pipeline

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Welcome from... Marja M. Hurley, M.D.

Associate Dean & Director Professor of Medicine Health Career Opportunity Programs University of Connecticut Health Center

t is hard to believe that we are in the midst of our 2006 HPPI Summer Programs. We will have more than 180 students ranging from grades 8 through the postbaccalaureate level. Although the program names and ages of participants may vary, they all have a similar purpose: to encourage students from underrepresented and/or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds to gain important skills and knowledge about careers in the health professions.

We are equally excited about bringing on board both new and old staff members into our 2006 Summer Programs. Many of our Peer Counselors are current and/or former students and our faculty comes from a wide variety of backgrounds and institutions.

Together, we will make the 2006 HPPI Summer Programs a productive and memorable event for everyone involved!

Finally, we would like to thank all of our funders for their continued support to our programs. A special recognition to the Legislators of the State of Connecticut, who have provided HPPI with newly-awarded State funds to support some of our existing programmatic initiatives.



Welcome from... **Hubert Benitez, D.D.S.**

Assistant Dean & Associate Director Health Career Opportunity Programs University of Connecticut Health Center

ne of the greatest obstacles that students face in today's educational environment is the lack of opportunities to access information and resources that are relevant to the health professions. Because the University of Connecticut, Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine believe that increasing the number of underrepresented minority and disadvantaged students in the healthcare fields will provide our community with a diverse workforce, our Department is committed to the development of programs that promote and enhance students' interest in the health professions.

Healthcare workforce shortages are not new to the nation and to Connecticut. We are dedicated to promoting academic excellence and cultural competence among students, to create a new generation of professionals who can fulfill the needs of our communities. We invite you to be an active participant of the Health Career Opportunity Programs, and join us in our efforts in building a solid and diverse community of healthcare professionals. Our department is highly engaged in addressing this issue. Of the Class of 2010, 20% of students are from underrepresented groups in the health professions, 80% of whom have participated in our pipeline programs.

We are pleased to share that of the incoming Medical School Class, 20% of the students are from underrepresented groups in the health professions, 50% of whom have participated in our pipeline programs. Of the incoming Dental School Class, 20% of the students are from underrepresented groups in the health professions, 75% of whom have participated in our pipeline programs.

Read about the Health Professions Partnership Initiative and Pipeline programs at: http://medicine.uchc.edu/departments/hcop

2006 BRIDGE CONFERENCE

On Saturday, April 1, 2006, sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, the Student National Medical and Dental Association Chapters and the Hispanic Dental Student Association, hosted the 2006 Bridge Conference which brought together over 100 high school and college students from diverse backgrounds with UCHC faculty/staff, medical/dental graduate students to interact in a series of activities to raise awareness on health and biomedical science careers. Special recognition should be given to Anthony Carbonella, President of the University of Connecticut Pre Dental Society who was instrumental in bringing a large number of students to the conference and Ms. Olga Jarrin, R.N. who represented the University of Connecticut School of Nursing. The Jack and Valerie Row Health Professions Scholars Program Fund and a grant from the MassMutual Foundation supported the conference. The keynote speaker for the 2006 Bridge Conference was Mr. Ron Copes, Vice President of Community Relations at the Mass Mutual Financial Group.

The 2006 Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Conference offered two strands of programming, one for high school students and the other for current college students.

For the high school students, Dr. Roger S. Thrall delivered a presentation on Sickle Cell Anemia and Dr. Henry Furneaux a presentation on Biomedical Research in the Year 2010. Under the leadership of the HPPI Site Coordinators, Kathy Martin-Troy, Ph.D. (Central Connecticut State University) and Steven Jarvi, Ph.D. (University of Connecticut, Storrs) high school participants were excited and challenged about their knowledge of science, math and the college experience by playing Team Jeopardy.

College student participants learned about the admissions process for medical and dental school and to the Graduate Programs at UCHC. Drs. Keat Sanford, Assistant Dean of Admissions at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Dr. Hubert Benitez, Assistant Dean of HCOP, put the college students into the hot seat as potential admissions committee evaluators. Student participants ranked prospective applicants based on their academic profiles, letters of recommendation and DAT/MCAT scores. This process helped the students better understand what admissions committees are looking for in qualified candidates.

