Evers-Williams Institute Strengthens Focus to Address the Social Determinants of Health

A more comprehensive approach is needed to eliminate health disparities. This approach requires focusing on social factors, such as education, income, housing, and poverty, which shape an individual's health. Collectively, these factors or known as the social determinants of health. According to the World Health Organization, “the social determinants of health are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.”

Governor Bryant Proclaims
April 6-12, 2015 National Public Health Week in Mississippi

Public health leaders from “The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi”, including Jackson State University, Mississippi Department of Health, University of Mississippi Medical Center, and Mississippi Public Health Association meet with Governor Phil Bryant as he proclaims this week National Public Health Week. READ MORE

New Report Focuses on How Academic Health Centers and Community Health Partners Can Collaborate To Address Barriers and Challenges of Social Determinants of Health

Released by the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC), the new report Academic Health Centers and the Social Determinants of Health: Challenges & Barriers, Responses & Solutions grew out of a stakeholder meeting to identify barriers to improving population health and propose collaborative responses and solutions to addressing social determinants of health. Because the social determinants of health play such an important role in overall health and well-being, this report serves to reaffirm AAHC’s commitment to enhancing the ability of academic health centers to respond to these critical factors in their education, research, and clinical programs. READ MORE

“Humanity's greatest advances are not in its discoveries – but in how those discoveries are applied to reduce inequity. Whether through democracy, strong public education, quality health care, or broad economic opportunity – reducing inequity is the highest human achievement.”

~ Bill Gates

Look to Your Neighborhood for Health Solutions

Not long ago, America viewed health as something that belonged primarily in the medical world, set apart from all other facets of daily life. Today, we know better. Thanks to a wealth of research and a better understanding of how interconnected health is with income, education, housing and myriad other factors, the country has the ability to create a culture of health that would dramatically improve the lives of millions of people.

Yet the challenge before us is nearly as great as the opportunity that awaits us. Too many critical players, particularly non-profits, still view these issues through yesterday's lenses: Health care. Education. Transportation. Income. Housing. Jobs. Diet. Exercise. These factors belong in one sentence rather than strung along as a series of isolated fragments. READ MORE

National Minority Health Month Events

Evers-Williams Institute Celebrates National Minority Health Month

April Events

Health Care Access Resources Help Desk
Date: April 20, 2015 · Time: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. · Location: Evers-Williams Institute
Mary Crump, RN, MSN, MPH will speak with Jackson Medical Mall patrons regarding available health and health care resources.

Health Disparities Journal Club
Date: April 21, 2015 · Time: 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. · Location: UMMC School of Nursing, Room A140a
Facilitator: Kimberlly Stringer, MD, MPH, FAAP, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Linda F. Pendleton, MSW, LCSW, Licensed Clinical Social Worker at UMMC’s Division of Child Development and Behavioral Pediatric

Community Discussion in Partnership with the Mississippi State Department of Health
“Unnatural Causes: “In Sickness and In Wealth”
Date: April 21, 2015 · Time: 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. · Location: UMMC Conference Center, Dunleith Room
Facilitator: Dr. Corey Wiggins, Director Mississippi Economic Policy Center

Community Resources Help Desk
Date: April 27, 2015 · Time: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. · Location: Evers-Williams Institute
Annie R. Baker, MPPA will speak with Jackson Medical Mall patrons regarding available community resources.

A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON THE UNNATURAL CAUSES: “IN SICKNESS AND IN WEALTH”

This series explores how the distribution of power, wealth and resources shape opportunities for health through the lives of a CEO, a lab supervisor, a janitor, and an unemployed mother.

