

Feinberg Office of Health Equity

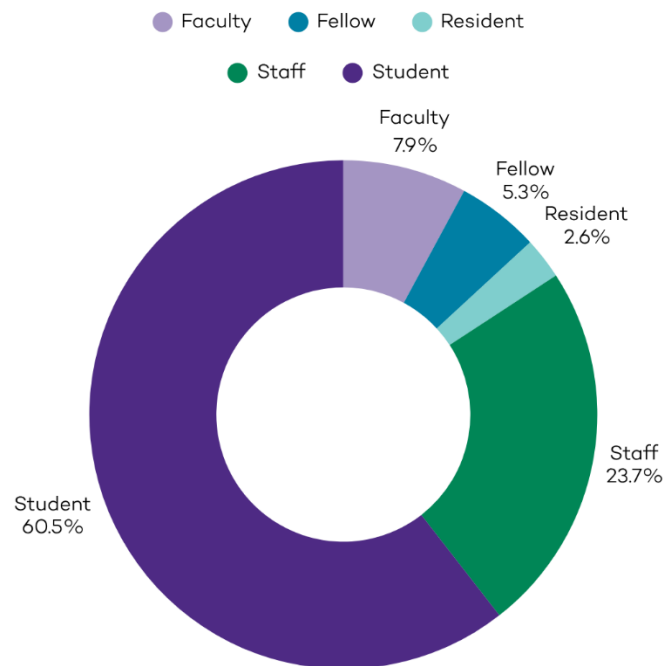


The Health Equity Research Symposium - Poster Session showcases cutting-edge research and innovative solutions addressing health disparities across diverse populations and communities. Each poster highlights the work of professionals and researchers dedicated to advancing health equity, improving healthcare access, and achieving better outcomes for underserved populations.

Key themes include:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Access to Care
- Cultural Competence
- Community-Based Interventions
- Policy and Advocacy
- Innovative Research and Technologies

PRESENTERS' PROFILE



2025 Awards Winners Health Equity Research Symposium

2025 Health Equity Research Symposium Awards

The Health Equity Research Symposium proudly recognizes outstanding individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing justice, inclusion, and opportunity in medicine. Through these awards, we celebrate the spirit of leadership, innovation, and dedication that drives meaningful progress toward equity and justice in medicine.

The awards celebrate the achievements of students, trainees, and faculty, whose work inspires meaningful change.

The Melissa A. Simon Champion Award – Faculty Recognition

This highest honor recognizes an individual whose career or body of work exemplifies leadership, vision, and lasting impact in advancing justice, inclusion, and belonging in medicine. Named in honor of Dr. Melissa Simon, MD, MPH, a nationally recognized physician, researcher, and health equity leader, this award celebrates transformative leadership that demonstrates what is possible through equity-driven leadership.

Yessenia Castron-Caballero, MD
Ann & Robert H. Lurie's Children's Hospital of Chicago

The Health Equity Excellence Award – Resident/Fellow Recognition

Celebrating residents and fellows at the forefront of innovative projects, research, or initiatives that advance fairness, access, and representation in healthcare and medical training.

Natalia Philpott, MD
Feinberg School of Medicine

The John E. Franklin Innovation Award – Student Recognition

This award honors students who are forging new pathways through advocacy, research, or service, creating opportunities that advance inclusion and equity in medicine and the broader community. Named in honor of Dr. John E. Franklin, MD, MSc, MA, for his dedication to mentoring, education, and championing diversity, this award celebrates the next generation of leaders.

Ren Mondesir, fourth-year medical student



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1. Evaluating Facilitators and Barriers to Community Resource Referrals for Pediatric Inpatients with Social Needs - Presenter's Name: Abygale Ahn

Research demonstrates that unaddressed social needs, including food, transportation, and housing insecurity, negatively impact health outcomes. Based on these findings, Lurie Children's Hospital screens pediatric inpatients for social needs and provides automated referrals to community resources. Our survey seeks to identify facilitators and barriers to community resource connection.

Authors: Abygale Ahn B.A. M.D. Candidate; Emma Anselin M.D.

2. Access to Prosthetic and Physical Therapy Services After Lower Limb Amputation in the Chicago Metropolitan Area - Presenter's Name: Kiley Armstrong

This pilot surveyed individuals with major lower limb amputation in Chicago to identify barriers to prosthetic care and physical therapy. While most reported no difficulty accessing services, common barriers included lack of awareness, provider availability, insurance issues, and transportation, highlighting the need for targeted, equity-focused care strategies.

Authors: Kiley Armstrong; Allison McGinnis; Roberto López-Rosado; Michael Cavanaugh; Gloria Lee; Paige Paulus; Emily Dinelli; Thomas O'Doherty; Steven Gard

3. Community-based interventions for intimate partner violence during pregnancy: A systematic review and conceptual model - Presenter's Name: Imaan Arshad

Community-based interventions during the perinatal period can reduce intimate partner violence and improve maternal and child outcomes. In this systematic review (n=34), home visiting,



referral, and mental health programs showed generally positive effects on IPV reduction and psychosocial wellbeing, underscoring the need for tailored perinatal IPV prevention efforts, particularly for vulnerable individuals/communities.

Authors: Maya V Roytman, MA; Irene L Quan, BA; Imaan Arshad, BA; Aster Disbrow, BA; Molly Beestrum, MLIS; Olivia A Andres, LCSW; Joe M Feinglass, PhD; Lynn M Yee, MD, MP

4. Evaluating the Association Between Baseline Food Insecurity and Financial Distress in Patients Undergoing Cancer Treatment in Nigeria: Results from the COST-FIN Trial - Presenter's Name: Jane-Frances Aruma

This study examines the link between baseline food insecurity and financial distress in Nigerian cancer patients. Among 135 newly diagnosed individuals, food insecurity was common and strongly associated with higher financial distress. Findings suggest that routine screening and integrated support services may help reduce the economic burden of cancer care.

