



Community Engagement Programs & Activities Newark Campus



RUTGERS
BIOMEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES

RBHS Community Engagement Programs & Activities

Newark Campus
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

New Jersey Medical School

Community service has been a fundamental cornerstone of faculty/student life at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School for decades. Located in the heart of Newark, the medical school is surrounded by a diverse community with complex social and economic challenges. Many students, faculty, and staff from the institution recognize the unique position of the medical school to partner with the community in order to achieve better health outcomes for local families.

- **The Office for Primary Care and Community Initiatives (OPCCI)** – The OPCCI provides research, education, and community service learning opportunities for students, organizations, and community members to create mutually beneficial collaborations that enrich academic excellence and are grounded in mutual respect. OPCCI seeks to create and disseminate best practices in community engagement while improving the quality of life for the residents of Newark through research and service. The office seeks to establish innovation within primary care that integrates students, residents, and faculty to participate in new programs, models, and partnerships. Over the last two years, the office was instrumental in expanding the Community Engaged Service Learning (CESL) partnerships. These collaborations make it possible for our students to learn from their service and gain deep knowledge of the challenges affecting the community around us. During the COVID pandemic, students were connected to the COVID call center, participated in a program calling patients and educating them about COVID prevention, and assisted with providing results at the UH-PUI clinic in multiple languages. At the clinical level, we received funding to establish a Behavioral Health Integration into primary care program. Funded through the Nicholson Foundation, OPCCI established the Cherokee model of integrated care, with the support and collaboration of University Hospital and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC). This program is fundamental in providing comprehensive care to our patients and an incredible opportunity for our students and residents to learn about integration and interprofessional collaboration. This year OPCCI partnered with CareSparc, Inc., a community-based organization, supporting the packing and delivery of meals to homebound citizens during COVID, as well as participating in the first and largest health fair post-COVID. Our biggest accomplishment, however, has been the HRSA Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students, named the Removing Barriers to Success Scholarship (RBSS) Program. This program is intended to reduce the financial burden of medical students who commit to Primary Care and

Service to medically underserved communities. OPCCI is proud to engage with 20 students in a longitudinal program that provides mentorship, guidance, and engagement in primary care and service.

For CESL, all students are on track to fulfill hours based on the 20-hour requirement. For the class of 2024, they are required to complete their hours by January 2022. They are the first cohort to be exposed to the additional modules designed to prepare them for community service in the city. For the class of 2025, to date, they attended the CESL Fair in the fall and completed the modules implemented to enhance education around community-engaged service learning. The remaining requirements for this year include a pre-reflection essay, highlighting their expectations as they have just begun their service efforts, and a minimum of 5 hours completed in direct community service.

- **Student Family Health Care Center** – The Student Family Health Care Center (SFHCC), one of the oldest student-run clinics in the country, serves the needs of the medically underserved population in the City of Newark. SFHCC continues to staff two satellite clinics at homeless shelters in Newark in addition to the main clinic site on campus. Medical students work in interprofessional teams with graduate student case managers, dental students, and board-certified physicians to provide free high-quality health care to the Newark community.
- **Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (DAYAM)** – The Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (DAYAM) provides comprehensive, compassionate, trauma-informed, culturally competent, and inclusive services to adolescents and young adults ages 13-26. These services are provided through the delivery of a broad range of health and psychosocial care as well as interventions in its ambulatory clinic and community-based programs. Well visits, vaccinations, positive youth development programs/counseling, sexual and reproductive health, LGBTQ-tailored primary care services, mental health consultations, and psychosocial services are all offered.
- **Early Intervention Program (EIP)** – EIP offers developmental evaluations and assessments to children residing in Essex County, age birth to three years, at no cost to the family. The evaluation team is comprised of teachers, school psychologists, social workers, and child development specialists, as well as licensed physical, occupational, and speech therapists. EIP provides services to approximately 3,300 patients on a yearly basis. Newark residents comprise approximately 80% of the children evaluated, with the remaining 20% residing in surrounding areas including, but not limited to, Irvington, the Oranges, and smaller residential areas of Essex County. The program provides evaluation and assessment services to approximately 280 children per month.

- **Autism Center/Div. of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics** – The center provides diagnostic and case management services for any child/adolescent referred who is at risk for developmental, behavioral, or learning problems. Within the Child Evaluation Center, the Autism Center provides diagnostic services and ongoing care of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Diagnostic Center provides evaluation for children and adolescents with suspected FAS. These centers also serve as training sites for medical students, residents, fellows, and allied health professionals.

In FY2021, the Autism Center completed 453 patient appointments through our clinic physicians. About 85% of the 453 total patients seen were from Essex County. All families received an Individual Service Plan at the end of their visit, outlining the evaluation results and the provider's recommendations. Social workers assisted families through 250 professional sessions and provided culturally competent education regarding diagnosis, short- and long-term treatment plans, and available area resources to meet the needs of patients and their families. All children seen through our division are screened for possible ASD, FAS, and hearing loss. One hundred and forty-four children were referred to the diagnostic hearing program. All were reported to the NJ DOH as required.

Of the individuals seen in the Child Evaluation Center, 30% had Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Other represented groups included children with a diagnosis of intellectual disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), speech disorder and learning disability. If, at initial intake, a family was determined to be lacking a primary care provider or insurance, support to obtain either or both was provided.

- **UH Pathology Lab** – The University Hospital Pathology Lab, staffed with New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) faculty, oversees broader Newark laboratory testing in collaboration with the Newark Department of Health.
- **Preventive Medicine Program** – The Preventive Medicine Program and the Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness created a public health partnership to monitor COVID cases in long-term care facilities (LTCs). A team of volunteer students from New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) and Rutgers School of Public Health (SPH) was assembled to boost the public health communications with the five LTCs in Newark. Students monitor COVID cases in residents and staff, review the LTC's infection control plans, and are available to provide the LTCs with information about how to obtain more PPE, perform point-of-care testing and vaccination supplies. A weekly report is provided to the Newark Department of Health. The Preventive Medicine Program has partnered with Believe in a Healthy Newark to develop social media accounts including Instagram and Twitter to share information regarding COVID-19, masking, handwashing, mental health awareness, and wellness. They also created a COVID newsletter geared toward debunking misinformation and providing up-to-date vaccination information for adults and children.