For more information please contact:
Georgette Powell at 601-206-1540 or Georgette.powell@msdh.ms.gov
Annie R. Baker at 601-815-9005 or abaker@umc.edu
After almost a decade of existence, the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation is now poised for forward movement. The Foundation recently embraced a 5-year strategic plan that involves establishing a state-of-the-art cancer-oriented facility situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, one of the poorest regions in the state, as well as, one of the most medically underserved areas in the nation. The Foundation was given a $300,000.00 bond by the state of Mississippi to support the construction of the foundation's headquarters. The building will be built on approximately five acres of land on Highway 8 in Ruleville, Mississippi, Ms. Hamer’s hometown. A cancer tag, bearing the name of the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation, has also been approved by the Mississippi Legislature and is awaiting signage by Governor Bryant. All proceeds from the cancer tag will help with sustainability of the foundation’s headquarters.

As a state-wide community-based organization, the Foundation honors the memory of Ms. Hamer who died in 1977 due to delayed diagnosis of breast cancer, coupled with inadequate access to medical care. The Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation is committed to preventing cancer and those who are suffering from cancer by increasing awareness of cancer risk factors; enhancing the quality of life of those affected by cancer; and establishing a public agenda for prevention and early detection of cancer in Mississippi, particularly among residents of the Mississippi Delta. For more information, visit the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation.


The Socioeconomic Gradient in All-Cause Mortality for Women with Breast Cancer: Findings from the 1998 to 2006 National Cancer Data Base with Follow-Up through 2011

Because racial differences in breast cancer mortality between white and Black women emerged in the 1980s, there has been a major research effort to document associations with diagnosis and treatment disparities. A recent study analyzed the association between socioeconomic status (SES) and all-cause mortality among women diagnosed with breast cancer before and after controlling for insurance status, race and ethnicity, stage, treatment modalities, and other demographic and hospital characteristics. Insurance, race, and stage at diagnosis explained about two-thirds of the SES mortality disparity. READ MORE

School Testing Frenzy Highlights Inequities and Has Health Implications, Too

Over the past few weeks, children across our nation have completed the first round of a new set of standardized assessments. The results, released next year, will be used to determine if educators have been successful in aligning local curriculum with national Common Core Standards. Parents argue that testing has done nothing to improve achievement but served only to limit instructional time, line the pockets of large testing corporations and cause student anxiety, frustration and disengagement. The most worrisome aspect of the testing frenzy lies in the implication for collective health. **READ MORE**


When the Food Runs Out

Families coming in for their child’s annual checkup at Providence Milwaukie Hospital now take an extra minute to answer a couple of questions. The questions are: “Within the past 12 months we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more,” and “Within the past 12 months, the food we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more.” About 20 percent of the families in the past two months have responded that at least one of those statements are “often” or “sometimes” true, according to Charlotte Navarre, a nurse clinician at Providence Portland. As part of a new statewide initiative called Screen and Intervene, individuals screened positive for “food insecurity” will be connected with resources to help in the short and long term. **READ MORE**


A Nutrition Prescription for a Healthier America

Our country is facing an epidemic: Approximately one in three adults and one in six children are obese in the United States. For the first time ever, we have a generation of kids who may not be as healthy or outlive their parents. While many individuals and families understand the principles of prevention and the importance of a well-balanced diet, the specifics are not always known. Furthermore, it is often difficult for people to sort through all of the information available about nutrition and food choices as well as to purchase products that are both affordable as well as healthy. **READ MORE**


Bridging the Gap between Hospital and School: An Initiative of Meyer Children’s Hospital

Meyer Children’s Hospital, in Florence, Tuscany, Italy, started an initiative which bridges the gap between hospital and school, by creating a network of schools to allow hospitalized children to continue their school education. The initiative contributes to a better recovery through education, as it facilitates the process of adaptation to the school environment after leaving the hospital. The benefits are not only educational but also health related. Besides discussing and reporting on the educational development of the child, teachers are an excellent source of information for doctors, as they are in a privileged position to observe a child’s health development outside the hospital context, despite still being inside its walls. **READ MORE**