Authors: Jane-Frances Aruma MD; George Guterrez MS; Funmilola Olanike Wuraola MBBS FWACS ChM; Kristina Diaz MSN CNL RN; Elizabeth Nicole Christian MPPA; Doris Ottie-Boakye, PhD; Segun Afolaranmi MBBS MSc; Bindiya Chugani MSc; Oge Ilegbune MBBS; Zainab Adegbite MPH; Moyinoluwa Akinwumi, MBBS; Toluwanimi Aduloju DVM; Chinyere Nwankwo BSc; Clement Awe, MPH; Chinenye Iwuji BM BSc MSc, PhD; Valentina Velasco, BA; Adewale Oyewole BMR, MSc; Dorcas O. Ebekue BSc; Titilope Oggunniyi BSc; Akinlusi Opeyemi BSc; Olusegun Isaac Alatise MBBS; Dan Sherman MA LPC; Clara N. Lambert BBA CPH; Ruohui Chen PhD; Andrei Adin-Cristian PhD; T. Peter Kingham MD; Chukwumere Nwogu MD PhD; Lisa R Hirschhorn MD MPH; Dustin French PhD; Sophia Okeke; Oluwafemi Akin-Adigun, MBBS, Mres; Juliet S Lumati MD MPH



5. First year time to Acute Care for Pediatric Kidney Transplant Recipients with Non English Language preference - Presenter's Name: Yarityz Michelle Astudillo

There are clear differences in acute care use between English and non-English preference kidney transplant recipients, suggesting both possible barriers and protective factors. Our findings highlight the need to better understand how language shapes outcomes in pediatric transplant care.

Authors: Yarityz M Astudillo; Sonia Solomon; Debora Matossian

6. Beyond Inclusion: A Scoping Review Examining Cultural Adaptation, Community Engagement, and Implementation Strategies of Single Session Interventions for Latino Adolescents in the United States - Presenter's Name: Andrés Alvarado Avila

Latino adolescents face disparities in behavioral health care. This scoping review found SSIs yield small-to-moderate benefits for depression and substance use, with digital formats effective. Few incorporated cultural adaptations, underscoring the need for equity focused, community engaged, and youth designed interventions tailored to Latino adolescents.

Authors: Andrés Alvarado Avila; Juan Pablo Zapata; Mariajosé Paton

7. Got Milk? : Exploring Developmental Origins of PCOS Through Breastmilk Biology - Presenter's Name: Andi Beaudouin

This study investigates whether breastmilk composition and lactation patterns differ in women with PCOS, a disorder affecting 7-10% of reproductive-age women. By analyzing nutrients, hormones, and breastfeeding outcomes in 120 PCOS and 120 control mothers



and their daughters, findings may reveal early nutritional influences on metabolic and reproductive health for earlier interventions.

Authors: Andi Beaudouin

8. Cardiometabolic Health Interventions for Immigrant Women in High-Income Countries: A Scoping Review - Presenter's Name: Tanya Anjali Bhargava

Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality, and immigrant women in high-income countries have increased incidences of cardiometabolic risk factors. Contextualizing the current state of behavioral interventions targeting cardiometabolic health for immigrant women can offer critical insights to strengthen future program design for this population.

Authors: Nithya R. Mahakala BA; Tanya A. Bhargava BA; Tiwaloluwa Ajibewa Ph.D.

9. Improving Perinatal Outcomes for BIPOC Birthing Persons: The Well-Mama Study - Presenter's Names: Sanjitha Boobalan

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) birthing persons in the US experience disproportionate maternal morbidity and mortality. The Well-Mama intervention aims to integrate Community Doula Navigators (CDNs) - combining the roles of Doulas, Community Health Workers, and Patient Navigators - into the perinatal care team to enhance BIPOC outcomes.

Authors: Sanjitha Boobalan B.S.; Vibhusha Kolli B.S.; Gisely Torres B.A.; Anastasia G. Harris MPH, CHES; Laura Tom M.S; Melissa Simon M.D., MPH



10. Patterns of Co-Occurring Adverse Childhood Experiences and Mental Health Diagnoses in US Children, 2022-2023 - Presenter's Name: Audrey Brewer, MD

In this recent national sample, certain ACEs groups were more commonly associated with lifetime pediatric mental health diagnoses. Developing culturally-responsive and trauma-informed mental health interventions to improve positive childhood experiences, and reduce mental health stigma and discrimination, can support mental health equity over the life course.

Authors: Audrey G. Brewer MD MPH; Dannielle A. Brown MD; Kristin N. Kenan MD MPH; Danesha Lewis PhD; Andrea Spencer MD; Jack Pattee PhD; Michelle Macy MD MS; Ndeah Terry MS; Angela Ellison MD MSc; Iheoma Iruka PhD; Matthew M. Davis MD MAPP

11. Regional Variation in Adverse Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes for the US non-Hispanic Black Population - Presenter's Name: Danielle Brewer

This study analyzes 2022 U.S. birth data to examine regional differences in pregnancy and birth outcomes among non-Hispanic Black individuals. After adjusting for clinical and sociodemographic factors, significant variation was found across nine census regions in rates of gestational diabetes, hypertensive disorders, low birth weight, preterm birth, and NICU admissions.

Authors: Danielle Brewer MD; James Collins Jr. MD MPH; Joe Feinglass PhD

12. What is the Mean Achilles Tendon Total Rupture Score (ATRS) in a Healthy Population? - Presenter's Name: Rom Brown

In 92 healthy adults, mean Achilles Tendon Total Rupture Score (ATRS) was 81, lower than prior reports. Scores varied by activity level, highlighting the need to consider lifestyle and functional differences when



assessing recovery. Accurate, context sensitive benchmarks are essential for equitable evaluation of surgical outcomes across diverse populations.

Authors: Steven M. Hadley, Jr. BA; Rom Brown BS; Rachel Bergman MD; Sarah J. Westvold MPH; Ryan Filler MD; Augustus Demanes MD; Stephen Gryzlo MD; Michael Terry MD; Vehniah K.Tjong MD; Muhammad Mutawakkil MD; Milap Patel DO; Anish R. Kadakia MD

13. Expert Guidance on Strategies for Reaching and Engaging Sexual and Gender Minority Teens in Digital Sexual Health Interventions - Presenter's Name: Zach Buehler

Digital sexual health interventions (DSHIs) are a promising solution to the unique challenges faced by sexual and gender minority teens in managing their sexual health. This project conducted focus groups with a panel of experts to investigate strategies for implementing DSHIs, ultimately yielding 65 unique strategies across three domains.