- **See, Test and Treat Program** – Rutgers NJMS faculty led the fourth annual See, Test and Treat community event, in collaboration with University Hospital, to screen individuals for colorectal and oral cancer; eye, genetic, and hearing screening; and COVID testing. Over 70 participants received screenings in October of 2021. The rate of identifying a clinically relevant disease or cancer has been about 5%. This program has saved lives.
- **COVID Vaccination Community Support** – A New Jersey Medical School faculty member served as the medical director and from April 2021 through June 2021 at the NJIT FEMA COVID-19 vaccination site. The site administered over 220,000 COVID-19 vaccines for Newark and the surrounding community. New Jersey Medical School faculty also provided on-call and consultative support to the Mobile Vaccination Clinic from August 2021 through December 2021. These mobile clinics serve areas in Newark and elsewhere where there were gaps in vaccination uptake.
- **General Medicine in Federally Qualified Health Centers** – The Section of Medicine-Pediatrics provides support and collaboration with the Newark Community Health Center which enhances community access to Medicine-Pediatrics-trained faculty and provides primary care services to the surrounding areas. Clinics in the Ironbound section, East Orange, and downtown Newark are supported.
- **The Infectious Diseases Program (IDP)** – The IDP, located in the Department of Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, has been serving the Newark community for over 25 years. It is a critical component of the Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences Institute for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases (i3D). The Newark-based IDP provides a spectrum of services that range from community education, clinical care and treatment, and access to cutting-edge clinical trials, striving to provide the best wellness opportunities for the people of Newark and the surrounding communities who are disproportionately affected by infectious diseases.

1) Clinical Services – All clinical services are provided in partnership with University Hospital:

a. HIV Care and Treatment – The program receives Ryan White funds to provide HIV care and treatment for persons living with HIV (PLWH) regardless of their ability to pay. This is one of the largest such programs in the state, providing care for over 1,650 PLWH.

b. HIV Testing and Prevention – The program offers free HIV testing at various locations, including the emergency department, outpatient primary care clinic, and the dental clinic. Collectively, the program tests about 1,200 persons every month. Additionally, the program offers HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and contact tracing for syphilis for Essex County.

c. Treatment for Other Infectious Diseases – The IDP works closely with University Hospital to ensure appropriate follow-up for many infectious diseases as well as appropriate follow-up and monitoring for patients discharged from the hospital on intravenous antibiotics.

2) Clinical Research – The program has had a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Clinical Trials Unit for 15 years, providing access to HIV treatment and prevention studies, and for two years has provided a COVID Prevention Trials Network (COVPN) site.

a. HIV Treatment and Prevention Studies – The clinical research center (CRC) has participated in multiple multicenter clinical trials that have transformed the lives not only of our community but of PLWH globally. For example, the results of the START trial influenced an important update in the HIV treatment guidelines for universal treatment regardless of CD4 count. Currently, the CRC is enrolling participants for several ongoing multisite studies examining the prevalence and management of comorbid health conditions in the context of a population aging with HIV.

b. COVID Treatment and Prevention Studies – As part of the COVPN, the research site has launched multiple treatment and prevention studies for COVID-19 that are open to the community.

3) Community Involvement – The IDP has two engaged community advisory boards (CAB) comprised of patients from the practice and members of the larger community. The CABs ensure that the clinical and research programs are not only responsive to the needs of the community, but also able to proactively identify unmet needs and make programmatic changes to address them. Multiple important improvements have resulted from CAB input, including expanding treatment of substance use disorders, offering transgender care, and improving and expanding our World AIDS Day programming for patients. Finally, patients are members of the continuous quality improvement committee, ensuring equal and active community partners in developing clinical programs aimed at improving outcomes across the HIV care continuum.

➤ **Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) at University Hospital** – Through our partnership with University Hospital, the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey at University Hospital provides NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center services such as access to the most advanced cancer treatment options and clinical trials to the residents of the greater Newark region to improve outcomes for patients and their families impacted by cancer. Program expansion continues and includes the Uro-Oncology Program, the implementation of the Plastic Surgery Clinic, and more availability for chemotherapeutic infusions.

- 1) **Community Outreach and Engagement** – In FY2021, the Cancer Center hosted screening events for breast, cervical, colorectal, and lung cancer. Over 1,000 patients received services from the screening programs. A new health educator was recently hired to expand outreach and education efforts in the community. The CINJ staff participated in several virtual community health education sessions to expand awareness about the importance of cancer screenings.
- **Department of Emergency Medicine** – Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Department of Emergency Medicine provides care to the Newark community. Specifically, the department has developed a robust and innovative program in substance use harm reduction and treatment and oversees University Hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The Poison Center (NJPIES) is uniquely situated in our emergency medicine department and New Jersey Medical School provides this service for the State of New Jersey. Medical toxicology services are unique to University Hospital, and New Jersey Medical School is responsible for providing inpatient and outpatient care to patients with exposures to toxic substances. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Department of Emergency Medicine has been very involved in the palliative care effort in the ED and hospital.
 - **Domestic Violence Intervention Program** – A collaboration of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and domestic violence community agencies in Newark provides care to women and children who have experienced domestic violence. Students visit clinical settings and local communities to provide screening, education, and intervention on domestic violence and its health-related issues. During the COVID-19 pandemic, students conducted virtual education and intervention sessions with victims of domestic violence in shelters. The Department of Family Medicine established telehealth infrastructure at a local domestic violence shelter that allows individuals and their children to obtain needed access to medical care. In the past 5 years, over 2,000 women have been screened for domestic violence through the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP). The program has provided advocacy and education for more than 900 women and children.
 - **WIC Program/Pediatrics** – The Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program services WIC-eligible participants in all of Essex County. The New Jersey Department of Health reports Essex County’s estimated eligible persons/families to total 32,689. The current FY2022 WIC enrollment is 3,600, approximately 3,000 of whom are from Newark. Other surrounding areas include Belleville, Bloomfield, the Oranges, and Irvington. Rutgers NJMS WIC contributes to the 63% enrollment of WIC programs in the City of Newark.

In addition to our main site, services are provided at satellite sites—Rutgers Doctor’s Office Center (DOC) clinic, University Hospital L&D, OB/GYN clinic, and Ivy Hill Housing Development—to increase opportunities for eligible participants

to enroll. The WIC outreach and referral system allows for participants to receive information and extended services (dental, pregnancy testing, SNAP benefits, etc.) that are tailored to personal/familial needs garnered from direct and indirect counseling/educational sessions.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Rutgers NJMS WIC Program continued client services and community outreach on a remote platform. Walk-in services were/are at the administrative site and the OB/GYN satellite office, to support client services. Prenatal/postpartum mothers receive information remotely, via phone interviews/consults, regarding preparing to breastfeed, counseling, and educational materials to promote and support breastfeeding.

