contributed time over the many years, ensuring the delivery of all cancer screenings to our community.

In 2014, Dr. Natale-Pereira took over the program to continue these efforts and created an opportunity for students and residents to engage and learn from community service. Cancer screening services are provided at no cost to low-income, uninsured NJ residents between the ages of 21 - 64. Dr. Natale-Pereira's successful efforts to reach underserved communities caught the attention of the [Connie Dwyer Breast Cancer Foundation \(CDBCF\)](#), which has recently partnered with the University Hospital Foundation to raise \$1.2 million to purchase a new, state of the art mobile cancer screening unit equipped with high-tech breast imaging and a private examination room. We are committed to continue providing this valuable service to women in Essex County.



Formation of the Rutgers Health Service Corps

Contributing Authors: Vince Silenzio (Professor at the Department of Urban-Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Public Health), Ethan Halm (Vice Chancellor for Population Health, RBHS), John Hemphill (Project Coordinator, RBHS), Alex Ruiz (Executive Director of Environmental Health and Safety and University Safety Officer), and Humaira Chaudhry (Chair (Interim) and Associate Professor of Radiology, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School)

During the COVID 19 pandemic, Rutgers' student volunteers (undergraduates, health professions students) and faculty were mobilized at scale to help the University and RBHS respond to the COVID crisis, distributing tens of thousands of COVID self-testing kits, assembling thousands of personal protective equipment (PPE) bundles for healthcare workers, and forming the Rutgers VAX Corps to administer thousands of COVID vaccines to university and community members. The success of the Rutgers VAX Corps was recognized with one of President Holloway's 'Beloved Community' awards. This success has inspired the formation of the Rutgers Health Service Corps (RHSCorps), an expansion of the VAX Corps that continues this spirit of service beyond COVID-19.

The RHSCorps is intended to be an interprofessional, collaborative cadre of students (from all levels), faculty, staff, and community members working together to improve population and public health across Rutgers' communities through education, innovation, and service. It aims to meet individuals where they are to address health challenges in the places where our community members live, work, and play to improve health and reduce health disparities.



Furthermore, the vision of the RHSCorps is to be a national model for inspiring the next generation of healthcare and public health heroes while improving the health and health equity of NJ communities. To achieve this vision, it will train and engage students and community members in service-learning activities partnered with health professionals that promote health, wellness, and equity in their communities and increase the number and diversity of students entering health professions, public health, and social service careers.

RHSCorps students will span all three Rutgers campuses, with students from all levels and majors invited to participate in volunteer service-learning activities that strengthen their understanding of social impacts on community health. Students will complete a core educational curriculum and service-learning specialization pathways that will prepare them to participate in service-learning activities. The program, overseen by faculty leadership, will be driven by student interest and community needs, tapping into the passion, knowledge, and creativity of Rutgers' students.

The pilot project of the RHSCorps launched June 2022. Rutgers' students, serving as student volunteer patient navigators, worked collaboratively to increase breast cancer screenings among uninsured/underinsured women ages 40-75 who came through the Emergency Department (ED) at University Hospital in Newark. Students manned shifts in the ED, identified women through chart review and brief interviews who were not up-to-date on their screening, counseled them on the importance of and free access to mammography, scheduled imaging tests, and provided navigation and transportation assistance. While still early in the evaluation of this pilot, the short-term mammography completion rate to date is 52%--something that is impressive in light of the numerous social disadvantages and access challenges faced by these women.

Furthermore, in October the project was presented at the Annual American College of Radiology Quality and Safety Conference in Washington, D.C., by Humaira Chaudhry, Interim Chair of Radiology at NJMS and Jack Hemphill, Project Coordinator at RBHS, where they received 3rd place in best overall abstract. As a result of these initial successes, the pilot program will be expanded through partnership with ScreenNJ and the Cancer Institute of NJ. It serves as a stellar example of our hope to build efforts for an organized and sustainable platform to train and engage students to meet current population health needs while catalyzing interest in health and social service careers.

The Rutgers Health Service Corps will formally launch Spring 2023. If interested in learning more about the RHSCorps, please reach out to us using [the contact form linked here](#).