Both the high school and college students had an opportunity to listen to personal anecdotes from School of Medicine and Dental Medicine students. The medical/dental students shared their progression through medical school and allowed the high school and college students to ask questions. This was a very informative exchange of dialog for all participants.



GREAT EXPLORATIONS UPDATE

Now in its fourth year, the Great Explorations Program is fully operational and expanding at 3 Hartford schools. Funded by the AETNA Foundation, Great Explorations provides programs designed to raise awareness of careers in the health professions and college preparation to middle school students. More than 450 students in grades 6-8 at Bellizzi Middle School, Kennelly and Naylor schools have participated in programs provided by Great Explorations this year.

Great Explorations provides after school programs for 7th graders which focus on Chemistry Science labs (Acids & Bases, Polymers & Resins, and Endothermic & Exothermic Reactions). In addition, 8th grade, after school programs focus on Modeling the Body Systems (Skeletal, Circulatory & Senses).

Great Explorations also offers a 4-week summer program for rising 8th graders at Bulkeley High School's Health Professions Academy.

Through the generosity of the AETNA Foundation, the Great Explorations Program is one of the targeted programs that will receive on-going funding from a \$2 million endowment to University of Connecticut Health Center Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs.

HPPI SCHOLARSHIPS

The Massachusetts Mutual Foundation has committed \$8,000 in scholarship monies for qualified students graduating from Hartford Public Schools who plan to enroll in one of the three HPPI College Partners (UConn, CCSU or Wesleyan). Eligible students must have participated in HPPI sponsored programs, demonstrate academic promise and financial need. The 2006 HPPI scholarship were awarded on June 1, 2006 at the Academic Year Closing and Fifth Annual Recognition



Ceremony.
The 2006
HPPI scholarship recipients are
Courtney
Cauley
(CCSU),
Kishana
Jumpp

(UConn), Shaneca Napier (UConn), Xenia Oyola (UConn).

BRIDGES TO THE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

Now into its second year of operation, the purpose of the Bridges Program is to provide students interested in science and research at Capitol Community College an opportunity to work with Health Center faculty members in UCHC labs. As a 2 + 2 program, the Bridge to the Baccalaureate Program gives students the support and experience to begin their academic career at the community college and facilitate their transition to University of



Connecticut in the pursuit of a 4-year degree.

Stacha Campbell is the first student participating in the Bridges Program to graduate from Capital Community College. Stacha is currently enrolled in the Medical Dental Preparation Program sponsored by the University of Connecticut Health Center, Department of Health Career Opportunity Program, and has been accepted into University of Connecticut Storrs Campus for the fall 2006.

Henry Furneaux, PhD., Associate Professor for Vascular Biology, Program in Molecular Biology & Bio-Chemistry is the Coordinator for Laboratory Research, and Professor Paul Whitehead, M.Phil. is the Faculty Coordinator for the Bridges Program at Capitol Community College. A total of 7 students are expected to participate in research labs during the summer of 2006. Paired with preceptors from the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and Graduate School, Bridge Students have the opportunity of a lifetime — to apply their educational training with hands on research. For more information about the Bridges Program, contact Danielle DalBon at (860) 679-4355.

COLLEGE SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP SFRIFS

More than 90 students from Bulkeley High School Health Professions Academy participated in the 2005-2006 College Science Partnership Series sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Martin-Troy (Molecular Biological Sciences Department), students participated in 10 biology and chemistry labs at Central Connecticut State University.

EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM

A series of eight programs were held for seniors at Bulkeley High Schools Health Professions Academy to introduce basic concepts and terminology used in the study of epidemiology. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Wetstone and Dr. David Gregorio, the Epidemiology Program looked at medical journal articles, research premises, activities and outcomes.

FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CAREERS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS FUND

In honor of Dr. Boake Plessy's contributions, the University of Connecticut has established a scholarship fund that will be used to support educational enhancement for students from underrepresented and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds at the post-secondary level. The



Friends of the Department of Health Careers Opportunity Programs Fund scholarships were awarded on June 1, 2006 at the Academic Year Closing and Fifth Annual Recognition Ceremony. The 2006 recipients were Damian Fuller (UConn) and Shackira Davidson (UConn). To contribute to the Fund, please contact the University of Connecticut Foundation at (860) 679-1701.

ROWE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Jack and Valerie Rowe Health Professions Scholars Program Fund, established to provide incentives and opportunities to students participating in UCONN's HPPI programs, announced the 2006 recipients during the Academic Year



Closing and Fifth Annual Recognition Ceremony. Congratulations to Faiven Feshazion, who participated in the 2005 High School Student Summer Research Apprentice Program, and is currently participating in the Precollege Enrichment Program, and will be enrolling at UCONN Storrs in the fall of 2006.

GREAT EXPLORATIONS TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE



Jill Simko, from Naylor Middle School, is now into her second year of involvement with the Great Explorations Academic Year Program. "I have been teaching science at Naylor School in Hartford, CT for 4 years now. Great Explorations is so much more than

science in the classroom. Once a month my seventh and eighth grade students meet with the program facilitators. There are approximately fifteen students in each group. The students are able to meet in the science lab to complete hands-on labs. What makes this program so worth while is the student-scientist ratio. Each session the students meet with 3-4 professionals. The kids look forward to the program each month and they truly enjoy the close attention they receive. The students get very excited about the dissection of animals and seeing real organs from real animals. This is something they would not have the privilege of in the regular science class."

A few weeks ago the 7th grade had the pleasure of visiting Wesleyan University. They toured the science labs, were able to use an electron microscope, had lunch in the University cafeteria and met with the Dean of Admissions. It was a wonderful day filled with experiences they will never forget. They still talk about the trip weeks later.

The 8th grade was thrilled to visit the University of Connecticut, home of the Huskies! They were amazed by the size of the campus. On their visit they were able to conduct a lab in the state of the art, chemistry building. The professors then entertained the kids with a dry ice and liquid nitrogen demonstration.

The Great Explorations Program is a wonderful program. It greatly increases college awareness among my students, which is one of the missions of the Hartford Public Schools."

Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS DENTAL MEDICINE GRADUATE



Damian Findlay, D.M.D., graduated on May 14, 2006 from University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. Damian participated in the HPPI Pipeline programs sponsored by the UCHC Health Career Opportunity Programs in the Medical Dental Preparatory Programs.

Damian met with Tori Countryman in April 2006 to discuss his progression through UConn School of Dental Medicine. Part of this discussion follows:

Tori: What was the most challenging aspect of your education at UConn School of Dental Medicine?

Damian: Adapting to what was required of because of the volume of the material.

Tori: Will you specialize?

Damian: Yes. I will be pursuing a 1-year general practice residency at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford beginning on July 1, 2006.

Tori: What would you say to someone entering UCONN's Schools of Medicine or Dental Medicine?

Damian: I have a saying "Decide, Commit, Succeed." I definitely recommend minority students to be a part of the programs and workshops. People can help each other as tutors and mentors. I was the president of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) for one year and the president of the Hispanic Student Dental Association (HSDA) for one year. In the role of president, I went to forums, organized oral health screenings, organized/attended fundraisers, donated food baskets to needy families. I am still actively involved in SNDA and HSDA.

Tori: What did you like the most about your education at UConn School of Dental Medicine?

Damian: I enjoyed traveling to Peru and Ecuador on two different dental mission trips. UConn School of Dental Medicine allows flexibility in your schedule during the 3rd and 4th year. UConn School of Dental Medicine faculty organized the mission trips.

Tori: What is the difference between your first year entering UConn School of Dental Medicine and now that your are in your senior year?

Damian: As a first year dental student at UConn School of

Dental Medicine it just hits you. As I progressed through the School of Dental Medicine, I paced myself because I learned how to handle myself and my time.