➤ **Pre-College Programs**

- 1) Science Medicine and Related Topics (SMART) Program** – SMART is a pre-college enrichment program designed to cultivate students' interest in health science and research, culminating in enhanced competitiveness and expansion of the pool of underrepresented minority students interested in pursuing health-related professions. The program was established in 1991 and seeks to advance the understanding, knowledge, and appreciation of science and medicine among underrepresented and/or disadvantaged students who wish to pursue careers in medicine, research, and other health-related fields. SMART is tailored to individual grade levels, offering a comprehensive, challenging, and stimulating hands-on experience for sixth through 12th graders. The program's strength arises from the fact that students are guided by a dedicated team of NJMS faculty, staff, medical students, and NJ-certified science instructors in a medical school environment. A maximum of 110 students participate in each of the winter (9-10 Saturdays) and summer (5 weeks) SMART Programs. While tuition is charged, scholarships are made available to disadvantaged Newark residents. NJMS has established strong relationships with local schools located in Essex, Passaic, and Hudson counties, which have large minority and/or disadvantaged student populations. Connecting winter and summer programs provides the opportunity to groom students over a period of time and, more importantly, provide critical feedback on their progress in achieving academic success. Content is also consistent with New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Activities include educational field trips, formal presentations, college tours, hands-on dissections, and other lab experiments. Our goal is to increase the competitiveness of these students to successfully enter college. There is also a mandatory orientation for parents/guardians of the summer SMART program students, recognizing the importance of their role in their child's education. In addition, we hire a parent liaison from the community who has proven invaluable in bridging parent and student expectations. Due to COVID-19, the program was scaled back in the summer of 2020 for remote instruction of only 11th and 12th grade students.

2) **Mini Med School/Pre-Medical Honors Programs** – Mini Med School and Pre-Medical Honors Programs were established in 2000 and 2002 respectively. Approximately 100 high school students who are underrepresented in medicine (URM) participate annually. The programs typically enroll 250 in the fall and 150 in the spring and run for eight weeks. Dr. Baquerizo oversees these programs. The HCOE enhances this effort by targeting students in our established pipeline from the pre-college programs including the winter and summer SMART program. Each three-hour session consists of a one-hour small group discussion led by medical students followed by two lectures. Sample topics taught by faculty include: Introduction to Newborn Medicine, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Birth of Neuroscience, HIV Update, and What You Should Know About Medical School Admissions. The program provides several electives to enhance students' passion for and engagement with the medical profession, which includes Basic Life Support, Bleeding Control, Technology in Medicine, and Surgical Knot Tying. We also seek to develop individualized academic plans (IAP) for a minimum of 50 students, designed to guide them through high school, resulting in successful application and admission into a partner colleges or other undergraduate institutions. As they progress, they are invited to other academic enrichment programs sponsored by NJMS or its partners.

3) **Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) Summer Youth Scholars Program (SYSP)** – The Hispanic Center of Excellence Summer Youth Scholars Program was established in 1993 and addresses the unique needs of Hispanic students and their parents/guardians. Twenty-five scholars are enrolled in the six-week program and must have completed the 10th grade. The focus is on academic skills and SAT prep. Topics include study habits, reading ability, learning techniques, oral/written communication skills through research in Hispanic health, anatomy, and cultural competency education. Workshops are provided by college partners on the admissions process, interviewing techniques, financial aid, and the college visit. Eligible students who perform well on the SAT are encouraged to apply to NJMS joint degree programs. Due to COVID-19, this program was virtual for 2020. Each year, the HCOE sponsors an Admissions Seminar for parents, guidance counselors, and students in Spanish and English.

➤ **Undergraduate Programs**

1) **Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP)** – SHPEP is a six-week residential interprofessional (IP) program that supports 80 rising freshman and sophomores or community college students. NJMS has successfully competed for this RWJF grant since 2001. Formerly known as the Minority Medical Education Program and the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program, it seeks to strengthen the preparation of college students for admission to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing. These HELIX (Health Education and InterProfessional Excellence) scholars are

expected to: 1) Respect the unique culture, values, roles/responsibilities, and expertise of other scholars and diverse health professionals, 2) Embrace the cultural diversity and differences that characterize individuals, populations, and the health care team, 3) Demonstrate a commitment to advocacy and service as a means of addressing the social determinants of health and recognize the importance of health care policy and community partnerships on population health, 4) Apply effective interprofessional team building skills through the use of multimodal experiential learning strategies, such as simulation-based activities, role-playing and service learning opportunities, 5) Integrate knowledge from the basic and quantitative sciences to build the foundation for critical thinking and academic success in the health professions, and 6) Develop self-care, resilience, and reflective skills to be lifelong learners and future leaders.

- 2) **The Northeast Regional Alliance (NERA) MedPrep Scholars Program** – The NERA MedPrep Scholars program was established in 2009 and is a partnership between Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Manhattan Staten Island Area Health Education Center. Prior to this partnership, NJMS had its own separate program, which was established in 1972. NERA builds on the collective expertise of institutions committed to expanding the health careers interest and competitiveness of URM/disadvantaged students from sixth grade through medical school. This program consists of three consecutive summers, each six weeks in duration: Science Enrichment Program, MCAT preparation with shadowing experiences, and a research component. Students must have completed the first year of college at either a two- or four-year institution, be educationally and/or economically disadvantaged, and make a three-year commitment to participate in each of the three phases. The NJMS site recruits 25 students in Phase I, 25 in Phase II, and 18 in Phase III yearly. All three phases include cultural competency education and social justice in medicine workshops. Furthermore, the program provides additional workshops and presentations that enhance student perseverance while developing their confidence and academic skills to success in college and beyond.
- 3) **Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and Student National Medical Association (SNMA)** – The LMSA and the SNMA play a pivotal role in the recruitment of college students and retention of medical students who come from disadvantaged/underrepresented in medicine backgrounds. As evidenced by the broad range of programs available to our diverse student population, NJMS students also have the opportunity to mentor and serve as role models to the Newark community.
- 4) **Pre-Matriculation First Introduction to Resources, Skills and Training (F.I.R.S.T.) Program** – FIRST was established in 1972 and is a six-week program for 20 incoming medical students from underrepresented

or disadvantaged backgrounds, providing them with segments of the medical school curriculum that require different learning approaches while cultivating the requisite skills to manage them. Students are also taught the importance of their attitudes toward the learning process and encouraged to adopt adaptive thinking approaches that will help them be successful. The FIRST program acclimates students by providing a rigorous, skills-oriented foundation for successful performance in the basic science curriculum of medical school. It is aimed at enhancing the intellectual and self-management skills of those students whose backgrounds may not have included the skills known to be effective in professional training or who have been out of the academic environment for some time. The program uses a range of instructional techniques vital to the education of professionals including: lecture, laboratory, conferences, tutorials, problem-based learning seminars, and guided independent study sessions. Students receive feedback on their performance from the faculty via written and practical examinations and small group exercises. The program runs for four weeks, beginning in early June at NJMS. The program is taught by basic science and clinical faculty and medical students.

