

UConn HEALTH

Health Professions

Aetna HPPI Pipeline

Partnership Initiative

December 2014



Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs

Read about the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative and Pipeline Programs at:

www.hcop.uchc.edu



Welcome from...

Marja Hurley, M.D.

Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery

Associate Dean for Health Career Opportunity Programs

Founding Director of Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine

This year has been another eventful and highly successful year for the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) and its Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Programs (Aetna HPPI). The department is an integral part of the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and Graduate educational community at UConn Health. The Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine, and the Biomedical Science Graduate Program are actively committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of diverse medical, dental, and graduate students who are capable of providing culturally competent health care.

The department continues to support currently enrolled medical, dental and graduate students of diverse backgrounds and has expanded its programs for middle school, high school and college students to realize their dreams of becoming health professionals. The Aetna HPPI programs and activities are designed, coordinated and implemented through this department. They have proven to be top-notch because the participants in the programs have successfully completed their undergraduate degrees and have actualized their goals of entering medical, dental and graduate school. It is for this reason that the programs and activities sponsored through HCOP are recognized as a national model. To date, we have accomplished our goals and continue to develop new programs and fine-tune existing ones. We had 239 middle school, high school

and college students participating in our 2014 summer programs sponsored by the department through the Aetna HPPI. During the academic year 2014-2015, we anticipate approximately 825 students participating in our after-school, partner high school, Aetna HPPI Saturday Academy and college programs. I am gratified that the community recognizes the importance of these programs in promoting diversity in the health professions and am delighted that Governor Dannel Malloy served as our keynote speaker for the closing ceremonies of our summer programs in 2014.

This year, all graduating seniors participating in the high school Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy were accepted into college. Congratulations to all the students for their hard work. I also offer special congratulations to the HCOP scholars in the School of Medicine (SOM) and School of Dental Medicine (SODM) graduating class of 2014. In the SOM, 14% of the graduating class are HCOP scholars, while 17% of the graduating class in the SODM are HCOP scholars.

I thank our faculty, staff, and students at UConn Health and partner institutions for their dedication and support. Also special thanks to our funders for their financial support of our programs including the State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education who provided Aetna HPPI with ConnCAP funds to support some of our existing programmatic initiatives.



A note from...

Granville Wrensford, Ph.D.

*Assistant Dean & Associate Director
Health Career Opportunity Programs
UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine*

This year has been very exciting with the vast array of programs and activities that HCOP sponsors. Interest among students, parents and educators alike has been increasing. We have visited many middle and high schools as well as colleges and universities throughout the state of Connecticut. We have also visited colleges in Rhode Island, Alabama, and Georgia. Our Facebook page continues to grow as more alumni join our social network.

This past year, we added the West Middle School to the Great Explorations Program. This was facilitated by a grant from The Hartford. We held discussions with some additional middle schools that are interested in our Great Explorations middle school program, and we hope to add a few more during the next academic year.

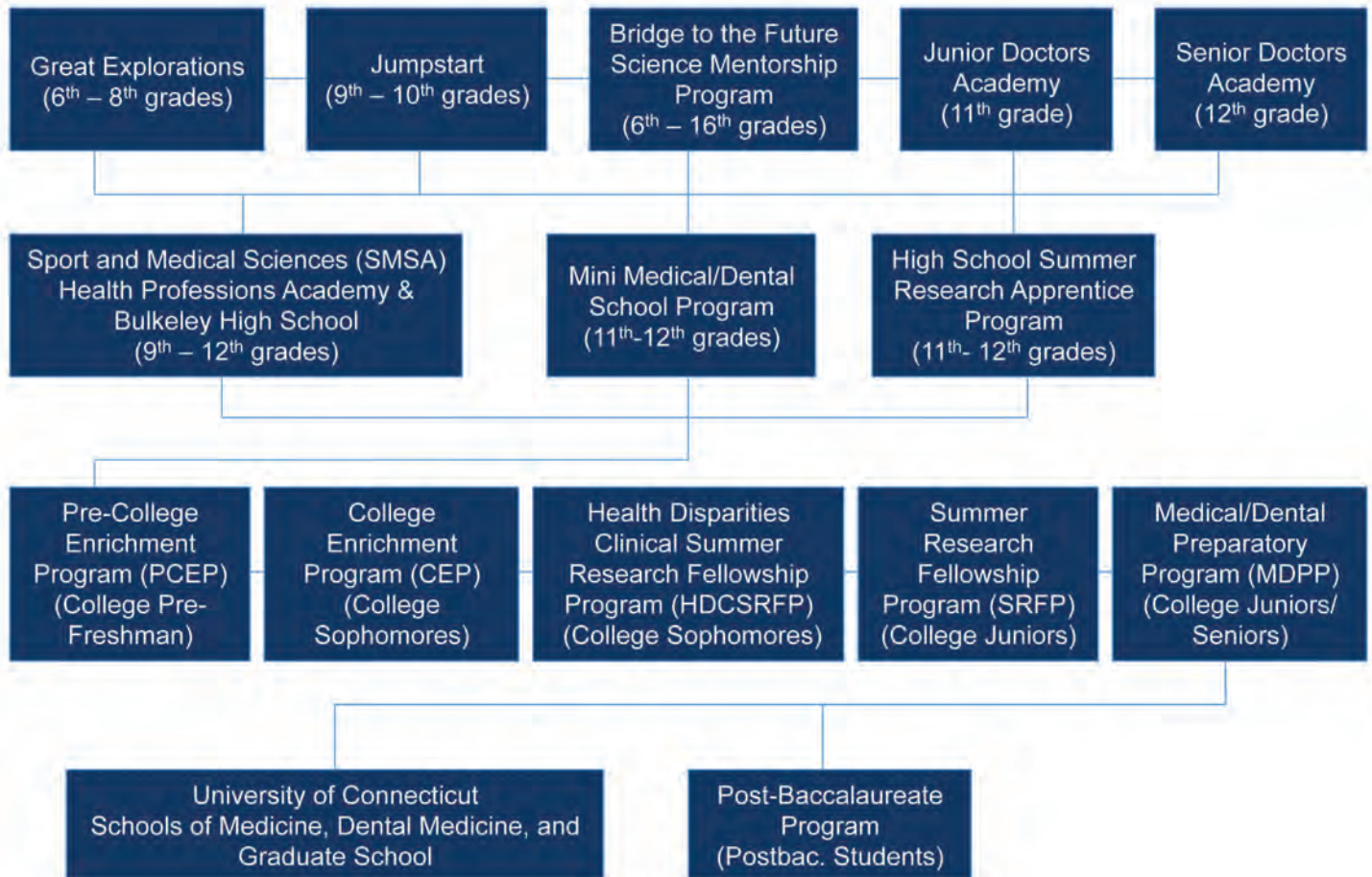
We also held discussions with several organizations that are interested in collaborating with the department. A meeting with the New London Science and Technology Magnet High School resulted in the school providing a bus to transport 14 students to the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference. We continue to provide access and exposure to health careers and health professionals by hosting visits to UConn Health facilities and encouraging greater participation from the schools in the Greater Hartford area. This year we had a large number of students from the Sports and Medical Sciences Academy who participated in the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program through video conferencing.

