

# UConn HEALTH

Health Professions

## Aetna HPPI Pipeline

Partnership Initiative

December 2015



**Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs**

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

**[www.hcop.uhc.edu](http://www.hcop.uhc.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 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 are actively committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of diverse medical and dental students who are capable of providing culturally competent health care. Additionally, the Biomedical Science Graduate Program is also committed to supporting graduate students from diverse backgrounds who will discover the medical cures of tomorrow.

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 the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs 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 249 middle school, high school and college students participating in our 2015 summer programs sponsored by the department through the Aetna HPPI. During the 2015-2016 academic year, we anticipate approximately 840 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 pro-

fessions and am delighted that State Representative and Deputy Majority Leader, Douglas McCrory of Hartford served as our keynote speaker at the 2014-2015 academic year closing and recognition ceremony. Dr. Jamil Harp, assistant professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine in Georgia and UConn School of Medicine Class of 2004 alum, served as our keynote speaker at the closing ceremonies of our 2015 summer programs.

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 Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars in the School of Medicine (SOM) and School of Dental Medicine (SODM) graduating class of 2015. In the SOM, 14% of the graduating class are Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars, while 20% of the graduating class in the SODM are Health Career Opportunity Programs scholars. We are also proud that 60% of the underrepresented students currently enrolled in the SOM are Aetna HPPI pipeline students, and 50% of the underrepresented students currently enrolled in the SODM are Aetna HPPI pipeline students.

I thank our faculty, staff, and students at UConn Health and partner institutions for their dedication and support. Also special thanks to our funders including the State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education, who provided Aetna HPPI with ConnCAP funds, and the John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Endowment Fund that support some of our existing programmatic initiatives. Additionally, I would like to thank the Aetna Foundation for the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Health Equity award which funds supported the expansion of the 2015 Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program.



## A note from...

### **Granville Wrensford, Ph.D.**

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

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This year has been another exciting year with the vast array of programs and activities that the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs sponsors. Interest among students, parents and educators alike continue to increase. 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.

This past year, we continued our collaboration with the West Middle School's participation in the Great Explorations Program. This was facilitated by a grant from The Hartford. We also participated in their annual back-to-school event sponsored by the local Boys and Girls Club. Later in the year, a group of forty of the school's students visited UConn Health where they received information on careers in dental medicine and participated in hands on activities.

I was very pleased and enthused to see the excitement and interest generated by the presentations of Dr. Ronald Mallett to our academy students. Dr. Mallett, a renowned physicist and author of the book, *Time Traveler*, discussed his book and quantum physics with the students and engaged in cosmos activities designed to help them understand the concept of time travel.

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 Connecticut. This year we had a number of students from Torrington High

School who participated in the High School Mini Medical/Dental School Program through video conferencing. We also sponsored a professional development workshop for high school teachers in the Hartford School District. This workshop focused on current careers and topics in biomedical science.

Additionally, we hosted a group of students from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. The students learned more about our pipeline programs, toured the research and clinical skills simulation labs, and interacted with current students. This activity helped to highlight our long standing collaboration with historically black colleges and universities especially those in the Atlanta, Georgia area.

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 Kevin McLaughlin at the UConn Storrs campus.



## Greetings from...

### **Kerry-Ann Stewart, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Director of Health Career Opportunity Programs  
Assistant Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care  
UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine*

It has been a pleasure serving as Assistant Director for the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs for the past year. I know firsthand how the department has supported students over the last 29 years in achieving their goals of becoming physicians, dentists, or biomedical science researchers. The community that the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs has built over the years is one that will continue to help students from diverse backgrounds pave the way towards a bright future. As a past participant of the High School Student Research Apprentice Program and the Summer Research Fellowship Program, these opportunities inspired me to pursue graduate studies in Biomedical Science. It is quite evident that the magnitude of the research presented by the participants of the High School Student Research Apprentice Program, and the college participants of the Summer Research Fellowship Program and the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Program have been phenomenal.

It has been gratifying to witness the growth and development of participants of the middle school, high school, and college programs as they transition to the next level in their academic careers. We are happy to have the opportunity to expose the participants of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy to new areas of science including quantum physics presented by Dr. Ronald Mallet, UConn Physics Professor. The participants of the college programs were also introduced to new research taking place at UConn Health and the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine. It has been extremely rewarding to see all of the graduates of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy matriculate into four year colleges, including UConn. I am