- 5) **Posen Scholars Program** – Through the generosity of Dr. Richard Pozen (Class of 1974) and Mrs. Ann Silver Pozen, the Pozen Scholars Program was created in 2009 as an endowment gifted to the medical school and provides funding support for community service projects. The goal of the program is to enrich the learning experiences of students and faculty by teaching civic responsibility that strengthens community service and engagement, bringing medical professionals and the communities they serve together through the facilitation of mini-grants. Through the implementation of service and funding, new learning strategies are developed and stimulated, integrating meaningful community service with instruction and reflection. This program has facilitated both short- and long-term projects that include the asylum clinic, community garden implementation, prenatal care, youth programs, domestic violence prevention, and assistance for those in transitional housing. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Pozen Scholars Program saw an influx of applications from first-, second-, and fourth-year students looking to get involved in community service endeavors. Projects spanned several disciplines and specialties, addressing issues of maternal health, medical education, LGBT needs, and gun violence. In total, Pozen has funded 17 student projects, two additional faculty projects, and one pre- and post-doctoral fellowship. Additionally, the annual Pozen Showcase was modified to implement more interaction between scholars, the details of their projects, and Dr. and Mrs. Pozen. Moving forward, Pozen seeks to expand its reach among faculty and students, while holding spotlight series quarterly to showcase community service projects throughout the city of Newark.

School of Dental Medicine (RSDM)

The Rutgers School of Dental Medicine delivers services to over 25,000 Newark residents each year and serves as a referral center for community-based clinics.

- **Special Care Treatment Center** – RSDM operates one of the few facilities in the region treating patients with special needs, including autism, cerebral palsy, Alzheimer’s, and Down Syndrome, in addition to geriatric patients and those with psychological disorders. For patients with disabilities, dental care is often scant or nonexistent, and the experience of visiting a dentist can be filled with panic and confusion. At our newly renovated Rutgers clinic—the Delta Dental of New Jersey Special Care Center—staff are trained to work with a variety of special needs patients. All RSDM undergraduate students complete a rotation in the clinic so they can learn how to care for patients with disabilities. The clinic, which treats more than 4,000 patients annually, draws patients from Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York.
- **Partnerships with New Jersey Medical School Healthcare Clinic and University Hospital** – Dental students work with an interdisciplinary team of RBHS students at Rutgers Student Family Health Care Center and University Hospital’s OB-GYN and pediatric primary care clinics.
- **Clinical Research on Alternatives to Opioids** – As part of an \$11.7 million NIH grant, RSDM will be conducting clinical research in its Newark-based clinics to study a combination of acetaminophen and ibuprofen as alternatives to opioids.
- **Oral Health Nutrition and Obesity Control Program** – RSDM has obtained a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health running from June 2021 through August 2022 to provide BMI screenings, nutritional counseling, and healthy food to the families of children 6-11 years old.
- **Oral Health Education** – RSDM students regularly provide oral health education in partnership with several local youth centers and the Newark Public Schools.
- **Pipeline Programs** – RSDM is committed to cultivating student interest in the dental profession. This is accomplished through several student-focused programs that include Dental Express (grades K-3), Dental Explorers (grades 4-8), Decision Dentistry (grades 9-12), Gateway to Dentistry (college level), and the Summer Health Professions Program (college level).
- **Diabetes Screening Initiative** – RSDM providers began an initiative in 2019 to screen patients for diabetes as part of a new early detection program. Funded by a grant from Delta Dental of New Jersey, the two-year program is scheduled to screen up to 500 patients and train predoctoral students to identify at-risk patients, most of them elderly and middle-aged. After receiving rapid screening

tests, those with moderate to high levels of indicators for the disease would be referred to their primary care physician. If they don't have one, they'll be referred to Rutgers School of Nursing clinics or University Hospital. The Rutgers School of Health Professions' Department of Nutrition is also slated to collaborate so patients can be treated holistically.

- **Screening for Underserved Children** – In 2019, RSDM received a \$62,500 grant from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey to provide screenings, oral healthcare education, and dental sealants to 1,000 schoolchildren in Essex County.
- **Give Kids A Smile Day** – In 2019, RSDM hosted the annual Give Kids A Smile Day. About 80 children, ages 6-12, from the Gray Charter School in Newark attended the screening, where they were treated to a magic show, along with student-supplied stickers, face painting, and free toothbrushes and toothpaste. In addition to fluoride treatments and screenings, the children received more intensive preventive care which included fluoride sealants. Give Kids A Smile is a nationwide effort sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA) to raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease.
- **Oral Cancer Screening** – For more than 20 years, RSDM has hosted a health fair and screened individuals for signs of oral cancer and raised awareness about the disease. The goal of this initiative is to treat underserved patients with a high risk for oral cancer and other chronic diseases.
- **COVID-19 Outreach** – Students worked with local residents in a number of ways, including grocery shopping for the elderly and scheduling virtual visits with children to provide oral health tips and helping with other needs, such as homework and activities to encourage healthy habits.
- **Oral Health Education**
 - 1) **Outreach at Liberty Science Center** – Students spend a day at Liberty Science Center, educating visitors and families about oral health in conjunction with Delta Dental of Hudson County.
 - 2) **Expectant Mothers** – Students and faculty work with gynecologists from the Rutgers Health system to provide information on how pregnancy affects oral health, including such conditions such as “pregnancy gingivitis” and the importance of preventing “bottle mouth” syndrome in infants, along with other early childhood oral health concerns.
 - 3) **Essex County Public and Charter Schools** – Students visit dozens of schools each year to teach children about taking care of their teeth and gums.

