

# WVPBRN & COMMUNITY NEWS

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Community Engagement Core of the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute

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## You're Invited to Attend a Photo Exhibition of the Voices of Hunger in West Virginia Project

Haslyn Hunte, PhD, assistant professor in the West Virginia University School of Public Health, Department of Social and Behavioral Health Sciences, is leading a photovoice project to better understand the social and environmental conditions that impact the availability and quality of food in Preston and Monongalia Counties and promote healthier lifestyles among families requesting food. The collaborative project involves the West Virginia Catholic Charities of West Virginia (CCWVa) and the West Virginia Prevention Research Center and received a WVCTSI Community Engagement and Outreach Small Grant award.

Photovoice engages community participants by allowing them to use a camera to identify important aspects of their lives and communities. This process promotes dialogue about these issues and help to generate strategies to address them thus promoting social action. Participants attended two sessions held by the research team including photography skills and critical thinking and discussion of the photos taken. Understanding these barriers may have a significant impact on addressing obesity rates in the state.

The participants from each county will be hosting their exhibits on the following dates. Please considering attending to learn more about this project and the shared knowledge of these participants.

**February 13th, 2016, 2:00-4:00pm** - Preston County Participant's Exhibition, St. Sebastian Parish, 322 E Main St., Kingwood, WV 26537

**February 20th, 2016, 2:00-4:00pm** - Monongalia County Participant's Exhibition St John University Parish, 1481 University Ave, Morgantown, WV 26505

RSVP to: Haslyn Hunte, PhD, MPH, 304.293.0756 or [hehunte@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:hehunte@hsc.wvu.edu) by February 10th, 2016

## SPOTLIGHT: Project Better Health Recruitment Takes Off

Melissa Olfert, DrPH, assistant professor at West Virginia University Program of Human Nutrition and Foods and Mary Ann Maurer, MD, assistant professor at West Virginia University Charleston Division School of Medicine are collaborating on a project that provides patients with on-the-spot access to dietary advice and suggestions by the use of a mobile app.

Drs. Olfert and Maurer are teaming up with the WVPBRN on the project. Network sites implementing the project include New River Health Association, Wirt County Health Association/Coplin Memorial, Valley Health Systems, Robert C. Byrd Clinic, Charleston Area Medical Center, Cabin Creek Health Systems, and West Virginia University Family Medicine and funded by the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Recruited patients can easily log their consumed foods into the app and immediately see detailed dietary information regarding their choices. The app provides balanced food suggestions based on the provided health information and previous entries of meals for that day. As the patient has questions or concerns, they can be connected with a registered dietician through text message, phone call or email for support. The project aims to assess the accessibility and feasibility of using a mobile app in a rural areas and peri-urban areas to provide specialty dietary access and resources.

The project team has recruited 60 patients, among all seven sites across the state, and will continue to monitor their progress over the next 12 weeks. The participants will perform satisfaction surveys at varying points in the study to evaluate the feasibility and functionality of the app in patients at risk for weight gain. Eleven providers in the participating clinics have also been recruited to submit surveys to assess their referral and follow-up processes related to the app resources.

Once completed, this study will provide insight to the usage and acceptance of a technological approach to providing nutrition/dietetic services to rural populations in need of chronic disease prevention and management.

## Two projects accepted as WVPBRN projects

The WVPBRN is supporting two new network research projects. Both projects received favorable reviews by the network's Protocol Review Committee. The investigators will be working with the network staff to develop a plan for implementing the project and updating our partners on the progress.

Brianna Sheppard, PhD, program coordinator for the WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health, submitted a proposal to identify prevalence of low back pain in West Virginia, to assess current treatment techniques and determine whether these measures differ in rural versus non-rural areas.

The second project aims to assess the perceptions of providers on suicide screenings in primary care. Mary LeCloux, PhD, assistant professor from the WVU School of Social Work, submitted a plan to interview providers and determine barriers to successful suicide screening techniques.

The network is very excited to work with these project teams and address two relevant areas in primary care that are often identified by the members. More information on these projects is soon to come.

## Nine projects selected for West Virginia University and Marshall University health grants program

West Virginia University and Marshall University have awarded over \$426,000 in grants to nine collaborative research projects between the two universities. Over a three year span this program will provide \$1.5 million to support innovative clinical projects and/or translational research that will help faculty members at both schools better serve West Virginians and attract future external funding.

A full list of the clinical projects and translational research projects that received funding can be found [here](#).

## CAIPEC Roundtables Reminders

As a reminder, the Central Appalachia Inter-Professional Pain Education Collaborative (CAIPEC) has scheduled additional roundtable events intended to facilitate chronic pain management case-based interactive sessions.

Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - United Hospital Center, Classroom 3, 327 Medical Park Drive, Bridgeport, WV 26330

Thursday, February 4, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Preston Memorial Hospital, Magnolia Room, 150 Memorial Drive, Kingwood, WV 26537

For more information, visit the [CAIPEC](#) website or register [here](#).

## West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network Community Engagement and Outreach Core

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## Have any thoughts/comments/ideas? Contact:

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