INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Northwestern University has a bold plan. It intends to create a national epicenter for health in one of the world’s great cities—Chicago. Through Northwestern Medicine, the University seeks nothing less than to impact the health of humankind. Great steps are being made, and none more important than the advances being generated by Northwestern’s Institute for Public Health and Medicine (IPHAM).

Unlike programs and organizations that focus solely on public health or healthcare, IPHAM recognizes that our society needs dramatic, innovative solutions that integrate both public health and healthcare delivery initiatives. IPHAM is finding those integrative answers and taking action to initiate change in healthcare delivery that includes public health concepts and services.

Rowland W. Chang MD, MPH, the director of Northwestern’s Institute for Public Health and Medicine, and senior associate dean for public health, is building IPHAM on vital principles: “Good health for all,” and “Access to an effective and efficient healthcare system.” These are lofty objectives, but does any one of us deserve less than the life-altering benefits represented by these standards?

“IPHAM embraces the intersection of public health and medicine.” states Dr. Chang. “We strive to get the right stakeholders in the room who see our healthcare challenges as opportunities to provide leadership and solutions. Partnerships are at the center of our work and our measure for success always goes back to improving the health of our communities.”

Consider the impact that will be made by bringing together the best and brightest faculty and students, who dedicate their work to finding solutions for specific healthcare problems using a variety of toolkits. The objective of these academic endeavors is to engage the community, research innovative possibilities, educate practitioners, develop effective policy, and implement their vision.

IPHAM is the bridge between academic medicine and our communities, bringing targeted healthcare/public health solutions quickly and efficiently to the communities that need them most. Successes in these areas can help transform our evolving health system.

Most universities choose to keep public health and medicine in individual schools, making medicine and public health collaborations challenging. Northwestern blazes a new trail by uniting these disciplines to create new synergies, under the umbrella of a nationally recognized, research-intensive medical school.

IPHAM Centers are evidence of this productive collaboration. These major organizational entities provide a home where academic scholars from different disciplines can join together in coordinated activities in targeted domains.

The Centers focus on critical areas of innovation where public health overlaps with medicine. In the process, they expand, enhance, and complement existing University programs. They facilitate interaction between diverse professionals and research programs, which results in attracting new leaders whose interests span different disciplines. The outcome is dynamic.

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Twelve IPHAM Centers—with more to come—are providing groundbreaking progress in pivotal areas of importance. Our centers are working together with the healthcare professionals and communities across the Midwest, the US, and the world. Their combined results are setting the standard for high-quality healthcare delivery and good health for all.

**The IPHAM Centers**

- **The Center for Behavior and Health** aims to understand critical behavioral determinants that cause health risk, while developing behavioral interventions that promote health and prevent disease.

- **The Buehler Center on Aging, Health and Society** responds to the need for expertise in end-of-life care and healthy aging.

- **The Center for Communication and Health**, housed within Northwestern’s School of Communication, uses interdisciplinary tools to provide innovative solutions in health communications for patient and public education, community engagement, health policy, and more.

- **The Center for Community Health** engages communities in the planning, execution, and dissemination of research relevant to communities, most notably the city of Chicago.

- **The Center for Engineering and Health** brings together clinicians, health scientists, engineers and mathematicians from the Feinberg School of Medicine and the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences to create systems and policies that result in a more efficient and safer delivery of healthcare.

- **The Center for Global Health** focuses on stemming infectious and chronic diseases abroad often by creating low-cost technology that developing countries can afford.

- **The Center for Health Information Partnerships** is producing stunning benefits by aggregating electronic health records across institutions and using interdisciplinary approaches to better understand the burden of health at the community level and to provide tools to improve the quality of healthcare.

- **The Center for Healthcare Studies** strives to inform and improve healthcare practices, by coordinating the transformative health services research of professionals representing multiple areas of expertise.

- **The Center for Patient-Centered Outcomes** champions the importance of incorporating the voice of the patient as a vital component for improving healthcare, through research and scientific exchange with Northwestern’s Medical Social Science professionals.

- **The Center for Population Health Sciences**, in collaboration with Preventive Medicine, strives to improve prevention strategies for diseases that have a major impact on population health, most notably heart disease, cancer, and arthritis.

- **The Center for Primary Care Innovation**, focusing on the care of the whole person, provides educational experiences, innovative research and clinical applications as it strives to develop novel methods to advance primary care medicine.

- **The Center for Translational Metabolism and Health** is generating astonishing insight on nutrition, as it seeks to unravel underlying mechanisms of disease and test innovative solutions to far-reaching public health problems.

IPHAM, through its **Center for Education in the Health Sciences**, also maintains world-class educational programs that are providing exceptional training experiences for physicians, medical students, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows. The broad scope of these unique training experiences provides a platform to disseminate cutting-edge research and policy, paving the way for ongoing implementation of healthcare delivery improvement where it matters most—in our communities.
Education and Training at IPHAM

• The Master’s Program for Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety is the first of its kind in the world that provides the knowledge and skills necessary for assessing and improving the processes and outcomes of healthcare.

• The Master’s Program in Public Health is training professionals in the assessment of the health of a community and its improvement via health promotion and disease prevention.

• The Master’s Program in Health Sciences and Outcomes Research prepares students to investigate and address key issues relevant to the delivery and outcome of healthcare, as it relates to policy, clinical improvements, disparities and costs.

• The Master’s Program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics prepares students for fields related to population science, and to support their skills for advanced health and population-related research.

• The PhD Health Sciences Integrated Program provides interdisciplinary training by building and expanding on existing Master’s Degree programs, to prepare students to excel at research in clinical and population sciences.

• The Integrated Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Health Services and Outcomes Research ensures that adequate numbers of highly trained professionals are available to carry out the nation’s health services and outcomes research agenda, in order to improve quality, safety, access, and financial effectiveness.

These and other educational initiatives are dramatically impacting the manner in which healthcare improvements are being implemented in patient care and policy.

The stories that wrap around IPHAM’s innovative work tell the tale of change. Change for the better. It will be the result of coalitions of all stakeholders—healthcare and public health professionals, community and government organizations, citizens and political leaders—brought together by Northwestern. It will be change based on research that engages all relevant stakeholders, at all stages of the research. It will be a partnership of hospital and community leaders who collaborate to effect healthy lifestyle changes locally. It will be a team of professionals, patient organizations, and industry representatives who change health policy.

The Institute for Public Health and Medicine is positioned to develop limitless advances in healthcare and public health, through its leadership role in providing “Good health for all” and “Access to an effective and efficient healthcare system.” As IPHAM carries out its valuable mission, Northwestern’s bold plan to impact the health of humankind is becoming a reality.

For more information about supporting the Institute for Public Health and Medicine, please contact:

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