



Newsletter of the Population Sciences Research Program at MSK

Connecting with a Harlem community

A look at MSK's vaccine clinic at Abyssinian Baptist Church

On April 2 a Covid vaccine clinic opened at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. Initiated by the city of New York with a call to Cynthia McCollum, Senior Vice President, Hospital Administration, its goal was to boost vaccination rates in Black and Hispanic communities. MSK embraced the opportunity: "We provide the vaccine, the vaccinators and all of the other clinic staff with the goal of distributing more vaccines in areas of New York City with lower vaccination rates to reduce disparities" described Dr. Monika Shah, infectious disease specialist at MSK, and the clinic's medical director.

Three senior MSK administrators, including Yadira Rosemin, the associate director of the Ralph Lauren Center for cancer prevention and treatment in Harlem, were on-site to manage the clinic, assisted by over 350 employees who collectively staffed over 800 shifts. The numbers speak of the volunteer's enthusiasm and the clinic's overall success: by late May over 9,000 vaccines had been administered, including over 4,000 second doses. The clinic is only distributing the Pfizer vaccine and adapted eligibility criteria as set by the city. When the vaccine became available to anybody 12 and older, the 12-year old son of the church's pastor encouraged his peers on YouTube to get vaccinated.

Despite its overall success the clinic also saw some challenges. On April 13 the FDA and CDC recommended a pause in administering the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to investigate the occurrence of rare blood clots in six women among the 6.8 million J&J vaccine recipients. In response, the demand for the Pfizer vaccine at the Abyssinian church decreased. Even after the pause for the J&J vaccine was lifted a higher vaccine hesitancy in the Harlem community remained, stressing the importance of continued outreach. MSK staff have been engaged in additional outreach efforts to promote vaccination in partnership with the church, and these efforts were bolstered by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and Dr. Anthony Fauci, who visited the clinic on June 7th.

Dr. Shah sees the importance of strong ties with the local community going well beyond the administration of vaccines. Zero disparity is the goal also when it comes to screening programs, early intervention and health care in general. She concludes, "Hopefully we can leverage the resources of the Ralph Lauren center with this partnership to continue to spread the word about addressing issues related to one's health and address them early."

The vaccination clinic at Abyssinian Church will conclude its full time operation at the end of June, but the partnership of the local community, the Ralph Lauren Center and MSK will continue to make a difference.

IHCD Update

ICCAN

During the pandemic, the Integrated Cancer Care Access Network (ICCAN) has worked across the city to educate patients and their households on ways to limit COVID-19 exposure, access free testing, continue to receive vital cancer treatment services, and address concerns over loss of income. Recently, ICCAN has pivoted to also include multilingual education and navigation around COVID-19 vaccinations.

Health Equity Seminar Series

This Spring, the IHCD Health Equity Seminar Series kicked off on April 14th and continued to feature prominent experts in the field of health disparities to educate the MSK community on social determinants of health, health equity, racial justice, and COVID-19/healthcare disparities. Some topics this season included patient language access laws, advancing racial health equity by addressing roots of inequity in NYC, and outreach strategies to increase civic engagement in marginalized communities.

Research Professionals Day

Chanel Martinez (Community Outreach Specialist) won the People's Choice Award for "The Effects of

NIH's Assisted Referral Tool

Ever struggle with choosing an NIH study section to which to submit your grant application?

Check out NIH's Assisted Referral Tool, ART for short, at <https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART/>. Created by the NIH Center for Scientific Review, this tool allows you to search by either (1) recommended study sections; or (2) recommended SBIR/STTR special emphasis panels. Once you select which search you wish to conduct, you can enter your



abstract details with optional grant application title, and ART will return a list of the best matching study sections of the 175 active Scientific Review Group (SRG) panels. The list will rank the relevance from possible to strong as well as provide the SRG, Integrated Review Group (IRG) and current roster of the panel members. If you click on the specific SRG, you can get more detailed information about the study section such as topics that the study section focuses on, shared interests and overlaps with other study sections, and name and contact information for the Scientific Review Officer for that study section.

COVID-19 on the Social Determinants of Health of Cancer Patients of Low Socioeconomic Status”, and Maria Claros and Angelica Alvarado (Clinical Research Coordinators at IHCD) were tied for 2nd place for their poster, “Tailoring Nutrition and Cancer Education Materials for Breast Cancer Patients”

Dr. Francesca Gany The IHCD service, with **Dr. Francesca Gany** serving as PI, was awarded funding from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation (BMSF) for “Access

to Telehealth for Underserved and Breast Cancer Patients in NYC”. This is a large 3-year project aimed at improving access to telehealth for breast cancer patients in immigrant and minority communities in NYC by identifying barriers, partnering with safety-net hospitals and community organizations, and navigating patients through care with bilingual facilitators.

