The Learning Communities at UWSMPH have three guiding principles:

- **Create a caring community for all learning community members**
- **Help learning community members make sense of their experiences**
- **Empower the community and its members to make transparent and positive decisions**

Through these guiding principles, the learning communities will foster community, leadership, professionalism, well-being and sharing of knowledge in order to develop more intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally prepared physicians.
Over the summer, I had the opportunity to work with Share the Health Free Gynecology Clinic as part of the new PRIME-Madison program. I applied to this program last January knowing only that Share The Health was a public health project that would fulfill the field experience requirements for the Path of Distinction in Public Health. I have an interest in women’s health, so the project caught my attention. The project was so rewarding.

Share the Health (STH) is a unique organization that provides specialized gynecologic care to uninsured women living in Dane and surrounding counties. The clinic is staffed by attending physicians from many of Madison’s health systems and clinics, some resident physicians, and medical students. STH allows medical students to learn about gynecology and gain exposure to the field while helping the physicians to provide care to underserved women.

My project had two main focuses: to evaluate the current referral system and to increase awareness of gynecologic health topics within the underserved populations in the area. I worked with Kelly Klingensmith, an MPH student, to network with various organizations in the community, find out what topics they wanted and most needed to learn about, and organized presentations about these topics. In addition, I conducted an email survey of all the referring providers to identify components of the referral system that could be improved to reduce barriers to uninsured women accessing gynecologic care.

Over the course of the summer, Kelly and I learned that one of the greatest needs among many of the community organizations was knowledge of resources available to uninsured women and how to access these resources. In response to this finding, Kelly and I worked with Dr. Mary Landry and Dr. Katherine O’Rourke, to create handouts and algorithms to guide organizations/clinics and women through the process of accessing women’s health care.

Our project was recently presented at the Women’s Health and Health Equity Research Symposium, where it received one of the three poster awards.

Beyond this recognition, this project has been incredibly meaningful to me in both my education and experience. I gained hands-on experience in public health work as well as an incredible amount of knowledge about resources available to underserved women. In my interactions with these women and the organizations that serve them, I also gained a better appreciation for the struggles that they face in accessing care. I was greatly rewarded by the opportunity to make a small contribution to the work of reducing the barriers. This summer left me inspired to continue this type of work in the future.
Share The Health Wins Best Poster Award

Background on Share the Health

Share the Health (STH) is the only organization of its kind in Wisconsin, providing gynecologic specialty care to uninsured women in Dane County and neighboring counties. In 2013, Dr. Mary Landry and Dr. Katherine O’Rourke founded Share the Health. While other organizations offer screening exams, family planning, and primary care, STH serves as a free consultative clinic that solely diagnoses and treats gynecologic pathology including benign, pre-cancerous, and cancerous conditions.

STH operates one evening a month at Madison Women’s Health, LLP, which generously donates space and overhead. Run entirely by volunteers, our goals are to improve the health of underserved women in need of gynecologic care and to inspire a commitment among future professionals, of all vocations, to care for underserved women in the community.

Community Education

In spring of 2015 STH took a Masters in Public Health (MPH) student, Kelly Klingensmith, with the goal of developing a community education curriculum and conducting free, community education talks about topics such as:

- preventive care and general women’s health
- pap smear guidelines, abnormal pap smears, and cervical cancer
- abnormal uterine bleeding
- postmenopausal bleeding
- symptoms of menopause
- pelvic pain
- contraception
- sexual health and sexually transmitted infections

However, after conducting a few community education seminars a need for a universal guide to accessing health care was identified by both providers and community origins.

In the summer of 2015 a first year medical student, Kristin Brown, was brought on to work with STH as part of the Prevention Innovations in Medical Education (PRIME) program. Kristin Brown spent much of her summer creating the unique, user-friendly algorithms that have now become the "Guides to Accessing Women’s Health Care," a resource to both patients and providers.

2015 UW Women’s Health and Health Equity Research Lecture & Symposium

Given the tremendous amount of work that went into developing the algorithms, STH collaborators Kelly Klingensmith, Kristin Brown, Dr. Katherine O’Rourke and Dr. Mary Landry decided that the 2015 UW Women’s Health and Health Equity Research Lecture & Symposium featuring Florence P. seemed like a natural fit to display the work.

Share the Health’s poster titled, Share the Health: Providing, improving and fostering health care resources for underserved women throughout southern Wisconsin, was selected for a Best Poster Award due to the novelty and function of the work.

Kristin Brown has continued her medical studies; Kelly Klingensmith continues administering the “Guides to Accessing Women’s Health Care” during the community education talks and throughout her work with STH as the Community Educator. Dr. Katherine O’Rourke and Dr. Mary Landry continue to commit to reducing health disparities throughout the state by conducting the community health talks and providing critical, life-saving services to uninsured women in the Madison area.
Invited guests for the November 18th Gold Humanism Honor Society monthly Rounds included Sarah Petto MFA who started the Arts in Healthcare program at University of Wisconsin Hospital. Petto worked in the American Family Children’s Hospital where there were many wonderful art activities and asked "Why don't we have this for adults in the hospital?"