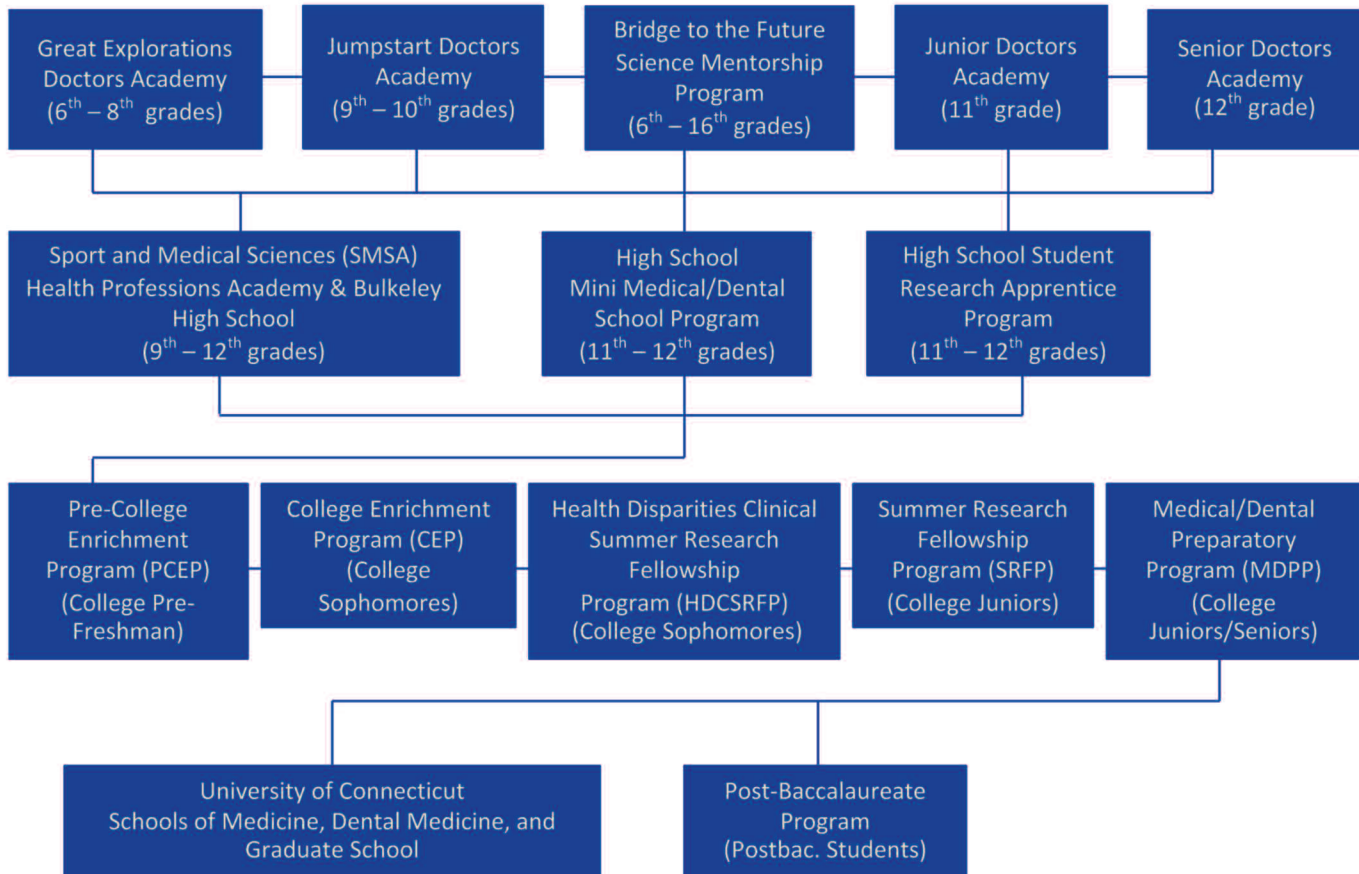
also proud of the college Aetna HPPI pipeline participants who have been accepted to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine here at UConn.

This academic year, we have continued to strengthen the pipeline by continuing to mentor undergraduate students at the UConn Storrs and Greater Hartford campuses. We have also continued to work closely with the UConn Chapter of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students and the John & Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars at the Storrs campus and the UConn Greater Hartford Campus Medical Society. The department's continued presence at local universities, as well as regional and national conferences has been instrumental in recruiting the best and brightest talents to the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine.

This year has been very fulfilling and I am excited about what next year holds. I thank the UConn Health community for welcoming me to the department. I would also like to thank the faculty and staff at UConn Health for their continued support of the Aetna HPPI pipeline participants. A special thanks goes to Dr. Stacey Brown, Dr. Yvonne Grimm-Jorgensen, and Kevin McLaughlin for their continued support of the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program, the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 2, and the Pre-College Enrichment Program, respectively. We are also very grateful to the medical, dental, and graduate students who have graciously given of their time to mentor middle school, high school, and college students in areas of professional development and preparation for college and health profession schools.



# Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pipeline



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## Congratulations to...

### **Kafi Charles, D.M.D.**

*Dentist, Dental Student, Mentor*



**D**r. Kafi Charles graduated from the UConn School of Dental Medicine in May 2015.

Originally from Sangre Grande in Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Charles moved to New York at the age of 9 where she graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, NY. She enrolled at Stony Brook University in Long Island, NY where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science in May 2010. She enrolled at the UConn School of Dental Medicine during the fall of 2010.

Dr. Charles explained that she did not consider a career in dental medicine until her third year in college. “My friend was interested in dentistry and she invited me to a meeting to have pizza.” It was a meeting of the pre-dental society and she eventually stayed for the entire meeting. That meeting sparked her interest and she decided to shadow her dentist. She loved the experience. She later participated in a Gateway to Dentistry Program during a two week period over the winter break at Rutgers.

Dr. Charles became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs through the Medical/Dental Preparation Program Track 1 Dental. At the end of her junior year in college, she participated in this DAT preparation program which also gave her the opportunity to meet many of the faculty here. She described this as one of her best experiences. “I made great friends that summer that I am still close with today.” She said they studied all summer together and when the program ended, they would call each other. Although they all went to different dental schools, they have remained in contact with each other.

During her time at the UConn School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Charles was actively involved in the Student National Dental Association and many of the activities sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs such as the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference, Upward Bound Conference, ConnCAP Health Professions Conference,

and student panels. She also served as mentor to the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy participants.

Dr. Charles is currently completing a general practice residency at Stony Brook University. She would like to specialize in pediatric dentistry in the future. She plans to open a practice in the US and also in her hometown in Trinidad and Tobago where she hopes to serve a diverse population.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making her dream a reality, Dr. Charles responded, “My two most influential people would be my mother and Dr. Arteaga.” Her mom is her rock. She is always encouraging her to think outside the box and constantly reminds her, “When things don’t go as planned it’s not the end of the world it just means better things are coming.” She described Dr. Arteaga as a mentor, student advocate and someone who always goes above and beyond her job requirements all in service to the students.

She would like to thank and express her gratitude to the following people: Dr. Arteaga, Dr. Hodge, Dr. Hurley, Dr. Dhingra, Dr. Albert, Dr. Grimm, Dr. Harrison, and Dr. Hand for all their encouragement and help throughout all her years at the UConn School of Dental Medicine.

