ECHO-Chicago is made possible by the generous support of our many donors (past and present):

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About ECHO-Chicago

The Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO) is an innovative program to build primary care capacity and for workforce development to increase use of best practice protocols at community health centers through advanced training for community providers in managing common chronic diseases.

The University of Chicago Medicine’s ECHO-Chicago program, is the longest running urban ECHO program in the world. Using high quality plug and play videoconference technology, ECHO-Chicago brings together experts from the University of Chicago and elsewhere to partner with community-based healthcare providers to engage in case-based learning and disease management for communities with limited resources. Through ECHO-Chicago, community based primary care providers gain the advanced skills required to deliver complex care directly to patients in the communities where they live. As a result, patients receive evidence-based care for complex, chronic diseases in their medical home delivered by the provider that knows them best - their primary care provider. They no longer need to wait for an appointment with a specialist or travel to a major medical center for care. This leads to more cost-effective care, with proven cost savings.

The Power of ECHO-Chicago

ECHO-Chicago offers:
- Capacity building training focused on the most common, complex chronic diseases
- Each session includes a 20 minute didactic to review the latest best practices and recommendations
- Series are comprised of 10-15 weekly sessions, roughly 60 minutes each

Participants share and discuss challenging cases during each session

Subject matter experts provide guidance on challenging cases

Participants support each other by sharing challenges and successful strategies

The ECHO-Chicago network includes 800+ providers from 180 health care sites and 70 organizations

No cost to participate

High-grade videoconferencing technology eliminates the need to travel

Earn AMA PRA Category 1™ credits with no travel

AMA PRA Category 1™ credits available

Join a robust network of community health providers

Gain skills in advanced chronic disease management

Get support in managing challenging patient cases
CHO-Chicago showed tremendous growth in 2016-17. Over the course of the year, 368 health care providers from 51 different community health centers across the Chicagoland area participated in an ECHO-Chicago series. This represents an astounding 48% growth in participants from last year. Additionally, nearly one-third of participants enrolled in series across more than one disease area over the course of the year. Our participants included 239 health care providers and 48 clinical sites that were new to the ECHO-Chicago network.

We also saw a significant increase in the series completion rate. In FY17, nearly three-quarters of all participants completed the ECHO-Chicago series (attended at least 75% of session), compared to 54% in FY16. The number of continuing medical education credit hours that were awarded through ECHO-Chicago participation also nearly doubled (1,444 in FY17 compared to 740 in FY16). These numbers reflect the strong engagement of participants in our series.

This year marked the inaugural year for the Complex Pediatric Asthma series, which launched in September 2016. The series will be growing over the next few years with funding support from the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). Over the course of the year, ECHO-Chicago has also worked to expand its work in both Geriatrics and Hepatitis C. In the area of geriatrics, ECHO-Chicago developed and piloted series tailored to the needs of skilled nursing facilities. Similarly, to further support community health clinics in managing the various needs of their hepatitis C patients, an ECHO-Chicago series was developed to provide capacity building for case management teams. We are also ecstatic to announce the launch of the new Opioid Use Disorder series, which launched in September 2017.

ECHO-Chicago would not be where it is today without your contributions. Thank you for your continued interest, support, and collaboration. We look forward to our continued work together in the coming year and beyond.

Sincerely,

Tamara Hamlish, PhD
Executive Director

Daniel Johnson, MD
Director
FY17 Participation at a Glance

83% of participants show an increase in self-efficacy post-series compared to baseline

73% of participants completed the series (attended at least 75% of sessions)

32% of participants enrolled in more than one ECHO-Chicago series over the year

1,444 CME hours awarded to ECHO-Chicago participants

51 organizations

122 health care sites

368 primary care providers and health professionals

= 5 units

= new to ECHO-Chicago in FY17
An estimated 32% of children in the U.S. are overweight or obese, with even greater prevalence among children living below the poverty level. Childhood obesity is linked to a number of serious risks and conditions and the problem has received widespread attention in recent years. Unfortunately, effective solutions are scarce. Recommendations for primary care providers put forth by the American Medical Association (AMA) were divided into subcategories that include reviewing lifestyle habits, family history, physical examination and laboratory testing.

Facilitators: Goutham Rao, MD; Andrea Kass, PhD

ADHD is one of the most common chronic childhood disorders in the U.S., with rates estimated at 9% for children ages 3-17. Poverty increases a child’s risk considerably, with greater prevalence of ADHD among children living below the poverty level. Disparities in children’s access to care for ADHD are linked to race and ethnicity. African American boys living in poverty are the most likely to be referred for mental health services and among the least likely to receive these services.