Joining Petto was Jeremy Amble, artist and photographer. Mr. Amble suffered a high spinal cord injury that interrupted his career and particularly affected his ability to do photography. Amble works with Petto in the Arts in Healthcare program as a photography consultant.

Studies reveal that art aids in the speed of recovery as well as creates a positive outlook for both patients and staff dealing with difficult situations or news.

According to Petto, expressive art is different than art therapy. When a patient is in the hospital setting they lose a great deal of control over themselves and their environment. Expressive art allows these patients to regain a sense of control over their environment.

Patients and families awaiting test results or treatments receive art kits to engage them during their wait.

Art provides and outlet for patients' experiences and stories. They don't need to be an artist; they need the opportunity to express themselves through art.

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation provided adaptive equipment for Arts in Healthcare so that patients, regardless of physical abilities, could participate in expressive art.

During the presentation, Dr. Schalch asked "how do you approach patients to join in?" Petto indicated that people will see the "pop up" workshops and she will tell them "it's free, it's fun and it's healthy!" While some patients will turn down the opportunity to participate, most patients' first concern is that "they're not artists." However, with encouragement, many will join in, particularly if they are stuck watching TV or doing the same things over and over for months.

Petto and Amble provide expressive art in a variety of ways to both patient and non-patient populations. For example, Arts in Healthcare uses partner organizations to help patients reenter the community setting. Family members are invited to join because it’s important to the patients and their families to have a semblance of "normal" family activities. Medical staff may participate in order to cope with the difficult situations they deal with on a regular basis.

Evaluation is important for optimizing effectiveness and impact of art in healthcare. They now have five years of data collected and are excited to examine the results.

Petto is part of the Health and Healing Committee which meets monthly. Students who would like to learn more about Arts in Healthcare or the Health and Healing Committee can contact Sarah Petto at spetto@uwhealth.org.

GHHS Introduces Students to Arts-In-Healthcare

Gold Humanism Honor Society Invites You to

Active Expressions in Art

Wednesday, December 9th, 6:00-7:00pm

Please join GHHS as they continue the theme of art in healthcare. Participants will have the opportunity to experience and understand, first-hand, the benefits of expressive art.

Please watch your email for details and RSVP!
Enrollment Holds

If a hold has been placed on your record you will see the hold in your Student Center in MyUW. Instructions and deadlines for releasing the hold will also be indicated. Be sure to follow those instructions on a timely basis so that you are registered for your courses!

Students who have not submitted SHIP, TB, flu and other required forms will have holds placed on their academic enrollment and access to Learn@UW.

Emails from Student Services, University Health Services or other departments should be viewed immediately for potential holds.

Wisconsin Medical Society Scholarships

February 2nd, 2016 deadline.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation Scholarship Program is to provide assistance to outstanding students who will fill Wisconsin’s health care workforce needs in the future. A majority of the funds are available to students enrolled in medical school in Wisconsin with preference to those considering Wisconsin residents and those who demonstrate a desire to practice in Wisconsin upon completing their training.

For more information on scholarships and access to the application form, visit Wisconsin Medical Society Scholarships.

Applications may also be obtained from the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation by calling 866.442.3800, ext. 3789 or 608.442.3789, or by e-mailing elizabeth.ringle@wismed.org.
IHC December Events
Watch Your Email for Details!

Wednesday, December 2nd
Noon Talk

Friday, December 4th
House Cup
Ice Skating at the Edgewater

Wednesday, December 9th
House Cup
Noon in the Atrium
Holiday Sweater Contest &
Cookie Decorating

Summer Opportunities Fair
Wednesday January 6th
Noon in the Atrium

M1s will have the opportunity
to speak personally with
many of the local organiza-
tions providing research and
other summer opportunities.

Operation Education
Wednesday, January 13th
5:30pm in the Atrium

The Wisconsin Medical Alumni
Association, in conjunction with the
Wisconsin Medical Society Founda-
tion, will host the 11th annual
Operation Education for M1s and M2s.
It’s your chance to speak with medical
alumni about your career interests.
This special event is free, includes
dinner, and a fun competition playing
Milton Bradley’s OPERATION!®
Watch your email in early January for
pre-registration and event information.

December Food Drive for Allied Neighborhood

Community Engagement Liaisons for the Learning Communities will
continue collecting food for various community agencies through the month
of December. Your non-perishable food items will help families long past the
Thanksgiving holiday! Collection bins are located in each House.

December Toy Drive for Neighborhood House

The InterHouse Council welcomes your donation of toys and gifts for chil-
dren of all ages, with an emphasis on “healthy” gifts such as sports equip-
ment, books, and interactive games. Collection bins are located next to the
Food Drive bins in each House.

Gift-Wrappers Needed!

If you will be in the Madison area, Dane County Parent Council needs gift-
wrappers at East Towne Mall from 9:00am-9:00pm on December 21st.
Shifts run for three hours. All tips and donations go to the Dane County
Parent Council Emergency Fund. Contact Katie Eszes at eszes@wisc.edu