- 4) **Homeless Shelters and Nursing Homes** – Students visit homeless shelters and nursing homes in Newark and South Jersey, and have worked with Asian and Indian communities in New York City and New Jersey to educate the public about oral health.

School of Health Professions

Since 1976, the Rutgers School of Health Professions has been a vibrant member of the Newark community. Our highly ranked academic programs have provided tremendous community service to everyone from elementary children to the elderly, including free clinical services and mentorship. Listed below are the current initiatives in the City of Newark.

- **Bachelor Degree Programs with Rutgers–Newark** – The Rutgers School of Health Professions currently offers five joint bachelor degree programs with Rutgers–Newark, including Medical Laboratory Sciences, Health Information Management, Health Sciences, Medical Imaging/Sonography, and Psychiatric Rehabilitation.
- **Health Sciences Careers Program** – The Health Sciences Careers program is part of the regular high school day for students and offers nine courses at various locations. Students take college-level, interdisciplinary, general health care, communication, and sciences courses generally during the junior and senior year of high school. Students enrolled in the program gain a solid foundation in the health sciences, and their experience with college level course work enhances academic skill development. The program is a part of the curriculum in 78 New Jersey high schools, including locations in Essex County and Newark.
- **Free Community Participatory Physical Therapy Clinic** – The Community Participatory Physical Therapy Clinic (CPPTC) serves people in Newark with physical therapy services along with wellness and health education. The clinic is supervised by a licensed physical therapist and student volunteers from the entry-level doctoral program in physical therapy at the Rutgers School of Health Professions.
- **Pro Bono Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology Clinic** – In the fall of 2021, the School of Health Professions opened a bilingual Speech-Language Pathology Clinic. The clinic serves the Newark Community, including children and adults from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. It offers assessments, diagnosis, and therapy for speech, language, communication, and swallowing disorders. Trained graduate student clinicians provide targeted services under the supervision of clinical educators, who are ASHA-certified, licensed speech-language pathologists.

- **Head Start Early Education Provider Community Partnership** – The School of Health Professions is partnering with The Leaguers Inc. to conduct a needs assessment to obtain current food insecurity risk and weight status data, and to learn from families in Newark about family functioning around weight-related behaviors using a family systems approach. The family has been identified as integral to pediatric obesity programs, but there is a need for more research about family systems and functions around food-related behaviors and with low-income and racial and ethnic minority families. The research is funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), a component of the National Institute of Health (NIH), under award number UL1TR003017.

- **Integrity House Affiliation** – Dr. Suchismita Ray, associate professor from the Department of Health Informatics, is affiliated with Integrity House in Newark, the largest drug addiction treatment facility in New Jersey. Through her NIH-funded grants, she investigated brain, cognitive, and behavioral impairments in chronic cocaine and opioid users who were undergoing addiction treatment in Integrity House. In addition, Dr. Ray offers regular lectures to the patients and staff members of Integrity House based on her research findings on neurocognitive changes in substance users and how to utilize effective strategies to reduce in-the-moment drug craving and use.

- **Community Health Screenings and Education Sessions** – Students, faculty, and staff have participated in a variety of health screening initiatives for the residents of Newark, including at the Get Ready Fest and the Caresparc Sustainable Health & Wellness Village with referral services to Rutgers community clinics in Newark. The school is also regularly involved in health fairs and attends community information sessions such as the annual Newark Museum event.

- **Department of Clinical and Preventive Nutrition Sciences**
 1. **Health Education** – Alongside the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, faculty and students provide diet education to patients in the dental clinics, education support during the oral cancer screening day, and nutrition education to the pediatric dentistry screening day of school-age children (faculty only).

 2. **Medical Nutrition Therapy** – At University Hospital, Entry-Level Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition (ELMSCN) students provide medical nutrition therapy services for inpatients and outpatients at the Ambulatory Care Center’s Liver Transplant Clinic and Heart Failure Clinic. At Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, ELMSCN students provide medical nutrition therapy services for inpatients, outpatient clinics (diabetes, pediatrics), and at Community Wellness Services including Hannah’s Kitchen, the Beth Greenhouse Farmers Market, and community health fairs. ELMSCN students support nutrition education and community outreach at the Rutgers NJMS WIC Program.

- **Newark Food Policy Council** – The School of Health Professions is a member of the City of Newark’s Food Policy Council. The council, founded by the Office of Sustainability of the City of Newark, convenes Newark residents, community, and academic institutions and business leaders to formulate plans related to promoting food access and quality for residents of Newark. Dr. Pamela Rothpletz-Puglia is a member of the Food Policy Council and regularly participates in meetings and activities.
- **Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**
 1. **Newark Physical Therapy Services** – The School of Health Professions provides high-quality pediatric services to children in the Newark Public Schools, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and more.
 2. **Youth Mentoring** – Faculty and students have participated in Youth Transitions to Work, a mentoring program with current high school students and recent graduates considering a career in health care.
- **Participation on Boards and Committees**
 1. **Dr. Lois Rockson: Newark360 Steering Committee Member** – Dr. Rockson was appointed to the Newark360 Steering Committee in July 2021, an invitation received from Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka. Steering Committee participation includes providing vision, feedback, and accountability for Newark’s Master Plan, with major focus on the foundational principles of health, equity, and resilience.

School of Public Health

Projects - Research and Service

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Ambassadors Program** – In partnership with the Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition and the United Way of Greater Newark, the School of Public Health developed a training and recruited 15 students as COVID-19 vaccine ambassadors for Newark who were partnered with community influencers and conducted street intercept conversations to encourage vaccinations.
- **University Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment** – At the request of University Hospital, updated the Newark-focused analysis of top 10 causes of mortality stratified by race/ethnicity and gender and compared to other municipalities for inclusion in their community health needs assessment and participated in an advisory board for the overall project. These needs assessments will be utilized by University Hospital to create additional services and programs to meet the needs of the surrounding community.