Authors: Zach Buehler

14. The AMA and Medicare & Medicaid: A 60-Year U-Turn in Stance - Presenter's Name: Madeline Cetlin

The AMA's stance on Medicare and Medicaid shifted from 1960s opposition "focused on government control and taxation concerns" to strong defense against recent Medicaid cuts. This change reflects evolving healthcare financing and equity priorities, emphasizing Medicaid's critical role in sustaining hospitals and ensuring access for vulnerable, underserved populations.

Authors: Madeline Cetlin, MD/MA Candidate



15. More Than Just Flushing: What Chicago's Chinatown Knows (and Doesn't Know) About the Genetics of Alcohol Metabolism - Presenter's Name: Suki Cheung

A qualitative study in Chicago's Chinatown found that community members were unaware of the ALDH2*2 variant associated with alcohol flushing syndrome but after education, all participants expressed desire to undergo genetic testing as screening and the study highlighted strong cultural influences in their current relationship with healthcare.

Authors: Suki Cheung, BS; Fiona Seung, BS, MS; Chiu-Hsiang Yuan, BA; Jennifer L. Young, PhD

16. Bridging the Divide: Addressing Research Mistrust to Advance Health Equity - Presenter's Name: Dani Chitwood

Medical research mistrust has historical underpinnings for underrepresented communities. The Mesulam Institute builds bridges among communities to forge relationships founded on reciprocity and trust. Community identified needs are caregiver support, dementia related education and brain health. Building trusting community academic relationships are imperative for dementia research to progress equitably.

Authors: Dani Chitwood MSW, PhD Candidate; Ingrid Fowler-Wrather, BA; Lauren Dowden, MSW, LCSW; Sandra Weintraub, PhD; Darby Morhardt, PhD, LCSW

17. A Systematic Review of Culturally Adapted Interventions for Depression in Black/African American Adults - Presenters: Angela Clark and Esther Povh

Black/African American (B/AA) adults report lower rates of depression than white adults but are less likely to receive



evidence-based treatment. Culturally adapted interventions may help improve the effectiveness of behavioral treatments for B/AA populations. We conducted a systematic review of evidence-based, culturally adapted interventions for depression.

Authors: Angela Clark, MA; Esther Povh, MS; Diana Ingram, PhD; Emily Fu, MPH MS; Q. Eileen Wafford MSt MLIS; Elayne Zhou, BA; Asia Ellis, BA; Paris Davis, PhD MBA; Justin D. Smith, PhD; Inger E. Burnett-Zeigler, PhD & Allison J. Carroll, PhD

18. Barriers and Solutions to HPV Vaccination and Cervical Cancer Screening in South Asia: A Systematic Literature Review of Attitudes and Awareness - Presenter's Name: Sydney Love Cush

Cervical cancer disproportionately impacts South Asia, where HPV vaccination and screening remain limited. Our review of 46 studies found low awareness and uptake, hindered by cost, misconceptions, and stigma around sexuality. Culturally tailored education, national vaccination programs, and improved provider communication are essential to reduce disparities.

Authors: Sydney Love Cush

19. Collaborating with a Community Advisory Board to Adapt a Culturally Adapted Intervention for Implementation in Chicago's Southside Community - Presenter's Name: Asia Ellis

The purpose of this study was to develop a strong community-academic partnership and to select and adapt an evidence-based, culturally adapted depression intervention to be implemented among African American adults with depression and hypertension in Chicago's Southside community.



Authors: Naima D. McRoberts; Asia N. Ellis, BA; Diana Ingram, PhD MPH; Michelle McCullough, MPH MBA; Rachelle Paul-Brutus, MPH; J.D. Smith, PhD; Paris Davis, PhD MBA & Allison J. Carroll, PhD

20. The Role of Traditional Healers in Musculoskeletal Care for Hispanic/Latinx Americans: A Systematic Review - Presenter's Name: Isabel Gippo

Traditional healers (THs) are used by the Hispanic/Latinx population in the US for musculoskeletal care. THs commonly treat general musculoskeletal pain, back pain, and acute joint injuries with massage or manipulation. Accessibility, cost, and dissatisfaction with allopathic medical care are common reasons for TH use in this population.

Authors: Isabel Gippo MPH; Samiya Manocha BS; Maria Gabriela Pino Paez; Neeraj Patel MD MBS MPH

21. Adapting a secure firearm storage program for equitable implementation in Illinois Federally Qualified Health Centers - Presenter's Name: Grace Godwin

S.A.F.E. Firearm, an evidence-based, secure firearm storage program, is being adapted for Illinois Federally Qualified Health Centers using adaptation inputs such as constituent interviews. Our goal is for the finalized intervention to be primed for equitable implementation in FQHCs, which we will assess via a type 3 hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial.

Authors: Grace Godwin, BA; Hannah Cheng, MS; Yufan Wang, MA; Kendall Kubis, MPH; Kate Zeller, MA; Daniel Blumenthal, BA; Railey Stern Yen, BA, BM; Sarah Velez-Osorio; Ashley Colwell, MS; Cheri Hoots, BS; Katelin Hoskins, PhD; Christina Johnson, MPH; Maryann Mason, PhD; Katie McAuliff, PhD; Mirta Milanes, MPH; Martha Munoz; Taylor Miranda Thompson, MPH and Rinad S. Beidas, PhD



22. Disparities in Germline Genetic Testing in Gastrointestinal Malignancies by Language Preference - Presenter's Name: Jisel Gomez

In this retrospective study of 4,585 patients with pancreatic, gastric, or colorectal cancer, germline genetic testing rates were low (21.2%), and limited English proficiency was associated with lower odds of testing. Targeted interventions are needed to improve genetic testing uptake, especially among this vulnerable population.