Much interest was generated in our pipeline programs by educators from across the U.S. during the 2014 Magnet School of America Annual Conference Workshop at Sports and Medical Sciences Academy in Hartford, CT. This conference brought together magnet school educators from across the U.S. to discuss best and effective educational practices for high schools. The participants were very impressed with the pipeline programs of our department and expressed their interest in replicating some of our activities in their respective school districts.

We interacted with numerous students during recruitment and informational sessions. It pleases me to see such a large number of students excited about the health sciences and careers in the health professions. I am grateful to the many individuals who have contributed to the success of the programs.

As we prepare for another year, I must acknowledge the parents, guardians and students of the programs for their firm commitment. A special thank you to the department's staff, faculty and other professionals here at UConn Health and the larger community who have volunteered their time to mentor and interact with the participants in our programs. I would also like to acknowledge the strong support of Dr. Michael Menard and his staff at the UConn Greater Hartford campus and Dr. Kevin McLaughlin at the UConn Storrs campus.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pipeline



Congratulations to...

James Wallace, M.D., M.P.H.

Physician, Medical Student, Mentor



Dr. James Wallace, a native of Hartford, Connecticut, graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in May 2014 with a Doctoral Degree in Medicine and a Masters in Public Health. He is the first college graduate and physician in his family.

He grew up in a West Indian household in the north end of Hartford, close to Weaver High School. According to

Dr. Wallace, he grew up in a time where there weren't many expectations for him from a community standpoint. He was just another kid in a town. While attending Annie Fisher Elementary School, his 5th grade teacher realized he had potential and advocated for him to join the Project Concern now known as the Hartford Region Open Choice Program. She used to tell him, "James you are too smart and have too much ability to waste it." At home his family also had high expectations for him, i.e. his grades and ability. They never let him feel comfortable in being average. A "C" was not good enough. Even when he received a 95 on a test, his dad would ask him what happened to the other 5 points. It was a way for him to see that he had more ability than he thought he did or that he had the ability to achieve at a higher level than was expected from individuals in the community he grew up in.

Through the Hartford Region Open Choice Program, Dr. Wallace attended Glastonbury High School, graduating in 2001 and began his undergraduate studies at Wesleyan University (in the fall of that year). While in high school and college, he played football and basketball, and captained his football team during his senior year in college. Prior to his start at Wesleyan University, Dr. Wallace's high school football coach who also coached the sport at Wesleyan University, informed him of the programs offered by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. His coach thought he would be a great candidate for the Pre-College Enrichment Program (PCEP) at Wesleyan University due to his interest in the sciences. As a result, Dr. Wallace participated as an incoming freshman in the PCEP program in 2001. The following year he worked as a PCEP teaching assistant. He went on to graduate from Wesleyan University in 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Physics.

After graduating from Wesleyan University, he participated in the UConn Post Bacc program and was subsequently accepted into the UConn School of Medicine. Prior to his matriculation during the summer of 2008, he participated in the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs' Medical/Dental Preparatory Track II Basic Medical Sciences Program.

Dr. Wallace has always been very active in mentoring throughout his academic career. As part of KAPPA ALPHA PSI fraternity incorporated, he mentored students at his former elementary school, Annie Fisher. He also mentored college students from 2005 to 2008. While in medical school, he mentored high school students participating in the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs' Junior Doctors Academy from 2008 to 2010.

When asked about his best experience with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Program, Dr. Wallace states that it was participating in the PCEP summer program because it allowed him to become comfortable with the college campus and prepared him for his college experience and academics. This experience made the transition from high school to college easier because it not only prepared him for his first college semester, but also helped him build a network of peers who started college that same year.

Currently, Dr. Wallace is completing a one-year preliminary surgery residency in Bethel Deaconess Medical Center-affiliated with Harvard Medical School in Boston. Dr. Wallace is interested in pediatric sports medicine; as a result, he is currently applying for an orthopedic surgery residency with aspirations of also contributing to the field through research associated with orthopedic surgery. Ultimately, he would like to practice in an urban setting and work with both children and adults. He also sees himself as a teacher and strong advocate for public health. Therefore, in the future he would like to be involved in a key administrative role in a hospital or clinic. His community/personal goals are to coach football and to have a business, preferably a restaurant due to his passion for the food industry.

Dr. Wallace always knew he wanted to attend a professional school, such as medical or engineering school due to his interest in physics. His interest in the medical field began while

he was in high school, particularly after reading the book *Gifted Hands* by Ben Carson, a present from his aunt. When asked what advice and encouragement he would leave to the younger generation of minority students interested in the health professions, Dr. Wallace stated the following: “Don’t feel like you are not meant to be in the position you are. Understand that you have an opportunity and take advantage of it. At times you may feel happy and content about where you are, but remember that there is still much more work to be done for you to have continued success and don’t let any barriers get in the way. Push through barriers. Keep in mind that there are people to help and support you so utilize all the resources that are there for you. There are few things you should keep in mind when it comes to being successful. One is time management because as you move up your career you have more responsibilities and it is necessary to make time for the things you find important. Second is to utilize all the resources that are around you. Part of the time will require you to think outside of the box. And lastly is to follow your heart and go after things that you are passionate about.”