IHCD at a Glance: A Decade of Serving the Community

378,000
meal equivalents distributed through the FOOD (Food to Overcome Outcome Disparities) Program

- 5,200 patients served
- 14 different pantry sites

180
trainees hosted, including Masters and medical students

22 interned remotely during the pandemic

Community Members Served:

173,195
educated through Ventanillas de Salud

- 8,887 received assistance for social and health service referrals
- 958 received general health screenings
- 417 received cancer screening referrals

21
languages spoken by staff members and interns

364
community- and faith- based partnerships

5,895
through the Integrated Cancer Care Access Network

14,835
through the Taxi Network

453
through the SANOS (Salud y Nutrición Para Todos/Health and Nutrition for All) and COMIDA (Consumo de Opciones Mas Ideales De Alimentos para la Familia/Consumption of More Ideal Food Options) Hispanic healthy eating and weight loss initiatives

7,560
through the Arab Health Initiative

- 6,950 women
- 6,950 teens

1,430
people educated in health insurance through IHCD’s Affordable Care Act Navigation Program


Over **935** people enrolled

2,885
underrepresented minority (URM) community members enrolled into clinical trials

7,472 URM community members enrolled into prospective survey and qualitative research

8
partnerships with safety-net hospitals in New York City

Coming Soon:
Mobile Outreach & Screening Van



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Grants

Congratulations to the following PSRP members who received funding as Principal Investigators or Co-Principal Investigators

PI/Co-PI/MPI	Institute (Mechanism)	Project Title
Allison Applebaum	ACS	Communication Training for Caregivers to Promote Advanced Care Planning
Ting Bao	NCI R01	Yoga for Chemotherapy-induced Peripheral Neuropathy Treatment (YCT) Trial
Sigrid Carlsson	Department of Surgery 2021 Faculty Research Award	Telemedicine Shared Medical Appointments for men with prostate cancer on active surveillance
Mengmeng Du	Cycle for Survival	Pancreatic Tumor Registry
Danielle Friedman	Philanthropic Fund	Overnight Fasting After Completion of Therapy (OnFACT) Study
Angela Green	Mereo BioPharma	A Phase 1b/2 Open-Label Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Etigilimab (MPH313) Administered in Combination with Nivolumab to Subjects with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors
Steven Horwitz	C4 Therapeutics, Inc.	A Phase I/II Open-label Multi-center Study to Characterize the Safety and Tolerability of CFT7455 in Subjects with Relapsed/Refractory Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma or Multiple Myeloma
	Daiichi Sankyo	Single-Arm, Phase 2 Study of Valemetostat Tosylate Monotherapy in Subjects with Relapsed/Refractory Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma
Peter Kingham	Oak Foundation	Nigerian Cancer Research Training Programme
Ying Liu	Agenus, Inc.	Phase II, Randomized, Open-label Study with Safety Run-in of Combination Pemetrexed and Anti-PD-1 Antibody (BALSTILIMAB (AGEN2034)) with or without Anti-CTLA-4 Antibody (ZALIFRELIMAB (AGEN1884)) in Recurrent, Platinum-resistant Ovarian Cancer
Matthew Matasar	City of Hope	A Phase 2 Study of Polatuzumab Vedotin with Rituximab, Ifosfamide, Carboplatin and Etoposide (PolaR-ICE) as Initial Salvage Therapy for Relapsed/Refractory Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma
Aaron Mitchell	NCI R03	Understanding the Guideline-Discordant Use of Bone Modifying Agents in Prostate Cancer
	DoD	Improving Outcomes in Lethal Prostate Cancer through Guideline-concordant use of Bone Modifying Agents
Kenneth Offit	DKORE	The Digital Knowledge, Outreach, and Engagement Platform (DKORE)
Jamie Ostroff	NCI Subcontract	NCI-funded Cancer Centers Cessation Initiative (C3I)
Mark Robson	Breast Cancer Research Fellowship	Barbara Dauphin-Duthuit Endowed Fellowship - Income Fund
Talya Salz	Beatrice and Samuel A. Seaver Foundation	The role of Primary Care in Opioid Prescribing for Older Cancer Survivors
Ronglai Shen and Katherine Panageas	MSK MIND	Defining immunologic factors associated with response or toxicity after checkpoint blockade.
Ronglai Shen and Colin Begg	NCI R01	Harnessing Rare Variants for Tumor Classification

Q&A with Josana Tonda

Josana Tonda is IHCD's new Community Outreach Manager

After serving as a vital part of the Ventanillas de Salud (VDS) at the Mexican Consulate for years and working closely with members of the IHCD team as a partner, how did you decide to make the transition to your current role?

While it was a great experience working as VDS National Coordinator for 14 years at the Mexican Consulate, it felt right to transition to an organization focused on immigrant communities with the goal of decreasing health disparities. IHCD was a good fit since I already had a deep respect and admiration for the Service and collaborated with their team for many years. As Community Outreach Manager, my goal is to make a positive difference in the lives of our immigrant communities when it comes to health and well being.

What is your favorite part about the work you do as a Community Outreach Manager?

Planning strategies and developing programs that have a direct connection with immigrant communities and are aimed to engage them to improve their access to health care. Working to promote partnerships with other health facilities and community organizations to decrease health disparities is an area that highly motivates me. There is always a learning opportunity and a way to reinforce our network and offer more targeted health services to the community.