Research examining the social determinants of health has a long history in the study of African Americans. In the landmark study of African American in Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Negro, W. E. B. DuBois highlighted many of the social determinants that impact the health and well-being of minority populations. Only a relatively small segment of social scientists have applied ideas introduced by DuBois over the last century; however, they have been useful for understanding one of the leading causes of death among minority males in general and African American males in particular. A recent commentary in the American Journal of Medicine cited homicide rates among African American males as a “new American tragedy;” however, these patterns are far from new. There is a line research examining homicide/violence among African American males dating back to the 1970s and the bulk of this work emphasized factors now classified as the social determinants of health. One remedy for overstatements and inaccurate statements about minority populations is to take advantage of educational opportunities during commemorative periods like Minority Health Month. Minority Health Month is more than chronicling the problems and concerns of minority populations because it presents an opportunity for scientists and practitioners to consider ideas and approaches beyond their specialty area or training.

Executive Advisory Board Member of the Month

Jimmy Bell is a Professor Emeritus at Jackson State University (JSU) where he served for 44 years. He is the founding Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at JSU where his teaching and research activities have been recognized by criminal, juvenile and social justice advocates across the globe. Professor Bell is the founder of the National Coalition of Community Researchers, Inc., which focuses on community centered evaluation research and capacity building. He is a thought leader in community policing and has served as consultant to the National Black Police Association, as well as Black Law Enforcement in America; organizations that represent some 70,000 officers transnationally. This work has received considerable attention in the legal and lay communities as he has been cited or interviewed by journalists at The Los Angeles Times, Readers Digest, USA Today, and United State Congressional Records, and all of the major broadcast networks.

Mortality from Homicide among Young Black Men: A New American Tragedy

In 2012, an American tragedy of far greater urgency and public health importance is the alarming rate of homicide among young black men. Interracial homicide, whether the victim or the perpetrator is black, is abhorrent. Nonetheless, from the perspective of the health of the general public, the circumstances in which a young black man is both the victim and the perpetrator cause far more premature deaths.

Homicide is, far and away, the leading cause of death of young black men. In stark contrast, accidents are, far and away, the leading cause of death among young nonblack men and women of all races and ethnicities. READ MORE


Structure, Context, and Agency in the Reproduction of Black-on-Black Violence

Violence has a substantial impact on morbidity and mortality within the African-American community. While certainly providing insight into macro- and micro-level forces, existing conceptualizations of the race and violence linkage are limited. Rather than reducing race-specific violence outcomes to social-psychological or deterministic structural factors, the theoretical model we construct suggests that violence among African Americans (and other subordinated racial/ethnic groups for that matter) is best conceived of as a dynamic and emergent phenomenon, patterned by the intersection of social structure, local context, and agency. READ MORE

Explaining Racial Disparities in HIV Incidence in a Prospective Cohort of Black and White Men Who Have Sex With Men in Atlanta, GA

In a longitudinal cohort of black and white HIV-negative MSM in Atlanta, researchers described factors associated with racial disparities in HIV incidence among men who have sex with men (MSM). Relative to white MSM in Atlanta, black MSM, particularly young black MSM, experienced higher HIV incidence that was not attributable to individual risk behaviors. HIV incidence was higher among black MSM than white MSM, and highest among young (18-24 years) black MSM. In a setting where partner pool risk is a driver of disparities, it is also important to maximize care and treatment for HIV-positive MSM. READ MORE


An Era of New Possibilities: HIV Prevention for Gay and Bisexual Men

New infections among women and injection drug users are declining, people with HIV are living longer, and more people than ever know their HIV status. But one population — gay and bisexual men — is seeing infections rise, driven by increases among young gay men. Reducing new infections among gay and bisexual men, who bear the brunt of the new infections, is CDC’s top HIV prevention priority. At its heart, CDC’s mission is prevention – helping people stay healthy and avoid illness. For HIV, that means making sure that everyone at risk has access to the tools they need to protect themselves from infection. That’s why CDC is making an unprecedented investment in the implementation of PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis. READ MORE