Dr. Wallace would like to recognize his mother, in addition to Dr. Marja Hurley, and Dr. Peter Deckers as three of the most influential individuals that have helped him make his dream a reality. He states the following about his mother: “She is a constant hard worker and always found time to provide for me despite the struggles. I always wonder where she got all her energy from. She worked two jobs and cooked all the time with a smile on her face and had time to joke with me.” He stated that Dr. Hurley has been an influential figure in his process to becoming a physician; whether it’s just support with a stipend, academics, or finding someone to speak to when any issues arose. He always felt she had his “back and corner.” Likewise, as Dr. Wallace progressed in his medical school career, Dr. Deckers was someone who constantly supported his goals and dreams, no matter what the barriers were. Dr. Deckers was someone whom he could speak to and receive answers from for the next stage of his career at any time.

Dr. Wallace would like to express gratitude to Dr. David Henderson for his continued guidance, support, and foresight. Dr. Wallace stated, “He [Dr. Henderson] was also someone I feel that I wouldn’t be here without his guidance and support. I would also like to thank Dr. Cato Laurencin, one of my mentors, for the opportunity to work in his lab [and] Dr. Syam Nukavarap for his guidance in the lab and projects that I worked on with him. I would also like to thank all my lab mates and last, but not least my family and friends who picked me up while I was down and celebrated with me during the great times.”

Christine Crawford, M.D.

Physician, Medical Student, Mentor



Dr. Christine Crawford was raised in East Hartford, where she attended Goodwin Elementary School, East Hartford Middle School, and East Hartford High School. She graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in May 2014 with a Doctoral Degree in Medicine. She is the first college graduate and physician in her family.

Dr. Crawford became aware of her interest in medicine while in middle school. During that time, her dad became ill with Type 1 Diabetes. Her family was often in and out of the hospital because her dad was experiencing complications; consequently she was exposed to a variety of physicians. At such a young age, she became impressed by how her dad would leave the hospital feeling better and looking healthier. She wanted to give other individuals/families that experience.

In high school she participated in the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs’ High School Student Research Apprentice Program (HSSRAP). While participating in HSSRAP, she became impressed by the number of minority doctors. Prior to HSSRAP, she thought that doctors were predominantly caucasian males that came from wealthy families, but the program made her realize that was no longer the case.

After graduating from high school in 2002, Dr. Crawford participated in the Pre-College Enrichment Program at Central Connecticut State University. She subsequently enrolled at Boston College in Massachusetts. In 2003 she participated in the College Enrichment Program at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus. She graduated from Boston College in 2006 with a Bachelors’ Degree in Biology.

Despite having doubts about her career path during her college years, Dr. Crawford’s interest in medicine was revived while she was working on her Masters in Public Health at Boston University. During that time, her father became ill and passed away right before her final exams. Due to his illness, her dad was not able to pursue his dreams, which made her realize that she did not have any limitations preventing her from pursuing her dreams. This was when she realized that “you only have one chance at life” and she had no reason not to pursue her dreams. At that moment, she decided she would become a physician and enrolled in UConn’s Post Bacc program. After completing the Post Bacc program in 2009, she participated in the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs’

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track I Medical. In 2010, she enrolled at the University of Connecticut, School of Medicine.

While in medical school, Dr. Crawford mentored middle school students participating in the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs' Great Explorations Saturday Academy. She describes mentoring the students as her best experience with the department because "it is coming in a full circle" for her. She was able to mentor students from the same background, community, and socio-economic status as herself. She encourages her students by telling them, "I look the way I look, I talk the way I talk, came from where I came from and I will graduate from medical school and attend a great residency." Dr. Crawford feels she is giving the students a sense of possibilities through her mentoring because the students realize they came from similar backgrounds and "that it is possible for them to look the way they look, come from where they come from and that they are able to achieve any hopes or dreams that they have despite any barriers they may face".

Dr. Crawford is currently completing a psychiatric residency at Mass General Hospital in Massachusetts. Her residency will consist of a community psychiatric track where she will be working with the homeless, low economic status, and immigrant populations in Boston. Dr. Crawford will be spending six weeks walking around different areas of Boston that have a high concentration of homeless people and speaking to individuals about resources where they can connect with different mental health services. She will be working mainly with adults.

Dr. Crawford plans to specialize in women's mental health, focusing on women who suffer from postpartum depression, mental health problems during pregnancy, are experiencing menopause and are experiencing depression due to conception issues. She wants to work in an inner city community health center because these types of settings tend to have limited access to mental health services. Her goal is to provide mental health services to minorities and break down the stigmas of mental health problems.

When asked what words of advice and encouragement she would like to leave to the younger generation of minority students interested in the health professions, she stated the following: "[The] most important thing to keep in mind is that you need to believe that you have the capacity to do what you have your heart set on no matter what other people may tell you along the way. It is important for you to remember to believe in yourself because not everyone else will and if you are able to do that you are able to overcome whatever the nay sayers may say along the way."

Dr. Crawford would like to thank her mom and her husband because throughout the entire process they've been supportive and encouraging. They have always reminded her, especially when she was facing academic and emotional challenges while in medical school, that she has the ability to accomplish anything she wants to accomplish.

She would like to thank Dr. Marja Hurley for providing her an opportunity, at such a young age, to learn more about the health care field and the different options that are available for health care. Dr. Hurley established a frame work for her, which she used to map out her journey, that allowed her to get to where she is today. Dr. Hurley also provided her with resources and mentoring and served as a role model who really helped her focus on remaining on her journey to complete medical school. In addition, she would like to thank Dr. Catherine Lewis, her psychiatric advisor, for being very supportive and believing that she was capable of matching at the best psychiatric residency programs.

