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Albert Einstein Healthcare Network's New Center for Urban Health Policy and Research

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Albert Einstein Healthcare Network's New Center for Urban Health Policy and Research

The new Einstein Center for Urban Health Policy and Research is the umbrella organization unifying Albert Einstein Healthcare Network (AEHN)'s programs, research, and demonstration projects in urban health. The Center was established last year by Martin Goldsmith, CEO, in order to focus the Network's efforts on reducing health disparities and improving healthcare delivery to diverse patient populations. The Center's Director, Etienne (Tina) Phipps, PhD, is an applied social and behavioral scientist and clinical ethicist. The Center's core mission is to use research-driven questions to investigate health disparities, health care delivery systems, quality of care, and questions of health policy. Dissemination of findings to academic and lay audiences is a priority. Linkages with other Jefferson Health System programs, including the Office of Health Policy and Clinical Outcomes and the Senior Health Institute, will be important as the Center establishes itself.

AEHN's urban health activities are supported by external funders including: National Institutes of Health-National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute of Nursing Research, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Administration on Aging, Health Resources and Services Administration, Centers for Disease Control, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Pennsylvania Department of Public Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Philadelphia Department of Health, and the Aetna Foundation. AEHN researchers are also involved in a number of collaborative projects in urban health with JHS partners and the University of Pennsylvania.

AEHN activities in urban health are currently underway in the following "cluster areas":

- Access to Health Care
- Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
- Prenatal Health
- Maternal and Child Health
- Adolescents and Young Adults
- Family and Informal Caregivers
- Aging and Long Term Care
- HIV/AIDS
- Drug Addiction
- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Organ Transplantation
- Psychosocial Disparities in Health and Illness
- Research Issues and Minority Populations
- Admissions involving Trauma, MVC, and Violence
- Palliative Care and End of Life

The Center is located at the Germantown campus, with a core staff of researchers and support staff. The Center core researchers bring extensive assets in social and behavioral sciences, with technical skills in quantitative, qualitative and social sciences methodologies.

The Center plans to marshal AEHN resources and continue to build partnerships within JHS, with other academic centers and health professions schools, community programs, and with other local and national organizations to study issues and mount demonstration projects on a full range of topics in urban health.

We are in the process of updating our web site to best represent the full range of AEHN projects related to urban health. For details of core staff projects, go to www.einstein.edu, click on Research, and then click on Center for Urban Health Policy and Research. To request more information, please write to UrbanHealth@einstein.edu. Or, contact the Center for Urban Health Policy and Research, AEHN-Germantown Community Health, 1 Penn Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 10144; Phone (215) 951-8137; Fax (215) 951-8138.

About the Author

Etienne Phipps, PhD, is Director of the Einstein Center for Urban Health Policy and Research in the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network.