



PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

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Newsletter of the Office of Academic and Community Partnerships

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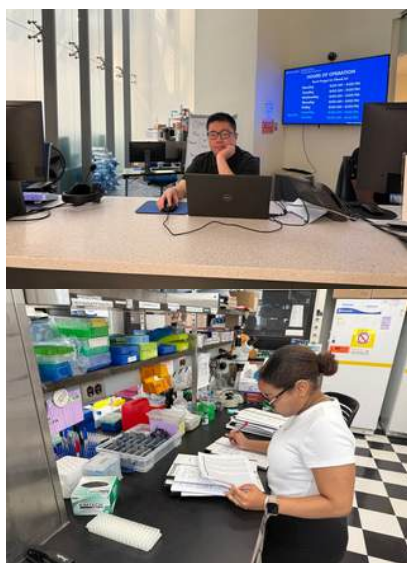




SYEP 2025 AT CUIMC: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL YOUTH

Every summer, the Office of Academic and Community Partnerships hosts the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), offering young people valuable opportunities to learn and grow. This summer, 74 participants gained hands-on experience across 56 departments at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC). Through the School of Nursing (SON), 45 students earned CPR and Stop the Bleed certifications, equipping them with lifesaving skills. The Office of Community Health (OCH), in partnership with the Community League of the Heights (CLOTH), provided 8 participants with the chance to explore clinical research through the BRIDGE program (Building Research Interest to Discover, Grow, and Excel).

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ADVANCING WELLNESS WITH PRO-SALUD

With 63 hours of classroom training and more than 1,000 hours of field practice, the first Spanish-language Community Health Worker cohort reached 739 community members through health education, screenings, and vital referrals—making an immediate difference in community health.

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MCNF: POWERED BY EMPLOYEES, ROOTED IN COMMUNITY



For nearly 40 years, the Medical Center Neighborhood Fund (MCNF) has been more than just a funding source - its been a movement powered by people, purpose, and partnerships. This year, 67 community and faith-based organizations—from afterschool programs to food security and elder care —received support.

Volunteers call the experience “personal and meaningful,” while grantees say MCNF offers “more than funding—it’s a shared commitment to uplifting our neighbors.” Together, donors, staff-volunteers, and local organizations are building a healthier and stronger Washington Heights and Inwood community.

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ENHANCING REPRESENTATION IN CLINICAL TRIALS



The ConneCT program is transforming who has access to clinical research. By engaging more than 300 community members—and already referring 100 to studies and enrolling 20 in trials—ConneCT is breaking down barriers, building trust, and ensuring that research at Columbia better reflects the communities it serves.

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STUDENTS ADVANCE HEALTH AND WELLNESS TO PLAZA DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Led by Columbia medical residents, the health fair at Plaza de las Américas brought together volunteers from medical schools citywide—delivering care, resources, and culturally tailored education to over 500 community members.

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ACComPLISHED Workshop Sparks Futures in Health for NYC Students

Sponsored by the Department of Neurology and led by Kevin Yang, a student at the College of Dental Medicine, this free triannual program offers three months of training that equips New York City high school students with essential public health knowledge and hands-on clinical skills.

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SENIORS' WELLNESS PROGRAM CELEBRATES THREE YEARS

Now in its third year, the Seniors Wellness Program — a collaboration between Associates in Internal Medicine (AIM Clinic) and The Armory Foundation — continues to unite older adults in Northern Manhattan for weekly fitness activities and health education.

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THE WOMEN'S HEALTH CORNER: EMPOWERING EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

The Women's Health Corner Talk Series has become a vital platform for promoting women's health education among employees at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC) and NewYork-Presbyterian (NYP). Launched by a group of Columbia Internal Medicine residents in early 2023, the monthly series was created to raise awareness, foster open dialogue, and empower staff with expert-led information on health topics that affect women throughout their lives.

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EMERGENCY MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP LEADS CPR & NARCAN TRAINING



At least 70 Washington Heights residents and CUIMC affiliates took part in a hands-on workshop led by the Emergency Medicine Interest Group, with support from Columbia Nursing, CD-React, VP&S, and NYP on September 6 at Haven Plaza.

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LATE NIGHT SCIENCE BRINGS NEUROSCIENCE TO THE COMMUNITY



Columbia University Neuroscience Outreach (CUNO) brings science to the community through its engaging Late Night Science seminar series. These monthly talks translate complex research into accessible discussions for a non-scientific audience.