Congratulations to Our Mentors and Past Program Participants - UConn Health Medical, Dental and Graduate School 2014 Graduates

Ashley Acevedo, D.M.D.

Christian Acharte, M.D., M.P.H.

Tyler Aten, D.M.D.

Olubukola Babalola, M.D.

Jennifer Bayron, M.D.

Akeisha Belgrave, Ph.D.

Andrea Browne, D.M.D.

Daniel Carrero, M.D.

Christine Castater, M.D.

Lyndon Charles, Jr., Ph.D.

Elizabeth Chasse, M.D., M.P.H.

Christine Crawford, M.D.

Ana Gonzalez, D.M.D.

Elizabeth Kariuki, M.D.

Andrea Lochan, D.M.D.

Joseph Merai, Jr., D.M.D.

Luis Munoz, M.D.

Lauren O'Hagan, D.M.D.

Hardeep Singh, M.D.

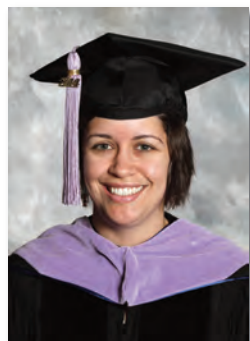
Kerry-Ann Stewart, Ph.D.

Daniella Vega, M.D.

James Wallace, M.D., M.P.H.

Nancy Wong, D.M.D., M.P.H.

Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) Medical/Dental Student 2014 Bridge Mentoring Award



Andrea Browne, D.M.D.



Brendan Dolan, D.M.D.



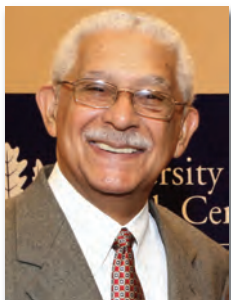
Christine Castater, M.D.



Alisha Stephens, M.D.

HCOP recognized two dental students and two medical students for their continued participation and involvement with the Aetna HPPI Programs with the Bridge Mentoring Award. The 2014 recipients were: Andrea Browne, D.M.D., General Practice Residency at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hartford, CT; Brendan Dolan, D.M.D., Advanced Education in General Dentistry at VA Long Beach Healthcare System, Long Beach, CA; Christine Castater, M.D., General Surgery at University of California, San Francisco-East Bay, San Francisco, CA; and Alisha Stephens, M.D., Internal Medicine – Primary Care at Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University, Providence RI.

Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D., 2014 Scholarship Recipient



Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D.

In honor of Dr. Boake Plessy's contributions, UConn Health has established a scholarship fund that is used to support educational enhancement for students who participated in the Aetna HPPI Academy and are planning to continue their education at the post-secondary level.

The Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs – Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship was awarded to Valeria Herrera at the Academic Year Recognition Closing Ceremony. Ms. Herrera is attending the University of Connecticut.

To contribute to Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship Fund or for more information about philanthropy to support the Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health, please call: Abigail O'Brien, Director of Development for Health Sciences at 860-679-4524.



Dr. Plessy and Valeria Herrera.

John & Valerie Rowe Scholarship Recipients

HCOP provides scholarships in the form of book awards to the Senior Doctors Academy students from the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy who will enroll as freshmen at the University of Connecticut. The 2014 John and Valerie Rowe Scholarships were awarded to Julise Marsh, Barbara Otchere, and Paris Pruitt.



Julise Marsh receives her lab coat from Ms. Tracey Higgins.



Barbara Otchere after receiving her lab coat.



Paris Pruitt receives her lab coat from Ms. Tracey Higgins.

Congratulations to the Senior Doctors Academy Graduating Class of 2014!



Nizida Acharte
University of Connecticut



Ajia Coleman
University of New Haven



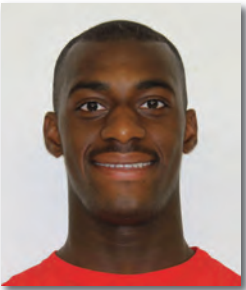
Joshua Crittenden
University of Connecticut



Vy Dang
Brown University



Tianna Edwards
*University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth*



Dominic Grant
*Central Connecticut State
University*

HCOP *Hard Work
Career-Focused
Optimal Performance
Persistence*



Azhar Gulaid
Smith College



Valeria Herrera
University of Connecticut



Laura Lopez
College of the Holy Cross



Julise Marsh
University of Connecticut



Nataly McDonald
*Southern Connecticut State
University*



Barbara A. Otchere
University of Connecticut



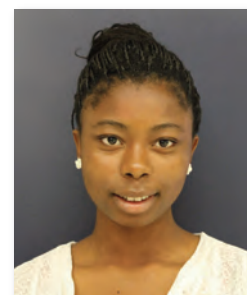
Paris Pruitt
University of Connecticut



Justin Raposa
*American International
College*



Fatima Sulaymanova
University of Connecticut



Precious Uwaya
University of Maryland

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy and Great Explorations Students Academic Enrichment Experiences

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative (Aetna HPPI) Doctors Academy students (The Jumpstart 9 & 10, Junior and Senior Doctors Academies) took enrichment trips to the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference at Harvard Medical School, the UConn Health campus, the Connecticut Science Center for *Bodies Revealed* Exhibit and the UConn Storrs campus. The Great Exploration students also visited the UConn Health campus and the Connecticut Science Center for *Bodies Revealed* Exhibit.



Great Explorations

The Great Explorations Program is an enrichment program designed to provide extracurricular activities in math, science, and language arts to 7th and 8th grade middle school students. A total of 210 students who participated in the Great Explorations Program in 2013-2014 were enrolled in one of nine middle schools: Bellizzi, Jumoke Academy Honors at Hartford Conservatory, Jumoke Academy Honors SMaRT, E.B. Kennelly School, Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, West Middle School, Fred D. Wish Museum School, and Two Rivers Magnet Middle School. Great Explorations also offers a six-week summer academic

enrichment program for rising 8th grade participants and a 30-week Saturday Academy for 8th graders. The summer activities are conducted at the Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science and the Saturday Academy is held at the University of Connecticut Greater Hartford Campus. Students receive instruction in math, science, and language arts.