- **HIV Research Collaborations** – The Center for Health, Identity, Behavior, and Prevention Studies' (CHIBPS) ongoing HIV research collaborations with the African American Office of Gay Concerns (AAOGC) and the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation are committed to improve the health of LGBTQIA populations and people of color as well as those with intersectional identities.
- **LBGTQ+ Youth of Color** – Worked with Hetrick-Martin Institute: NY, now serving HMI: NJ youth, in identifying and advocating for local policies to support LBGTQ+ youth of color. Newark-specific work included researching and developing supportive online environments for Black queer youth
- **Student Health Education and Promotion Intervention** – Worked with Mason Gross and three NJ public schools; Columbia High School, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, and Franklin High School; on a new health promotion intervention.
- **Photovoice Research** – Developed a Photovoice research project on HIV-related stigma and sexual orientation-related stigma with the North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI) in Newark.
- **Sustainability Tool for Doula Programs** – Developed a sustainability tool for doula programs throughout New Jersey. This tool will be used to help organizations plan for expansion of their doula services. Doulas are associated with improved maternal and infant health outcomes.
- **University Hospital Familiar Faces Program** – At the request of University Hospital, a mixed-methods research project was completed to assess whether their Familiar Faces intervention for frequent emergency department users reduced ED visits and to gather feedback from patients and key stakeholders. The evaluation has been used to garner additional stakeholder support for the program.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences** – Partnered with three New Jersey community-based organizations to monitor and evaluate new projects focused on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs): Leaders for Life in Newark; Garden State Equality, which convened community stakeholders for a communitywide initiative in Asbury Park; and Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund (LALDEF) in Trenton.
- **Newark Beth Israel Medical Center COVID-19 Screening Program** – Partnered with residents at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center to analyze their data from universal COVID-19 screening of pregnant women.
- **Safer Childbirth Cities Program** – Continued work on Safer Childbirth Cities in partnership with the Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition, including recruiting and training six community researchers who will be conducting interviews/focus

groups with other Black women in Newark beginning in early 2022 in order to identify new strategies for improving maternal health and reducing health inequity.

- **COVID-19 Contact Tracing** – Worked on Contact Tracing Program with the City of Newark and Essex County Health Departments.
- **Newark Public Health and Prevention Efforts** – Worked on Rutgers University coalition to deliver services to the Newark community.
- **Breast Cancer Screening** – Improving Breast Cancer Screening: An Inaugural Pilot Project of the Rutgers Student Population and Public Health Service Corps. brings together a coalition of community, local, and academic stakeholders across Essex County; University Hospital, NJMS, SPH, and other RBHS units; RWJBarnabas, community-based organizations, and State and local authorities to improve access and achieve health equity in breast cancer screening among women in Newark and throughout the county.
- **Mental Health First Aid Training** – Worked on mental health first aid training for Edna Mahan Correctional Facility.

School of Nursing

- **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Clinics** – School of Nursing faculty, staff, and students have played a key role in the mobilization of COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites in the State of New Jersey throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. SON students and faculty have supported vaccination efforts by volunteering at Essex County vaccination mega-sites, pop-up community clinics, and at the three Rutgers University VAX Corps sites. As part of their clinical preparation, more than 180 senior SON students completed clinical requirements at vaccine sites in Spring 2021, supporting all aspects of a critical public vaccination initiative. Faculty, students, and staff also volunteered to help prepare over 5,000 COVID-19 test kits for the RBHS community in order to help facilitate a safe return to campus.
- **Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF)** – The School of Nursing EOF (SN-EOF) program was established in 1977 by Dr. Bobbie Jean Perdue. It is the only EOF program in the state that is tailored to the needs of EOF nursing students. The purpose of the EOF program is to provide an opportunity for economically disadvantaged students to participate in the state's higher education program. In accordance with state guidelines, the SN-EOF program provides financial, academic, and counseling support services to qualified students who demonstrate potential and are in need of support.
- **The François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center** – The FXB Center is a leader and innovator in programs for vulnerable women, children, youth, and families, including those infected/affected by HIV. FXB serves people in Newark, and

surrounding areas, and its staff provides health care, medical case management services, community outreach, and education for clients and their families.

➤ **Community Partnerships** – Community engagement is embedded into the School of Nursing curriculum, and as such, the school partners with dozens of organizations across the city, county, and state for clinical partnerships for students. The School of Nursing has developed partnerships with the following organizations within the City of Newark to help improve access to health care systems, delivering quality clinical care and providing health education in the community:

- African American Office for Gay Concerns (AAOGC)
- AIDS Resource Foundation
- American Lung Association (ALA)
- Children’s Specialized Hospital Outpatient Center
- City of Newark / Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Center
- Department of Children and Families / Division of Child Protection and Permanency
- Department of Health and Community Wellness (DHCW) Ryan White Unit (RWU) and the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA)
- Head Start
- Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
- Isaiah House
- New Community Corporation
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
- Newark Community Health Center
- Newark Department of Health
- Newark Emergency Services for Families
- North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI)
- Saint Bridget’s HIV/AIDS Support Services
- Team Management 2000
- Urban Renewal Corp.

➤ **Student Initiatives** – Rutgers School of Nursing students, through the Division of Student Services, participate in a variety of community and service-based initiatives within New Jersey. For example, students across the state have

organized a food drive between all campus locations in Newark, New Brunswick, and Blackwood, and will donate collections to campus food pantries as well as the Food Bank of South Jersey. Students have also partnered in other local initiatives, including backpack and diaper drives.

Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ)

- **Community Outreach and Engagement Team** – The CINJ Community Outreach and Engagement team was launched in October 2019. The team’s focus is on overall community health with an emphasis on cancer prevention. Through partnerships with health care provider agencies, public health agencies, and community organizations, they plan to increase cancer awareness and share information about cancer screening, treatment, and research. Their activities and partnerships in 2021 included hosting workshops and educating community partners about CINJ programs and research. Over 20 partners joined in this initiative and approximately 717 individuals participated in the workshops. CINJ also became a Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) hub in 2021, enabling the Cancer Institute to support health care professionals and community peer educators in providing cancer prevention awareness and education to their patients and the community. The benefit of this initiative is that it is intended to aid in reducing the overall cancer burden in New Jersey.
- **Screen NJ** – CINJ is partnering with the State of New Jersey to expand community screening, reduce mortality rates, and to educate New Jersey residents about the importance of cancer screening, early detection, and prevention, as well as to reduce disparities in outcomes and access to care along the cancer care continuum, improve equitable and respectful enrollment of diverse patients in cancer clinical trials, and improve cancer health equity.
- **Community Health Worker Training Program** – In 2021, CINJ held two Project ECHO programs, one in Spanish for 15 promotoras and one with 80 health care workers who work with people with disabilities. The team also held various workshops across the state and included attendees from Newark. CINJ also held LGBTQ competency training.
- **Citizen Scientist Program** – In 2021, the Citizen Scientist created two videos, one for training oncology navigators and one to inform the community about clinical trials. They are also working to create a media platform that will go public in FY2022 and share community information.

