

## HS-MACA'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Staff of HS-MACA 2005

HS-MACA dedicates this Newsletter to our community partners: *Omaha Public School District, Jesuit MS, Sacred Heart School, Metropolitan College, Charles Drew Clinic, One World Community Center, Women's Health Clinic, Boys Town, Creighton University Medical Center, The Doral Group, Urban League of Omaha, Prevent Blindness Nebraska, UNMC, UNO, UNL, Our Health Community Partnership, ILAC (Dominican Republic), Ministry of Health in St Lucia, West Indies and so many others that have contributed to our successes.*

Building a collaborative network with the community is part of HS-MACA's mission. HS-MACA provides advisory and support to Creighton University student

groups, particularly in the Health Science Schools, and helps coordinate clinical and education activities and opportunities with the community. Many of the Omaha Community agencies have benefited from the services that HS-MACA provides. The reciprocity we have enjoyed continues to provide our students the rewards of community service enhancing their educational and personal experience locally and globally. Our community partners and HS-MACA will continue working together throughout the coming year to improve the health of the community and striving hard to eliminate health disparities identified by the *Healthy People 2010*. During this holiday season and throughout the year, we endeavor to attain the true meaning of peace, hope and goodwill toward man. We wish you all a Happy Holiday.

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, MBA  
Associate Vice President HS-MACA

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### Facts

(2003 - Present)

HS-MACA has impacted:

- ❖ 1,678 children in grades 4 to 12
- ❖ 205 college (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> year) students
- ❖ 400 Professional school students
- ❖ Over 10,000 in the community on health care issues

## HCOP Makes Impressive Impact in the Community

by Barbara Slattery, MA

The Creighton University Health Careers Opportunity (HCOP) program is a federally funded grant project through the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. Its purpose is to expose students to exciting professional options in the Health Sciences; to guide and support interest in medicine and health careers; strengthen study and thinking skills, and science and math expertise. In its six years of existence, the Health Careers Opportunity Program at Creighton University prides itself in making an impressive impact on the community at large in Omaha, Nebraska. The following information may help to illustrate the impact this grant has had on students, parents, teachers and the community.

Though Creighton University had no existing undergraduate HCOP before the start of the FY 1999-2000 grant year, the current program can boast touching approximately 635 students from the community. From year two to year six, approximately 248 students have been CPR certified and/or recertified in the summer academy. Students volunteer at Siena/Francis House, Open Door Mission and Habitat for Humanity. They are immersed through experiences in various cultures, and become trained in recognizing bias within themselves. The HCOP grant can directly trace its impact on six students who are now successfully enrolled in Creighton's professional schools. One of the students has verbalized her appreciation of the program and how it has helped them, "I couldn't thank the HCOP staff enough for the knowledge and enrichment I've acquired from this program."

The summer program has academically and financially impacted the students and their families in numerous ways. The enrichment of the summer classroom content has boosted the students' grades and made them more aware of their career choices. Over 200 parents have been informed and have participated in empowerment sessions that teach them the affordability and reach ability of college for their children. Some of their comments were, "She is very excited to start her college career in the health professions", and "HCOP was very interesting with

academic challenges, shadowing and being able to interact with people from different cultures".

About 25 community teachers per year, have been touched by the program in various ways, including support for them in their classrooms and on field trips. Teachers of the students in the summer academy have commented, "This was a great experience for me. Most of the kids with whom I had contact were bright, motivated, and interesting individuals. I learned a lot being with them. I would do it again in a heartbeat."

The Pre-Medical Post-Bac Program is another component of the HCOP Program. Every year, seven pre-medical and five pre-dental post-baccalaureate students are given the opportunity to participate in field trips at One World Community Health Center, Florence Clinic Health Center and the Charles Drew Health Center. These centers serve a predominantly underrepresented minority population. Preceptors are encouraged to discuss culturally relevant medical topics with the Post-baccalaureate students. Since our first Post-Bac Class in 2000, 23 students have matriculated into medical school at Creighton or other medical schools. One Post-Bac alum is in a Ph.D. Program and two others are pursuing their Masters Degrees.

