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Trinidad & Tobago**

2013

Year Four: BHDC Summer Internship 2013

In 2004, the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, in partnership with the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President created the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center to reduce health disparities among minorities and new immigrants in Brooklyn, New York through clinical and community based research, education, outreach and training. Through its community engagement core, the Center, funded by the National Institutes of Health – National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) has implemented an engaging health disparities summer internship program for high school students for the past four years.

The Brooklyn Health Disparities Summer Internship Program (HDSIP) provides a community engaged health disparities summer course for students recruited from the Institute's Health Science Academy, a three-year after-school science enrichment program. In addition to didactic training on health disparities, students conduct research projects in collaboration with members of participating community-based organizations (CBOs).

Building on the success of the previous years, 17 teenagers participated, during the month of July 2013, in the 4-week Brooklyn based internship program, designed to engage minority youth while building the capacity of CBOs to conduct Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) on health equity issues. The students were placed at eight local community based organizations and performed research projects on various topics related to the social determinants of health, resulting in advocacy and policy recommendations for local decision makers. Their internship experience culminated with oral and poster presentations of their projects to local leaders and legislators at the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

In June 2013, I was awarded a Fulbright Research Specialist Fellowship to develop and implement a five-week summer internship program on climate change and public health in the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. This program, conducted in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), Faculty of Science & Technology, builds upon an earlier Fulbright Fellowship, which was awarded to the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health's CEO, Dr. Ruth C. Browne. Similar to the summer internship program in New York, the climate change and public health program in Trinidad & Tobago included community-based research projects conducted at local organizations. 18 students conducted seven research projects on the impact of the environment on public health. Their research findings were highlighted in oral and poster presentations at a closing ceremony held at the UWI in August 2013. This publication features the projects of both the US and Trinidad & Tobago based summer projects.

Marilyn Fraser-White, MD
Deputy Director, AAUH
Fulbright Research Specialist, 2013



Urban Health Chronicles

Funded by:

The National Institutes of Health
National Institute for Minority Health
and Health Disparities
(Grant: 1P20MD006875)

Editor: Marilyn Fraser White, MD

Designer: Catherine Herrera

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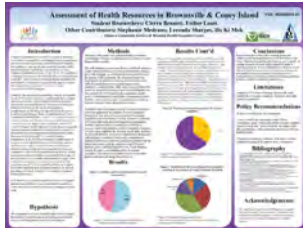
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Access to Health



The Social Determinants of Health impact health care delivery as well as health outcomes. Having adequate access to care involves access to health information and the resources necessary to make informed decisions regarding one's health care. Some of our students worked in collaboration with members of participating organizations to research various issues related to access including lack of insurance, access to alternative farming, and inadequate services for persons with disabilities.

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Assessment of Health Resources in Brownsville and Coney Island
 Students: Cierra Bennett, Esther Louis
 CBO: Diaspora Community Services
 Supervisors: LeRonda Sharpes, Stephanie Medrano
 Research Mentor: Ho Ki Mok



Hydroponic Farming as an Alternative Method of Food Production in Urban Communities
 Students: Gwendolyn Etienne, Mustafa Gadelrab
 CBO: CAMBA
 Supervisors: Lucille Santana, Nadie Stubbs
 Research Mentor: Kulpreet Kaur



Oral Health Disparities in Low-Income Brooklyn Neighborhoods
 Students: Chioma Onianwa, Jean Poulard
 Supervisors: Merlyn Dorsainvil, Audrey Neff, Tawny Lowe, Betty Boyle-Duke
 CBO: NYU College of Nursing Mobile Health
 Research Mentor: Dr. Preenu Varkey



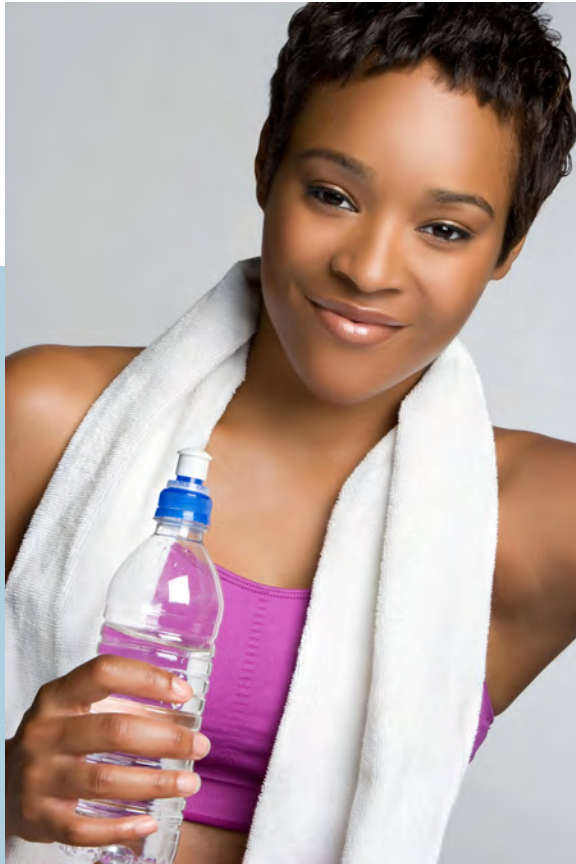
An Assessment of Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities (Flatbush Ave. Brooklyn)
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 Supervisors: Michael Godino, Gabriela Amari
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Hydroponic Farming as an Alternative Method of Food Production in Urban Communities