Authors: Jisel Gomez, BS; Betina R Yanez, PhD; Gladys M Rodriguez, MD

23. Burden to Health Equity in Trauma Care - Presenter's Name: Diana Griffin

Disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) are valuable to assess trauma burden and indicate unmet surgical need. This study used Global Burden of Disease 2021 data to quantify the impact of sociodemographics, region, and age on DALYs. The results should inform the development of targeted interventions that support equitable surgical care.

Authors: Diana B. Griffin, B.S.; Robert D. Galiano, MD, FACS

24. Feasibility and acceptability of a culturally adapted mindfulness-based intervention to reduce stress among Arab Americans - Presenter's Name: Andrea Haidar

Arab Americans face high rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, and chronic disease, yet no peer-reviewed mindfulness-based intervention (MBI) studies exist with this group. Our study seeks to address stress-related health disparities by developing a culturally adapted MBI for this underserved population. Further, the intervention's feasibility and acceptability are examined.



Authors: Andrea Haidar; Randa Abboud; Maria Kalantzis; Jaylan Abd Elrahman; Alyssa Vela; Carly Maletich; Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD

25. Perinatal Depression, Anxiety, and Infant Care Practices: A Descriptive Study of Fathers in Kent County, Michigan - Presenter's Name: Anna Haigh

This research study is part of ongoing public health surveillance efforts to understand mental health during the perinatal period in the context of the entire family, specifically through recognition of rates of anxiety/depression and partaking in recommended infant care practices, along with associations between the two, among new fathers.

Authors: Anna Haigh; Clarissa Simon, PhD; Garfield, MD, MAAP

26. Examining the feasibility of wearable device use for early identification of cardiometabolic pregnancy complications in the Digi-Moms study - Presenter's Name: Samika Hariharan

Metabolic disorders of pregnancy, including hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP) and gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM), burden 8-16% of women globally. The Digimoms study explores how wearable devices can be used to provide granular glucose, blood pressure, and physical activity data to identify early markers of HDP and GDM.

Authors: Samika Hariharan; Dhairya Upadhyay; Carina Flaherty; Naima Ross; Christina Penfield; Souptik Barua



27. Transforming Diabetes Care with mHealth and Structured Support: Implications for Equity and Access - Presenter's Name: Danielle Hazime

Scalable mobile health interventions with structured support reduce emergency visits for patients with diabetes and promote health equity, offering a low-cost solution for resource-limited settings.

Authors: Danielle Hazime, MHA; Liza Raffi, MD; Elizabeth Burner, MD, PhD

28. Characterizing financial toxicity among people living with neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder - Presenter's Name: Justin Hill

This study examined financial toxicity (FT) among 124 U.S. adults living with neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD), exploring its relationship to clinical, demographic, and social vulnerability factors.

Authors: Justin Hill, BA; Maya Mastick, BA; Horacio Chiong-Rivero, MD, PhD; Elena Grebenciucova, MD; Farrah J. Mateen, MD, PhD

29. Area of Deprivation Index and Overall Survival in Localized Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma - Presenter's Name: Alex Horowitz

In 130 localized PDAC patients, higher neighborhood deprivation (ADI) meant worse survival: 41.7 vs 26.0 vs 16.2 months ($p=0.034$). Deaths were more frequent ($p=0.007$). In ctDNA-positive, KRAS-mutant patients with high ADI, 3-year survival time was shorter by 16.8 months.

Authors: Alex Horowitz, BA; Dominic J. Vitello, MD, MS; Amy Wells, MS; Krishay Sridalla, BA; Claire Shen, BA; Madison Cox, BS; Jasmine Machhi, BS; Vishvetha Rengaraju, BS; Ishan Roy, MD, PhD; Qiang Zhang, MD, PhD; Akhil Chawla, MD



30. Risk and protective factors among transgender and gender diverse youth with suicidal thoughts and behaviors in a pediatric emergency department - Presenter's Name: Sarah Johnson

Among transgender and gender diverse (TGD) youth presenting to the emergency department with suicidal thoughts or behaviors, identification of coping strategies and access to lethal means were associated with odds of admission, suggesting that safety planning in the ED is an important component of admission decisions for TGD youth.

Authors: Sarah R Johnson, BS; Allison Jaffe, MD; Jonathon William Wanta, MD; Aron Janssen, MD; Claire Coyne, PhD; Doug Lorenz, PhD; Jennifer A. Hoffmann, MD, MS2

31. Mitigating Unexpected Risks to Promote Ethical Implementation in the Mental Health, Earlier Center - Presenter's Name: Ava Jurden

We engaged caregivers, clinicians, and researchers in a workshop to identify unintended risks of implementing pediatric interventions, catch and prevent mental health disorders in young children, and generate solutions to minimize unintended risks. Risks related to buy-in, skills, and intervention feasibility; solutions included training, reminders, and workflow planning.

Authors: Gabrielle M. Olson; Ava T. Jurden; Callie Walsh-Bailey; Aeysha Chaudhry; Justin D. Smith; Lauren S. Wakschlag; John T. Walkup; Seema K. Shah; Rinad S. Beidas, PhD



32. HPV Vaccination Rates in New Mexico and Future Directions for Promoting the HPV Vaccine Among Young Adults - Presenter's Name: Sreeya Kairamkonda

This study examined HPV vaccination in New Mexico using mixed methods. Data revealed lower coverage in practice-based records compared to national surveys. Interviews highlighted disparities, including a lack of education, particularly among 18–26-year-olds. Future research should focus on developing community-based interventions for young adults to improve HPV vaccine uptake.

Authors: Sreeya Kairamkonda; Prajakta Adsul

33. Initiating Medications During Hospitalization and Strategies for Ensuring Linkage at Discharge for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder: A Scoping Review - Presenter's Name: Marianne Kanaris

Hospitalization offers a key opportunity to initiate medications for opioid use disorder, but discharge gaps often hinder continuity of care. This review of 52 studies highlights inpatient consults, standardized protocols, and education—along with transitional strategies such as bridge clinics, peer navigation, and telemedicine—as best practices to improve linkage, retention, and outcomes in MOUD care.

