

PATIENTS' Voices

a newsletter from

The PATIENTS Program

at the University of Maryland
School of Pharmacy



Message from the PATIENTS Program Team

We're excited for spring here at the PATIENTS Program. The beginning of the year has been as busy as ever for the team, and we're looking forward to continued productivity and even more community and partner engagement as we move into the next quarter of 2018.

In this issue of PATIENTS' Voices, we'll take a look at what's new with some of the research projects currently underway, including the Learning Health Care Community study, funded by Merck & Co Inc. Investigator Studies Program. If you missed the December 2017 issue of this newsletter, take a look at an article on the [University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy website](#) for details.

We'll also introduce you to Chinwe Ebonine who joined the PATIENTS team as Program Manager in June 2017. Before coming to PATIENTS, Chinwe managed the Community Health Promotion Council (CHPC) for the U.S. Army Public Health Center as a Health Promotion Officer at Ft. Meade. She brings with her a wealth of experience and a positive, can-do attitude.

Be sure to check out pictures from the engagement team's recent participation in community health events, as well as new videos on the [PATIENTS YouTube channel](#) that focus on topics like seniors aging at home, and supporting mental health among adolescents.

As always, we welcome your feedback on how to make this newsletter a better resource for you. Feel free to email us at patients@rx.umaryland.edu to submit your comments, suggestions, and ideas.

Meet the PATIENTS Team

Chinwe Ebonine, MPH
Program Manager, The PATIENTS Program, University of Maryland,



Chinwe Ebonine joined the PATIENTS team as Program Manager in June 2017. During her first nine months, she's hit the ground running, managing patient engagement for the RadComp (short for Radiotherapy Comparative Effectiveness) study, where researchers are working to better understand the patient perspective and the outcomes most meaningful to patients who received one of two different radiotherapy treatment for breast cancer.

Before joining the PATIENTS team, Chinwe managed the Community Health Promotion Council (CHPC) for the U.S. Army Public Health Center as a Health Promotion Officer at Ft. Meade.

Beforehand, she was stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground as their Health Promotion Program Assistant.

[Read more](#)



Projects and Publications Update

Learning Health Care Community Project Moves Forward, Hosting a Pilot Focus Group in West Baltimore

Principal Investigator: Daniel C. Mullins, PhD
(University of Maryland, Baltimore)

Researchers for the Learning Health Care Community project held a pilot focus group on

Monday, February 26th, in preparation for the formal focus groups scheduled for this spring and summer. Hosted at the St. Matthew's Community Long-Term Outreach Center on West North Avenue, the pilot focus group allowed researchers from The PATIENTS Program to receive feedback on everything from the setting and environment to meeting logistics to whether the questions resonated and made sense. There were a total of 15 participants from the community, five of whom participated in prior one-on-one interviews with researchers.

"We received very useful feedback about everything, especially how to better frame some of the questions so that they're easier to understand," said Nabil Natafqi, PhD, PATIENTS team member and Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. "The participants openly shared their concerns about the current state of health care delivery in the community. We hope that future participants are as comfortable so that we can continue this valuable dialogue." The team will use the feedback to make changes to the questions before submitting to the Learning Health Care Community advisory board and the IRB for review and approval. One-on-one interviews and focus groups will begin in April and run through mid-summer 2018 with the target of 150 total participants.

About the Learning Health Care Community Study

Funded by Merck & Co. Inc. Investigator Studies Program, "Co-developing Sustainable Learning Health Care Communities (LHCC) using Community-Based Participatory Research", aims to increase collaboration between patients and health care systems and promote greater health equity across the local area. The Learning Health Care Community model shifts from relying on natural outgrowths of patient interactions with providers and health systems at large, to a deliberate, proactive focus on co-learning practices based on trust and engagement by all community stakeholders.

For more information on the Learning Health Care Community study or to participate in this project, please contact the PATIENTS team at 410.706.3839 or patients@rx.umaryland.edu.

Project HEAL Continues Training Classes for Baltimore City Pastors

Principal Investigator: Cheryl L. Holt, PhD (University of Maryland, College Park)

The PATIENTS Program's BJ Shaneman kicked off the second round of training for Project HEAL on March 2nd at Whitestone Baptist Church in west Baltimore.

Ten attendees, including the four community health advisor trainees, Whitestone's senior pastor Sr. Dr. Elmore E. Warren, Jr, and Project HEAL team members, were on hand for the seven-hour, in-person training. The community health advisor trainees will complete the remainder of the course through self-paced computer training modules by the end of March, culminating in final presentations and a certification breakfast at Whitestone Baptist Church. Ms. Shaneman plans to conduct the third training in April at Central Church of Christ in west Baltimore.

About Project HEAL

The Project HEAL (Health through Early Awareness and Learning) aims to help congregations educate their communities about the importance of early cancer detection. Working with churches and health ministries, Project HEAL trains community health advocates to become certified to teach cancer education workshops to church members, using a group session format. The program focuses on breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer (three of the main causes of cancer deaths in African Americans) while community health advocates learn how to use scripture and religious/spiritual themes to teach the health message. Visit the [Project HEAL website](#) for more information about the program.

PATIENTS Team Collaborates with Cancer Research Advocacy Group to Promote RADCOMP Study

Principal Investigator: Justin E. Bekelman, MD (University of Pennsylvania)

PATIENTS team members Chinwe Ebonine and Anna Hung collaborated with cancer research advocacy group FORCE (Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered) to expand the promotion of the RADCOMP study. The team hopes to increase awareness of the study and reach prospective participants through its recent inclusion on FORCE's website. FORCE is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by hereditary breast, ovarian, and related cancers. RADCOMP is now featured on [FORCE's Featured Research page](#).