Through HCOP relationships with school systems, public health agencies, community groups and their leadership have evolved into a very positive connection. Schools have accepted HCOP services as a powerful adjunct to their curricular objectives. Community groups and public health agencies have volunteered to speak at our summer program on topics such as cultural competency, public health careers, STD's and HIV, disease prevention, health and wellness, etc. Students have been able to shadow health professionals in area health centers and were nurtured in their career path by these encounters. Overall, the impact on the relationships has been very positive. The Post-Bac students volunteer, assist, encourage and enlighten Omaha area junior high and high school students in various activities in the health professions.

One can see that the community Creighton serves has been positively impacted and, in turn, Creighton itself has been impacted by the diversity that this pipeline program provides to our campus.

## Glaucoma Screening at Santee Native American Reservation, Nebraska

by Bharti Chaudhari and Anshu Agrawal

A trip for two Creighton Biomedical Sciences graduate students to Northeastern Nebraska turned out to be a great learning experience. We were accompanied by Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki, Margaret Black and Frank Peak. Upon arriving to the community center for the Santee Native American Reservation, we were not only awe-struck by the vivid culture that was surrounding us, but also the lack of resources in health care.

Seated at one of the twenty tables at the health fair, we patiently waited for willing patients to come for their eye exam. The few that came were diversely educated in their own health. One patient stated that the last eye exam that she had was about 10 years ago, while others said that they had one a few months ago. There were others willing to ask questions about what may or may not be wrong with their eyesight while others came by to quickly get screened and referred to the nearest eye clinic for glasses or further examination. Varying in their lingual abilities, we tried our best to emphasize the importance of being checked more often considering that they have a higher possibility acquiring glaucoma due to their ethnicity. Though some understood that it was necessary to get annual checkups, they did not have the resources to see a physician on the reservation or public transportation accessibility to visit one. The younger generation was more aware of the necessity of being healthy and staying healthy while the older generation had a harder time understanding why it is important to have checkups.

The glaucoma screening and visual acuity tests were not difficult to perform since the test was dependent on the patient and machinery. It was difficult at times to explain how the visual field test exactly was performed for glaucoma, but with a chance to experience what they saw in the screen, the patients were able to see how the test was performed. After they were screened for glaucoma and visual acuity, the patients saw Dr. Kosoko-Lasaki the glaucoma specialist who performed the dilated fundoscopic exam. Most of the subjects were very grateful for having this opportunity and were willing to learn about eye care and blindness prevention.

Arriving at the Santee Reservation, we were not sure what to expect but were thoroughly shocked to see that it was very much like a small community of apartments or condominiums. These individuals were living their day to day life like most other individuals doing their daily routines. The Santee people earned their income from farming and fishing so we assumed that they spent most of their time outside performing agricultural activities. At one of the tables, the exhibit had a homemade salsa that was organic and without any preservatives. The Santee were proud and happy to live where they live but were also very welcoming to their neighbors as well as any who came from urban areas to learn from and visit them. We felt that it was an honor for us to be a part of this experience because not only did we get a chance to learn more about glaucoma screening but we had the opportunity to meet a great group of people and learn about their customs. We are grateful to the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus (headquarters in New York) for providing Creighton University the funds to reach out to the rural communities in Nebraska.



**Glaucoma Screening Abstract  
submitted for Presentation at  
National Convention**

by Jocelyn Rowe, 4<sup>th</sup> year  
Medical Student



Jocelyn Rowe, a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at Creighton University, working in conjunction with Dr. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, recently submitted an abstract for poster presentation at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) convention to be held this spring. The poster will summarize the data collected from subjects screened for glaucoma in outreach programs supported by the *Preventing Glaucoma Blindness in Nebraska: A Creighton University Initiative* grant funded by the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation. The objective of the program is to prevent blindness due to glaucoma through education and screenings, especially targeting underserved populations in the state. Data were collected and analyzed from 1300 subjects screened at several programs including the city of Omaha and surrounding rural areas between the dates of March 2004 and January 2005. The data showed several subjects had ocular findings suspicious for glaucoma. Moreover, many of the subjects screened had not had

an eye exam in several years. These results demonstrate the need for glaucoma screening in the area and the ability of the program to detect patients at risk for and/or suffering from glaucoma. This study was supported by *Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus*.

**SPECIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT!!**

**COPC Assistantship**

Community Oriented Primary Care, (COPC) is currently in its second year! This program is supported by National Institute of Health (NIH) funding to Creighton through Dr. Cam Enarson's efforts as Principal Investigator. We are very excited to announce the beginning of a new Summer Research Program which will start in 2006. We are currently accepting applications for three preclinical and two M4 medical students for an eight-week summer assistantship. The purpose of the assistantship is to expose students to health disparities in the community. The deadline for accepting applications is February 28, 2006

Medical students in the M1 and M4 classes are eligible to apply. Interested students should please contact Ms. Coletta Erwin at 280-2188 or in Room G25 of the Hixson Lied Science Building (HS-MACA office) for an application.

[ColettaErwin@creighton.edu](mailto:ColettaErwin@creighton.edu)

**Center of Excellence (COE)  
Saturday Academy Program**

The Center of Excellence Saturday Academy Program

initially recruited 155 students. Out of that number 50 students were selected, twenty-five 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, thirteen 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and twelve 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The CESA program is a thirty week program and the students are in the eleventh week of the program. The students meet every Saturday for six hours during the academic school year. The program enables the students to excel in their coursework as well as the ACT and SAT examinations. Tutoring is available for students who need assistance in their coursework. The students stay for one hour after their Saturday sessions. Tutoring is provided by the Student National Medical Association (SNMA).

The students also participate in other enrichment activities, such as: Test-Taking Study- skills, Professionalism Activities. Students are preparing to take their first ACT on February 11, 2006.

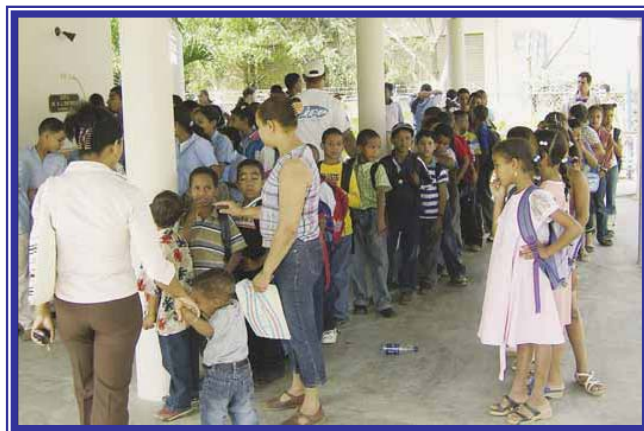
The CESA program held the first parent meeting on Saturday December 3, 2005. It was informal meeting where parents of the Saturday Academy students came together to meet other parents and brainstormed ideas on enhancing academic success. Activities have been planned for this Parent group throughout May 2006.

If you would like more information about the Saturday Academy program and to volunteer your time contact [hbrown@creighton.edu](mailto:hbrown@creighton.edu) or (402)280-2936.

## HS-MACA GOES INTERNATIONAL

by Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, MBA

Because of anecdotal reports from Creighton medical students (on externship rotation) of an increase in night blindness in children in the Dominican Republic (DR), the Office of Health Sciences, Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA), in collaboration with the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) at Creighton University and volunteer efforts of the President and CEO of Fountainhead Enterprise in Denver, prepared the trip to address this problem.



The team was made up of Dr Kosoko-Lasaki (Ophthalmologist/Public Health Specialist), Terri Lynch, RN, MA (ILAC Director) and Dr Gbolahan Lasaki (Volunteer). Other team members were Dr Leopoldo Careterra and Dr Ramon Antonio De Leon (Dominican ILAC MDs), from the ILAC team in the Dominican Republic. ILAC trained Primary Health Care Workers. Cooperadores received a day's training on the clinical signs and symptoms of vitamin A deficiency, its effects on childhood morbidity and mortality and preventative strategies. The teams emphasized the benefits of breastfeeding and encouraged the consumption of foods rich in vitamin A, such as green leafy vegetables, carrots, mangoes, papaya etc.