During the summer of 2013 there were a total of 19 students participating in the summer component. A total of 22 students participated in the 30 week academic year component of the program. This included 16 of those who participated in the summer.



Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy (Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy) is designed to provide educational opportunities which may not be available to a number of Connecticut high school students. The purpose of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy is to provide access and preparation to students interested in health professions who come from backgrounds where they are the first in their family to earn a four-year degree, come from modest family means, and/or are from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in health care. Students participating in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy are generally recruited from the Hartford area schools and strive to become physicians, dentists, biomedical research scientists, pharmacists, nurses and other health professionals.

The Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy has two major components, the summer program and the academic year program. Both components are offered at the University of Connecticut Greater Hartford campus. The summer and academic year programs are designed to advance students' academic skill levels in math, science and language arts. The programs promote personal growth through extracurricular experiences designed to help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and the American College Test (ACT). A total of 108 students participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy during the 2013-2014 academic year.



High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series

The High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series offers eight weekly lectures and demonstrations presented by faculty members of the University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Topics include molecular biology, pharmacology, cardiology, oncology, and dental medicine.

Participants are eleventh and twelfth grade students

who are in-state residents and selected by their school guidance counselors or science teachers. All students have shown a strong interest in pursuing careers in medicine, dental medicine and the biological sciences. Sessions are also broadcast live to high schools throughout the State of Connecticut. For more information contact Anastasia Rollins at 860-679-3484 or rollins@uchc.edu.



High School Student Research Apprentices Program

Twelve students had the opportunity to be a part of a research team and learn laboratory techniques in the 2014 High School Student Research Apprentices Program. As part of the 2014 program, four students commuted daily to Central Connecticut State Univer-

sity and eight students commuted daily to the UConn Health campus for their research project. At the end of the summer, each student gave oral and poster presentations of their research results during a special research symposium.



Aysha Kahn

Student Speaker for the High School Student Research Apprentices Program



Alejandro Luis Perez

Participant of the High School Student Research Apprentices Program

Epidemiology

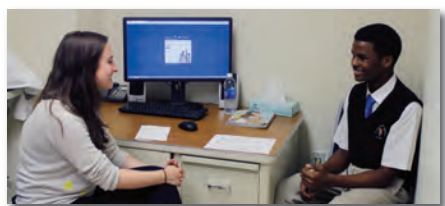
The Epidemiology Program, a series of five programs, is held for students from Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA) to introduce basic concepts and terminology used in the study of epidemiology. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Wetstone and Dr. Richard Stevens, the program provides an intro-

duction to general epidemiology as well as descriptive, applied, and analytical epidemiology and screening. Twelve 11th and 12th graders attend sessions at UConn Health on four occasions and Dr. Scott Wetstone and Dr. Richard Stevens visit SMSA on one occasion.

Teens as Teachers

The University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Principles of Clinical Medicine course (PCM) is the clinical training component for medical students. The course helps students prepare for the clinical aspects of medicine by training them in history taking, physical examination, utilization of community resources and community collaboration for improved patient care. Part of the course involves training on adolescent health. Medical students learn about the importance and specialized aspects of the adolescent history, and practice

their skills with real teens recruited from the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA) and CREC Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy (MPTPA), who act as patient instructors. The medical students then receive feedback on their performance from the adolescent patient instructors. Eight students from SMSA and three students from MPTPA participated in the program last year. The participating adolescents are given health education workshops and training prior to their participation in the PCM course.



Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, UConn Health, and Central Connecticut State University College Science Partnership

More than 100 ninth and tenth grade students from Sport and Medical Sciences Academy participated in the 2013-2014 College Science Partnership Series sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Martin, Chair of the Biomolecular Sciences Department at Central Connecticut State University, students partici-

pated in five biology and chemistry labs at Central Connecticut State University. The lab enrichment provided by the program helped the students in scientific techniques. The students who participated in the College Science Partnership Series exhibited higher level scientific skills than those that did not.

Pre-College Enrichment Program/Biomedical Engineering Bridge Program

The Pre-College Enrichment Program is a five-week residential enrichment program for incoming students at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus. Designed to provide solid development of scientific, mathematical, communications, problem-solving, and test-taking skills, it is intended to enhance the college preparedness of freshmen students. It allows the students to experience life on a college campus prior to their matriculation in the fall. Students can participate in either the academic (academic courses) or a research track (completion of a research project). This past summer, thirteen students participated in an academic track in collaboration with the University of Connecticut School of Engineering Bridge Program at Storrs. All participants also engaged in numerous enrichment activities at UConn Health.



Joshua Crittenden
Student Speaker for the Pre-College Enrichment Program

College Enrichment Program

The College Enrichment Program is designed for rising college sophomores. The program's curriculum focuses on critical math and science skills needed for success. A total of five students participated in this program. The program is held at the University of

Connecticut in Storrs. In addition to academic preparation, students participated in weekly enrichment lectures at UConn Health. All students are currently progressing in their academic courses and plan to participate in next summer's enrichment programs.

The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program is a seven-week clinical enrichment experience designed for rising college sophomores, juniors, seniors or recent graduates. In the summer of 2014, ten students participated in the program. The program is designed to provide the following: clinical research and enrichment experiences, an introduction to health disparities across cultures, principles of clinical medicine, public health research and interventions, an overview of cultural definitions, public health issues, and discussions of specific techniques

for working with diverse populations in community settings. The community partners participating in this year's program were Connecticut Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, End Hunger CT!!, Family Life Education, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Connecticut and Keep the Promise Coalition, North Central Regional Mental Health Board, and Saint Francis Center for Equity. The participants completed a clinical research project and presented a poster with their results at the end of the program.



Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Summer Research Fellowship Program is a ten-week research enrichment experience designed for college sophomores, juniors, seniors, and recent graduates who are interested in a career in medicine, dental medicine or biomedical research and for applicants who have completed some college coursework in biology and chemistry (preferably through organic chemistry). In the summer of 2014 a total of fifteen students participated in the program. A faculty sponsor is identified for each student. Faculty develops and

makes available suitable project descriptions. The student contacts his/her faculty sponsor in April or May and develops a research protocol. Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) students are encouraged to apply. Students devote approximately 30 hours per week on a research project and 10 hours per week of clinical experience. At the end of the summer, each student gave a poster presentation of their research results during a special research symposium.



Medical/Dental Preparatory Program

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program students are selected from various universities throughout the United States to work on academic skills as well as preparation for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). A total

of forty-eight college students participated in academic classes, guest lecturers, test taking strategies, and other enrichment activities at the UConn Health campus during the six-week summer 2014 program.



Dr. Prince Morgan, Dr. Alexander Arroyo, and Mark Fleming, second year medical student, with participants.

Parental Seminar Series

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Parental Seminar Series is an opportunity for students and parents to learn more about important health issues affecting their community. Parents are asked to submit a survey on the topics they are most interested in learning about and the series of lectures is then tailored to their needs. During one recent Parental Seminar Series, Lisa Purdy, Kaplan Instructor, presented the topic: PSAT, SAT & ACT Scoring “Smart Track” Online Program; while Caroline McCall, Admissions Officer for UConn, Greater Hartford Campus, Ashley Morris, the Interim Co-Director of Admissions for the University of St. Joseph, Carlos Soler, Assistant Director for the Office of Recruitment & Admissions at Central Connecticut State University and Cliff Thornton, the Associate Dean of Admission for Wesleyan University discussed college financial aid and the admissions process.



From left to right: Mr. Cliff Thornton, Ms. Ashley Morris, Ms. Caroline McCall, and Mr. Carlos Soler.



Dr. Garth Graham



UConn SNMA medical student checking blood pressure of Parental seminar participant.

The 2013-2014 Parental Seminar Series also included a presentation from Dr. Garth Graham, President of the Aetna Foundation, on Cardiovascular Diseases and Blood Pressure. During this presentation, members of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine Chapter of the Student National Medical Association performed blood pressure screenings and Body Mass Index screenings under faculty supervision by Dr. Marja M. Hurley, and presented information about diabetic foot care education to parents.



UConn SNMA medical students checking blood pressure of Parental seminar participant.



UConn SNMA leadership with Dr. Marja M. Hurley.

Bridge to the Future

Science Mentoring Conference

The 2014 annual Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference was held on Saturday, April 12, with approximately 173 high school and college students participating. The students were brought together with UConn Health faculty, staff, medical, dental and graduate students to interact in a series of activities to raise awareness about health and biomedical science careers and the admissions process for medical, dental, and graduate schools. The HCOP Department, the University of Connecticut Chapters of the Student National Medical Association, the Student National Dental Association, and the Hispanic Student Dental Association, and the John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Fund sponsored this year's conference.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Sarita Arteaga, a University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine Class of 1990 graduate, and current Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Reconstructive Sciences at UConn Health, spoke to the students about her personal journey through dental school and her professional career. Enrichment activities for high school students included presentations on preparing for a career in the health professions by Dr. Marja M. Hurley, Professor of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery, Institutional Designee, AAMC, Group on Women in Medicine and Science, Associate Dean and Director, Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health; Dentistry by Dr. Flavio Uribe, Post Graduate Program Director and Orthodontic Clinic Director at UConn Health; Cardiology by Dr. Peter Schulman, Professor of Medicine and Director of Cardiology Fellowship, Calhoun Cardiology Center at UConn Health; and Multiple Sclerosis Presentation by Dr. Wanda Castro, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology at UConn Health.

Led by a group of UConn medical students, the high school students participated in hands-on activities such

as recording blood pressure and surgical suturing. Students also had the opportunity to participate in an anatomy workshop led by Dr. Dale Matheson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell Biology at UConn Health. Dr. Michael Goupil, along with UConn dental students, presented a Dental Forensic hands-on workshop for high school students.

College students who participated in enrichment seminars learned about the admissions process for graduate, medical and dental programs offered at UConn Health. The college students also participated in a mock admissions process where they served as potential Admissions Committee evaluators. Student participants ranked prospective applicants based on their academic profiles, letters of recommendation and DAT/MCAT scores. Led by facilitators, the participants engaged in discussions and activities similar to the admissions committees at UConn Health. This process helped the students better understand what admissions committees are looking for in qualified candidates.

For college students specifically interested in dental medicine, the Dental Impressions Program held a series of informational sessions which included hands-on activities such as taking dental impressions and touring the dental labs at UConn Health.

Both the high school and college students had opportunities to listen to personal anecdotes from students currently enrolled at the University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and the Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences. The medical, dental and graduate students shared their progression through their respective health professions school and allowed the high school and college students to ask questions.

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference Guest Speakers and Participants



Dr. Sarita Arteaga



Dental impression participant.



Dr. Flavio Uribe



Dr. Wanda Castro



Dr. Dale Matheson



Dr. Peter Schulman



Conference participant asking a question to the college admission panel.



Dental impression participants and UConn Dental students.



UConn Medical student teaching conference participants how to perform blood pressure screenings.



Front-Left to Right: Ms. Rachel Eyler, UConn, School of Pharmacy; Ms. Sharonda Dailey, Wesleyan University; Ms. India Daley, Trinity College; Back-Left to Right: Ms. Caroline McCall, UConn Greater Hartford; Ms. Heather Morrison, UConn, School of Nursing; Mr. Carlos Soler, Central Connecticut State University.