For more information about the RADCOMP study, visit the [PATIENTS website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

PATIENTS Team Members Co-Author an Article Published in the Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, PATIENTS Program Director, and Hillary A. Edwards, MPH, Assistant Director of Program Management and Evaluation for The PATIENTS Program, are two of five authors of an article recently published in the Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research.

"Transitioning from learning healthcare systems to learning health care communities" takes readers from the evolution of the learning health care system model to a new model with a vision that incorporates a deliberate focus on health care beyond a healthcare system, based on a collaboration from multiple community sectors to have the greatest impact on individual, community and population health.

[Read the full article](#)

Partner Spotlight: Mount Lebanon Baptist Church

Location: 2812-14 Reisterstown Road,
Baltimore, MD

Website: <http://www.mtlebanonbaptist.org>

Phone: 410.669.1800



PATIENTS Program partner, Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, was recently awarded a grant through the MECU Neighborhood Events Grants program to fund the Greater Mondawmin Community Health Fair and Cookout in June 2018. The PATIENTS team looks forward to offering support for the event through coordinating the availability of health screenings and other wellness information.

"We are excited about this opportunity to share with our family and friends in the Mondawmin community. There will be an array of resources made available including health screenings, fresh produce, fruits and vegetables, and fun activities for the entire family," said Dr. Franklin Lance, Mount Lebanon Baptist Church. "Mark your calendars to join us in the month of June and look for more information in the coming weeks. We extend an enormous thank you to MECU and the PATIENTS program as we look forward to serving together in the community."



Press Play: Featured Video on the PATIENTS YouTube Channel



Greenbelt Assistance in Living

In 2000, there were just over 35 million Americans aged 65 or older. By 2030, according to the US Census Board, there will be about 70 million Americans aged 65 or older, making this age group almost 20% of the total US population. And with longer lives come different challenges for this group and their families as they navigate the options for aging at home, instead of in an institution.

In this video, Lori Simon-Rusinowitz, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health and the team at Greenbelt Assistant In Living, talk about the importance of the providing support and assistance to elderly and disabled residents in the Greenbelt, Maryland community as they continue to live and age at home.

Adolescent Well-Being and Mental Health

Adolescent mental health issues have been linked to everything from increased drug use among teens to behavioral problems, as well as low academic achievement.

Kristen Rawlett, PhD, FNP, BC, an assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, has a study underway to evaluate the needs for adolescent well-being and mental health. Dr. Rawlett tells her story about authentic community research in West Baltimore, describing how her team engaged teachers, parents, and students to learn what was needed to support strong adolescent mental health.



PREVENT CLOT Study

After trauma and broken bones, blood clots can cause severe complications - even death. Funded by a grant from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the PREVENT Clot Study aims to learn more about the best way to prevent blood clots by comparing the effectiveness of the two drugs most commonly used to prevent this from happening.

Eric Kettering, Senior Instructional Technology and Dissemination Specialist for the PATIENTS Program, collaborated with the team at [Major Extremity Trauma Rehabilitation Consortium](#) to produce a patient resource video about the study.

[Watch the video](#)



In the Community

Event Spotlight: The 2018 Carroll Lecture Holding Fast to Dreams-Higher Education and Society 50 Years After Dr. King's Assassination

Date and Time: Thursday, April 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Laubacher Hall, St. Mary's Seminary & University, 5400 Roland Avenue,
Baltimore, MD 21209

Contact: Rebecca Hancock, rhancock@stmarys.edu, 410.864.4202

[Download the flyer](#)

Join the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council and the St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute as they host this year's Carroll Lecture, with speaker Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

The Seminary's 2018 address, which marks the 50th years since Dr. King's assassination, will reflect upon the changes within and current state of higher education in the past 50 years, both in Baltimore and in our nation.

Dr. Hrabowski has been UMBC president since 1992, and is a consultant on science and math education to national agencies, universities, and school systems. He was appointed by President Obama to chair the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, and named 100 Most Influential People in the World by TIME (2012) and one of America's Best Leaders by U.S. News & World Report (2008).

About the Event Sponsors

[The Central Maryland Ecumenical Council](#) is a Baltimore-based Christian organization whose mission is to "make the 'Beloved Community' both visible and real...advocating on behalf of any environmental, racial, social, and/or economic issue which does not affirm the imago dei of all persons regardless of race, gender, ethnic background, or socio-economic status."

[St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute](#) (EI) was founded in 1968 by St. Mary's Seminary & University, America's oldest Roman Catholic seminary, in cooperation with ecumenical leaders. The Ecumenical Institute encourages people of all denominations to explore theological studies in a serious, open-minded, and supportive environment.

Recent Community Engagement Highlights



On Saturday, February 24th, PATIENTS set-up a table and spoke with community members at the Charm of a Million Hearts Fair, hosted by the American Pharmacists Association Student Chapter at the University of Maryland School. The event, held at Lexington Market, provided patient education information and health screenings services including BP, oral cancer, HIV, HepC, pneumonia, and influenza immunizations.




PATIENTS was also on site for the Centro Sol Annual Health Fair on Saturday February 24th to provide health information to community members. The event, co-organized by Centro SOL, John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle School, and The Judy Center at John Ruhrah, supports the Centro SOL mission to "Promote equity in health and opportunity for Latinos by advancing clinical care, research, education, and advocacy at Johns Hopkins and beyond in active partnership with our Latino neighbors." Visit the Centro SOL website for more information about upcoming events.

For the second consecutive year, PATIENTS exhibited at the B'more Health Expo which took place at The Baltimore Convention Center Saturday, March 3rd. The free event, designed to connect attendees with community resources to help them reach their health and wellness goals, offered screenings, exhibits, and activities.



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Our Vision

Patients and stakeholders are the head, inspired, and empowered to co-develop patient-centered outcomes research.

