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**Happy Thanksgiving from Health Equity Initiative!**

**#GivingTuesday is December 1, 2015!**



[Support our work!](#)

*Become A Member*

Not a member yet? Join today to be a part of a unique nonprofit membership and member-driven organization, which engages globally across sectors and disciplines to advance health equity, and enjoy our [member-exclusive benefits](#)! You can [join](#) as an individual, or you can sign up your organization and let your staff benefit from being a part of the HEI community. [Benefits](#) include:



- 1) Access to special rates on great resources and educational opportunities by HEI and its partners
- 2) Access to HEI member-only forums (both online and in-person) that will bring together community leaders with professionals from multiple sectors
- 3) Access to our member-only special events

Joining HEI will help you build your network and get professional or community support as you work on advancing health equity in your profession and communities.

Take action today and become an HEI member! Connect with community leaders and professionals from multiple sectors, disciplines, and countries, which will help your work in support of health equity. See [who should join!](#) Everyone should be part of the movement for health equity as we can all contribute to solutions that will improve the living, aging, working, and playing environments that affect health disparities!

**Don't wait! [Join](#) the fastest growing social movement for health equity!**

## *In Our Members' Own Words...*

**Rebecca Selove, Ph.D, MPH**

**Research Associate Professor, Center for Prevention Research  
Tennessee State University**

### **Why did you join HEI?**

The mission of HEI aligns with my personal and professional goal of doing what I can to help communities build their capacity to improve health and quality of life for all. I believe that addressing health disparities is a critical part of strengthening communities and improving resilience for facing life's challenges. We are at a turning point in human evolution, with potential for shifting the quality of relationships with each other and the planet toward more equitable and sustainable use of resources. I aim to support that turning.



### **How does your work or area of interest help or may help advance health equity?**

My professional work focuses on developing behavioral science research projects which focus primarily on implementing effective interventions in community settings to prevent tobacco use and support tobacco cessation. I also mentor behavioral science students in

developing careers to address cancer-related health disparities. I am also involved in organizing discussion groups and workshops to support and inspire people who are concerned about climate change and environmental injustice.

### **Marvin So, MPH, CHES**

**Marvin So, MPH, CHES Evaluation Specialist, Child Development and Disability Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

#### **Why did you join HEI?**

I joined HEI because I see health equity as fundamental to the practice and science of public health. I started my career as a health educator and street outreach worker, and it doesn't take very long to realize that the social, geographic, and cultural identities we hold deeply shape the opportunities for optimal health we each receive. I met children and families in emergency shelters; eight families to a room with completely de-stabilized lives. It was humbling and tragic, and I knew I wanted to do something about it. As a public health practitioner I aim to incorporate the the health equity perspective into everything that I do, but I still have much to learn. I believe HEI can help me integrate and spread this message.



#### **How does your work or area of interest help or may help advance health equity?**

I currently work at the CDC where I lead and support applied evaluation research addressing the needs of vulnerable and special-needs families. Much of this work aims to support parents in understanding and promoting positive parent-child interactions. While this may seem like a small piece of the puzzle, research shows us that so many of the most challenging health issues that people are faced with (particularly limited-income and communities of color) are patterned by experiences early in life. So I think that tackling both the social determinants of health as well as disparities in health status requires us to ask ourselves whether or not we are truly creating communities in which all children and families can thrive.

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*2016 Partnership Summit -- Registration Now Open!*

**Implementing Systems-Level Change For Health Equity: A Partnership Summit**



**When:**February 25-26, 2016

**Where:** 505 Eighth Ave. New York, NY

[\*\*Register Now\*\*](#)

Click [here](#), to learn more!

Summit Allied Organizations (SAOs) include the [Center for the Study of Social Inequalities and Health](#) at [Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health](#), [Albert Einstein College of Medicine](#), [Brooklyn Health Disparities Center](#) and [Department of Health and Human Services - Region 2](#)

Sponsors to date include [IntraMed](#), [Sudler and Hennessey](#) and [Baked by Melissa](#)

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## *Online Workshops and Publications*

### **Online Workshops**

HEI's interactive online workshops are specifically designed to meet the needs of staff board members of a variety of U.S. and international organizations as well as community leaders and grassroots organizations.



[Visit our website](#) for access to **registration for upcoming live workshops** as well as **recorded workshops!**

**Remember:** [Members](#) receive up to 50% discount on HEI online workshops!

### **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

**Remember:** In addition, members receive 20% discount on annual subscriptions to six leading peer-reviewed publications by [Maney Publishing](#), which address different topics of interest as they apply to the work of our multisectoral and multidisciplinary community. To learn more, [click here](#). As Maney Publishing became part of the [Taylor & Francis](#) family we are excited about this new collaboration and will be in touch with our members re:updates!