Conference participants volunteer at the Multiple Sclerosis presentation.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

2013-2014 Academic Year Doctors Academy

Closing Ceremony

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs hosted its annual Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony for the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy (Aetna HPPI) on May 20, 2014 in Keller Auditorium. This event marked the culmination of a very positive academic year enrichment experience for high school students from the Greater Hartford area who participated in the Great Explorations, Jumpstart Doctors, Junior Doctors, and Senior Doctors Academies. Remarks were given by Dr. Garth Graham, President of the Aetna Foundation, Mr. Christopher Montross, Managing Director of the Aetna Office of Community Relations and Urban Marketing and Melenie Magnotta, Grants Manager for the Aetna Foundation. The keynote speaker was Kelvin Roldan, Chief Institutional Advancement Officer for the Hartford Public Schools, who congratulated the students and challenged them to have a positive impact on reducing health disparities in the community. Student reflections were given by Alana Morgan, a Jumpstart Doctors Academy participant, Joshua Crittenden, a Senior Doctors Academy participant and Class of 2014 grad-

uate, and Ashley Arthur, a freshman at the University of Connecticut and a past participant of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy. Ms. Tracey Davis, a parent, also gave an inspiring speech on the positive effects the programs have on her daughter who participates in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy and the Mini Medical/Dental School Program.

All of the Senior Doctors Academy graduates are currently attending a four-year college with seven of them enrolled at the University of Connecticut. Julise Marsh, Barbara Otchere, and Paris Pruitt were awarded the John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship. Valeria Herrera was awarded the Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs – Boake L. Plessy, Ph.D. Scholarship.

The Aetna HPPI is an education consortium offering a comprehensive program of educational enrichment and support activities to increase the competitive applicant pool of diverse students who are interested in careers in the health professions.



Dr. Boake Plessy, Dr. R. Lamont McNeil, Dr. Garth Graham, Dr. Marja Hurley, and Mr. Christopher Montross.



Dr. Granville Wrensford, Senior Doctors Academy Graduates and Dr. Marja Hurley.

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative

Summer 2014 Program Closing Ceremony

Governor Malloy Keynote Speaker

Dannel Patrick Malloy was elected Governor in November 2010, and his top agenda items have included reinventing our economy by growing jobs, improving public education and stabilizing the state's finances. Governor Malloy has pursued a comprehensive economic development strategy, one that invests in growth industries and creates jobs while at the same time defends the core sectors of our economy and protects the jobs we already have. His three tiered approach makes sure that Connecticut can compete at any level – from large corporations, to small businesses and start-ups. The First Five program has leveraged \$1.7 billion in private sector investments across our state's economy; that program and others have brought numerous corporate headquarters to Connecticut from out of state, including NBC Sports, Charter Communications, and Jackson Laboratories. The Small Business Express Programs has invested in more than 700 small businesses across Connecticut, creating and maintaining thousands of jobs. And the four new "Innovation Ecosystems" located throughout the state are connecting entrepreneurs with capitol investors, cultivating the grassroots of our state's ideas economy.

The Governor is also making investments in education at every level. In 2012, he signed into law a school reform bill that has been called a national model. The legislation has provided hundreds of millions of additional money to school districts, in exchange for holistic changes that will prepare students to compete in the 21st century economy. In 2013, Governor Malloy was proud to push for what some have called a transformational investment in the University of Connecticut. Next Generation Connecticut will make sure that



Connecticut residents are in position to compete for jobs in emerging fields like bio-science and digital media.

Finally, the Governor has also called for and funded the creation of a new Office of Early Childhood to ensure that all our kids have access to a quality early childhood learning experience. As we grow jobs and improve our schools, the Governor believes we also need to make state government leaner and more efficient. The newly enacted budget builds on the tremendous gains made during the Governor's first two years in office, improvements that continue to fix the state's financial foundation without imposing new taxes. With fewer employees and state agencies than the day he was sworn in and new investments in technology, state government is making the changes necessary to improve the delivery of services without additional costs. Governor Malloy was proud to sign what some have called the most comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation in the country. Dannel Patrick Malloy, the youngest of eight children, was born in Stamford, Connecticut on July 21, 1955. Growing up, he struggled to overcome learning and physical disabilities, eventually gaining the skills he needed to go on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from

Boston College and continue on to Boston College Law School. In 1982, Governor Malloy married his wife, Cathy, whom he met while at Boston College. They have three sons: Dannel, Ben, and Sam. Governor Malloy became a prosecutor in Brooklyn, New York, serving for four years as an Assistant District Attorney, where he won 22 convictions in 23 felony cases. Prior to being elected Governor, he was Stamford's longest serving Mayor, serving for 14 years from 1995 to 2009.



Governor Dannel P. Malloy was the keynote speaker at the summer closing ceremony on August 1, 2014. Dr. Marja Hurley (right) is director of the Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health. *(Please see biographies of the pipeline students shown above on page 24).*

School of Medicine Alumnus Speaker



Alexander Arroyo, M.D., F.A.A.P., received his undergraduate education at St. Francis College in Brooklyn graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Psychology May of 1998. Dr. Arroyo received his Doctor of Medicine Degree from the UConn School of Medicine May 2002. After completing medical school, he did a Pediatric Residency Program at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York, completing the program June of 2005. Dr. Arroyo followed residency with a Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship at the Schneider Children's Hospital, Department of Pediatric Emergency Medicine from July 2005 through June 2008, and an Ultrasound Fellowship at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine from July 2008 through June 2009, both in New Hyde Park, New York. He has been practicing for twelve years and is the Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship and Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine Ultrasound Research at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Arroyo resides in Brooklyn with his son Colin.

Community Health Profession Mentor Recognition Award Recipient



Prince Morgan, D.M.D., attended Benedict College in South Carolina from which he graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in biology in May 2004. The summer of 2004, Dr. Morgan participated in the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Medical/Dental Preparatory Basic Medical Sciences Program. That August, he matriculated at the UConn School of Dental Medicine Class of 2008. Following his first year of dental school the summer of 2005, Dr. Morgan served as the Basic Medical Sciences Tutor for the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program. He did his General Dental Practice Residency at Bronx Lebanon Hospital in New York 2008/2009 and returned as Chief Resident 2009/2010. Since 2010, Dr. Morgan has been working as a community dentist at the Charter Oak Community Health Center in Hartford, Connecticut. Dr. Morgan has also served as Chair for the Infection Control Committee and sits on several other committees including the Performance Improvement Committee, Employee Council, and the Compliance Governance Committee. Dr. Morgan is being recognized for his dedication and mentoring of students interested in entering the dental profession.