Facilitator: Cesar Ochoa-Lubinoff, MD

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Dr. Ochoa-Lubinoff is the Section Chief of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics at Rush and Medical Director of the Rush Neurobehavioral Center. He completed his medical degree at the Cayetano Heredia University in Peru and his residency at UIC. He is board certified in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics and is an elected member of the IL AAP Executive Committee. He has clinical expertise in ADHD, autistic spectrum disorders, medication management of disruptive behavior disorders, and team-based evaluation of preschool and school-age children with neurodevelopmental disorders and disruptive behaviors.

Facilitator Spotlight

Cesar Ochoa-Lubinoff, MD

Pediatric ADHD Series

Hepatitis C (HCV) has surpassed HIV/AIDS as the leading chronic virus infection leading to death in the United States. An estimated 5.2 million Americans are infected with HCV, however, only 50% have been tested and an even smaller percentage receive appropriate care. Early detection and treatment in the primary care setting can contribute to lower rates of morbidity and mortality, reduce the risk of disease progression, and maximize the benefits of emerging treatment options.

**Facilitators:** Andrew Aronsohn, MD; Elizabeth Boyle, FNP; Tanmayi Gupta, PharmD; Maggie H. Kaufman, MA, MPH; Jill Wolf, LCSW

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**New in FY17: Geriatrics for Skilled Nursing**

As the population ages, more patients will need rehabilitative, short-term and long term care. Post-acute facilities are well positioned to provide care for these patients, but often do not have the knowledge and confidence to manage difficult cases. FY17 included a pilot for a Geriatrics series targeted to skilled nursing facilities. The goal of the series was to build capacity among direct care workers to create a shared network that can lead to improved quality of care and increase the capacity of providers working in these facilities, ultimately improving the health of patients receiving care there. The curriculum was tailored to be specific to what nursing staffs at these facilities are encountering and what their role is in the care for these patients. The facilitation team included two primary care physicians working in post-acute care facilities and two nurses from skilled nursing facilities. Thirteen staff from 5 skilled nursing facilities participated in the pilot.

**Facilitators:** Lauren Gleason, MD; Tia Kostas, MD; Monica Long, RN; Tanisha McSpadden, RN

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**Presentations**

Hamlish T and Long T. Building Primary Care Capacity in Illinois with ECHO-Chicago. Presented at the Illinois Primary Health Care Association Annual Meeting; October 6, 2016; St. Louis, MO.

Hamlish T. Building Community Capacity to Screen, Treat, and Cure Hepatitis C. Presented at the Alliance of Chicago User Group Meeting; October 2016; Chicago, IL.
HCV has surpassed HIV/AIDS as the leading chronic virus infection leading to death in the United States. Early detection and treatment in the primary care setting can contribute to lower rates of morbidity and mortality, reduce the risk of disease progression, and maximize the benefits of emerging treatment options. The ECHO-Chicago curriculum in Hepatitis C (HCV) Case Management & Clinic Capacity Building is designed to expand community health center capacity for managing patients with HCV. The training series provides best practice recommendations for strengthening existing HCV programming or initiating new HCV workflows.

**Facilitators:** Maggie H. Kaufman, MA, MPH and Jill Wolf, LCSW

Opioid use disorder (OUD) has been identified nationally as an epidemic, with death from overdose now the leading cause of death in people under 50, and rates continuing to climb. Opioid addiction and overdose death has similarly risen in Cook County, and the Chicago Department of Public Health has identified OUD as a top priority. There is an urgent need to increase the number of health care providers trained in evidence based treatment options for patients with OUD.

**Facilitators:** Beth Dunlap, MD, George Weyer, MD, Kimberly Watts, LCSW, MSW, CADC

National data suggest that over half (53.5%) of the 66.9 million adults with hypertension do not have their blood pressure under control. Hypertension is a leading risk factor for cardiovascular disease and uncontrolled (or resistant) hypertension contributes to increased risk for heart attacks, stroke, heart failure, and chronic kidney disease. Patient factors such as diet, medication adherence, and physical and behavioral factors contribute to these uncontrolled rates, however other factors such as physicians’ lack of knowledge of treatment recommendations and guidelines may come into play.

**Facilitator:** George Bakris, MD

"The ECHO-Chicago Hepatitis C Case Management series is a must for any clinic looking to start or strengthen their current clinic. Not only does ECHO-Chicago provide insight into the creation of workflows and patient registries, but they are there to assist your clinic between sessions as well.

The ECHO Hepatitis C series for primary care providers gave our providers the confidence to test, diagnose, stage, and treat our Hepatitis C patients. The weekly case presentations were a great way to apply what we’d learned in the sessions and ensure we were applying the knowledge appropriately."