Authors: Austin Drysch BS; Kathryn Fink BA; Nikhil Sriram BA; Marianne Kanaris BA; Scott Wu BA; Deep Upadhyay BS; Katherine Welter MD; Lisa Blankenship MD; Melissa Bregger MD; Kelli Scott PhD; Brent Schnipke MD; Ashti Doobay-Persaud MD



34. The New Arrivals Wellness Clinic: A Pilot Program to Address Unmet Healthcare Needs Among Migrant Children - Presenter's Name: Elizabeth Kayzman

The New Arrivals Wellness Clinic (NAWC) works to address migrant children's health needs in Chicago. In its pilot phase, the clinic has successfully utilized an integrated care model to provide culturally responsive medical, psychological, and psychosocial follow-up and stabilization following ED or hospital discharge for migrant children.

Authors: Elizabeth Kayzman; Julia Rabin; Itza Tellez; Yessenia Castro-Caballero; Rebecca Ford-Paz

35. Supporting Parents' Early Action for Kids (SPEAK-Up): A Parent-Informed Virtual Support Group for Families Navigating Early Intervention Services - Presenter's Name: Catherine Kinkopf

Our health collaborative at Lurie Children's Hospital developed SPEAK-Up, a virtual support group to empower caregivers awaiting EI in communities with traditionally less access. To guide program development, we conducted a qualitative needs assessment to elicit parent experiences with EI and perspectives on the proposed SPEAK-Up group.

Authors: Catherine Kinkopf; Carmen Reid, MD, MPH; Naga Amulya Pratapa, MD; Clarissa Simon, PhD, MPH; Candace E. Jarzombek, MPH; Katelyn Kanwischer, MS; Julianna Mitrius, MBA; Delreen Schmidt-Lenz, MSW, LCSW, I/ECMH-C; Gabriella Sifuentes, MPH; Emily Aragon-Melendez, BS; Abigail Lampe, MA; Joseph Feinglass, PhD; Mariana Glusman, MD; Tonia Branche, MD, MPH



36. Closing the Oxygen Gap: A Kirkpatrick Evaluation of the DIMAHP Curriculum - Presenter's Name: Nivedita Kumar

The Africa Infrastructure Relief and Support (AIRS) program paired oxygen delivery systems with the DIMAHP curriculum at EFSTH, enhancing provider knowledge and skills. Significant score gains, strong feedback, and local champions ensured sustainability. Replication in Liberia confirmed adaptability, showing how education reinforced AIRSs' oxygen access initiatives.

Authors: Nivedita Kumar

37. Food insecurity screening and referrals as part of a medical student-led blood pressure screening and counseling program to mitigate health disparities in Chicago - Presenter's Name: Emily Lam

Keep Your Heart Healthy is a student-led initiative that offers blood pressure screening events in communities with the highest burden of cardiovascular disease. Between June 2023 and February 2025, students screened 560 community members and connected residents to food assistance programs while building partnerships to strengthen access to long-term care.

Authors: Emily Lam; Niraj Lawande; Logan McLennan; Anushree Aneja; Syona Hariharan; Meredith Osmulski; Sawsan Alkhalili; John Brown; Nilay Shah

38. NU-USC O'Brien Resource Core Center: Northwestern's Interdisciplinary Approach and Innovations in Physical Science Technologies - Presenter's Name: Esmeralda Liz



The O'Brien Center at Northwestern and USC is part of a national network advancing kidney research. Combining nanotechnology

and physical sciences, it develops innovative tools to study and treat kidney disease. Through collaboration, resources, and education, the Center supports discovery, nurtures future scientists, and drives progress in kidney health.

Authors: Esmeralda Liz; Pinelopi Kapitsinou; Eun Ji Chung; Swagat Sharma; Isabella Suzuki; Sheila Judge; Ranjit Singh; Hassan Mushin; Susan E. Quaggin

39. Exploring factors influencing mental health service referral and use among Chinese American populations through community-based implementation science - Presenter's Name: Layna Lu

This study examined barriers and facilitators to community-based mental health service referral and use among Chinese Americans. Stigma, cost, and low awareness of mental health served as key barriers, while trust, church collaboration, and culturally concordant services support utilization. Education and awareness efforts may improve access and engagement.

Authors: Maya Lee; Layna Lu; Jane Mann; David Wu; Marym Zaheeruddin; Si Hyun Park; Kiarri Kershaw; Loretta Hsueh; Milkie Vu

40. Measures of Hospital Inclusivity depend on Definitions of a Hospital's Catchment Area - Presenter's Name: Lindsey Maclay

Hospital regulatory and accrediting organizations require equity metrics to promote accountability to equity. Inclusivity is a proposed measure evaluating concordance between a hospital's patient and community demographics. In validating this metric for our urban, academic children's hospital, we found significant variation in Inclusivity with changes in definition of catchment area.



Authors: Lindsey M. Maclay; Kathryn Henschel; Andrew G. Rundle; James Quinn; Dodi Meyer; Brett R. Anderson; Kenneth Michelson; Katherine A. Nash

41. The Effects of Acculturation on Ideal Skin Tone Preferences and Sun-Exposure Behaviors Among Racial/Ethnic Minorities in the U.S. - Presenter's Name: Nithya R. Mahakala

Our survey of 416 U.S. racial/ethnic minority adults found that skin tone preferences and sunscreen use varied by race, with generational differences only among Black participants. Other sun-protective behaviors did not differ. Findings highlight acculturation's role in skin health and the need for culturally tailored sun-safety counseling.

Authors: Nithya R. Mahakala BA; Roopal V. Kundu MD

42. Disparities in Cancer Incidence: Composite Measures to Identify High-Burden Populations, Sites, and Key Drivers in an NCI-Designated Catchment Area -Presenters: Tarneka Manning and Daniel Antonio

We developed two disparity measures to identify cancer sites, counties, and populations with disproportionate burden in the Lurie Cancer Center catchment area. Prostate, colorectal, and pancreatic cancers showed the highest disparities for Black non-Hispanics, while Hispanics experienced greater burden in liver, stomach, and cervical cancers. Minority status strongly predicted disparities.

