New Health Disparities Website Raises Awareness; Swartz Textbook Includes Effect of Bias on Clinicians

A new vital resource guide for podiatrists and medical personnel of all stripes has just been published on the NYCPM website. **The Library (Research) Guides: Health Disparities**, assembled and designed by Medical Librarian Lorraine Chun Ng, is a dense but lively page of links to resources and tools under various relevant headings, including Cultural Humility, Black Lives Matter, Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) (including World Health Organization and CDC links), a Health Equity and Prevention Primer (HEPP tool) from the Prevention Institute, Social A new vital resource guide for podiatrists and medical personnel of all stripes has just been published on the NYCPM website.

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The goal, says Ms. Chun, is to provide information to make people more aware of the issues of diversity and health disparities and how they affect public health. Loretta Logan, DPM, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Orthopedics and Pediatrics, agrees. “The newly implemented Health Disparities website will serve NYCPM as an excellent tool to help provide knowledge, enhance education and assist our faculty and students in becoming more informed about health disparities. This will hopefully lead to open discussion and more focused curriculum on how we can better address these disparities in our own community and in healthcare in general today and in the future.”

Ms. Chun was inspired by NYCPM’s Unity Vigil in early June; afterward, she says, she listened to discussions about health disparities and how NYCPM could better educate its students and help the patients it serves. With a long background in public health, Ms. Chun teaches courses in both Empathy and Health Literacy.

Dr. Logan emphasizes the importance of these subjects in students’ education: “Understanding
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Health Disparity, what it is and the many factors -- individual, societal, economic and environmental -- that play a role in contributing to disparities in healthcare, is important for both our students and faculty. As with any other pediatric, allopathic, osteopathic, dental or other medical institution or healthcare facility, we cannot address solutions for disparities in healthcare unless we first investigate and evaluate the various factors that play a part in causing the disparities. A big part of addressing Health Disparities is understanding the Social Determinants of Health; conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. (https://www.who.int/social_determinants/sdh_definition/en/). Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) is addressed in Healthy People 2020; Healthy People 2020 provides 10-year national objectives for improving health of all Americans, all based on science. Education for future DPMs should and does include study of Healthy People 2020.” Links for SDOH and Healthy People 2020 are included on the Health Disparities website.

Find the link to the Health Disparities Resource Guide at https://library.nycpm.edu/homepage under “New Resources.”

Textbook by NYCPM’s Swartz Tackles Bias by Clinicians

The just-published 8th Edition of Textbook of Physical Diagnosis: History & Examination, by Mark H. Swartz, MD, Professor of Medicine and Vice President, Medical and Professional Affairs at NYCPM, contains a chapter on “Deconstructing Racism and Bias in Clinical Medicine,” that was written by his colleagues at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; they are diverse individuals who are authorities in racism and diversity, he says. The appearance of this chapter marks the first time this subject has been discussed in any textbook of physical diagnosis, according to the author. The introduction to the chapter defines both explicit and implicit bias, and introduces the subject of how “implicit biases of clinicians negatively impact patient care.” Multiple copies of the textbook are available in the NYCPM library.