Dr. Noa'a Shimoni Appointed to Lead Student Health Across Rutgers



On November 8, 2022, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences announced the appointment of Dr. Noa'a Shimoni, MD, MPH as the Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellness at Rutgers University and Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Student Health and Wellness at Rutgers-New Brunswick.

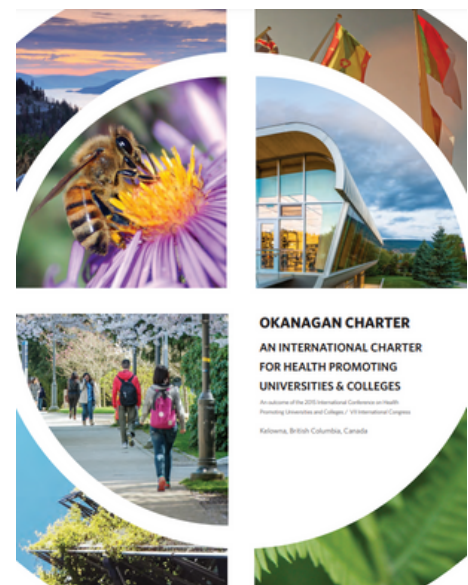
Dr. Shimoni's roles position her as a collaborator and connector amongst student health leaders and representatives across the campuses at Rutgers to identify and advance shared health and wellness strategic priorities. She will also be leading population and preventive health initiatives, along with directing and coordinating immunization management for the university in its efforts to improve the health and well-being of Rutgers University students. To learn more about Dr. Shimoni and her appointment, please see the full announcement using this [link](#).

COMING UP AT OUR NEXT CONSORTIUM MEETING

The Okanagan Charter

Contributing Author: Joyce Porter (Project Manager, RBHS)

Health Promoting Universities (HPUs) are institutes of higher education that are committed to embedding health into all aspects of the university culture and seek to promote health locally and globally. HPUs are guided by the Okanagan Charter. Established in 2015 by researchers, practitioners, administrators' students, and policy makers from 45 countries, the Okanagan Charter is the outcome of the 2015 International Conference on Health Promoting Universities and Colleges. The document defines a framework for achieving its two calls to action: (1) Embed health into all aspects of campus culture, across the administration, operations, and academic mandates. And (2) Lead health promotion action and collaboration locally and globally. The Okanagan Charter is publicly available and can be accessed here: [Okanagan Charter: An international charter for health promoting universities & colleges - UBC Library Open Collections](#).



Universities can officially adopt the Okanagan Charter and pledge to prioritize health for their university community. The University of Alabama at Birmingham was the first university in the US to adopt the charter in December of 2020. Currently, in the US there are more than 10 universities that have committed to the Okanagan Charter. Throughout this academic year, Rutgers will be evaluating the Okanagan Charter and its impact should it be adopted. To learn more about this in the context of Rutgers University, please join the January Population Health Consortium.

References:

1. *Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges (2015).*
2. *Network. US Health Promoting Campuses Network. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://ushpcn.org/network/>.*

Additional Resources about the Okanagan Charter

To further provide background about the Okanagan Charter and inform our discussion at the next Consortium meeting in January, we are sharing some resources for reference including:



["The Okanagan Charter: Evolution of Health Promotion in Canadian Higher Education"](#)

This article explores how health promotion has been adopted on Canadian college campuses, particularly in the context of the first 10 Canadian campuses that signed the Okanagan Charter. The authors describe the approaches of colleges that have shifted from a student-centric focus to a systems approach, including the adoption of the Okanagan Charter and their agreement to implement the Charter's Calls to Action in their respective campuses. Lastly, the authors also give recommendations on how campuses can address the current health issues and support overall wellbeing, especially as we move towards a post-pandemic future. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

["Okanagan Charter & UAB's Role as a Health-Promoting University | UAB School of Public Health"](#)

With the adoption of the Okanagan Charter in 2020 by the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), this institution became an internationally recognized Health Promoting University. This [video is a recording of a seminar](#) led by Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, the Assistant Vice President for Student Health and Wellbeing at UAB. She presents the following topics: (1) the definition of a "Health Promoting University," (2) an overview of the Okanagan Charter and its two calls to action, and (3) UAB's progress in implementing the Okanagan Charter. For more information about UAB and the initiatives it has taken (e.g., the President's Wellbeing Collaborative) as the first Health Promoting University in the US, check out their website at this [link](#).