Authors: Daniel Antonio; Tarneka M Manning



43. Trends in Sexual Risk Behavior Among Sexual Minority High School Students From 2019-2023 - Presenter's Name: Ambrosine Mercer

This study assessed sexual risk behavior of sexual minority high schoolers (SMHS) who have had sexual contact by analyzing Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System data. Findings indicate that there was a decrease in SMHS that had ever undergone STI testing between 2019-2021, and that this decrease persisted in 2023.

Authors: Ambrosine M. Mercer BS; Madeline Vasquez BS; Itzel Mancilla MA; Olduz Ilkhchoui BS; Joseph P. Solak BS; Diana C. Buitrago MPH; Betina R. Yanez PhD

44. Associations between Suicidal Ideation and Behavior and Neighborhood Socioeconomic Disadvantage in Youth receiving Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) - Presenter's Name: Chynna Mills

This study examined trauma symptom severity, neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage, and suicidal ideation and behavior among 85 racially and ethnically diverse youth in Philadelphia receiving trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy. Findings showed high neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage predicted suicidal behavior, while trauma symptoms and interactions were inconsistent. Results highlight structural factors in suicide prevention.

Authors: Chynna Mills; Natalie Dallard; Rinad Beidas, PhD



45. Development and Implementation of a Medical Student-Led Nutrition Curriculum for Elementary-Aged Children - Presenter's Name: Emaan Mohsin

Medical students piloted a four-session nutrition program for ethnically minoritized children. The curriculum combined lessons and cooking activities. Feedback from the community director and volunteers indicated that the program was both feasible and effective in engaging children. Findings highlight the role medical schools can play in promoting preventive health.

Authors: Emaan Mohsin; Celeste Lai; Mercedes Gong; Preethi Raghupatruni

46. Facilitators and Barriers to Communication Between Patients with High Adverse Childhood Experiences and Their Inpatient Care Teams: A Qualitative Study on Trauma-Informed Communication - Presenter's Name: Ibrahim Mokhtar

This qualitative study explored how hospitalized adults with adverse childhood experiences perceive communication. Interviews revealed that empathy, clarity, and patient involvement foster trust, while rushed, impersonal, or overly technical interactions erode it. Findings highlight the central role of trauma-informed communication in safety, trust, engagement, and preventing retraumatization in vulnerable patients.

Authors: Ibrahim B. Mokhtar, BA; Rachel O'Connor, PhD, MPH; Revika Singh, BA; Uma Thachapuzha, BA; Christine Schaeffer, MD; Maria E Theodorou, MD; Muriel Jean-Jacques, MD, MAPP; Marlise Pierre-Wright, MD, MPA



47. Opioid-Related Acute Care Encounters in Medically Complex Youth: A Multi-Center Analysis of Sickle Cell Disease, Cancer, Cystic Fibrosis, and Organ Transplantation - Presenter's Names: Ren Mondesir

Medically complex youth, including those with SCD, cancer, CF, or organ transplants, face rising opioid-related harms, ED visits, and subsequent hospitalizations. SCD patients have higher ED visit rates, but lower hospitalizations, highlighting systemic inequities in care. Equity-focused strategies are needed to optimize opioid prescribing, risk mitigation, and long-term pain management.

Authors: Faith Summersett Williams, PhD, MS; Isabella Zaniletti, PhD, MA; Maria H Rahmandar, MD; Ren Mondesir, BA; Lisa Kuhns, PhD, MPH; Sara Becker, PhD, MS; Sharon Levy, MD, MPH

48. Are Social Determinants Associated With Delayed Diagnosis of Slipped Capital Femoral Epiphysis? - Presenter's Name: Arun Movva

Contrary to previous research, delays in diagnosis of SCFE are associated with patient-specific factors and initial misdiagnosis, but not social determinants of health. This may reflect variability in patient presentation, thresholds for seeking care, and diagnostic suspicion among clinicians that persist regardless of social and demographic factors.

Authors: Arun K. Movva, BA; Emily L. DeMaio, MD; Ilona Lukina, BA; Bryce E. Maxwell, BS; Romie F. Gibly, MD, PhD; Neeraj M. Patel, MD, MPH, MBS



49. Leveraging lived experience and professional expertise: A collaborative advisory model to reduce health disparities and advance PrEP equity for Black women in the United States - Presenter's Name: Katie Nikolajuk

The CDC funded HerPrEP project established a Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Expert Advisory Panel (EAP). Through these groups, the project developed sustainable implementation strategies to address PrEP uptake disparities utilizing community-engaged approaches that elevate the leadership and lived experiences of those most directly impacted by HIV related inequities.

Authors: Katie Nikolajuk; Meredith Clement; Lynn Matthews; Jessica Ridgway; Ashish Premkumar; Jessica Sales; Anandi Sheth; Sadia Haider; Rebecca Schnall; Lisa Kuhns; Pat Janulis; Amy Johnson

50. No sabia la manera como yo podía ayudarla: A qualitative study of Latine families in eating disorder treatment - Presenter's Name: Katrina Obleada

This study informs earlier interventions for EDs by utilizing identified facilitators and aims to reduce modifiable barriers to care. Integrating cultural humility into clinical practice represents a critical step toward health equity.

Authors: Katrina Obleada, PhD; Anna Ros, PhD; Kelly Horn, PhD, LCSW; Jessica Guzman, LCSW; Roxanna de la Torre, MD; Gregg Montalto, MD, MPH

51. Closing Naloxone Access Gaps on Chicago's South and West Sides: A Community Partnered Site Selection Proposal for Public Narcan Kiosks - Presenter's Name: Ngozi Okoli

By conducting a rapid environmental scan and mapping Narcan and community site access, we identified four potential sites for



Narcan kiosk installation in neighborhoods on Chicago's West and South sides with the greatest opioid burden.

