Background: The University of Cincinnati Open School (UCOS) chapter was formed in 2008 as a student organization made up of future health care professionals working together to promote health in the community. Our student-run clinic began in 2010 and operates out of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), a charitable organization that serves the urban underserved of Cincinnati. The clinic provides preventative health services, health education, and health coaching. We are guided by a Community- Academic Partnership (CAP), which helps us address the needs of the community.

Mission statement: The University of Cincinnati Open School chapter promotes ongoing improvement and innovation in health care and cultivates the clinical and leadership skills of our interprofessional (IP) community. We achieve this through compassionate partnership with community-based clients, and student-driven learning opportunities founded in coursework offered by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

Membership: We have over 400 volunteers from UC professional programs including Dental Hygiene, Nutrition, Physical Therapy, Social Work, Medicine, Pharmacy and Nursing.

Activities

Our student-run clinic meets every Saturday morning at SVdP. We see an average of 6-8 clients per week, and each client sits down with 2-3 students from different professions to discuss health history, medication, lifestyle habits, social situations, and any other client concerns. Our services are supervised by HPEC, an IP faculty group at UC.

Current clinic services:
- Blood pressure and blood glucose monitoring
- Height and weight checks
- BMI calculations
- Monoftalm foot checks
- Influenza & Pneumococcal vaccinations
- Oral cancer screenings
- Healthy Eating at the Pantry program
- Wellness circle and motivational interviewing
- Cancer Justice Network navigating, a partner program

Upcoming activities:
- Free flu shots (October-January)
- MI training for student volunteers (November)
- Free dental cleanings (offered six times in the Fall)
- Volunteer trainings (monthly as needed)
- Chapter meetings (monthly)
- HPEC and CAP meetings (monthly)
- Health Fair (February)
- Dental Day (March 2nd, 2018)

Challenges

- Improving faculty capacity: To allow clinic to flow well, our goal is to have two faculty present each Saturday, however, we often only have one. One way to combat this was to open up preceptor positions to Pharmacy and Medicine residents. Expanding faculty capacity is critical to improving our efficiency and quality of care.
- Summer Volunteers: While we have no difficulty recruiting volunteers during the school year (in fact, we are booked months ahead), volunteer numbers are lacking in the summer. Many professions are out of town on clinical rotations or performing research during the summer semester.

Meeting Attendance: Due to busy IP schedules, it is extremely rare that we have all 22 leaders at one meeting at one time. Although we communicate well via email and text messaging, we hope to improve student leadership experience, idea sharing, and program planning by hosting an upcoming meeting at a bar and grill. Additionally, we lost our Community Outreach Leader early in the fall semester; it has been difficult ensuring at least one of our leaders has been present at CAP meetings.

Leadership Team

Steering Committee:
- Melinda Earnest, Co-Director (Physical Therapy)
- Anthony Martella, Co-Director (Medicine)

Recruitment Committee:
- Laurel Jaroch, Director (Physical Therapy)
- Ashley Powell, Coordinator: Dental Hygiene

Development Committee:
- Quinn Hostel, Finance Director (Medicine)
- Tiffany Armstrong, Supplies Manager (Dental Hygiene)
- Lexi Koon, External Marketing Director (Pharmacy)
- Kate Metzlish, IHI Liaison (Medicine)

Service Committee:
- Ayushi Jain, Director (Medicine)
- Matthew Arlinghaus, QI Coordinator (Pharmacy)
- Saba Amir, Data Manager (Pharmacy)
- Emily Grubb, Data Manager (Dental Hygiene)
- Jingyi Wang, Data Manager (Pharmacy)
- Heidi ROWLES, Data Manager (Nutrition)
- Chloe Whaley, Nutrition Leader (Nutrition)

Chapter Advisors

Our Open School Chapter would not be possible without the support of the UC and the incredible faculty and staff in our participating colleges. We are guided by a group of thirty-six professionals, faculty and staff called the HPEC, who meet monthly to discuss UCOS and interprofessional education at UC. We would like to thank the HPEC faculty and staff, CAP members, and our SVdP partners for their time and continued support.

About Us

Accomplishments