She leaves the following words of advice and encouragement to the younger generation of students interested in the health professions: “I would like to tell them to surround themselves with like-minded people; because when the hard times hit those will be the people that will help you make it through. My second piece of advice is to pay it forward, always remember that you did not get where you are today without help.”

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## Congratulations to...

### Sadiya Thermidor, M.D.

*Physician, Medical Student, Mentor*



**D**r. Sadiya Thermidor graduated from the UConn School of Medicine in May 2015.

In 2006, Dr. Thermidor graduated from Baldwin High School in Long Island, New York. After graduation, she enrolled at Penn State where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Immunology and Infectious Disease with a minor in Health Policy and Administration in May 2010. She enrolled at the UConn School of Medicine during the fall of 2010.

Dr. Thermidor became involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity through the UConn School of Medicine Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Chapter. During her first year of medical school, she became the vice president of SNMA. As vice president, she volunteered for several activities sponsored by the department, such as the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference, Upward Bound Conference, ConnCAP Health Professions Conference, and the SNMA-Doctors Academy Mentoring Program. While attending medical school, Dr. Thermidor also mentored the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Doctors Academy participants for three years. She describes her best experience as working with the participants of the Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program and the ConnCAP Health Professions Conference. During both conferences, she enjoyed teaching students how to suture because it was a hands-on activity and all the participants seemed to be having fun suturing the pigs' feet. She explained that the activity allowed her to utilize her skill set and to highlight different aspects of being a physician that many people may not think about. Dr. Thermidor further explained, "I also like having the ability to answer questions that the students had, be it about school, life, or anything they could really think of."

Dr. Thermidor is currently completing her Internal Medicine Residency at the Stamford Hospital-Columbia University. Her future plan includes specializing in intervention cardiology and working with an underserved adult population, especially in places that have a large immigrant population. She would also like to return to Haiti and help set up a catheterization lab and help expand the technology there.

When asked to recognize the most influential people who contributed to making her dream a reality, Dr. Thermidor responded, "My mom, my dad, and my older sister. My mom because even when I was experiencing difficulty or not excelling as much as I could, she was always supporting me. She always reminded me even when you do have failures there are ways to overcome them. She passed away in May of 2008 and that served as a motivator for me. I had to keep going. My dad having gone through medical school in Haiti kept reminding me that it was going to be very difficult, but I would always be able to get through it and graduate from medical school. He kept things very realistic for me. My sister because I've always looked up to her because she is so intelligent, but beyond that when things get hard she reminds me to laugh and enjoy the experience."

She would like to thank and express gratitude to "everyone in the HCOP office, Dr. Hurley, Dr. Wrensford, Marlyn Davila, and Jan Figueroa, because even when it wasn't an HCOP or SNMA related event they have always been there to offer assistance and/or direct me to the specific individual that I needed to contact. Someone at the HCOP office is always there to help when I need guidance."

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## **Congratulations to Our Mentors and Past Program Participants - UConn Medical, Dental and Graduate School 2015 Graduates**

**Ankeet Bhatt, M.D.**

**Melissa Blake, D.M.D.**

**Jevin Carruth, D.M.D.**

**Kafi Charles, D.M.D.**

**Michael Garcia, M.D.**

**Kristan Ingraham Thomas, D.M.D.**

**Willythssa Pierre-Louis, M.D.**

**Jackeline Rodriguez-Smith, M.D.**

**Staceyann Smith, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Sadiya Thermidor, M.D.**

**Ashley Wiltshire, M.D.**

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## **Health Career Opportunity Programs Medical/Dental Student 2015 Bridge Mentoring Award**



**Melissa Blake, D.M.D.**



**Kafi Charles, D.M.D.**



**Staceyann Smith, M.D., M.P.H.**



**Sadiya Thermidor, M.D.**

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs 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 2015 recipients were: Melissa Blake, D.M.D., Pediatric Dental Residency, SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY; Kafi Charles, D.M.D., General Practice Residency, SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY; Staceyann Smith, M.D., Pediatric Residency, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, PA; and Sadiya Thermidor, M.D., Internal Medicine Residency, Stamford Hospital/Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Stamford, CT.



# John & Valerie Rowe Scholarship Recipients



**Drs. John and Valerie Rowe.**

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs provides John & Valerie Rowe Scholarships in the form of book awards to Senior Doctors Academy students from the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy who will enroll as freshmen at the University of Connecticut. John D. Rowe, MD and Valerie A. Rowe, PhD are longtime donors to UConn, supporting students and institutional advancement. The Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Endowment has helped hundreds of students from underrepresented populations succeed in UConn's undergraduate, medical, and graduate programs through scholarships, academic, and experiential opportunities. Dr. John Rowe is a professor of health policy and management at Columbia University and former chairman and CEO of Aetna, Inc. He previously served on the UConn Board of Trustees and the UConn Health Board of Directors. Dr. John Rowe was awarded the Carole and Ray Neag Medal of Honor for his remarkable contribu-

tions to medicine and UConn Health in 2012. Dr. Valerie Rowe is a retired clinical associate professor at the Graduate School of Education at Fordham University. "Jack and Valerie Rowe understand that the gift of education transforms lives. We are immensely grateful for their investment in the prestigious Rowe Scholar program, which has assisted dozens of talented students from underrepresented backgrounds succeed at UConn," said Joshua R. Newton, president and CEO of the UConn Foundation.

The 2015 John and Valerie Rowe Scholarships were awarded to Anika Bennett, I'Jazz Muhammad, Eli Peters, McKenzie Rosemond, and Inti-Hiyari Scanlon. The scholarships were awarded to each recipient by Dr. Marja Hurley, professor of medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery, associate dean for Health Career Opportunity Programs, and founding director of Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative, and Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, chief executive officer, UConn Health and executive vice president for Health Affairs. Anika Bennett and I'Jazz Muhammad have both been accepted into the UConn Honors Program as Rowe Health Professions Scholars.