THE STORY OF A SECOND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT



Rafael Pacheco, a second year medical student at the University of Connecticut, was born in New York City. He lived in Puerto Rico with his family until he was six years old, and then moved back to New York City. Rafael, the older of two siblings, lost his mother and sister in a car accident when he was twelve years old. After this incident, and at the age of fourteen, his father left him and

his brother alone. Confronted with the need to move forward, Rafael took care of himself and his brother until he was old enough to go into the military as a Navy Combat Medic Corpsman, and completed his GED at the age of eighteen.

While in the service, Rafael was stationed at the National Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, got married and had a daughter. After being in the service for two years, he went to Montgomery Community College where he received an Associate Degree. Because of his passion and commitment to pursue a medical degree, he went to University of Maryland where he received a bachelor's degree, and was recognized by being a speaker at his college graduation in the spring 2005. Because of his interest of giving back to the community, Rafael participated in several outreach and volunteer activities at the University of Maryland, with the main objective of impacting children's' lives who were less fortunate. These activities included speaking at high schools and community colleges throughout the State of Maryland. By the time he completed his undergraduate cohort, and while a number of universities were interested in having him as a medical student, he had already decided to attend the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. His decision to come to University of Connecticut School of Medicine was supported fully by his wife, and one of the primary reasons for choosing UCONN was the possibility of being exposed in early stages to patient treatment. He acknowledges that Interaction with patients is unique, and he missed interacting with patients since he left the military.

HCOP influenced him positively when selecting UCONN Medical School. He had the opportunity to interact and interview with Drs. Boake Plessy and Marja Hurley, as well as Jan Figueroa. In the summer of 2005, Rafael was accepted into HCOP's Medical Dental Preparatory Program, which gave him a head start of the academic year. In addition, this experience provided him with the opportunity to sense how medical school would be. Rafael began his medical school career at University of Connecticut School of Medicine in August 2005. Continuing

with his personal interests, Rafael has become very involved in the community in Connecticut as well. He has taught in Hartford Health Education with other University of Connecticut medical and dental students, has been working with Migrant Farmers organizing free clinics, and has also participated in the South Park Inn Clinic. Rafael indicated time management is challenging because of thee need to blend medical school with available time for his wife and children. Rafael's brother is now living in Connecticut. He is a Navy Diver and he plans to go into Bio Engineering.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Bulkeley High School

The Health Professions Academy at Bulkeley High School had 21 seniors from the graduating class of 2006 move onto colleges or universities. They are: Stephanie Collier, Bob Diaz, Damian Fuller, Kishana Jumpp, Melainey Lanauze, Melissa Munisar, Shaneca Napier, Xenia Oyola, Jacqueline Palomino, Sally Palomino - University of Connecticut; Carlos Caez, Courtney Cauley, Andy Morrison - Central Connecticut State University; Daneris Davila - Tunxis Community College; Daniel Flores, Justin Morales - Manchester Community College; Melissa McCloud - Boston University; Dyonisia Miles - Briarwood College; Fiona Moore; Josue Reyes - Capitol Community College; Patricia Sampson - Lon Morris College in Texas. For additional information, contact Dr. Sharon Parker at parks001@hartfordschools.org.

Jumpstart Program

The 2006 Jumpstart Saturday Academy sponsored twenty sessions for 48 students in 9th and 10th grades at the University of Connecticut Greater Hartford Campus. Taking English, math and science, Jumpstart students attended classes from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Staffed by a dedicated team of teachers and Peer Counselors, the Jumpstart Program gave high school students the opportunity to continue their studies outside of the regular school day and environment. The 2006 Jumpstart Summer Program kicks off on June 28th. For additional information, contact Ms. Tori Countryman at countryman@uchc.edu.



Dr. Carolyn Runowicz, Professor of OB/GYN, Director of the Carole and Ray Neag Cancer Center and Dr. Peter Deckers, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs; Dean, School of Medicine; Murray-Heilig Chair and Professor of Surgery.