UConn Program Interests Youth in Health Careers



Jeremy Figueroa-Ortiz



Julian Rose



Kitsha Alvarado



Philip Montgomery

For UConn undergraduate **Jeremy Figueroa-Ortiz**, providing dental care in a largely Hispanic community is more than a career aspiration, it's a must. "It would just feel wrong to do anything otherwise," says Figueroa-Ortiz, a New Britain native who is Hispanic. At the moment, "not many Hispanics can go to their dentist and speak Spanish and identify with him."

The allied health science major, who's minoring in both biology and health care management and insurance studies, was among more than 200 students from middle school through college who celebrated the completion of UConn Health's summer career preparation programs on Aug. 1, 2014, at a ceremony with Gov. Dannel P. Malloy.

"HPPI introduced me to a career that I had never even thought of as an option," says Figueroa-Ortiz, who is the first in his family to go to college. "Through various programs, they've exposed me to lab research, clinical research, disparities, and immersed me in an environment so that I was surrounded by success."

Toward that end, UConn junior **Julian Rose** hopes to eventually use his knowledge to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease, which afflicted his late grandfather.

Rose is no stranger to the HPPI offerings. He began taking the courses in middle school and continued through high school. Eventually, he wants to enroll in a doctoral program to study applying tissue engineering to the brain to counteract neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's.

"Each and every year I come back to the HPPI programs with the expectation to be exposed to things I have never seen before and interact with people I can learn from," Rose says. "These programs have not only helped make me a more competitive applicant in any pool through a variety of experiences, but they've also acted as a catalyst for my personal development."

Kitsha Alvarado, future dentist or other health care provider. This summer, each day she was out the door by 7 a.m. On most days, she and her 20 classmates spent the mornings studying for SATs, ACTs, and vocabulary drills. They also worked on college search preparation; Alvarado hopes to attend UConn. In the afternoons, they worked with School of Medicine mentors and participated in events with faculty mentors.

Alvarado's experience influenced her decision on a career. "During one of our afternoon activities, we helped fill a tooth," she says. "It opened my eyes to think of dentistry as a career option."

Before heading back to Johns Hopkins University for his senior year, **Philip Montgomery** of Hartford completed the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program, designed to ready students for both the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and the medical school application and interview process.

Excerpt of article written by Chris DeFrancesco.

Student National Medical Association – UConn Health Chapter Culture Shock Event in Support of Sickie Cell Care

Each year the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) hosts Culture Shock, an event sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the diversity of the UConn Health community through food, poetry, fashion, song, dance, and other artistic presentations. Participants enjoy a wide array of local and international cuisine which is obtained through donations from many restaurants and individuals from UConn Health.

Last academic year, Culture Shock was held on November 1, 2013 in UConn Health's Keller Auditorium. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to The Citizens for Quality Sickie Cell Care (CQSCC). The CQSCC is committed to "ensuring the availability and accessibility of quality and comprehensive medical care and support services



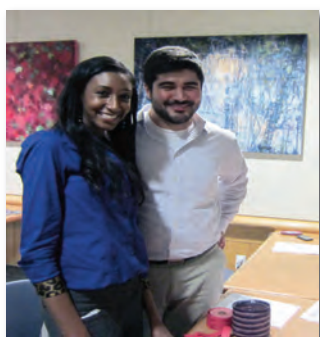
for children and adults in Northern Connecticut with Sickie Cell Diseases and other related disorders." The CQSCC focuses on promoting quality and up-to-date comprehensive medical care, life-span transition programs and support, education for health practitioners, families, employers, and the community. The CQSCC has worked to set up comprehensive sickie cell treatment centers in Connecticut, including centers at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Yale New Haven Hospital. The CQSCC also works alongside physicians and case workers at the UConn's Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. Every year, the CQSCC organizes a Sickie Cell Walk to raise money for research investigating cures for Sickie Cell disease. Each year families, neighbors, companies, and organizations come together to walk and receive education about Sickie Cell disease along with many other healthy topics.



Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student National Dental Association – UConn Health Chapter Hispanic Heritage Month Event

Each year the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student National Dental Association (SNDA/HSNDA) in conjunction with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the Hispanic culture of the UConn Health community through food, song, dance, and

other artistic presentations. Last academic year's activities took place on November 7, 2013 at the UConn Health campus. The event included authentic Hispanic cuisine, raffle prizes, and entertainment. Local Hispanic restaurants provided delicious dishes such as Arroz Chaufa, Plátano Maduros, and Pollo Guisado. The night's events also showcased dancers from the Arthur Murray Dance studio who demonstrated the difference between Latin dances such as bachata, merengue, cumbia, and salsa. The night ended with a fantastic performance by a local Latin jazz band.



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UConn Health

Acknowledgement of Our Parents, Teachers, Peer Counselors and Mentors

We thank you for your support and continued encouragement and commitment to the students.



Important Dates

April 11, 2015

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

May 20, 2015

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy Closing Ceremony

June 22, 2015

Start of the Aetna HPPI Summer Doctors Academy

Application Deadlines

March 1, 2015

Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program

Summer Research Fellowship Program

April 2015

Aetna HPPI Great Explorations

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy

High School Student Research Apprentice Program

College Enrichment Program

Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program

Pre-College Research Program

**For more information about the Pipeline
Programs listed below, visit us at:
hcop.uchc.edu**

- Great Explorations Middle School Program, 6th-8th grades
- Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy 6-week Summer and 30-week Academic Year Programs, 8th-12th grades
- High School Summer Research Apprenticeship Program, 11th-12th grades
- High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series, 11th-12th grades
- Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program, 9th-16th grades
- Pre-College Enrichment Program, 13th grade
- Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, 13th-16th grades
- College Enrichment Program, 13th-14th grades
- Medical/Dental Preparatory Program, 13th-15th grades
- Summer Research Fellowship Program, 15th-16th grades
- Post Baccalaureate Program, post-16th grades
- BS/DMD Joint Degree Program, 13th-16th grades



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