ON OUR RADAR

Reading Recommendations

[Rutgers Global Health Institute Impact Report](#)

The Global Health Institute at Rutgers recently released their 2021-2022 annual Impact Report. The report highlights the impact of the institute's programs and partnerships with vulnerable communities near and far, as well as faculty contributions to the vigilant pursuit of health equity for all. The full report can be accessed [here](#).



ON OUR RADAR (CONTINUED)

Listening List

The Princeton Pulse Podcast: Advancing Health Research & Policy

The Princeton Pulse Podcast highlights the vital connections between health research and policy. Heather Howard, a professor at Princeton University and former New Jersey Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, hosts the podcast and brings together a wide variety of experts ranging from scholars to policymakers, and other leaders to examine the most pressing health policy issues - domestically and globally. The podcast's first episode has been released and focuses on the topic of maternal-infant health. More information on the podcast and its episodes can be accessed [here](#).



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Open Opportunities

- American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR): [Grants for Junior Faculty](#). The Glenn Foundation for Medical Research (GFMR) and AFAR provide up to \$150,000 for a one- to two-year award to junior faculty (MDs and PhDs) to conduct research on a broad range of biomedical and clinical topics related to aging. The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent is December 15, 2022. For information on how to submit your application, refer to the [program's webpage](#) on the AFAR site.
- [Rutgers HealthAdvance Fund](#). HealthAdvance Fund® solicits full applications by invitation only. Please review the Pre-Qualification Application eligibility criteria before contacting your Licensing Manager. Pre-Qualification Applications may only be submitted through the Licensing Managers to the program on a rolling basis, throughout the year. One of the principal objectives of Rutgers Optimizes Innovation (ROI) in awarding commercialization funding through HealthAdvance Fund® is to assist the development of very early-stage life science technologies and make them more attractive for continued follow-on investments from industry partners and external investors.
- American Association for Cancer Research (AACR): [Career Development Awards in Lung Cancer Research](#). This AACR grant program seeks to support early-career investigators to conduct lung cancer research and establish successful careers in this field. The proposed project may be basic, translational, clinical, or epidemiological in nature and must be applicable and relevant to lung cancer research. Each award provides \$250,000 over two years for expenses related to the research project. Applications must be submitted online by 1:00PM U.S. Eastern Time on Thursday, January 5, 2023 using the [ProposalCentral website](#).
- Burroughs Wellcome Fund: [Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants](#). Burroughs Wellcome Fund provides small grants to promote the growth of new connections among scholars from a variety of disciplines to collaborate in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change on human health. Over the next two years, \$1M will be dedicated to support small early-stage grants of \$2,500-\$50,000 toward achieving this goal. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis through July 12, 2023. More information about this award can be found at the [Burroughs Wellcome Fund website](#).

- Cancer Research Institute (CRI): [Lloyd J. Old STAR Program Grant - "Scientists Taking Risks."](#) This program provides long-term funding to mid-career scientists, giving them the freedom and flexibility to pursue high-risk, high-reward research at the forefront of discovery and innovation in cancer immunotherapy. The Lloyd J. Old STAR program provides up to \$1.25 million over a five-year period to tenure-track assistant professors (minimum 3 years) and associate professors (maximum 3 years). The deadline for submitting a full application is on January 15, 2023. For more information on the grant and application guidelines, please refer to the [CRI website](#).
- Rutgers School of Public Health's Center for South Asian Quantitative Health & Education: Pilot Grant Program. With support from funding from the Maya and Swayam Prakash Fund, awards will support pilot grants that advance the Center's mission to impact the health and health outcomes of South Asians through three main areas: (1) scientific studies to identify unique risk factors contributing to cancer and allied diseases; (2) community engagement; and (3) education, training, and communication. Applicants can request a maximum funding of up to \$50,000 for one year. Applications are due by 5PM EST on February 1, 2023. For applicant eligibility information, contact the Center at saqhe@sph.rutgers.edu. Questions about guidance and procedures can be directed to research@sph.rutgers.edu.
- New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR): [2024 NJCCR Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#). On December 1, the NJCCR released their RFAs for these grants: bridge and pilot cancer research, pre- and postdoctoral fellowship, and pediatric cancer research grants. The mandatory Letter of Intent (LOI) is due on February 9, 2023. To prequalify for a grant, a LOI must

be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Health via the New Jersey System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE). More details can be found in the RFA, which can be accessed [here](#).