Race in the Age of Obama: Part II edited by Marino Bruce and Donald Cunnigen

This volume is the second part of a two-volume examination of the sociological and cultural impact derivative of Barack Hussein Obama’s initial election and re-election as President of the United States. For some scholars and political pundits, the election of the first African-American president was thought to be the start of a post-racial era in the United States. His election/re-election has created a new racial dynamic within the nation. The Obama administration has faced unprecedented political challenges that have led to the deepening of racial divisions and a crystallization of multiple inequities within the country. The editors envision a volume highlighting a number of sociological themes within the following primary foci: (1) an examination of the 2012 election; (2) the intersection of racial politics with new conservative and voting rights issues; (3) the intersection of race and class with sociocultural issues; and (4) an exploration of the potential for multiracial coalitions and social movements to bring about positive structural change.

My Journey with Maya

Tavis Smiley recounts the story of his friendship with Maya Angelou that lasted for many years. In My Journey with Maya, Smiley beautifully recounts a friendship filled with conversation that began when he, a recent college graduate and a poor kid from a big family in the Midwest, accompanied the revered writer on a sojourn to Ghana. READ MORE

**Affiliate Opportunities**

**Interested in Being a Part of the Exciting Opportunities at the Evers-Williams Institute?**

One of our objectives at the Evers-Williams Institute is to collaborate with faculty, students, and other members of the internal and external community who are interested in interdisciplinary approaches to eliminate health disparities. Individuals interested in collaborative opportunities with the Institute are invited to apply for formal affiliation.

Three types of affiliations include:

- **Associate member** – UMMC faculty members
- **External members** – Collaborators from neighboring academic institutions and community-based organizations
- **Student/trainee members** – Students attending UMMC or other academic institutions

Affiliate members of the Institute will have access to individuals with: 1) content expertise in health disparities, social determinants of health, and program evaluation; 2) space for anthropometric and survey data collection; staff trained in qualitative methods (i.e., group facilitation, key informant interviews, focus groups); and 3) opportunities for student research and training experience.

If you are interested in membership affiliation, please submit your curriculum vitae (CV), resume, or statement of interest to Felicia Bowens. She can also be reached at (601) 815-9019 or by email fbowens@umc.edu should you have further questions.

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**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) has issued a funding opportunity announcement for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) grants. The purpose is to prevent and reduce substance abuse and transmission of both HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) among at-risk young adults (ages 18-24), including minority health populations. SAMHSA is limiting eligibility to MSIs because these programs have a unique ability to meet the needs of the population of focus of the program, i.e., at-risk populations, including minorities. [READ MORE]

**Application Due Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2015  
**Anticipated Total Available Funding:** $10,500,000  
**Anticipated Number of Awards:** 35  
**Anticipated Award Amount:** Up to $300,000 per year  
**Length of Project:** Up to 3 years
Upcoming Conferences

Annual Academy of Women’s Health Conference
The Academy of Women’s Health celebrates its 23rd annual Congress April 16-19, 2105 in Washington, D.C. LEARN MORE

Annual Symposium on the Social Determinants of Health
John Hopkins University, Office of the Provost, and the Urban Health Institute present Healing Together: Community-Level Trauma — It’s Causes, Consequences and Solutions April 20, 2015 from 8:30am-6:30pm. LEARN MORE

Mississippi Health Summit 2015
The 2015 Mississippi Health Summit is designed to increase collaboration and information sharing among health care professionals. The event will be held on May 1, 2015 at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. LEARN MORE

Save the Date: 7th Empowering Communities for a Healthy Mississippi Conference
May 20-22, 2015
Jackson Marriott Hotel
Pre-Conference Workshops
May 19, 2015
For more information visit www.healthyms.com/empowering

ACHA 2015 Annual Meeting
American College Health Association will host It’s a Small World Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida May 26-30, 2015. LEARN MORE

Save the Date: Mississippi Primary Health Care Association’s 28th Annual Conference
June 10-12, 2015
Hollywood Casino and Conference Center, Bay St. Louis, MS
Please visit www.mphca.com for more information.

Do you have a great idea that you would like to share?

Email us to submit content for our newsletter.