**Scholarship Recipient and Rowe Honors Scholar: Anika Bennett**



**Scholarship Recipient and Rowe Honors Scholar: I'Jazz Muhammad**



**Scholarship Recipient: Eli Peters**



**Scholarship Recipient: McKenzie Rosemond**



**Scholarship Recipient: Inti-Hiyari Scanlon**

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## Congratulations to the Senior Doctors Academy Graduating Class of 2015!



**Kitsha Alvarado**  
*University of New Haven*



**Anika Bennett**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Joanna Jones Coleman**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Jeromi Cuadros**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Jordan Davis**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Steven Gomez**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Joseph Johnson**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Aysha Khan**  
*Wesleyan University*



**Noel Martin**  
*University of Massachusetts*



**Tijaie Mitchell**  
*University of Saint Joseph*



**Aisha Morgan**  
*University of Saint Joseph*



**I'Jaz Muhammad**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Muhammed Niang**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Eli Peters**  
*University of Connecticut*



**McKenzie Rosemond**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Briana Sailor**  
*Norfolk State University*



**Inti-Hiyari Scanlon**  
*University of Connecticut*



**Amaal Sugulleh**  
*Central Connecticut  
State University*



**Stacey-Ann Wallen**  
*University of Connecticut*



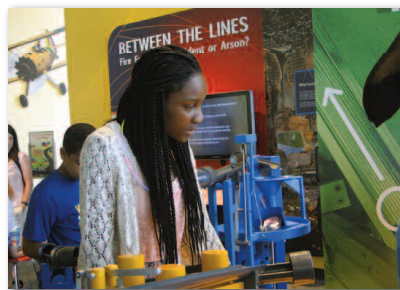
**Jasmin Williamson**  
*University of Saint Joseph*



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# 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 and 10, Junior and Senior Doctors Academies) took enrichment trips to the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Hartford Stage, and the UConn Storrs campus. The Great Exploration students also visited the UConn Health campus and the Connecticut Science Center.

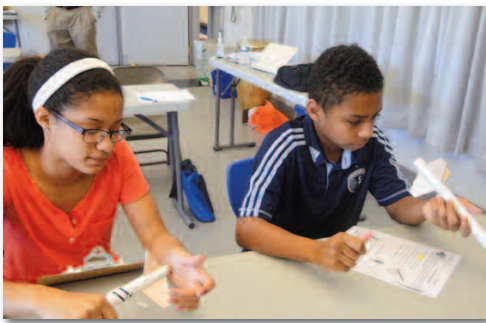


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## Great Explorations

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 195 students who participated in the Great Explorations Program in 2014-2015 were enrolled in one of seven middle schools: Jumoke at Hartford Conservatory, Jumoke SMART Academy, Kennelly, CREC-Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, West Middle 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 UConn Greater Hartford Campus. During the summer of 2014 there were a total of 27 students participating in the summer component. A total of 22 students participated in the 30 week academic year component of the program. This included 18 of those who participated in the summer.



## Rocket Launch



## 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 Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy consists of the Jumpstart 9 and 10 programs and the Junior and Senior Doctors Academies. 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, bio-

medical 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 UConn Greater Hartford campus. The summer and academic year programs are designed to advance students' academic skill levels in math, science and English. 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 106 students participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy during the 2014-2015 academic year.



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## 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 UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Topics include molecular biology, pharmacology, cardiology, oncology, and dental medicine. Eighty-one Connecticut high school juniors and seniors participated in the 2015 program.

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.

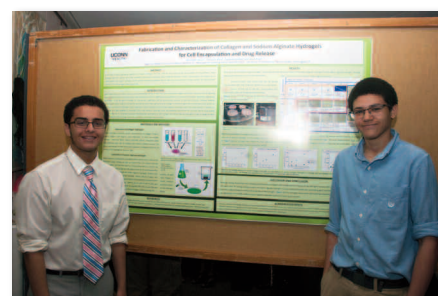
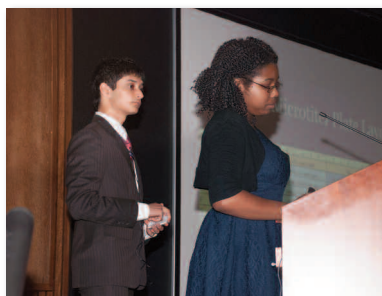


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## High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program

Twelve students had the opportunity to be a part of a research team and learn laboratory techniques in the 2015 High School Student Research Apprenticeship Program. As part of the 2015 program, five students commuted daily to Central Connecticut State Univer-

sity and seven 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.



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## Epidemiology

The Epidemiology Program, a series of five classes, 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, associate professor, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health and Dr. Richard Stevens,

professor, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health, the program provides an introduction to general epidemiology as well as descriptive, applied, and analytical epidemiology and screening. Eleven 11th and 12th graders attended sessions at UConn Health on four occasions and Drs. Wetstone and Stevens visited SMSA on one occasion.



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## Teens as Teachers

The UConn School of Medicine, Principles of Clinical Medicine (PCM) course 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 seven students from MPTPA participated in the program last year. Under the leadership of Dr. Stacey Brown, director of community based education in the UConn School of Medicine, the participating adolescents are given health education workshops and training prior to their participation in the PCM course.



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

One hundred 9th and 10th grade students from Sport and Medical Sciences Academy participated in the 2014-2015 College Science Partnership Series sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Martin, chair of the Department of Biomolecular Sciences at Central Connecticut State University, students participated 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 who did not.