# Member Committee Updates

## Ad-hoc Program Committee

Committee members: [Upal Basu Roy](#), PhD, MS, MPH (co-chair), [Carmelo Cruz Reyes](#), MPH (co-chair), [Renata Schiavo](#), PhD, MA

On October 17th, Health Equity Initiative co-sponsored a **global health networking event** with [Albert Einstein College of Medicine](#). The event was held at the LGBT Community Center at 208 West 13th Street. It brought together over 90 medical and public health students of the NYC metro area, as well as students from allied health professions and other disciplines, who are interested in pursuing careers in global health. Also in attendance were representatives from leading organizations such as Concern Worldwide, GBCHealth, Golin, and UNICEF, among others. Other co-sponsors included [NYU College of Global Public Health](#), [Weill Cornell Medical College](#), [Public Health Association of New York \(PHANYC\)](#), and [Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai](#).



## Membership Committee

Committee members: [Carmelo Cruz Reyes](#), MPH (chair)

On October 21, 2015, Health Equity Initiative, in collaboration with the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), hosted a **webinar** for members and non-members titled **Addressing Health Disparities: Population Health and the Value Proposition**. The webinar featured our very own [Dr. Renata Schiavo](#) and [Dr. Kenneth Smith](#), Ph.D. Director of Community Development and Health Policy, and Interim Director, [Center to Eliminate Health Disparities at UTMB](#). Over 90 individuals registered for the webinar, which focused on best practices to address health disparities as well as diverse perspectives about how participants can work within their institutions and communities to catalyze action around health disparities. The **recorded webinar** will become available to all HEI members in early December.

Achieving HEI's mission of bridging silos to raise awareness and advance health equity requires the involvement of individuals from multiple sectors and disciplines. As the old saying goes, it takes a village. To this end, HEI is thrilled to announce our call for Community Leaders Scholarship. The HEI **Community Leaders Scholarship** will offer 5

key community leaders who exhibit an unwavering commitment to advancing health equity both complimentary membership to HEI for one year and complimentary access to our inaugural conference, *Implementing Systems-Level Change for Health Equity: A Partnership Summit* scheduled to take place February 25 - 26, 2016 in NYC. Our call for **Community Leaders Scholarship applications** will be released shortly. Please feel free to engage your network and spread the word.

Also, we are looking for a **co-chair for the membership committee**. Please [contact us](#) if you are a HEI member and are interested in joining this exciting committee! Finally, keep your eyes peeled for news about our **holiday/New Year party**, to take place in early **January 2016**. We look forward to ringing in the new year with you!

## *Public Policy Committee (PPC)*

Committee members: [Friso van Reesema](#), MBA, MPH (co-chair), [Manik Bhat](#) (co-chair)

The Public Policy Committee will seek confirmation from its members and the Board on choosing a topic for one of the [Summit](#) round tables. Beyond the Summit, the HEI PPC goal is to translate the research they conduct in actionable elements and ultimately a policy brief for rallying behind and possibly identifying future investments in quality and timeliness of care. A first topic of focus for the PPC is **child mental health disparities**.

Unmet Mental Health needs in children can have major developmental and long-term health and social consequences. Children who have undiagnosed mental health problems also tend to have higher health, legal, financial and social problems in adulthood ([CDC 2013](#)). Hispanic children are both the largest minority in the US, and have among the greatest mental health unmet needs. When compared to other population groups, Hispanic children show lower rates of MH service and treatment utilization. These trends are persistent and driven by difficulties in obtaining access to mental health services ([Murphy, Guzman & Torres 2014](#)).

As part of the work of the PPC, members are exploring the use of community-based digital mental health interventions. Such approach has been shown to facilitate active individual engagement in health care decision-making for young adults and ethnic minorities, and can improve patient's satisfaction with medication information among low-income Latinos ([Aguilera 2015](#)). However, community-based participatory research interventions exploring the use of online/digital screening assessments and follow-up diagnosis among Hispanic parents of children with a mental health condition continue to be a neglected component of efforts to reduce health disparities.

Please participate in the work of this committee and share your voice and opinion on our approach/how we can help advance Health Equity Initiative's agenda on encouraging multisectoral and multidisciplinary partnerships also in the field of child mental health disparities. A **PPC phone meeting** is being planned for **Dec. 10th, 2015**.