Authors: Ngozi Okoli, MPH; Michael Oblich, BS; Alex Horowitz, BA; Cade Bennett, BA; Michelle Abrams, RN; Ashti A. Doobay-Persaud, MD

52. National Socioeconomic Disparities in Oncologic Resection for Small Cell Lung Cancer - Presenter's Name: Olisemeka Oputa

Limited research exists on small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and treatment-associated outcomes. This study found that Black patients were less likely to undergo oncologic resection for SCLC, despite a predictive survival benefit, demonstrating its potential to improve outcomes if widely adopted.

Authors: Olisemeka Oputa, BA; Krishay Sridalla, BA; Kelly R. Bates, BA; Ryan C. Jacobs, MD, MS; Thomas Alexander, BA; Rahul Burra, BA; Dominic J. Vitello, MD, MS; David J. Bentrem, MD, MS

53. Stronger Together: A Pilot Program Embedding Early Relational Health in Early Childhood Education Centers - Presenter's Name: Meredith Osmulski

The Stronger Together Project (STP), a pilot initiative at two Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers, integrated nutrition, safety, and trauma-informed resources to promote Early Relational Health (ERH). Through teacher workshops, family supports, and resource delivery, STP proved acceptable and feasible, highlighting opportunities for stronger family engagement and sustainable healthcare ECE partnerships.

Authors: Meredith Osmulski B.S; Andriana Garcia B.A.; Kathryn C. Kaplan, MPH; Zecilly Guzman, B.S.; Mariana Glusman, MD



54. A Panoramic Evaluation of a Centralized, City-Wide HIV Care Resource Navigation and Engagement Strategy - Presenter's Name: Olivia Panegos

Our community-academic partnership conducted a 360-degree evaluation of Chicago's HIV Resource Coordination HUB by surveying and interviewing HUB clients, potential clients, referral agency staff, and HUB staff. Findings suggest general satisfaction with HUB services and equitable delivery across demographics as well as areas to improve future HUB implementation strategies.

Authors: Olivia Panegos; Sharon Hoefer; John Guigayoma; Cory Bradley; Devan Derricotte; Jill Dispenza; Caitlin Kelleher-Montero; Andrea Dakin; Dennis H. Li

55. Lessons from Litigation: a 40-year National Review of Medical Malpractice Trends Following Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction - Presenter's Name: Julie Paska

Malpractice claims after ACL reconstruction are rare but highlight recurring issues: graft malpositioning, infection, pain, and inadequate informed consent. Most cases do not result in liability. Surgeons can reduce medicolegal risk by combining technical precision with transparent patient communication and realistic expectation-setting.

Authors: Julie Paska, BA; Angeline DeBoer, BA; Jake Morales, BA; Imaan Arshad, BA; Samantha L. Watson, BS; Joseph Feinglass, PhD; Vehniah K. Tjong, MD



56. Social Vulnerability and Disparities in Treatment Patterns and Follow-up Among U.S. Pediatric Central Nervous System Cancers - Presenter's Name: Hari Patel

Pediatric patients with central nervous system cancers in high-vulnerability communities receive less surgery and radiation, more chemotherapy, and shorter follow-up. Using the CDC Social Vulnerability Index, we show how structural disadvantage drives inequities in pediatric cancer care and underscore the need for targeted interventions.

Authors: Hari U. Patel; David J. Fei-Zhang; Daniel C. Chelius; Jill N. D'Souza; Anthony M. Sheyn; Jeffrey C. Rastatter

57. Democratizing Design to Advance Health Equity: Engaging Transgender and Gender Diverse Teens in Co-Designing a Digital Mental Health Intervention - Presenter's Name: Anna Rose Peck-Block

This study engages transgender and gender diverse (TGD) teens in co-designing a transdiagnostic, cognitive behavioral therapy-based digital mental health intervention that is developmentally, contextually, and culturally relevant for TGD teens. This intervention aims to address barriers to care and improve mental health disparities in this patient population.

Authors: Anna Rose Peck-Block, LCSW; Claire A. Coyne, PhD; Ashley Knapp, PhD; Michelle Cobb, PhD; Lisa Kuhns, PhD; Robert Garofalo, MD, MPH; Diane Chen, PhD



58. Debunking Race Based Medicine: An Assessment of the Advocate Role Session on Misuse of Race in Medicine for First Year Medical Students - Presenters: Courtney Pugh and Jhada Black

This evaluation examines the effectiveness of a medical school class session aimed at assessing race-based medicine and its influence on the clinical reasoning of future physicians at Rush Medical College.

Authors: Courtney S. Pugh, BS; Jhada Black, BA, MS; Zachary Wang; Oluwamuyiwa Adebayo, PhD; Princess L. J. Currence, DSW, MSW; Vinodinee Dissanayake, MD, MPH, FACEP

59. Bridging Housing and Healthcare: Lessons from Permanent Supportive Housing Models in Chicago - Presenter's Name: Kyle Robertson

This study examined Permanent Supportive Housing programs on Chicago's West Side, highlighting single-site, scattered-site, and hybrid models of medical service delivery. While single-site care improved trust and service utilization, scattered-site and hybrid models faced greater coordination challenges. Across all models, funding instability, staffing shortages, and communication limited healthcare access.

Authors: Kyle A. Robertson; Sneha Rani; Deeya Bhattacharya; Christina Rogers; Quinn Fitzpatrick; Charita Kunta; Eugenia Olison; Elizabeth Chandler

60. Community Perspectives on Factors Influencing Participation in a Digital Health Trial to Promote HPV Vaccination in the U.S. Vietnamese Population - Presenter's Name: Linh Schiffer

We explored perspectives on HPV vaccination digital health through interviews with U.S. Vietnamese parents, healthcare



providers, and community leaders (n=34). Identified access barriers include language, digital literacy, and generational dynamics; and resolution strategies emphasized outreach, trusted partnerships, and culturally relevant resources. This finding informs interventions to reduce cancer health disparities.