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## Pre-College Enrichment Program/Biomedical Engineering Bridge Program



**Aysha Khan**  
*Student Speaker for the Pre-College Enrichment Program*

The Pre-College Enrichment Program is a five-week residential enrichment program primarily for incoming students at UConn. 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, 14 students participated in an academic track in collaboration with the UConn School of Engineering Bridge Program



at Storrs. All Pre-College Enrichment Program participants along with 14 Bridge Program participants also engaged in numerous enrichment activities at UConn Health including the Clinical Skills Lab and a tour of the Center for Regenerative Engineering.

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## College Enrichment Program



**Julise Marsh**  
*Student Speaker for the  
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 in pre-medical/pre-dental courses. Two

students participated in this program this past summer. The program is held at the UConn Storrs campus. 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.

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## 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 2015, 19 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. All of the participants completed a clinical research project and presented a poster with their results at the end of the program.

**The community partners who participated in the 2015 program were:**

- Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation
- The Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity (Saint Francis)
- North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Connecticut
- Family Life Education
- Hartford Dispensary
- Connecticut Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
- Hartford Department of Health & Human Services
- Hispanic Health Council
- YWCA New Britain-STRIVE Program
- UConn Health's Center on Aging and Department of Community Medicine and Health Care

Expansion of the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program for the 2015 summer was made possible by the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Health Equity award.





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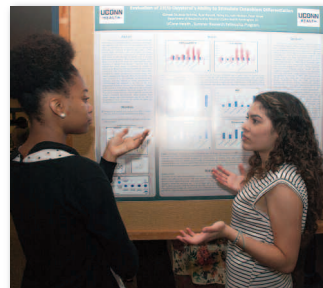
## Summer Research Fellowship Program

The Summer Research Fellowship Program is a 10-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 2015, a total of 14 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 to clinical experiences. At the end of the summer, each student gives a poster presentation of their research results during a special research symposium.

aged to apply. Students devote approximately 30 hours per week on a research project and 10 hours per week to clinical experiences. At the end of the summer, each student gives a poster presentation of their research results during a special research symposium.



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## Medical/Dental Preparatory Program

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program students are selected from various universities throughout the United States to work on academic skills to prepare for medical school or dental school admission. Participants of the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 1 prepare for either the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) while the participants of the



Medical / Dental Preparatory Program Track 2 take courses in the basic medical sciences to prepare them for the first year curriculum of medical and dental school. A total of 48 college students and recent college graduates participated in academic classes, guest lectures, test taking strategies, and other enrichment activities at the UConn Health campus during the six-week summer 2015 program.



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## Parental Seminar Series

The Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative's 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 are then tailored to their needs. The 2014-2015 Parental Seminar Series included a college admissions panel which included Caroline McCall, admissions officer for UConn, Greater Hartford Campus; Carlos Soler, assistant director for the Office of Recruitment & Admissions at Central Connecticut State University, and

Kimberly Bornstein, assistant director-First Year Admissions, University of Saint Joseph. They discussed college financial aid and the admissions process. Jane Berkowitz, executive director of Educational Partnerships, Kaplan K-12 & College Prep, provided information on the PSAT, SAT, and ACT academic exams. The Parental Seminar Series also included presentations on kidney diseases by Dr. Wilner Samson, chief medical officer, Community Health Services, Hartford, and on stress management by Dr. Thelissa Harris, board certified community physician in geriatric psychiatry and psychosomatic medicine in Hartford.



**Dr. Wilner Samson presenting on kidney diseases.**



**Dr. Thelissa Harris presenting on stress management.**

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## Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

The 2015 annual Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference was held on Saturday, April 11, with approximately 220 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 Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, the UConn Chapters of the Student National Medical Association, the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association, and the John and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Fund sponsored this year's conference.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Andrew Scatola, a UConn School of Medicine Class of 2012 graduate, and internal medicine resident at UConn Health, spoke to the students about his personal journey through medical school. Enrichment activities for high school students included presentations on research careers by Keshia Ashe and Matthew Harmon, graduate students in the Center for Regenerative Engineering at UConn Health; Dentistry by Dr. Flavio Uribe, Post Graduate Program Director and Orthodontic Clinic Director at UConn Health; and Cardiology by Dr. Peter Schulman, professor of Medicine and director of Cardiology Fellowship, Calhoun Cardiology Center 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, associate professor, Division of Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery, associate dean for Students, UConn School of Dental Medicine, along with UConn dental students, presented a dental forensic hands-on workshop for high school students. Additionally, high

school students had the opportunity to participate in an Embryology Lab led by Dr. Caroline Dealy, associate professor, Center for Regenerative Medicine and Skeletal Development, Department of Reconstructive Sciences, UConn Health, along with graduate 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 Dr. Richard Zeff, assistant dean of Admissions, UConn School of Medicine and professor of Immunology, 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. Also included in the day's activities was a college session on the new MCAT exam led by Caitlyn Ahlberg, a Kaplan MCAT expert.

For college students specifically interested in dental medicine, the Dental Impressions Program led by Dr. Sarita Arteaga, associate clinical professor, Reconstructive Sciences, UConn Health, held a series of information 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 UConn Schools of Medicine and 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.



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## Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference – Keynote Speaker –



**Andrew Scatola, M.D.**

Andrew Scatola, M.D. was born and raised in Yorktown Heights, New York not too far outside of New York City. Except for a brief hiatus, he has lived in Connecticut since 2003. Dr. Scatola has been involved with the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs since he first started college at Wesleyan University in 2003. It

was through his participation in numerous activities each summer through this department that Dr. Scatola developed a life long interest in medicine. He was a participant in the Pre College Enrichment Program in 2003, the Clinical College Enrichment Program in 2004, the Summer Research Fellowship Program in 2005, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program Track 1 MCAT Prep in 2006.