University Behavioral Health Care

- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)** – CCBHC is a comprehensive and integrated approach to care with emphasis on care coordination and linkage to medical and community resources. Serving adults, children, and adolescents, it provides psychiatric evaluation, medication management, individual therapy, group and family therapy, case management services, peer

support services and health screenings. We also provide substance use services which include individual and group therapy, as well as Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). Our multidisciplinary staff includes licensed psychiatrists, advanced practice nurses, psychologists, social workers, licensed counselors, and case managers trained to work from a person-centered perspective, utilizing evidence-based treatments.

- **School and Community Based Services** – UBHC continues a lengthy history of providing mental health and support services to Newark schoolchildren and adolescents who have limited access to services and strives to instill in them hope for the future. The services are enabled through a partnership with Newark Trust for Education’s Tier 3 program and are provided in four Newark public schools: Avon Ave., Peshine Ave., Belmont Runyon, and Spencer/Miller. The services are provided free of charge and delivered in a non-threatening and familiar environment. The goal of the program is to create a healthy environment for learning by partnering with schools in developing prevention and intervention strategies that promote academic and life success for students. UBHC has provided suicide prevention training for staff in all 62 Newark public schools. The following services are provided:
 - 1) Individual and family counseling to students and families in Newark Public Schools
 - 2) Psycho-educational groups for children, parents, and school staff
 - 3) Afterschool programs and in-school suspension counseling
 - 4) Crisis intervention/screenings
 - 5) Staff development workshops and consultation
 - 6) Drug/alcohol prevention and intervention
 - 7) Case management and integration with community programs
- **Acute Psychiatric Screening Center** – UBHC provides acute psychiatric screening services at University Hospital, adjacent to the Emergency Department. Emergency evaluations are available 24/7 for individuals of all ages at imminent risk of harm to self or others due to a mental health condition. Evaluations in community settings are provided 24/7 and include consumer home locations. Referrals and linkages to appropriate aftercare including outpatient treatment, partial hospitalization, substance abuse treatment, voluntary hospitalization, and involuntary hospitalization are provided by UBHC. This service includes linkage to case management and family support as appropriate.

- **Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for Co-occurring Disorders** – IOP is a 4-6-week structured program for adults ages 18+ with a focus on persons with addictions, co-occurring, and general mood and anxiety disorders. Participants attend group sessions for three hours/three days a week and a weekly individual session. Medication management is available, including Suboxone maintenance.
- **Adult Acute Partial Hospital** – This is an all-day group-based program that provides comprehensive recovery-oriented treatment and case management services for individuals suffering with a psychiatric illness which may also include co-occurring substance use. The program mission is to provide accessible, person-centered and evidence-based services designed to assist individuals with achieving valued life roles as they actively pursue greater life satisfaction, enhanced functioning, and personal goal attainment. The principles of cognitive behavioral therapy and the value of developing mindfulness serve to inform many of our group services.
- **Child Partial Hospital** – This is a partial hospitalization program (PHP) for children ages 5-17. Children in this program typically have had histories of psychiatric hospitalization or residential treatment or are at risk for such treatment. The PHP provides full-day programming for young people ranging in age from 5–12 years. Adolescent programming is offered on a half-day basis, allowing the students to attend their regularly assigned classes in the morning with partial programming in the afternoon.
- **Children’s Crisis Clinic** – This clinic’s services include walk-in access for evaluation of children with clinicians, short-term medication evaluation and management with prescribers, return-to-school note when applicable, outpatient therapy, and referral to longer-term outpatient, partial hospitalization, or other services as appropriate.
- **Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)** – This clinic program provides walk-in access for adults to meet with and be evaluated by a clinician on a crisis or urgent need, but non-emergent basis, which includes a face-to-face meeting with a clinician within 24 hours of referral or telephone contact. Services may include medication evaluation and management by advanced practice nurses, case management for linkage to services, and individual and family therapy, all aimed at avoiding the need for more acute care/hospitalization or for referral to other forms of aftercare based on a 30-day intensive outpatient treatment design.
- **Community Support Services (CSS)** – CSS is a community-based rehabilitative service (non-clinical) provided to adults with serious mental illness in Essex County and focuses on skills development, case management, and illness management.

- **Maternal Wraparound Program** – This is a maternal community-based wraparound service provided to pregnant or post-partum women with Opioid Use Disorder up to one year post-birth. Services include case management, coordination of care, safety care planning for infant and family/support system, and linkage to prenatal treatment and MAT if desired.
- **Intensive Recovery Treatment Support (IRTS)** – IRTS utilizes a peer-driven model to provide re-entry services to individuals being released from state prisons who are struggling with an opioid addiction. It is critical to note that a peer-driven model is one that utilizes individuals with lived experience with incarceration, addiction and recovery, or both. IRTS is a statewide program providing peer support services in all 21 counties in New Jersey and in all 13 prisons in the NJ Department of Corrections system.
- **Rutgers UBHC Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (Essex County)** – Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (CMRSS) are aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of children, and their families/caregivers facing crisis situations. CMRSS provides immediate crisis response on-site and coordinates subsequent stabilization services. Target groups are children and young adults up to age 21 located in Essex County. Referrals are made 24/7 through the Contracted System Administrator (CSA) at 877-652-7624.
- **Collaborative Behavioral Health Care Project (Essex HUB)** – The Essex HUB team gives primary care providers an opportunity to consult directly with child psychiatrists regarding psychiatric and/or behavioral issues 24/7. Primary care providers can call 973-972-7889 to obtain information regarding psychiatric evaluations and consultation via telemedicine, medication management, referrals to services, and the coordination of care. Essex HUB also provides training and educational programming for medical providers at no cost. Experts from the HUB team can assist with linkages and referrals to mental health and addiction services in Essex County.