- Hepatitis C Team at Crusader Community Health
The establishment of the Public Health Service Task Force on Women’s Health in the early 1980s stimulated efforts to identify women’s health issues and raise awareness of the need for research on health issues disproportionately affecting women. While significant improvements have been made in treating women’s health issues, many disparities in women’s health remain. For example, although more men than women have heart attacks, more women than men die of heart disease. However, disparities are even greater among women from racial or ethnic minority or low-income populations.

Facilitator: Jennifer M. Rusiecki, MD

Facilitator Spotlight

Jennifer M. Rusiecki, MD
Risk-based Approach to Women’s Health Series

Dr. Rusiecki is an Assistant Professor of Medicine. She is a general internist with a particular interest in women’s health and patient-center communication. She is interested in developing a women’s health curriculum for internal medicine residents and evaluating methods to integrate gender specific medicine into primary care. She has also developed curriculum to teach residents shared decision making and use of decision aids.
The Impact of ECHO-Chicago

ACCESS ● Adventist Health Clinic ● Angel Harvey Family Health Center ● Beloved Community Family Wellness Center ● Chicago Family Health Center ● Christian Community Health Center ● Community HealthNet ● CommunityHealth ● Crusader Community Health ● Eagle View Community Health ● Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 ● Erie Family Health Center ● Esperanza Health Center ● Family Christian Health Center ● Family Health Partnership Clinic ● Francisca St. James Health ● Friend Family Health Center ● HealthLinc Community Health Centers ● Heartland Health Centers ● Heartland Health Outreach ● Howard Brown Health Center ● Kulla Private Practice ● La Rabida Children’s Hospital ● Lake County Health Department ● Lawndale Christian Health Center ● Meijer ● Mercy Family Health Center ● Mile Square Health Center ● Mt Sinai Hospital and Health Center ● Near North HealthSystems ● Northwestern University ● PCC Community Wellness Center ● Rush University ● St. Bernard Hospital ● St. Catherine Hospital ● Symphony ● TCA Health ● University of Chicago ● UIC

Using ECHO-Chicago Infrastructure to Advance Programming

A number of public health initiatives have leveraged ECHO-Chicago infrastructure to build capacity among the healthcare workforce in order to increase access to quality care and improve health outcomes.

The Hepatitis C Community Alliance to Test and Treat (HepCCATT) is an unprecedented public health collaboration between 11 partners across the city of Chicago. A model initiative, HepCCATT is funded by a 4 year cooperative agreement (5NU51PS004607) between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ECHO-Chicago. Our mission is to significantly reduce the number of people with undiagnosed and untreated hepatitis C infections among Chicago’s most highly affected communities, through provider training, public awareness, advocacy, case management and data collection. Now in its fourth year, the HepCCATT coalition consists of 17 Federally Qualified Health Centers that are, or will be, submitting data into the hepatitis C public health registry.
The South Side is one of the greatest medically underserved communities across the United States with the ratio of primary care providers to residents in neighborhoods being less than half of the Chicago average.

ECHO-Chicago and the South Side Healthy Aging Resource Experts (SHARE) Network partner to improve health outcomes for older adults on Chicago’s South Side by creating a network of care providers who share resources and education with funding from HRSA and the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP). A Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) component was added in FY17 to meet this goal.

ECHO-Chicago is working with the South Side Pediatric Asthma Center and Urban Health Initiative’s (UHI) Pediatric Asthma Community Health Worker to improve asthma management care in underserved communities across Chicago. This HRSA-funded project, led by Dr. Daniel Johnson, will leverage the ECHO-Chicago infrastructure to build capacity for the management of complex pediatric asthma among community-based PCPs and improve their use of evidence-based asthma management practices.

The Improving Diagnosis of Hypertension in Children (IDHC) program

The Improving Diagnosis of Hypertension in Children (IDHC) program, led by Dr. Goutham Rao, is an AHRQ-funded collaboration that aims to increase the rate of accurate HTN diagnosis in children through clinician education and training, patient education, and clinical decision support. The project leverages ECHO-Chicago to build primary care to screen, diagnose, evaluate, and manage HTN in children, expanding on the Childhood Obesity and Comorbidities series. If successful, the program can be implemented in a variety of other settings thus dramatically impacting the health of a large proportion of children.

Mentoring Programs Across the U.S. and Around the World

As one of nine ECHO Superhubs and the longest running urban ECHO program in the world, ECHO-Chicago provides training and mentorship to programs around the world that are interested in starting their own ECHO program. Here are some of the programs to date that we have worked with.