Dr. Scatola also served as an admissions facilitator and Road to Success Panelist for the college portion of numerous Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring

Program Conferences. Initially thinking that he would do basic science research while studying neuroscience in undergrad, Dr. Scatola was exposed to clinical medicine through the UConn School of Medicine Migrant Farm Workers Clinic, which helped him realize that his true calling was being a physician, and got him on the path that he is currently on today. After graduating Wesleyan in 2007, Dr. Scatola worked in a community health center through the AmeriCorps, Community HealthCorps Program, where he led sessions on diabetes care, lifestyle, and dietary change and management, as well as prenatal care classes. After completing the AmeriCorps Program, he attended the UConn School of Medicine, during which time Dr. Scatola continued to stay involved in the Migrant Farm Workers Clinic and was involved in policy and advocacy initiatives through the American Medical Student Association. Upon receiving his medical degree in 2012, Dr. Scatola stayed at UConn Health for his residency in internal medicine and will be staying on for an extra year as one of the chief medical residents prior to applying for a fellowship in cardiology.



**Dr. Andrew Scatola receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.**



# Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference

## – Conference Speakers –



Dr. Peter Schulman presenting on cardiology.



College Admissions Panel presenting on the college admissions process and financial aid.



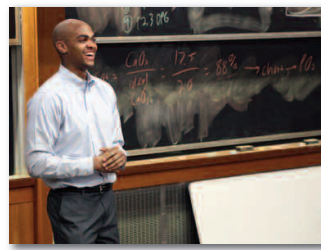
Dr. Caroline Dealy (*right*) with graduate students Sandra Lopez, Melissa Carr-Reynolds, and Patience Meo Burt (*left to right*) and Niles Dos Santos (*far right*) presenting on embryology.



Dr. Richard Zeff presenting on medical school admissions.



Members of the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association presenting on dentistry.



Graduate student Matthew Harmon presenting on research careers in STEM.



Dr. Dale Matheson presenting on anatomy.

## – Conference Participants –



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# Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative 2014-2015 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 (Aetna HPPI) Doctors Academy on May 20, 2015 in Keller Auditorium at UConn Health. 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. This Academic Year Closing and Recognition Ceremony marked the culmination of a very positive academic year enrichment experience for middle and high school students from the Greater Hartford area who participated in the Great Explorations Doctors, Jumpstart Doctors, Junior Doctors, and Senior Doctors Academies. Remarks were given by Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, chief executive officer, UConn Health and executive vice president for Health Affairs, UConn Health. The keynote speaker was Douglas McCrory, State Representative and Deputy Majority Leader, 7th Assembly District - Hartford, who congratulated the

students and encouraged them to continue on their paths towards becoming health professionals and to acknowledge the individuals in their lives who have helped them pave the way toward success.

Student reflections were given by Giovanni Jones, a Jumpstart Doctors Academy participant, Jordan Davis, a Senior Doctors Academy participant and Class of 2015 graduate, Joshua Crittenden, a freshman at UConn and a past participant of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy, Shanicka Reynolds, a junior at UConn and a past participant of the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy. Mr. Wayne Williamson, a parent, also gave an inspiring speech on the positive effects the programs have had on his daughters and son who have participated in the Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy. All of the Senior Doctors Academy graduates are currently attending a four-year college with twelve of them enrolled at UConn. Anika Bennett, I’Jazz Muhammad, Eli Peters, McKenzie Rosemond, and Inti-Hiyari Scanlon were each awarded the John and Valerie Rowe Scholarship.



**State Rep. Douglas McCrory receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.**



**Doctors Academy graduating class of 2015 with Dr. Granville Wrensford (left), Dr. Marja Hurley (right), and Dr. Andrew Agwunobi (far right).**

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# Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2015 Program Closing Ceremony

Nearly 250 students graduated from summer enrichment programs offered by the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative (HPPI) at UConn Health on [July 31, 2015].

The students, ranging in age from adolescent to young adult, took part in offerings designed to introduce them to, engage them in, and prepare them for the scholastic track needed to pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, research, nursing, pharmacy, and other health fields. The program seeks to create an educational pipeline for students from populations that historically are under-represented in these disciplines.

“I learned that knowledge of both medicine and culture are intertwined in providing the best care, and that there is no substitute for empathy,” says Hamza Zakir, a UConn undergraduate who took part in the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program. “But most importantly, the program helped motivate me from within. It helped me really believe that I can make the difference. For that I can’t be more thankful.”

Zakir worked with Akorfa Adobor, a junior at Quinnipiac University, this summer, producing the poster presentation “Engaging Patients in the On-Site Training and Assessment of MyCare Patient Portal: Internal Medicine.”

Adobor says her experience “exposed me to the realities of modern health care, as well as the complexity of medicine. The scientific part, although largely emphasized, is only part of the picture. A good physician must be a humanitarian and an excellent communicator. Medicine is an art form that I hope to someday practice.”

The Aetna Foundation, a longtime supporter of the Health Career Opportunity Programs (HCOP) at UConn Health, recently awarded an additional \$80,000 to expand the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program.

**250 Graduate  
from  
UConn Health  
Summer  
Enrichment  
Programs**

Another health disparities fellow, Rebecca Zapf-Pedraza, says shadowing physicians showed her income is no barrier to being able to deliver top-quality care to all patients.

“I learned ways in which physicians impact the lives of their patients outside of the office, such as prescribing vegetables and food coupons as well as making sure DCF is properly caring for the children it protects, and [I] am now even more driven to pursue an M.D./Ph.D.,” says Zapf-Pedraza, who plans to graduate from Central Connecticut State University in December with a biology degree.

The Summer Research Fellowship Program is what enabled Oluwatoyin Akinnusotu, a UConn undergraduate going into his senior year, to spend this summer working in the neuropeptide laboratory of professors Elizabeth Eipper and Richard Mains.

“I was able to create a hypothesis, test it out with data, and see what my conclusion was,” Akinnusotu says. “I really liked the problem-solving aspect of the entire process in my research. And it’s helped me build my resume and my application. Research is a very important aspect of the medical school application. [This fellowship] also helped me form connections here at UConn Health.”

