Here is an example of how one physician is raising public awareness of social determinants of health for patients and populations. Health disparities refers to health outcomes that differ among groups of people linked by a characteristic such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, or geography. Health disparities are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national, and local levels. Without question, many health disparities are caused by structural factors that sustain differences in material circumstances, behaviors, and policies. In contrast, psychosocial factors that impact health and well-being. When physicians and other health professionals advocate for socioeconomic and political changes that promote equity, they are investing in long-term solutions that can improve the health of individual patients and communities.

Simple solutions are not robust enough to resolve the health inequities evident in the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization published a paper in 2010 that described the problems facing people living with chronic respiratory disease. The paper illustrated how health systems science yields an informative set of potential explanatory factors. Although many factors are related to the development of chronic respiratory disease, there is no single cause or set of causes. The 79-page paper presented data to support the associations and causal relationships depicted in the framework. Additional supportive evidence has accumulated over the past 10 years indicating that differences are not fully explained by a lack of access to care. Social determinants of health are important components of health status and outcomes. Societal conditions that create inequities are the root cause of health disparities for patients and populations.

Approximating the Patient Experience

And, don't forget: our TEACH team is providing an online teaching consultation service to faculty and learners. In addition to resources for remote precepting and patient experiences, there are possibilities for improving patient outcomes and we should leverage this opportunity with our learners. Faculty and learners have been removed from the in-person patient care environment. Webpages and hubs have exploded with information. The online environment is unfamiliar.

Fueled by the restrictions and safety concerns surrounding COVID-19, faculty have been challenged to adapt to a virtual patient care experience that is different from what we are used to. We hope to highlight one of the 12 domains of health systems science, the study of how health care is delivered and how to improve the quality of health care for patients and populations. Health systems science is not a new field. It is a broad set of foundational concepts we can all benefit from remembering as we set forth into the unfamiliar.

In addition to resources for remote precepting and patient experiences, there are foundational concepts we can all benefit from remembering as we set forth into the unfamiliar waters. On our TEACH website, we have developed our own environment. Webpages and hubs have exploded with information to guide us as we navigate these unfamiliar waters.

Inside the box is an opportunity to learn from those who have dealt with the same challenges. Each month this year the Dean's Corner will offer an at-a-glance view of our upcoming events for the next 3 months. To receive our future emails, please send an email to our email list.

Upcoming Events

*Faculty Resources for Educational Excellence

Dean's Corner

A typescape proposing future leaders in medicine requires us to learn the fundamentals of high-care values to deliver and receive care, and to continue the habit of helping patients and populations across the continuum of care. Each month we will post an interview with a physician on the health systems science domains. In May, we feature an interview with Paula Robertson, CHCP, Senior CME Program Specialist. Paula is a busy educator who teaches continuing medical education (CME) courses to physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. She is the co-host of the CME Hangout series and is the director of the Office of Continuing Professional Development (OCPD) at Carilion Clinic. OCPD is located in Roanoke, Virginia. OCPD is the Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) Residency Program for Social Determinants of Health.

Dean's Corner: Paula Robertson

Paula Robertson, CHCP, Senior CME Program Specialist

Dean's Corner is a monthly column where physicians share the hard-won insights of their experiences. We ask them to share the lessons that they have learned about health care, health systems science, and how those lessons can help our learners and faculty. Each month, we post an interview with a physician on the health systems science domains. In May, we feature an interview with Paula Robertson, CHCP, Senior CME Program Specialist. Paula is a busy educator who teaches continuing medical education (CME) courses to physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. She is the co-host of the CME Hangout series and is the director of the Office of Continuing Professional Development (OCPD) at Carilion Clinic. OCPD is located in Roanoke, Virginia. OCPD is the Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) Residency Program for Social Determinants of Health.

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