Rutgers Urban Health and Wellness Institute

- **Believe in a Healthy Newark (BHN)** – Dr. Denise Rodgers, the Vice Chancellor of Interprofessional Programs at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, currently serves as the chair of the Believe in a Healthy Newark steering committee and was responsible for submission of the original grant that started the project in 2015. It is now funded by a three-year grant from the United Way of Greater Newark. The project aims to address social determinants of health with special emphasis on three key areas: Healthy Homes, Food and Fitness, and Adverse Childhood Experiences. In collaboration with the Rutgers School of Public Health, BHN has developed a very robust social media presence largely due to the work of the BHN project coordinator along with students from the School of Public Health, Rutgers–Newark and Montclair State. These students work under the direction of Dr. Leslie Kantor, chair of the Department of Urban and Global Public Health in the School of Public Health, who is also a member of the BHN Steering Committee.

Preventive Medicine residents from NJMS are also involved in creating content for BHN social media platforms as well. Specifically, BHN currently has a significant focus on COVID-19 including a strong social media presence on its website, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook aimed at providing accurate COVID-19 information.

The BHN Food and Fitness Impact Team is working diligently to help insure access to food for food insecure families in Newark in partnership with a number of community-based organization and including representatives from the City and the Newark Public Schools.

- **Newark Homelessness Commission** – Since January 2019, Dr. Denise Rodgers has chaired the Newark Homelessness Commission, a commission formed by the Mayor and Municipal Council. The overarching goal is to provide housing and appropriate services for our neighbors without addresses. In March 2020, Dr. Rodgers initiated a weekly virtual meeting with key members of the Commission, Dr. Mark Wade, director of the Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness, and others to address the challenges associated with homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Erin Zerbo, from the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Department of Psychiatry and Director of the Northern NJ Medication-Assisted Treatment Center of Excellence, Dr. Pauline Thomas, Director of the Preventive Medicine Residency at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and several of the preventive medicine residents participate regularly in these meetings, along with Shad Yasin, an NJMS medical student. The Homelessness Commission COVID-19 Task Force also provided oversight for services for residents of the Holiday Inn temporary shelter that was successfully closed at the end of January 2022.

- **Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition (GNHCC)** – Dr. Rodgers currently serves as chair for the GNHCC and the chair of the GNHCC Population Health Hub subcommittee. The Population Health Hub is one of four Health Hubs (formerly Medicaid ACOs) funded by the NJ Department of Human Services in collaboration with the NJDOH. The goal of the Health Hubs is to provide an analysis of population health trends in Newark that will then result in targeted programming to address areas of need. The Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition also runs several initiatives that serve the residents of Newark. These include: Faith in Prevention -addressing chronic disease management, Healthy Women, Healthy Families—addressing the health of women of childbearing age, and the South Ward Promise Neighborhood Project—GNHCC serves as the health anchor. University Behavioral Health Care President Frank Ghinassi, PhD, and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Assistant Dean of Primary Care and Community Initiatives Dr. Ana Natale-Periera also serve on the GNHCC board.

- **Victoria Foundation** – Dr. Rodgers serves on the board of the Victoria Foundation who’s new mission is: “*Victoria Foundation partners with Black and Brown residents and other marginalized communities in Newark and nonprofit organizations to champion bold strategies that strengthen community power, foster economic justice, promote youth self-determination, and respond to pressing needs.*”
- **COVID-19 Educational Sessions** – Dr. Rodgers continues to provide COVID-19 educational sessions to leaders of community-based organizations in her role as the medical advisor for the Newark Equitable Vaccine Initiative (NEVI). NEVI is administered by United Way of Greater Newark with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation.
- **Rutgers Equity Alliance for Community Health (REACH) Grant** – Rutgers will be launching a new initiative to improve the health and quality of life in economically disadvantaged communities dealing with food insecurity, high unemployment, low high school graduation rates, and shrinking household incomes. REACH is funded through a \$10 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This initiative is designed to address health disparities through community partnerships and explore ways to grow our existing community partnerships. Dr. Rodgers and Enobong (Anna) Branch, senior vice president for equity and professor of sociology, are co-principal investigators for this grant.

Government and Community Boards

RBHS faculty and staff are members of many boards and committees that cover a wide range of public policy issues. This local participation includes the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Professional Advisory Committee, the Statewide Task Force to End the HIV Epidemic, New Jersey Society for Public Health Education, the HCV (Hepatitis C Virus) Elimination Committee, the New Jersey Department of Health Strategic Oral Health Planning Committee, the Newark COVID-19 Testing Subcommittee, the Newark Guaranteed Income Task Force, the Newark LGBTQ Advisory Council, Mayor Baraka's Strikeforce on Data and Data Analysis Committee, the Newark Office of Sustainability Food Policy Group, the Newark Urban Agricultural Cooperative, the Newark Community Collaborative Board, Governor McGreevey's Medical Subcommittee—Essex County Correctional Facility, Hyacinth Foundation, the International Surgical Health Initiative, the New Jersey State Trauma System Advisory Committee, the Ryan White Planning Council, the Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and Related Blood-Borne Pathogens, Believe in a Healthy Newark, the City of Newark Homeless Commission, the City of Newark FQHC Board of Commissioners, the Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition, the Institute for Prevention and Recovery—Communities That Care, the Civilian Task Force Public Safety Committee—Rutgers University—Newark, and the University Hospital Board of Directors.

**National Institutes of Health Grant Awards
Totals RBHS–Newark**

Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21 – 9/30/22): \$64,492,336

Fiscal Year 2021 (10/1/20 - 9/30/21): \$52,951,713

Fiscal Year 2020 (10/1/19 - 9/30/20): \$58,196,025

FY2022	Award
RBHS–NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL	\$59,114,144
RBHS–SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE	\$3,703,805
RBHS–SCHOOL OF NURSING	\$857,659
RBHS–SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS	\$816,728
Total	\$64,492,336
FY2021	Award
RBHS–NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL	\$46,980,408
RBHS–SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE	\$3,895,266
RBHS–SCHOOL OF NURSING	\$948,227
RBHS–SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS	\$1,127,812
Total	\$52,951,713
FY2020	Award
RBHS–NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL	\$52,180,575
RBHS–SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE	\$3,829,381
RBHS–SCHOOL OF NURSING	\$1,611,890
RBHS–SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS	\$574,179
Total	\$58,196,025

RBHS Employment Statistics

April 3, 2022	# of Employees	% of Employees
Total Employees – RBHS–Newark Campus	4,595	100%
Total Newark Residents	458	10%
Total Essex County Residents Excluding Newark	836	18%
Total Essex County Residents Including Newark	1,294	28%

Note: The employment data includes central administration staff on the Newark–RBHS campus based on the Rutgers Reporting Relationship Code (RRC).



RUTGERS

**BIOMEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**

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