The first-generation American, son of Nigerian parents, aspires to be a neurosurgeon, and is considering UConn for medical school.

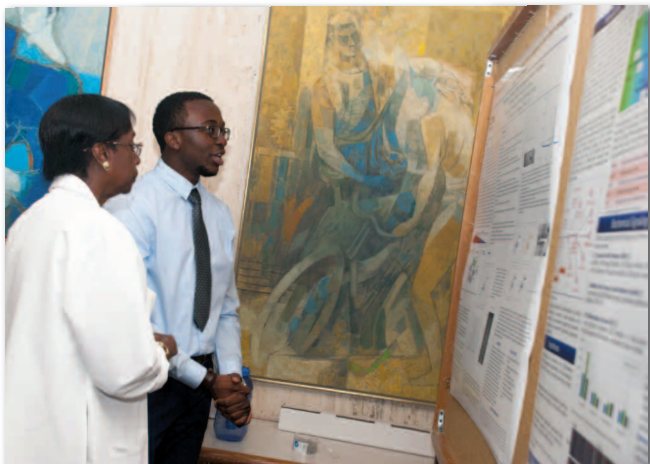
“This type of research exposure is so crucial to our mission,” says Dr. Marja Hurley, associate dean for Health Career Opportunity Programs and Aetna HPPI founding director. “We are grateful to the Aetna Foundation and all our funding sources for their continued support.”

Hurley says the Health Career Opportunity Programs have sent more than 400 participants to medical school, dental school, graduate school, or other health professional schools.

*(Excerpt of article written by Chris DeFrancesco, UConn Health)*



# Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2015 Program Closing Ceremony



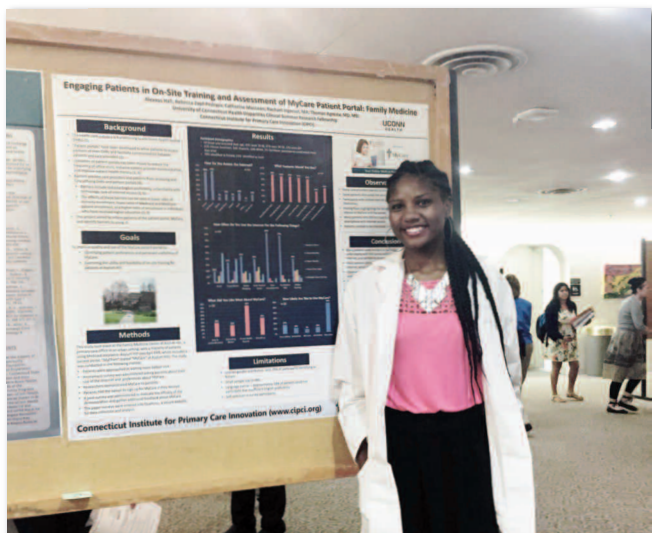
Frank Monney, a senior at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, shares his findings from the Summer Research Fellowship Program with Dr. Marja Hurley. “I’ve always wanted to be a doctor, but I didn’t believe in myself enough to do that. But as soon as I came here I then decided I was going to do what I really, really want to do, which is be a physician. This program gave me some amazing clinical exposure, and some amazing time in research,” Monney says.

*(Photo by Janine Gelineau/UConn Health)*



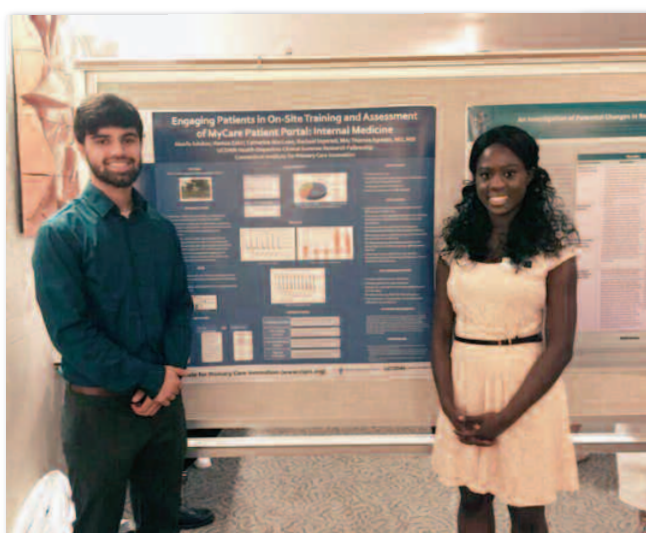
Oluwatoyin Akinnusoto describes the research he did as part of the Summer Research Fellowship Program.

*(Photo by Janine Gelineau/UConn Health)*



Alexus Hall, a University of Saint Joseph junior, says the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program “has allowed me to meet so many great people and make so many different connections. I am very happy and pleased that I spent the summer participating in such a wonderful program that I know will benefit me in the future.”

*(Photo provided by Alexus Hall)*



The Aetna Foundation, which provided an additional grant to expand the Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program at UConn Health, makes it possible for undergraduates like Hamza Zakir (*left*) and Akorfa Adobor to get a head start on their pursuit of careers in health care.

*(Photo provided by Mukhtar Suleiman)*

*(Excerpt of article written by Chris DeFrancesco, UConn Health)*

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## Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Summer 2015 Program Closing Ceremony – Keynote Speaker –



**Dr. Jamil Harp**

**J**amil Harp, M.D., is a native of New Haven, Connecticut. After graduating with honors from Spelman College with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, she earned her medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Class of 2004. Dr. Harp completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine, where during residency she received the Morehouse School of Medicine Obstetrics and Gynecology 2008 Resident Research Award based on her research on Resident Education in Newborn Male Circumcision. Her research on medical and resident education has been presented at national conferences. Most recently her research has been presented in 2014 at the APGO/CREOG Conference.