On 23-24 February, the children were screened for the ocular signs of vitamin A deficiency, and vitamin A capsules (200,000 IU) received from SIGHT AND LIFE were distributed.

Other activities included ocular examination and treatment of twenty-eight adults and a lecture to the family health care physicians at the local Catholic university, PUCMM or "Pontifical University of Mother Mary and Teacher" by Dr Kosoko-Lasaki. A dinner was hosted by Radalme Peha, Executive Director of the ILAC Center, Mercedes Carmen Capellan and Marcel Morel, Dominican MDs and ILAC Board of Director members, to discuss the magnitude of the vitamin A deficiency in the DR.



Two hundred and ninety-six children, ages zero to 10 years old, were screened for the ocular signs of vitamin A deficiency. Vitamin A capsules were distributed to all the children. Additional vitamin A capsules were left for the trained healthcare workers and the family practitioners for future distributions. The team examined children in the ILAC/CESI clinic and in two rural communities about 50 miles from Santiago, the second largest city in the Dominican Republic. In addition, 40 adults received slit lamp, tonometry and fundus exams. All referrals were sent for follow-up to the ILAC clinic in Santiago. Twenty-seven children showed symptoms of Vitamin A Deficiency.

The children and health care personnel in the DR benefited from the efforts of the eye care team. The education and general awareness for prevention of vitamin A deficiency was improved in 50 rural communities through the Cooperadores training and field experience provided in these three days. Finally, a number of clinical cases, some severe, indicated a significant challenge in preventing vitamin A deficiency in children in the DR.

## HS-MACA Promotes Cultural Proficiency in Researchers at CU & in the Community

HS-MACA conducted research supported through Tobacco Settlement LB692 funds. This research was aimed at:

- Assessing the need for cultural proficiency among Creighton researchers
- Assessing the need for culturally competent researchers by the minority community that Creighton University serves
- Assessing the minority community's knowledge of medical research and its benefits

The results of this research project were published by the *Journal of the National Medical Association* Volume 97, Number 8, August 2005. The Principal Investigator for this research was Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MSPH, MBA. Co-Principal Investigators were Richard O'Brien, MD, Cynthia Cook, PhD, Judith Kissell, PhD, Ruth Purtillo, PhD, and Frank Peak. Other publications are *in press* with the *National Medical Journal*.

## Creighton Community Health Center

The School of Medicine has recently committed approximately \$600,000 per year for the next three years to support the Creighton Community Health Center (formerly called Women's Community Health Center); this Center is directed by Dr. Syed Mohiuddin, who also serves as Chief of the Division of Cardiology in the SOM. The Center is located in the heart of North Omaha where the population is predominantly African-American. The goal of the Center will be to provide access to affordable health care in the community and to improve the trust of the African-American community by providing reliable and consistent quality services in cardiovascular and health disparity issues. HS-MACA is proud to collaborate with the center and all the activities that it promotes.



*Season's Greetings*

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## HS-MACA WELCOMES



Reba Donahue  
Administrative Specialist

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Schedule of Speakers for Common Ground

EVERY FRIDAY 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.  
ROOM L57

January 6, 2006  
Dr. Roberta Sonnino, MD

January 20, 2006  
Dr. Virginia Aguilera, MD

### Glaucoma Awareness Month Kick-off

January 13, 2006  
Creighton University Cardiac Center  
1:00 – 3:00pm

Keynote Speaker:  
Dr. Carl Camras, MD

### Free Glaucoma Screening

January 28, 2006  
10:00am – 2:00pm  
Pilgrim Baptist Church  
2501 Hamilton St.  
402. 341.6270



*Kuhurokuhasaki*  
*Barb Slattery*  
*Linda Pappas*  
*Tracy Monahan*  
*Assandra Bailey*  
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*Den Sazinger*  
*Becky Messenger*  
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