Mini Medical/Dental School

The annual High School Mini Medical/Dental School Seminar Series brought more than 70 high school students from across Connecticut together for eight weeks to explore a variety of medical and dental topics with experts in those



fields. Physicians and dentist from the UCHC donated their time and expertise as part of the series sponsored by the Health Career Opportunity Programs. The series is presented to Connecticut high school students through the use of video telecommunications at Bulkeley High School and Metropolitan Learning Center. For more information contact Anna Curtin at 860-679-3484. For additional information, contact Ms. Tori Countryman at countryman@uchc.edu or Ms. Anna Curtin at acurtin@nso1.uchc.edu.

Health Careers Discovery Program

Students who graduate from the Jumpstart Program have the opportunity to continue their studies through he Health Careers Discovery Program. This program promotes awareness of health careers and academic skill development for students in 11th grade and 12th grade. Administered by our community partner, the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program (CPEP), the 2006 Health Careers Discovery Summer Program will be held on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. For additional information, contact Mr. Glenn Cassis at cassisg@cpep.org.

High School Summer Research Apprentice Program

Can you imagine having the opportunity to be part of a research team and learning new laboratory techniques that you have only seen on the latest CSI? Well, 18 very lucky students will have just that opportunity since they have been selected to participate in the 2006 High School Summer Research Apprenticeship Program (HSSRAP). Funded in part by the Mass Mutual and the People's Bank Foundations, and the Center for Eliminating Health Disparities Among Latinos (CEHDL), twelve students will live at the University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus and the remaining students will commute daily to the Health Center for their research project. In order to be eligible for the HSSRAP, students must be 16 years old by the start of the program and be enrolled in a school that has a Career to Work Program.

The following 14 students are graduates of the High School Research Apprentice Program and are currently attending colleges or universities: Lovelyn Bogle - Providence College; Diana Chen - Cornell University; Agnes Perez - Eastern Connecticut State University; Shacarra Peters - University of Hartford; Gregory Pirrone - Fairleigh Dickinson University; Rheena Ware - University of Pittsburgh; Kathrina Chen, Faiven Feshazion, Damian Fuller, Kishana Jumpp, Shaneca Napier, Sandra Owens, Charlotte Ricketts, Elizabeth Zhu - University of Connecticut, Storrs. For additional information, contact Ms. Jan Figueroa at jfigueroa@nso1.uchc.edu.

The Pre-College Enrichment Program

This program gives college freshmen the opportunity to strengthen their academic skills while experiencing life on a college campus. As part of the Health Professions Partnership Initiative, our 3 college partners sponsor the 6-week preparation programs for a total of 45 students. The college partners are: the University of Connecticut, Wesleyan University and

Central Connecticut State University.

The Site Coordinators for the three sites are:

- Dr. Steven Jarvi UCONN steven.jarvi@uconn.edu
- Dr. Kathy Martin CCSU MartinK@mail.ccsu.edu
- Dr. James Donady Wesleyan University jdonady@wesleyan.edu

The Clinical/College Enrichment Program

Typically college sophomores, College Enrichment Program (CEP) participants focus on critical math and science skills needed for success at the post-secondary level. A total of 25 students are selected annually to participate in this program which is held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus. In addition to academic preparation, students also participate in weekly shadowing of physicians, dentists and staff at the UConn Health Center. For additional information, contact Ms. Jan Figueroa at jfigueroa@nsol.uchc.edu.

Medical/Dental Preparatory Programs (MDPP)

Housed at Central Connecticut State University, Medical-Dental Preparatory Program students come from across the United States to work on academic skills and foundation. 40 participants are bussed daily to the Health Center for classes, guest lectures and enrichment programs. There was a special presentation for the MDPP Orientation on June 12, 2006 with Rafael Perez-Escamilla, Ph.D., as the guest speaker. For additional information, contact Ms. Jan Figueroa at ifigueroa@nsol.uchc.edu.

Summer Research Fellowship Program

A ten week research enrichment experience designed for college juniors and seniors. Ten participants have a personalized research experience studying clinical medicine or dental medicine at UCHC. For additional information, contact Ms. Jan Figueroa at jfigueroa@nsol.uchc.edu.