In May 2015 her research on “Gender Differences in Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerk-

ship Evaluations” was presented at the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Conference. Continuing her medical education and training, Dr. Harp completed a fellowship in advanced gynecology with a focus in urinary incontinence, pelvic floor dysfunction and robotic surgery, with Southeastern Gynecologic Oncology. She currently is an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and works within the Division of Pelvic Floor Surgery. She is the course director of the pelvic anatomy course. Dr. Harp is also the clerkship director for medical student education in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department.



**Dr. Jamil Harp (center) receives recognition from Mr. Chris Montross, head of Corporate Community Investments/Employee Programs, Aetna Community Relations (far left), Dr. Bruce Liang, dean of UConn School of Medicine (left), and Dr. Marja Hurley (right).**

Dr. Harp is active in Morehouse School of Medicine activities such as a secondary interviewer for the medical school admissions committee, medical student advisor program, and resident advisor program. She also serves as a lecturer for the Masters of Science and Medical Science (MSMS) Program.



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## Faculty Recognition Award Recipient

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs recognized Peter Schulman, M.D., F.A.C.C., professor of medicine and director of the Cardiology Fellowship Program at UConn Health during the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative 2015 Summer Program Closing Ceremony. The



Dr. Peter Schulman receives recognition from Dr. Marja Hurley.

Faculty Recognition Award honors faculty members for their excellent service in academic inspiration and service. The 2015 award was presented to Dr. Schulman for his exemplary service and dedication to students in the Health Professions Partnership Initiative.

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## 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 collaboration 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 year's event took place on October 23, 2014, at the UConn Health cam-

pus. 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 local Latin singer Marissa who performed two songs from her album "Ayer y Hoy." The night ended with Brianna Munoz, third-year dental student and a certified Zumba instructor, who led the audience in a Zumba dance.





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## Student National Medical Association – UConn Health Chapter Culture Shock Event

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 year, Culture Shock was held on November 7,

2014, in UConn Health’s Keller Auditorium. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to Interval House, Hartford, CT. Interval House serves women and children who experience physical and/or psychological abuse from a domestic or intimate partner. Some of the services they offer include: 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, support groups, court and legal advocacy, community education and awareness, and programs for children. Women and children leave the program empowered and supported to achieve higher education and careers. Interval House has multiple locations and support women and children around the state.



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## Spelman College Pre-Health Students Visit UConn Health

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs has played an integral role in recruiting diverse students from around the country including those from historically black colleges and universities to the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Through a partnership with Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga, the department hosted undergraduate pre-health students from Spelman interested in applying to the UConn School of Medicine or Dental Medicine, the Ph.D. in Biomedical Science Program, or the com-

bined M.D./Ph.D. program. During their visit on March 12, 2015, the students learned more about the Aetna HPPI pipeline programs, heard presentations from deans and program directors in the UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine and Graduate School. The Spelman students also took a tour of the UConn Health campus, including the research labs and the Clinical Skills Lab, and met with current medical and dental students.



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## Professional Development Workshop for Hartford High School Science Teachers

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs has developed a series of professional development workshops for high school science teachers in the Hartford public school system. The purpose of the workshops is to provide teachers with additional resources to enhance their science curricula to help prepare their students for future college-level courses and careers in science and medicine. This year's workshop, held on Feb-



ruary 17, 2015, focused on current careers and current topics in biomedical science. Presentations were provided by UConn Health faculty and graduate students on topics ranging from the skeletal system in human health to induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) models for human disease to lifespan and caloric restriction. The day's activities also included exhibits and hands-on demonstrations, clinical skills, and tours of UConn Health.



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## Student National Medical Association – UConn Health Chapter Hosts MAPS Day

The Minority Association of Pre-medical Students (MAPS) is the pre-medical undergraduate and post-baccalaureate section of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). The UConn MAPS chapter at Storrs aims to increase diversity within the health professions and ultimately eliminate health disparities. The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs aids the MAPS chapter in the goals of providing knowledge, resources, programs, and skills to pre-medical students so that they are competitive applicants for medical school.

The UConn SNMA Chapter hosted the undergraduate members of the UConn MAPS chapter for an enrichment visit at UConn Health on March 27, 2015. MAPS participants heard presentations from UConn Health faculty and staff about UConn School of Medicine, the medical school application process, and financing a medical school education. MAPS members also interacted with current medical students who spoke about their personal journeys to medical school. The day's activities ended with a tour of UConn Health, including the Clinical Skills Lab.



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## West Middle School Enrichment with the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student National Dental Association – UConn Health

On February 20, 2015, the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs hosted 40 7th and 8th grade students from Hartford's West Middle School for a day of enrichment focused on dental medicine at UConn Health. The enrichment workshops were facilitated by Dr. Sarita Arteaga in the School of Dental Medicine and members of the UConn Chapter of the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association. The day commenced with

greetings from Ms. Morgan Ferrarotti, director of Corporate Social Responsibility at The Hartford. Throughout the day, the middle school students heard from a panel of current dental students, participated in a jeopardy game on dental hygiene and oral health, and visited the Grasso Dental Simulation Lab for hands-on activities to learn more about dentistry. This event was funded by The Hartford.



# Acknowledgement of Funding Sources

Aetna Foundation

Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program,  
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John and Valerie Rowe  
Health Professions Scholars Program

The Hartford

University of Connecticut Foundation  
Friends of the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs

UConn Health

William and Alice Mortensen Foundation

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## 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 23, 2016**

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring  
Conference

**May 18, 2016**

Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy Closing  
Ceremony

### Application Deadlines

**March 1, 2016**

Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program  
Medical/Dental Preparatory Program  
Summer Research Fellowship Program

**April 1, 2016**

High School Student Research Apprentice Program

**May 20, 2016**

Aetna HPPI Great Explorations  
Aetna HPPI Doctors Academy  
Pre-College Academic Enrichment Program

**For more information about the Pipeline  
Programs listed below, visit us at:  
[hcop.uchc.edu](http://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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