## *Communication Member Committee*

**Become the New Communication Committee Co-Chair!** We ask all interested HEI members to step in to lead the communication committee! Below is a short description of the very important role of our member-driven Communication Member Committee. If you are interested (as we hope) in co-chairing this committee, please [contact us](#)! This is a great opportunity to gain and/or strengthen your communication and project management skills, and most importantly, to make sure our social movement in support of health equity continues to grow and be effective in bridging the silos between different professions, disciplines and communities.

### **About HEI Communication Member Committee**

The Communication Member Committee develops and implements strategies to increase HEI's visibility within multiple sectors. Manages HEI's social media and other communication activities and resources. Publicizes specific events, programs, and activities. Works to expand the reach of Sports for Health Equity, HEI's signature program, among teens, their families, communities, and schools, and designs or implements other ongoing or future health equity awareness activities. An intern always supports the work of this committee as an integral team member. This semester, HEI summer 2015 intern Michelle Kaufman worked on managing our social media accounts as well as worked on this newsletter, among other projects.

## *Join Our Member Committees!*

HEI Member Committees are a great place to start networking. As a member-driven organization, you take ownership of direction and focus through the member committees and influence our organizational priorities! Your passion, commitment, and cumulative multisectoral and multidisciplinary experience is what makes HEI different. All committees are composed of volunteer members who agree to nurture and ignite conversation and engagement on health equity and work to develop activities and resources for all members and our broader community on one specific area. [Click here](#) to learn more about HEI member committees and get involved!

## *We Want to Feature Our Members' News!*

Are you a HEI member? If yes, please let us know about your recent news (e.g., new positions, publications, presentations, media appearances, or others), so we can consider them for inclusion in our upcoming newsletters! Please submit your news for our next



## *Resources*

### **Storytelling and Community-Based Participatory Approaches**

A session of the recent American Public Health Association (APHA) 2015 Global Public Health Film Festival in Chicago focused on the very important topic of [Storytelling and Community Participatory Approaches](#). Organized and moderated by HEI's Founding President, [Dr. Renata Schiavo](#), along with the 2015 Film Festival Chair, [Naomi Ranz-Scheifler](#), the session featured "different international and U.S. media that either were developed with the participation and work of community members, youth or other key stakeholders and/or aim to increase the prominence of community voices on health and social issues by featuring their perspectives and experiences." The APHA Global Public Health Film Festival committee includes members of the [APHA Health Communication Working Group \(HCWG\)](#) and [International Health](#) section.

Select links to films and media shown in this session are included below and provide a valuable resource to share the voices of communities on different health and social issues and/or to organize community-driven discussions on relevant topics.

[In the Shadow of Ebola](#) - Gregg Mitman, PhD

[Poder](#) - Lisa Russell, MPH

[Water Trust](#) - Umang Bhattacharyya, videographer/film-maker

[African American Breastfeeding Project](#) - Elizabeth Bayne, MPH, MFA

[RWJF 2015 TED Equity Film Series](#) - Robin Honan and Jessica Mark, MPH, CPH

## *Holidays are around the corner...*

Give a gift that gives back to Health Equity Initiative at no extra cost to you by shopping on Amazon via Fundinco or Amazon Smiles! Support HEI's efforts to bridge silos and build ONE community for health equity!



- **Shop on Amazon via [Fundinco](#)** - 3% of your purchase amount will be donated to

- **Shop on Amazon via [Amazon Smiles](#)** - 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchase will be donated to Health Equity Initiative

For other opportunities to support Health Equity Initiative's work, visit our [donate](#) page!

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## *Join HEI Member List-Serv!*

HEI recently launched a List-serv for updates and discussion regarding HEI's member activities! This group will give members and volunteers a chance to share relevant health

equity-related resources regarding their work and organizations to receive information on Health Equity Initiative's member activities and committees. Don't miss out and join by [clicking here!](#)



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## *Become a Partner!*

Sponsoring Health Equity Initiative is an opportunity for your organization to expand its range! Our community is diverse and committed to working across sectors. We reach 10,000 people via our mailing list and social media. Basic sponsorship benefits include free organizational membership, your logo on our website and newsletter, three complementary individual memberships to donate to your partners and clients, and the opportunity to offer an online or in-person workshop.



We customize sponsorship opportunities to meet the needs of our partners.

Click [here](#) to learn more and become a partner today!

*Health Equity Initiative is a  
federally recognized 501(c)3  
nonprofit organization.*