

D-CHIPP Affiliate Newsletter

DUSON Community Health Improvement Partnership Program

Partnering with the community to advance health.



D-CHIPP Director's Note

Greetings Community Partners, D-CHIPP Advisory Board Members and Affiliates! The August newsletter profiles a partner organization and affiliate both working to improve

health among vulnerable populations in our community through research and service.

Our Community Partner Spotlight for August is Durham Housing Authority (DHA). Readers will learn about the early days of DHA as well as their resident services and big plans to expand affordable housing in Durham. Faculty member Devon Noonan along with Clinical Instructor, Jean Hanson, and I have been active with DHA over the last eight years. Our work has included research on the factors that influence health of residents living in DHA communities and service through student clinical placement providing health education and screening for residents.

Our D-CHIPP Affiliate spotlight this month is Rosa Solorzano. Besides having a course load of three classes, Rosa is the Director of Recruitment and Engagement of the SER Hispano Study. Rosa's passion for improving health and wellbeing of Latino Americans and immigrants does not stop with the study, however. She is very engaged in helping to build capacity through outreach and training staff and volunteers at El Centro Hispano, the partner organization for the SER Hispano Study, so they can better respond to the needs of El Centro clients.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!



Community Partner Spotlight: Durham Housing Authority

The U.S. Housing Act passed in 1949, and in response, the Durham mayor, Dan Edwards, appointed a committee of citizens to address sub-standard housing in Durham. The committee recommended the passage of a sub-standard housing ordinance to empower the city to address poor housing and the passage of an ordinance to establish a housing authority. Shortly after, the Housing Authority of the City of Durham was established. The Housing Authority's first properties were McDougald Terrace and Few Gardens. This year marks their 70th Anniversary, of which they will commemorate in October with a variety of community events. (For updates on events, go to their website at www.durhamhousingauthority.org/)

Later changed to Durham Housing Authority (DHA), the non-profit organization strives to be the answer to gentrification and lack of affordable housing in Durham. Durham has experienced rapid growth and the expansion has not included fair access to housing all income groups. DHA recently entered into a new partnership with Durham City to increase affordable housing. Currently, there are only 400 affordable housing units downtown. The DHA Downtown and Neighborhood Plan (DDNP) will renovate DHA housing downtown and expand affordable housing by 2500 units over 10 years. As income generates from the downtown housing units, it will afford redevelopment in communities that are not as highly sought after. DDNP aims to promote housing equity and access so that all have access to affordable housing.

One of the more ambitious goals of DDNP is to tear down the current DHA offices and build new housing units that include commercial and green spaces.

DHA provides health, financial and social programs to residents designed to improve their overall

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Community Partner Spotlight cont'd

wellbeing. The Family Self-Sufficiency program helps families increase personal income. Families who meet their financial goals have the ability to make a down payment on a home, pay for college or buy a better vehicle. The DHA Resident Services Department provides residents access to education (including GED programs), job training and hiring, credit improvement, home ownership and retention, smoking cessation and other health improvement programs, as well as support for minority business ownership.

DHA has been a DUSON clinical placement site for eight (8) years (see above picture of a recent health fair) and has become a key strategic partner. DUSON faculty partnered with DHA on their health impact assessment and were asked as a member of the community to comment on the Agency's annual plan and program policies. More recently, DHA Director of Strategic Management, Ashanti Brown worked with Donna Biederman, associate professor, as a co-Principal Investigator on a research project funded by the Duke Clinical & Translational Science Institute. According to Biederman, the "findings from the project will help inform eviction prevention efforts as well as highlight the need for proper assessment and documentation of social determinants of health in the electronic health record."

Volunteer opportunities are available for those who are interested in benefiting residents living in public housing. Volunteers can conduct a drive for clothes, toys, and food. Contact [Resident Services at DHA](#) for more information.

D-CHIPP affiliates are scholars, leaders, researchers, & educators. See the publications, grants, and much more by D-CHIPP affiliates during July.