Authors: Linh P. Schiffer; Lilian Bui; Valerie Espinoza; Huyen-Anh Giang; Phuong Do; Eric Adjei Boakye; Heather Brandt; Jasmin Tiro; Rachel Kornfield; Juned Siddique; Ella Berry; Sa Tran; Emma Macdonald; Quoc Tommy Dang; Anh Quynh Nguyen; Namratha Kandula; Milkie Vu

61. Spanish Language Translation of the Pediatric Sleep Practices Questionnaire (PSPQ): An Exploratory Factor Analysis - Presenter's Name: Carolina Sierra

This study preliminary validates a Spanish translation of the Pediatric Sleep Practices Questionnaire (PSPQ) in sample of twenty-five Spanish-speaking youth, comparing the factor structure to the original measure and linking sleep habits with discrimination, cultural separation, and psychiatric health, thus addressing a critical gap in assessing sleep practices among Hispanic populations.

Authors: Carolina Sierra Correa, BA; Matthew Gibson, BS, Allison Falls, BS; Naomi Duke, MD, PhD, MPH; Jessica Lunsford-Avery, PhD

62. Building Community Power: Launching the Peace Runners 773 Research & Evaluation Steering Committee - Presenter's Name: Shawn Smith, MD

Chicago's West Side faces a 20-year life expectancy gap, highlighting the need for health equity interventions. Peace Runners 773 is a resident-led health and wellness organization that uses running as vehicles for change. The Research and Evaluation Steering Committee will engage research partners and stakeholders in outcomes and community-driven measures.



Authors: Jackie Hoffman; Stephanie Folkens; Megan Hinchy; Dania Castro; Laiba Bajwa; Jason Goliath; Shawn Smith, MD

63. Socioeconomic Influences on Outcomes in Open Globe Injuries in Pediatric Patients - Presenter's Name: Bryce Tatum

Social determinants of health (SDoH) and their impacts on visual outcomes in pediatric open globe injuries are unknown. We found that pediatric patients from more socially vulnerable communities are more likely to have worse visual acuity after an open globe injury compared to peers from less socially vulnerable communities.

Authors: Bryce A. Tatum BA; Shahin Davoudpour PhD; Blair Shaman MS3; Adam Jacobson MD; Brenda Bohnsack MD PhD; David A. Ramirez MD

64. The importance of suicide risk assessment for transgender and gender diverse youth in the current political climate - Presenter's Names: Amanda Terry, PhD

Transgender and gender diverse (TGD) youth face elevated suicide risk, intensified by threats to gender-affirming care. This study analyzes suicide screening data before and after a policy change to identify risk trends. Results will inform development of evidence-based interventions and clinical response to improve suicide prevention for TGD youth.

Authors: Amanda Terry, PhD; Anna Ros, PhD



65. Destigmatizing Mental Health Conversations among Chinese-American Parents and their Children through a Community-Based Parental Curriculum - Presenter's Name: Uma Thachapuzha

A community-based intervention in Chicago's Chinatown piloted workshops to reduce mental health stigma among Asian American mothers. The culturally-tailored approach improved parents' ability to recognize symptoms and engage in conversations about anxiety, depression, and suicidality.

Authors: Uma Thachapuzha; May Li; Alice Yu; Kristin Kan

66. Project INITIATE's NICU-to-Home service delivery model improves early motor outcomes for infants in neighborhoods with a low Childhood Opportunity Index - Presenter's Name: Jessica Trenkle

Project INITIATE, a NICU-to-Home service delivery model, was piloted in four Level III/IV NICUs across Chicago. The pilot demonstrated that early access to developmental therapies post-hospital discharge was both feasible and effective, improving motor outcomes in Medicaid-eligible, high-risk infants who largely resided in communities of low Childhood Opportunity Index.

Authors: Jessica Trenkle, PT, DPT, PCS; Alison Liddle, PT, MPP, PCS; Lynn Boswell, PT, MS; Dawn Drumm, PT, DHSc; Denise Barnes, APRN-NP; Aneta Jedraszko, MPH; Raye-Ann deRegnier, MD

67. The Development and Validation of a Heart Failure Health Equity Survey - Presenter's Names: Martha Wondowassen

This study developed and validated a patient survey to better understand barriers to heart failure care through the lens of social determinants of health.



Authors: Martha Wondowassen; Elijah Doriscar; Moses O. Awofolaju; Cedrick Mutebi; Quentin R. Youmans, MD

68. The Impact of Digital Inequities on Head and Neck Hematologic Cancer Disparities in the US - Presenter's Name: Angela Xie

Through assessing nearly 33,000 head-neck hematologic cancer patients and a large-data index assessing digital resources across the United States, this study shows how decreased digital access was detrimentally associated with mortality, poor prognosis, and clinically unfavorable treatment receipt.

Authors: Angela Xie, BA; David Fei-Zhang MD, MBA; Jill D'Souza MD; Anthony Sheyn MD; Daniel Chelius MD; Jeffrey Rastatter MD, MS

69. Cost-effectiveness analysis of pediatric food security interventions - Presenter's Name: Melinda Xu

This study of eight pediatric food insecurity programs found 6-month costs of \$9,000-\$65,000, \$77-\$198 per parcel, and \$4-\$30 per pound. Survey data estimated \$372-\$507 per family to improve food security, healthy habits, and budgeting. Findings highlight key factors to designing effective, impactful food assistance strategies.

Authors: Melinda Xu

70. Health Equity Evaluation: Learnings from the Northwestern Medicine-West Health Institute Collaborative Care Expansion - Presenter's Names: Railey Stern Yen

We examined equity in the Collaborative Care Model cascade across screening, referral, enrollment, and treatment completion for over 344,000 patients. Disparities emerged by age, gender identity,



ethnicity, and community resources, highlighting systemic barriers and opportunities to promote equitable access and outcomes in integrated mental health care.

Authors: Grace Godwin; Railey Stern Yen; Yufan Wang; Emma Kannard; Cynthia Barnard; Meredith Boyd; Karyn Erkfritz-Gay; Roshni Koli; Clare McNutt; Liane Wardlow; Lisa Rosenthal; Rinad S. Beidas, PhD

