Community-Based Service Learning Program (CBSL) is an educational program, comprised of a network of student-initiated community-based service learning projects, offering direct service-learning opportunities for medical and graduate students. As part of the Office of Medical Education’s Office of Diversity Enhancement, CBSL provides early career exposure via experiential education, trainings, workshops and seminars to develop leadership and community engagement skills. It is a collaboration of Einstein students, faculty and Bronx communities. We support all students who want to make a difference in the community by serving as a clearinghouse for information and opportunities, providing guidance, and offering program planning and leadership skills training. Our mission is to provide our students with opportunities in which to engage with the Bronx community and have an impact on health and social justice issues. Students learn, share, and nurture the skills needed for their roles as future physicians, scientists and compassionate professionals needed to work in our ever expanding communities in the Bronx.

CBSL Projects

AIRE (Advocacy for Immigrants’ Rights and Equity) – promotes the social justice mission of Albert Einstein College of Medicine by serving immigrant populations. We collaborate with Terra Firma, a medical-legal clinic in the Bronx that integrates medical, mental health, and legal services for immigrant children.

BODY (Bronx Obesity Diabetes and You) – offers an exercise and nutrition program to elementary school children at P.S. 89; a community garden at the Montefiore-Einstein Hospital; and engages Bronx community leaders through grassroots outreach to effect educational efforts that can help change attitudes and improve health.

BOLD (Bronx Oncology Living Daily) – offers a variety of workshops and activities to cancer patients and their families. Our goal is to reduce health disparities as it relates to quality of life, screening, treatment adherence, and cancer outcomes in the Bronx. We hope to serve as a model for accessible psychosocial cancer services in underserved communities.

Einstein Buddies – is dedicated to serving the special needs population in the local community. Through various educational and physical activities, the students hope to help improve their populations’ ability to perform everyday functions of daily living. Additionally, they host lecture series with guest speakers in order to increase awareness and dispel misconceptions regarding people with special needs and the challenges they face.

EiSci (The Einstein Science High School Mentoring Program) – focuses on mentoring and exposing Bronx high school students to careers in science and medicine. Einstein medical and graduate students meet with high school students in a bi-monthly after school program. Consistent mentoring groups are established to foster connections between students in the program and Einstein students.

HEART (HIV Education and Rapid Testing) – In partnership with the Adolescent AIDS Program at Montefiore, HEART provides weekly HIV testing at Lehman College. HEART also offers sex education at
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neighboring middle and high schools throughout the Bronx. More recently, HEART has joined with Project Brief at Jacobi Medical Center, where members conduct rapid HIV testing to patients in the Emergency Department. HEART members receive training from AAP and Jacobi on HIV testing, peer education, sexual history taking, and sexual health counseling.

H4H (Hoops for Health) – Working with students at the local PAL (Police Athletic League) and with Doctors for a Healthier Bronx, HOOPS exposes the young people of the Bronx community to science and medicine or (STEM). Students encourage professional development and inspire lifelong learning in this population through athletic engagement. Additionally, the students emphasize the importance of staying physically active and healthy.

HOPE (Homeless Outreach Program at Einstein) – seeks to provide educational and health resources to the homeless and high-risk populations of the Bronx. By volunteering at the Living Room, a homeless safe haven in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx, and a syringe-exchange site run by New York Harm Education Educators (NYHRE), members seek to provide resources that are often too inaccessible in these communities. HOPE also involves the entire Einstein community in our outreach efforts to bring attention to the significant social and medical issues that these communities face.

FAM (Future Advocates in Medicine) – Einstein FAM works to empower and mentor students from diverse and low resources communities in the Bronx and the greater NYC area to pursue careers in the health field. Participants work collaboratively with the Bronx Community Health Leaders and promote awareness of the importance of diversity inclusion in the healthcare workforce and its impact on health equity.

PACt (Patient Advocate ConnecTion) – connects medical students with chronically ill patients from the Bronx. Over an 18 month period, students have the opportunity to develop relationships with these patients and serve as their advocates, while also gaining insight into the experiences of patients coping with chronic illness and their interactions with the health care system.
SPHERE (Space in Prisons for Health Education for Re-Entry) – provides health education at the Edgecombe Correctional Facility in Washington Heights. Einstein students in SPHERE collaborate with the Social Medicine residents at Montefiore to design and lead health workshops directly relevant to the inmate population, including HIV prevention, Hepatitis C awareness, nutrition, and how to navigate the healthcare system in New York. Ultimately, we aim to be positive health advocates that empower incarcerated populations with knowledge and resources to successfully reintegrate into the healthcare system upon release.

SMART (Science, Math and Regents Tutoring) – is a volunteer tutoring program that focuses on subjects in science, math and regents prep. SMART tutors once a week at Pelham Lab located on the Lehman High School Campus in the Bronx. We believe in building relationships with students in the Bronx community and helping everyone reach their potential.

START (Students, Teachers and Researchers Teach) – is a volunteer program that brings our love of science to the elementary school classrooms of PS89. We do hands on science modules with 1st and 2nd grade and work with their teachers to design modules that work with the NYSC Scope and Science curriculum. Participants will come with us to PS89 (a 5 minute drive from Einstein) and participate in hour long modules every other week. You will receive all materials and information for the modules in advance; and we are always looking for new, creative ideas. Our goal is to make science fun and easy to understand for all students.

TEACH (Together Educating All Children in Hospital) – provides experiential education for pediatric inpatients and their siblings, with a multifaceted goal in mind: bonding time, play time, and learning time. TEACH aims to transform hospital playrooms into areas of recreation, friendship, and discovery in learning.

Visit us on the web: einstein.yu.edu/diversity/diversity-enhancement/