Publications 6: **Relf**, Pan, Amarasekara and Colleagues Publish Article in JAIDS; PhD Alumna Bulgin, Douglas and **Tanabe** Publish Article in Pilot and Feasibility Studies; DNP Alumna Curry, **Derouin**, Thompson, **Stevenson** and Colleagues Publish Article in Women's Healthcare; PhD Student Cebert, **Silva** and **Stevenson** Publish Article in Journal of Best Practices in Health Professions Diversity; **Hendrix** and Colleagues Publish Article in JAAPA; Carter, **Derouin** and Colleagues Contribute to Health Equity Curricular Toolkit

Grant submissions 3: **Noonan** Resubmits NIH R01 Application; **Walton** Submits Grant Application; **Walton** Resubmits NIOSH/CDC R21 Application

Grant awards 2: **Noonan** and Colleague Receive Award for CTSI Application; **Biederman** and Colleagues Receive Award from Duke Endowment

Conference presentations 5: **Felsman** Presents at ACHNE; **Randolph** to Present at American Public Health Association's 2019 Annual Meeting; **Stevenson** Presents at European Society for Human Reproduction and Endocrinology Annual Meeting; **Biederman** and Colleague Present at Local Dissemination Forum; **Biederman** and Colleagues Present at Margolis Health Policy and Management Seminar

Promotions into leadership 2: **Relf** Named Associate Director of Duke's CFAR Social and Behavioral Science Core; **Derouin** Named Director of MSN Program

Appointments to local or national leadership committees 1: **Gonzalez-Guarda** Appointed as Member of the Health Disparities and Equity Promotion Study Section; **Crego** Selected for PRIDE

News from the Center for Nursing Research

Mark your calendar for these exciting events!

We mentioned in the June D-CHIPP Newsletter that plans were in the works with the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment to bring educational sessions and networking opportunities between the two schools. The first in a three-part series of events will take place on Tuesday, September 24th at 12:00 p.m. in Classroom 1026. This Lunch & Learn will provide information about the Durham Neighborhood Compass and how researchers can use the interactive tool. Lunch will be provided. More information is coming soon!

In case you missed the announcement, a new Research Interest Group focused on Social Determinants of Health has been approved by CNR leadership. Meetings and more information will be announced soon.

Finally, the CNR will host an open house with the PhD program in the new Inter-professional Education building on Monday, September 9th in Room 4200 from 4-5:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

September 11th: "Searching for a Fix" documentary, 12 p.m., Classroom 1140

September 12th: D-CHIPP Advisory Board, 9:30 a.m., Room 3103

October 23rd: Community Partner Recognition Event, 11:00 a.m., Classroom 1103

November 2-6: [American Public Health Association Conference](#) in Philadelphia, PA (Irene Felsman & Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda presenting break out session on SER study; Schenita Randolph presenting, "Strategies for Development and Sustainability of Stakeholder Engagement in a Multi-Site Study")

November 11th: Community Health Lecture with Dr. Susan Swider, Rush University, 3:00 p.m., Classroom 1014

Submit an upcoming event for inclusion in the newsletter by the 25th of each month to dchippcoord@duke.edu

D-CHIPP Affiliate**Spotlight:**

Rosa M Solórzano,
MPH, MD

Hometown: Medellin, Colombia

Favorite food: "Platanos maduros" (sweet plantain)

Favorite thing: "Playing with dirt": caring for orchids and vegetable garden.

Favorite vacation spot: Currituck/Corolla Beach, NC and the Colombian mountains

Current research or other projects: I am currently the Director of Recruitment and Engagement for SER Hispano Project under the direction of Dr. Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda.

Courses teaching this or next semester / our taught recently: Medical Spanish and Cultural Competence at DUSON; Exploring Medicine in Honduras course and outreach as an interdisciplinary course for DUSON and Duke SOM; Spanish Health and Cultures for undergrads at Duke Trinity College of Arts and Science and Small group leader for Essentials for Professional Development at the Master in Biomedical Science at Duke School of Medicine.

Community partners: El Centro Hispano

What she likes best about working in community health: I like the opportunity to work within the community seeking mutual benefit. Working directly with El Centro Hispano's staff, we have been able to build upon everyone's strengths. As an example, as an academic institution, we have provided mentoring and training for outreach workers. El Centro has given us the expertise of working directly with the community. We could have not been able to be successful in our recruitment for the SER Hispano Project if we didn't have the close collaboration from El Centro and the participants.

An Additional Note...: I think the role of getting to know the community we work with is key. Collaboration and community involvement are critical for success. In order to succeed in our journey of community health partnership, we ought to work together, build upon our strengths where each part has something unique and special. The results are priceless. "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much"- Helen Keller.

