

FRONT COVER →



ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY IN METRO ATLANTA



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Urban Health Initiative

THE URBAN HEALTH INITIATIVE

ADVANCING EQUITY IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Atlanta is experiencing great disparity in health outcomes. Poor people and people of color are more likely to live shorter and sicker lives and are less likely to survive a host of chronic illnesses. Emory Urban Health Initiative (UHI) aims to end these disparities by working with underserved communities in metro Atlanta as well as with the students, professionals, volunteers, and organizations who partner with those communities.

UHI provides health disparity education and advocacy, builds collaborative partnerships, and develops best-practice models with underserved communities to advance equity in health and well-being. Our tri-part mission focuses on: educating current and future health practitioners; engaging the community to create a sustainable infrastructure of health and reduce health disparities; and advancing research through culturally competent and community-informed interventions that meet the highest standards of excellence.



MEET EMORY URBAN HEALTH INITIATIVE DIRECTOR

Charles Moore, MD, is a professor of medicine in the Department of Otolaryngology and chief of service in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital. Dr. Moore has a longstanding and profound commitment to training and developing learners from all backgrounds. His research investigates healthcare disparity with a particular focus on head and neck cancer incidence in medically underserved communities.



In addition to directing UHI, Dr. Moore is the president and founder of Health Education, Assessment, and Leadership, Inc. (HEAL), which has grown into the HEALing Community Center (HCC), one of Atlanta's newest Federally Qualified Health Centers. Among his many accolades, Dr. Moore is the recipient of the American Medical Association Foundation Excellence in Medicine, Pride in Profession Award, the 2012 Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Award the American Academy of Otolaryngology and the 2015 Jerome C. Goldstein, MD Public Service Award. He is the recipient of the Healthcare Georgia Foundation Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award, the Zenith Award for Community Activism from the City of Atlanta, and the Martin Luther King Community Service Award for his work in impoverished communities. He is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar and received the Thomas Jefferson Award from Emory University for his distinguished leadership and service to Emory and Atlanta. He also recently received the National Medical Fellowship Excellence in Medical Education Award and the Healthcare Hero Award for Community Outreach from the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Dr. Moore received a bachelor of science from Union College and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed residency training in otolaryngology, head and neck surgery, and fellowship training in craniomaxillofacial, cranial base, facial plastic, and reconstructive surgery at the University of Michigan.

IMPACTFUL PROGRAMMING

Emory Urban Health Initiative has several education, outreach, and research programs. Some recent areas of focus include:



- Interprofessional Course

This course builds the capacity of future health care providers and public health professionals to advocate for policy changes that impact the social determinants of health and to advance health equity and action.



- Healthy Retail Atlanta Initiative

Led by Open Hand Atlanta, this partnership between UHI, Wayfield Foods grocery stores, and Fresh MARTA farmer's markets seeks to improve access to and demand for healthy foods in low-income Atlanta communities.



- Community Garden

The Community Teaching Garden Program was established to help increase access to healthy and nutritious food in parts of metro Atlanta designated as "food deserts." The program educates members of these communities about nutrition and healthy ways of preparing food.



- Doula Support to Pregnant Teens and Women

This program assists pregnant teens and women and aims to improve birth outcomes. It is in response to the high teen pregnancy rate and the many children without mothers in metro Atlanta.



- The Dental Diversion Project

This partnership with the HEALing Community Center and Grady Memorial Hospital addresses the lack of oral health access to the low-income and underserved populations of Atlanta and reduces the burden of non-urgent dental visits to the emergency department at Grady Memorial Hospital.





“UHI does the nearly impossible task of positively developing both communities and individuals.”

ADRIANA BRACHO 16PH

“While attending Rollins School of Public Health, I became involved with the Urban Health Initiative. Because my work with UHI impressed admissions interviewers, I got into Florida International University’s Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, where I can be near my friends and family in Miami, Florida.

“Under the guidance of UHI leadership, I was able to use the skills I was learning in my classes regarding program development, leadership, and research, and directly apply that knowledge to a novel and creative project serving the urban community in Atlanta. As a student, I was given the opportunity to be the leader and contact point for projects, which helped me develop my leadership style and my interpersonal skills.

“UHI doesn’t only benefit students and help develop them into leaders. It also allows communities to work to develop their own projects and build their own community leaders. While working at UHI, I managed the Transportation Ministry. One of the largest projects under this division was the Community Supplemental Transportation Initiative, the development of supplementary shuttle routes for Rolling Bends apartment residents to local supermarkets, social services, and medical offices. This project was a joint venture among community leaders of Rolling Bends, local faith leaders, and UHI student leaders. We relied on the community to tell us what they needed and helped guide development of a solution to fit those needs. This reliance on feedback is incredibly important for communities to feel invested in programs and helps those communities to continue running these programs on their own.

“I encourage students, staff, and faculty to consider becoming members of Emory Urban Health Initiative to gain skills and to learn how to work in our target communities.”

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM UHI

- Dr. Moore is featured in the HBO documentary, “One Nation Under Stress”, with Sanjay Gupta
- Hosted poverty simulation to promote awareness, increase understanding, and inspire local change
- The Rolling Suitcase Project has delivered over 500 rolling suitcases to the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children since 2014
- UHI Assistant Director Joan Wilson received the Innovation Award at the Global Health Case Competition at Emory University
- UHI Program and Research Manager Brittany Evans serves as secretary on the DeKalb Board of Health Men’s Health Task Force
- Co-hosted Doula Access Working Group with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia

PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Emory Urban Health Initiative relies on partnerships within Georgia and beyond. Here are just a few of our many partners in building health equity for underserved communities.

University Partners

Emory University, including the Rollins School of Public Health, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Center for Ethics, College of Arts and Sciences, and Communications, Public Affairs, and State Affairs Office
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Morehouse College
Tuskegee University

Community Garden Partners

City of Atlanta Department of Urban Agriculture, Department of Sustainability
Atlanta Food Bank

Doula and Pregnancy Spacing Partners

DeKalb Board of Health Director
Center for Black Women's Wellness and Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative
Grady Hospital
Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital of Atlanta (CHOA) Patient Navigator Team

Dental Diversion Partners

Atlanta Medical Center Emergency Department
Ben Massell Dental Clinic of the Jewish Family and Career Services

Nutrition Partners

Wayfield Foods
Open Hand

Health Career Collaborative Partners

Atlanta Public Schools
Clarkston High School
Redan High School

Sponsor Organization Partners

ARCHI
WellCare

Community Learning Social Medicine Site Partners

Jerusalem House
Soccer in the Streets
(Police Athletic League (PAL)
Toco Hills Community Alliance
DeKalb Regional Youth Detention Center
JFCS Supportive Services
Clarkston Community Health Center (CCHC)
Marcus Autism Center
Center for Visually Impaired (CVI)
OLLI at Emory University
Decatur Active Living, Active Adults & Seniors Program
DREAMS Program (Developing Research Participation Enhancement & Advocacy Training Program for Diverse Seniors)
Toco Hills Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC)
Oliver House
Wesley Woods Towers
North DeKalb Senior Center



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Emory Urban Health Initiative programming, outreach, and research would not be possible without generous philanthropic support. Current and previous funding for UHI has come in the form of grants such as the Aetna Foundation Grant, Health Careers Opportunity Program Grant, General Electric HealthyCities Program, and the R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation Grant. UHI also benefits from the confidence and philanthropic support of generous partners such as the Robert Wood Foundation, Emory Global Health Institute, and others.

To make a gift or to learn how you can support Emory Urban Health Initiative, contact:

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