(L - R) Student interns Gwendolyn Etienne and Mustafa Gadelrab and Research Mentor Kulpreet Kaur



Behavioral Health

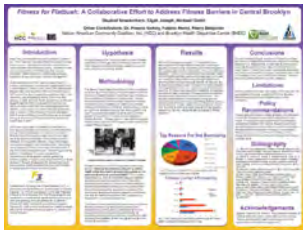
Our students had a great opportunity to explore behavioral health choices related to various issues and health topics of importance to our community. Student researchers interviewed a diverse group of individuals in their attempts to obtain information on perceptions and attitudes to topics related to HIV/AIDS, physical fitness, early sexual activity and hookah smoking. Their recommendations for improving health outcomes focused greatly on the need for increased awareness and strict policies that would empower individuals to be advocates for their health.

summer2013

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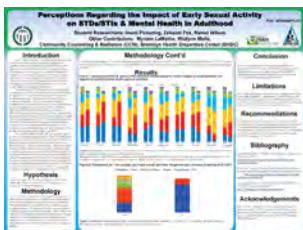
Educating and Empowering Communities on HIV/AIDS: Emphasizing the Importance of Prevention and Testing
Students: Joshua Germain, Kenyatta Smith
CBO: African American Coalition Against AIDS
Supervisor: Ese Oghenejobo
Research Mentor: Widlyne Melle



Fitness for Flatbush: A Collaborative Effort to Address Fitness Barriers in Central Brooklyn
Students: Elijah Joseph, Michael Onitiri
CBO: Haitian American Community Coalition
Supervisors: Fuljens Henry, Pierry Benjamin
Research Mentor: Dr. Preenu Varkey



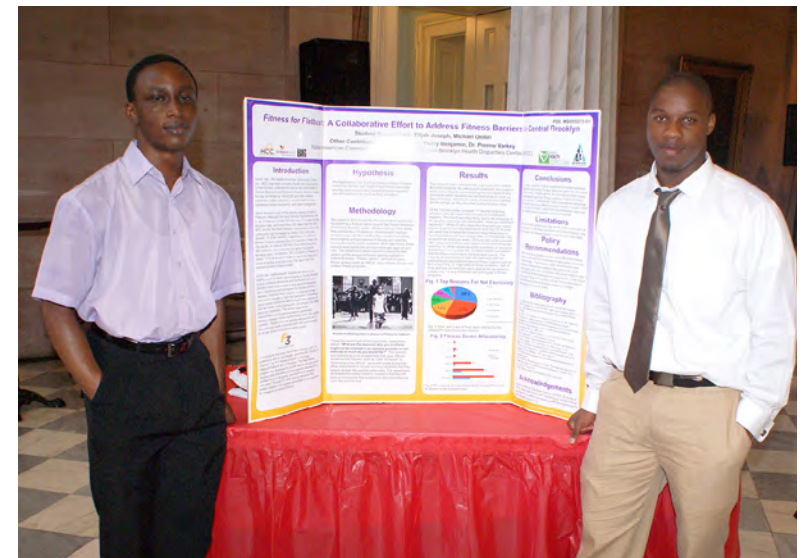
Perceptions of Hookah Smoking on Health
Students: Ghazi Ahmed, JiaMin Chen
CBO: Arab American Family Support Center
Supervisor: Maha Attieh
Research Mentor: Kulpreet Kaur



Perceptions Regarding the Impact of Early Sexual Activity on STDs/STIs & Mental Health in Adulthood
Students: Imani Pickering, Ramel Wilson, Zekaiah Fox
Supervisor: Myriam Lamothe
Research Mentor: Widlyne Melle

Haitian American Community Coalition

Fitness for Flatbush: A Collaborative Effort to Address Fitness Barriers in Central Brooklyn



(L - R) Student interns Michael Onitiri and Elijah Joseph

Trinidad & Tobago Summer Internship 2013

The *Summer Internship Programme* on Climate Change & Public Health introduced secondary school students to public health and climate change issues and tools needed to effect change, inspiring them to pursue a career in public health.

The Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health conducted this program in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine's Campus (Trinidad & Tobago). The Institute's successful Trinidad-based Social Determinants of Health Internship Programme for Caribbean Secondary Students, conducted in 2012, was adapted to focus on the impact of climate change on public health in Trinidad and Tobago. The collaborative program development process resulted in a five-week community engaged program to provide training, public health career exploration and community-based internships in local organizations for current or recent secondary school students. These students were exposed to activities related to the following:

- Information on health and climate change; risk management
- Public health surveillance and opportunities to use climate information
- Core concepts in public health and epidemiology
- Emergency preparedness
- Systems for surveillance and support and interagency cooperation
- Environmental justice

This internship culminated with presentations at a closing ceremony on August 16, 2013.



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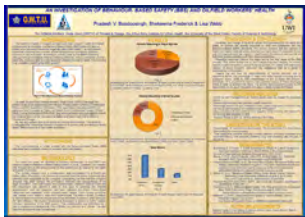


An Investigation into Adverse Effects Associated with the Use of Rain Versus River Water

Students: Keon Mitchell, Tiffany Richards, Ricardo Sampson

NGO: Toco Foundation

Supervisor: Wendy Diaz



An Investigation of Behaviour-Based Safety (BBS) & Oilfield Workers' Health

Students: Pradesh V. Boodoosingh, Shekeema Frederick, Lisa Webb

NGO: Oilfield Workers' Trade Union

Supervisor: Ozzi Warwick



An Investigation of the Awareness of Marine Litter Policies Among Coastal Residents of the St. Patrick's & Victoria Districts

Students: Jheuel Carter-Guy, Rinelle Cozier, Diana Persad, Samantha Raman

NGO: Caribbean Youth Environment Network

Supervisor: Riana Gonzales



Dr. Bernice Dyer Regis
and OWTU Intern
Shekeema Frederick

Special Thanks to:

Principal Professor Clement Sankat, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Wayne Haute, Deputy Principal Professor Rhoda Reddock and her staff, especially, Ms. Lynette Joseph-Browne for their support. Thanks to Professor John Agard and Dr. Judith Gobin for hosting the Fulbright Fellow, and the staff of the Science & Technology Faculty, especially Ms. Paulette Belfonte. Presenters: Ms. Kathy-Ann Lewis, Dr. Bernice Dyer-Regis, Mr. Omar Mohammed, Ms. Lynette Joseph-Brown, Professor Rhoda Reddock, Dr. Rohan Maharaj, Dr. Judith Gobin, Professor John Agard, Dr. Eldonna Boisson, Dr. Elaine Joseph, Dr. Azad Mohammed, Mrs. Dennise Demming, Mr. Rubadiri Victor, Dr. Alan Williams, Mrs. Ginelle Yearwood-McDonald, Mr. Salorne McDonald, Mr. Gregory Sloane-Seale, Ms. Monica Jordan. Special thanks to Ms. Myrna Ellis (Coordinator).



(L - R) Student Interns
Naimah Mohammed
and Enzo Kinsiona,
and Alexander McLaren
Public Affairs Officer
(US Embassy)



Sponsors:

Fullbright Research Specialist Program, United States Embassy, University of the West Indies Office of Research, Office of the Principal, the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.

Special Acknowledgements:

This internship would not have been possible without donations from: Amanda Abbey, Patricia Baines, Rhonda Braxton, Debra Carey, Choice Health Care Consultants, Lisa Derrick, Pamela Devereux, Jan Figueira, Melvina E. Forde, Katherine Gardner, Gartner - Matching Gift Center, Janaera Gaston, Yvonne Graham, Diahann Green, Susan Haber, Rita Hanes, Dolores Hedding, Sheryl Heron, Marjorie Horsey, Diana Koepfer, Gaytra Lathon, Hope Mason, Faye Mitchell, Carol Morrison, Lena Mullings, Lynn Paxton, Shirley Poole, DJuanna Satcher, Robin Scott, Susan Shelton, Marcia Smith, Samuel Tucker, Jr., Nancy Victor (C), Ann Vladeck, Brenda Williams, Stacey Wright, Terri Wright.



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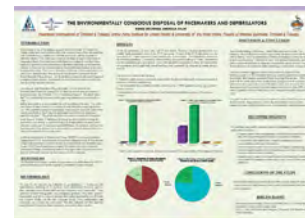
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The Environmentally Conscious Disposal of Pacemakers & Defibrillators
Students: Renee Browne, Sherissa Rajh
NGO: Heartbeat International of Trinidad & Tobago
Supervisor: Farouk Khan Hossein



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A Partnership between the SUNY Downstate Medical Center,
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& the Brooklyn Borough President's Office
Health Disparities Summer 2013 Internship Program

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NYU College of Nursing

Mobile Health Van Program

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Brooklyn Health Disparities
Internship Program
Student Interns
and
Research Mentors
2013



BHDC and Community Engagement Core

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Moro Salifu, MD
Principal Investigator

Marilyn Fraser-White, MD
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Engagement Core

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Pamela Straker, Ph.D
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Office of the Brooklyn
Borough President