Dates to Remember

July 21st

MDPP Closing Ceremony Close of Great Explorations Program

August 4th

Close of 2006 Summer Programs

Welcome New HCOP Employees

Tori Countryman

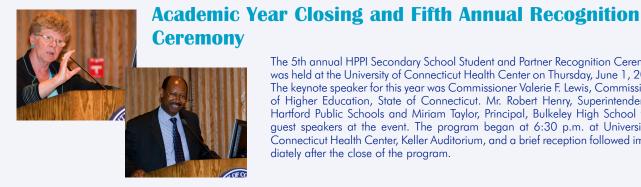
Community Based Educational Specialist

Frances Sanchez

Administrative Program Assistant

Danielle DalBon

Administrative Program Assistant



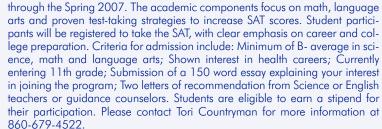
The 5th annual HPPI Secondary School Student and Partner Recognition Ceremony was held at the University of Connecticut Health Center on Thursday, June 1, 2006. The keynote speaker for this year was Commissioner Valerie F. Lewis, Commissioner of Higher Education, State of Connecticut. Mr. Robert Henry, Superintendent of Hartford Public Schools and Miriam Taylor, Principal, Bulkeley High School were quest speakers at the event. The program began at 6:30 p.m. at University of Connecticut Health Center, Keller Auditorium, and a brief reception followed immediately after the close of the program.

Project Outreach

The Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs has been awarded a planning grant by the NIH Export Center for Eliminating Health Disparities Among Latinos (CEHDL). "Project Outreach": A Peer Mentoring Pilot Program to Increase Awareness on the Health Professions" was conceptualized by Rafael Pacheco, MS1 and designed and submitted by Drs. Hubert Benitez, DDS (P.I.), and Marja M. Hurley, M.D. and Sarita, Arteaga, DMD (Co-Investigators). Beginning on June 1, 2006, Rafael Pacheco, who will be acting as the Peer-Mentors Director, will be joined by medical and dental students to implement a series of activities to increase awareness on the health professions to high school students in the greater Hartford area.

The New Junior Doctors Academy







The 3rd Annual HPPI Recognition Award is being awarded to Steven Wikel, PhD., Professor of Cell Biology and Immunology at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Dr. Wikel was selected for his numerous contributions and involvement in HPPI Pipeline Programs.



We Welcome Your Comments

Please feel free to provide Tori Countryman with your suggestions, ideas and comments for the next issue of the HPPI Pipeline. You can contact her at (860) 679-4522 (office) or 860-716-5037 (cellular) or via e-mail at countryman@uchc.edu.

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If you would like more information about the University of Connecticut Health Center's Pipeline Programs...

JUMPSTART 6-week Summer and 20-week Academic Programs 9th-10th grades
Health Careers Discovery Program, 11th-12th grades
Bulkeley & Weaver High School Health Profession Centers of Excellence, 9th-12th grades
High School Summer Research Apprenticeship Program, grade 12th grade
The Junior Doctors Academy, 11th grade
Mini Medical/DentalSeries, 11th-12th grades
Pre-College Enrichment Program, 13th grade
College Enrichment Program, 13th-14th grades
Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program, 13th-14th grades
Medical/Dental Preparatory Program, 13th-15th grades
Summer Research Fellowship Program, 15th-16th grades
Post Baccalaureate Program, post-16th grades
BS/DMD Joint Degree Program, 13th-16th grades

Great Explorations Middle School Program, 6th-8th graders

See the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs website at:

http://medicine.uchc.edu/departments/hcop

Funding Sources

- Aetna Foundation
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- Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services
- John and Valerie Rowe Health professions Scholars Program
- Massachusetts Mutual Foundation
- Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation
- National Institutes of Health NIGMS
- NIH Export Center for Eliminating Health Disparities Among Latinos (CEHDL)
- People's Bank Foundation
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- University of Connecticut Health Center



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