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Festivities continued with the annual Ice Cream Social, where neighbors, families, and CUIMC employees came together to enjoy frozen treats, music, and laughter. Another highlight was NYP Employee Appreciation Day, a lively afternoon of food, entertainment, and community celebration that honored staff dedication while strengthening connections across the neighborhood.

Through music, wellness, and shared celebration, Haven Plaza affirmed its role as a cultural gathering place where connections flourish and health and community go hand in hand.

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HAVEN PLAZA: A SEASON OF HEALTH, ART, AND COMMUNITY

This summer, Haven Plaza came alive as a vibrant hub where health, art, music, and celebration brought neighbors, visitors, and the medical center community together. The season opened with Sing for Hope, which placed an artist-designed piano in the plaza, inviting spontaneous performances that set the tone for months of creativity and connection.

As part of the Uptown Arts Stroll, NoMAA and the National Jazz Museum in Harlem brought the sounds of jazz to the plaza, while ColumbiaDoctors provided health screenings and NYP offered nutrition classes alongside the weekly farmers market. The Seniors AIM High program kept older adults moving with CUIMC doctors, showcasing both the joy and the health benefits of active living.



MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAUNCHES NEW INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS



The Community Health Collaborative (CHEC) is a new initiative launched by the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, based in the Dean's Office. CHEC was created to better identify, coordinate, and support existing and emerging public health partnerships across the School.

Its mission is to connect Columbia Mailman's research, teaching, and service with community priorities by helping to access, establish, and strengthen collaborations with local organizations and stakeholders.

If you're part of CUIMC or a neighboring community and are interested in building new collaborations—or learning more about existing ones—please contact:
msph-chec@cumc.columbia.edu

RESEARCHERS PARTNER WITH NYC FAMILIES TO UNCOVER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS

Researchers at Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, in collaboration with Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Keck School of Medicine of USC, are working with families in New York City to better understand how environmental exposures shape children's health.

Through the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health birth cohort, which follows Latino and African-American families from pregnancy onward, the team uncovered new evidence that prenatal exposure to the insecticide chlorpyrifos (CPF) is linked to lasting changes in brain structure, function, and metabolism, as well as reduced motor skills in youth.



This long term partnership with local families has provided critical insights that are informing national conversations about pesticide use and protections for vulnerable populations, including farm workers, pregnant women, and children.

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INTO THE COMMUNITY

COLUMBIA ORTHOPEDICS BRINGS BACKPACKS TO 3RD GRADERS

The school year kicked off with a boost at P.S. 173, where 45 brand-new backpacks filled with supplies were donated to students. The delivery bought plenty of smiles and excitement, ensuring kids are ready to hit the books in style thanks to the generosity of Columbia Orthopedics Rewards and Recognition Committee.



STUDENT CLINIC CONNECTS PATIENTS TO FRESH PRODUCE

Our student-run CoSMO Clinic is helping patients make healthier food choices. Through a partnership with OACP, CoSMO is providing patients Health Bucks vouchers for fresh produce adding extra value to their market purchases. Medical students at CoSMO are leading this effort to promote better nutrition and improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables for local families.



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

LOCAL KIDS SCORE BIG THIS SUMMER

38 children from Washington Heights and Inwood won scholarships to attend tennis, soccer, and Little Lions sports camp at Baker Field, chosen from over 150 applicants in a lottery with Community Board 12.



HONORING THE 2025 DYCKMAN SCHOLARS BIG GOALS, BRIGHT FUTURES

Each year, the Dyckman Institute provides financial support to four undergraduate students who live in Washington Heights and Inwood. The institute celebrated these scholars at Community Board 12. Scholars shared their hard work, gratitude for their families, and recognition of the community's role in their success. Learn more about the Dyckman Institute Scholarship.



The Office of Academic and Community Partnerships (OACP) consolidates community affairs, service-learning programs, and community health offices into a central entity at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC). Its mission is to advance the medical center's commitment to community service by fostering collaboration between CUIMC schools, departments, centers, institutes and the local community.

Building on long-standing relationships fostered by our health sciences schools—the College of Dental Medicine, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, School of Nursing, and Mailman School of Public Health—the office leverages internal resources to ensure the medical center actively partners in addressing community-identified needs. The office advocates for advancing CUIMC's mission in research, clinical care, and education, while also supporting faculty and staff in strengthening bi-directional engagement and community health outreach. This collaborative effort aims to enhance the health and well-being of our neighbors.

Connect with us at:



acp.cuimc.columbia.edu



acp@cumc.columbia.edu



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Together, we are building bridges between CUIMC and our community!