Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative

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ChicagoCHEC Announces 6th Annual Community Forum: Working Together for Better: New Beginnings & New Normal in the Cancer Support and Survivorship Community

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (ChicagoCHEC) is pleased to announce the details of its 6th Annual Community Forum. This year's theme is *Working Together for Better: New Beginnings & New Normal in the Cancer Support and Survivorship Community*.

The forum will take place virtually on Thursday, Sept. 23, and Friday, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Zoom. There will be various presentations on both days and information will be provided in English, Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL). This event is free and open to the public.

"What a difference a day makes, just image how the 365+ days, have changed most of our lives. Having stability, a trusted source and the ability to still receive quality care and resources is a sign of tenacity, commitment and determination. Against all odds, including the pandemic, new stressors and less access CHEC has provided flexible, innovative and accommodating resources, programs and services to continue to address the communities need. The Zoom platform, surveys and increased community collaborations and partnership have addressed barriers to care and social determinants. I am delighted to be part of this winning team, as we continue to-face more challenges, we won't give up. Follow the Science & CHEC as we continue to support our populations in need," said Joanne Glenn, RN.MBA, ChicagoCHEC CSC Co-Chair and founder of the W.O.T. Foundation, Inc. and Melanated in Medicine, NFP.

"Cancer doesn't stop during COVID-19," said Henrietta Barcelo, CSC Co-Chair. "It keeps hiding, attacking, growing in our bodies. We have to keep up on cancer health for our mothers, fathers, children, tías, tíos y abuelos and arm ourselves with information and resources that speaks our languages and helps us fight cancer when it strikes."

Register online here.

"Since its inception I have found the Community Forum has been a valuable tool for educating diverse populations that may not have been served before. It has provided culturally appropriate materials and given the attendees the opportunity to communicate and interact in a safe environment," said Rosemarie Rogers, CSC member for ChicagoCHEC.

Carmen Velasquez, CSC member and founder of Alivio Medical Center, states "CHEC opens the door for the community to have a voice, to connect the dots where many times the scientists, academic does not see or have the same experience a community member has...be it physical or emotional pain. The scientist who willingly listens and becomes a partner, makes a significant difference in reaching health equity as it relates to any disease, especially cancer."

“Como Latina immigrante, me siento feliz de ser parte de este comite y representar a mi comunidad y sus necesidades. “Unidos, trabajando como uno solo, para crear una solucion para ayudar a los pacientes con Cancer y otras enfermedades,” said Araceli Lucio, ChicagoCHEC CSC Member and Health Advocate at the Resurrection Project.

Covid-19 has CONTINUED TO RAVAGE our communities and has CONTINUED to WORSEN all types of health inequities but especially those in cancer. This year our annual Community Forum is going to CONTINUE to tackle the intersection of inequities, cancer and Covid-19 in the hopes that we can help AMPLIFY the needs of our communities and find on-the-ground solutions to respond,” said Melissa Simon, MD George H. Gardner Professor of Clinical Gynecology of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Co-Principal Investigator of ChicagoCHEC.

"The cancer health inequities in Chicago stand as a call to action," said Marian Fitzgibbon, Co-Principal Investigator of ChicagoCHEC and Associate Director of Population Science at the University of Illinois Cancer Center. "By working together through authentic engagement, we have the opportunity to create meaningful change and reduce the unequal share of the cancer burden experienced by our underserved communities."

“ChicagoCHEC has made great strides in reducing cancer health inequities by creating new educational and research opportunities for students from across the City of Chicago,” said Christina Ciecierski, Co-Principal Investigator of ChicagoCHEC and Professor of Economics at Northeastern Illinois University.

"Only through partnership and engagement with our City's underserved can we foster meaningful cancer research, education and training that appropriately addresses health equity issues,” said Lidia Filus, Co-Principal Investigator of ChicagoCHEC and Professor and Chair of Mathematics of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). “By serving the most diverse populations of students, NEIU is well-positioned to reach out to these communities and encourage them to actively participate and engage in this partnership."

“The work of Chicago CHEC embodies Angela Davis’ famous quote: ‘I no longer accept the things I can’t change and am changing the things I can’t accept’,” said Joseph Feinglass, Co-Principal Investigator of ChicagoCHEC and Research Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University.

ABOUT CHICAGOCHEC

The Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (ChicagoCHEC) is a National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer partnership led by the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, Northeastern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. ChicagoCHEC’s mission is to advance cancer health equity through meaningful scientific discovery, education, training, and community engagement. For more information, please visit chicagochec.org.