Upcoming Funding

- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI): [Partnering Research and Community Organizations for Novel Health Equity Research - Addressing Social and Clinical Determinants of Maternal Health](#) (Cycle 1, 2023). The Partner Targeted PFA seeks to fund high-quality, comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) studies that focus on multicomponent, multilevel interventions simultaneously addressing health conditions and social determinants of health to improve maternal health outcomes. Although the official funding announcement will be released in January 2023, PCORI has shared this preannouncement to provide potential applicants with additional time to identify collaborators, obtain stakeholder input on potential CER studies, and develop responsive and high-quality proposals. The full preannouncement and recording of the town hall, where an overview was provided to potential applicants, can be found on the [PCORI site](#).
- Sebastian Strong Foundation: [2023 Discovery Science Award \(Pediatric Cancer\)](#). The Sebastian Strong Foundation funds early stage, cutting edge research through its annual Discovery Science Award. The Foundation works closely with its medical advisory board - comprised of some of the top pediatric cancer doctors in the country - to determine what research projects to fund. The Foundation aims to focus on promising research that would not be funded otherwise. The funding amount is between \$50,000 to \$500,000. The external deadline is January 11, 2023. More information is forthcoming and can be found on the [Foundation's website](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rutgers School of Public Health (SPH) recently announced the [HRSA Public Health Scholarship Program](#). This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Grant No. T52 HP46773. The program recognizes high achieving individuals by offering partial tuition scholarships with the goal of increasing the capacity of public health systems. The following groups are eligible to apply:

- Accepted students at the Rutgers SPH (and those who started in Fall 2022 in good academic standing)
- New Jersey residents
- Those currently working in public health or come from an underrepresented group

More information about this scholarship program can be found on the [Rutgers SPH website](#). You can also contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@sph.rutgers.edu or by phone at 732-235-4646.

UPCOMING EVENTS



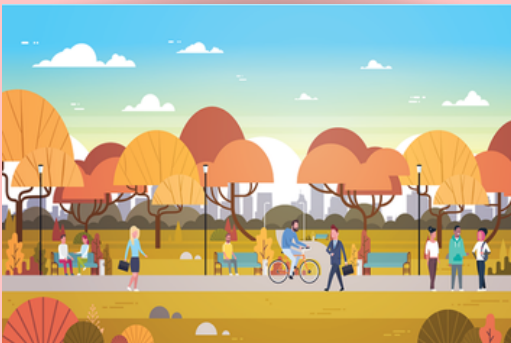
Rutgers Population Health Consortium January 2023 Meeting

- Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- Zoom (details provided via email to Consortium members)



Prevention and Mitigation of Common Infectious Illnesses in Childcare Centers and Schools

- Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 1:00 - 2:00 PM
- This training with the NJDOH Communicable Disease Service's DSH team will focus on the most common diseases in childcares and schools. The training will highlight best disease prevention practices and NJDOH resources that are available for diseases management. RSVP at the Rutgers School of Public Health [event site](#).



Health in All Policies (HiAP)

- Friday, February 24, 2023, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a strategy that strengthens the link between health and other policies, creating a supportive environment that enables people to lead healthy lives. The [Planning Healthy Communities Initiative \(PHCI\)](#) will lead this introductory training and will focus on how to bring community health and equity into planning processes and decision-making, emerging tools to build capacity for health advancement in planning, and how to support health policies. This will be an interactive session with participants engaging in group exercises, discussing opportunities and challenges to health integration in planning and policy process, and learning about new statewide collaborative initiatives. The workshop fee is \$275 per person.