What role have you played in IHCD's COVID-19 vaccination efforts? And how do you continue to collaborate with VDS?

I continue to coordinate a strategy to increase vaccination uptake for community members and participants of IHCD programs and studies. The strategy is to intensify navigation efforts and help people wanting to get vaccinated, as well as seize the opportunity of being connected to communities by offering vaccine education to address fears, myths, and concerns. The Outreach staff developed critical information tools such as a Navigation Guide, which was used widely. VDS is one of the major arms of vaccination delivery.

You have an incredible team of community outreach assistants working under you. What is the key to being an effective leader while maintaining a collaborative environment and providing support to staff who need it?

We are in the process of expanding the Outreach team. The key to being an effective leader is to actively listen to team members and create combined responses to potential challenges. Being aware of all forms of communication and how it is perceived are essential for project management, collaboration, and support.

What methods do you personally use to manage stress, especially since the pandemic began?

Keeping a positive attitude helps me to stay focused and balanced. When the pandemic hit, I began practicing yoga and taking long walks in the park. Being kind to yourself and valuing what you have is key.

What is one thing you were surprised to learn about IHCD after you came onboard?

The degree of creativity and high energy of the teams and individuals I have come in contact with is inspirational. The consistency of knowledgeable and helpful co-workers willing to go above and beyond is encouraging.

Finally, what is your favorite thing about working in the New York City area? What are your favorite things to do during your off time?

I love NYC! My favorite thing is the respect of individuality and the diversity. During my free time, I love going to the park with my family, exercising, walking around Brooklyn, drinking good coffee, and reading.

We Welcome Your Feedback!

The PSRP News Committee would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions on how to improve the newsletter. Please feel free to send any comments to Richard Koppenaal (koppenaar@mskcc.org). Thank you for your support!

PSRP News Editorial Staff

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PSRP Members' Recent Publications

Together with PSRP members **Dr. Jennifer Hay** and **Andrew Vickers**, **Dr. Sigrid Carlsson** performed a review of decision aids for prostate cancer screening (PMID: 33309033). They found that most tools reported plenty of numbers, including erroneous, conflicting, or debatable estimates. The readability index of the decision aids also exceeded current recommendations. Additionally, in conjunction with physiotherapy director Sean Mungovan in Sydney, Australia Dr. Sigrid Carlsson co-authored a review published in Nature Reviews Urology (PMID: 33833445) of preoperative exercise interventions to reduce urinary incontinence in men with prostate cancer undergoing radical prostatectomy.

Dr. Robin Mendelsohn penned an op-ed in AMNY on CRC screening titled "Saving dad from a silent killer."

Dr. Zsofia Stadler was one of several MSK authors that published a study in the Journal of Clinical Oncology titled "Therapeutic Implications of Germline Testing in Patients With Advanced Cancers" (PMID: 34133209).

Dr. Jessica Scott published a manuscript in April titled "Teleguided self-ultrasound scanning for longitudinal monitoring of muscle mass during spaceflight" (PMID: 33870138) in the journal iScience. Dr. Scott and her collaborators developed and tested teleguided self-ultrasound scanning (Tele-SUS) to accurately monitor leg muscle size in astronauts during spaceflight.

Dr. Andrew Vickers has been working on novel approaches to clinical trials, integrating trials into routine clinical practice and dramatically reducing eligibility criteria. This work has recently come to fruition with three large randomized trials published in the last three months, including 2642 patients randomized to different forms of symptoms reporting and management after surgery (PMID:34132697) 824 patients randomized to receive long vs. short course antibiotics at the time of catheter removal after radical prostatectomy (PMID:33904798), and 1440 randomized to different lymph node templates for prostate cancer surgery (PMID:33865797). It is pretty unprecedented to have such large randomized trials conducted at a single US cancer center

As part of their ongoing collaboration with the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), **Dr. Ann Zauber** and her CISNET colleagues helped to inform the recently updated 2021 colorectal cancer (CRC) screening guidelines to determine age to begin, age to stop, and intervals of rescreening for multiple types of CRC screening modalities to maximize life-years gained. This microsimulation analysis concluded that commencing colorectal cancer at age 45 provides advantageous life-years gained, thus lowering the previous screening age from 50 to 45. Starting routine screening five years earlier could prevent more deaths from CRC, which is the third-leading cause of cancer mortality in the United States, especially as the incidence of young-onset CRC has been on the rise in recent years. The modeling report can be found in the May 18 2021 issue of JAMA (PMID: 34003219).

Mark your calendar

PSRP Seminars

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| 9/21 | Olveen Carrasquillo, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine and Public Health Sciences,
University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine |
| 10/19 | Jim Hu, MD, MPH
Ronald Lynch Professor of Urologic Oncology
Director, Lefrak Center for Robotic Surgery
Professor of Urology, Attending Urologist, New
York-Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medicine |
| 12/14 | Linda Collins, PhD
Professor of Global Public Health, Professor of Biostatistics,
NYU School of Global Public Health |