GPHAP News – February 15, 2021

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Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Monica Peek & Dr. Monica Vela

Dr. Monica Peek and Dr. Monica Vela are internal medicine physicians at the University of Chicago Medical Center and leaders in advancing health equity through reducing health care disparities. They are both fierce advocates for community and minority patient health care both inside and outside of clinical settings. Dr. Peek works to improve diabetes care and outcomes on the South Side of Chicago and is the co-director of the national program office Bridging the Gap: Reducing Disparities in Diabetes Care and the associate director of the Chicago Center for Diabetes Translation Research. As the Associate Vice Chair for Diversity within the Department of Medicine and the Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs at the Pritzker School of Medicine, Dr. Vela has had a major impact shaping the culture of diversity and inclusion in medicine and medical education, with her work serving as an example for other institutions across the nation. Both Dr. Peek and Dr. Vela are exceptional role models and have used their platforms and expertise to effect system-level change. Below is an excerpt from their interview featured in the Chicago Tribune Sunday February 7th. Interview was conducted by health writer Deborah Shelton on behalf of UChicago Medicine.

‘The real danger is the virus, not the vaccine’

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Q: Much has been said about distrust of the vaccine. What are you hearing? Dr. Peek: These communities are diverse and there are a lot of different viewpoints within African American and Latino communities. Public health and education campaigns are underway to address vaccine hesitancy. We are working closely with trusted figures — community health workers, physicians, faith leaders — people who have the social and cultural capital to be liasons between medical and public health professionals and the people we’re trying to vaccinate. Yet, we face obstacles from an armed inversion of the healthcare community. But no matter how significant the obstacles are, we have to overcome them. The most important thing to know is that the real danger is the virus, not the vaccine. The virus is causing a lot every day that is disproportionately impacting Black and Brown people. Dr. Vela: For the first time, I’ve had to address concerns about the role of the government in producing the vaccine. That’s a question I’ve never faced with the flu vaccine. I find it makes a difference when I say I know both doses. A patient you’ve seen for 20 years will trust you if you say it’s safe. But for patients who’ve never had a trusting relationship with a primary care physician, that’s a tougher sell.

Q: What is the most common myth that you’ve heard? And how do you counter them? Dr. Peek: I frame them as concerns, not myths. We know that the federal government and public health departments have done a number of things to African American, Indigenous people, prisoners and Latins without their knowledge, under the guise of helping, that were not necessary beneficial to them. Forced sterilizations. Telling people they were being treated for syphilis when they weren’t. Doing experiments without their knowledge, usually very recently. Knowing that these things have happened repeatedly within our community is one reason why some people may be hesitant. My job is to share scientific facts so people can make informed decisions. COVID vaccine development has been an international collaboration involving multiple companies and many scientists around the globe. The technology used to create the vaccine — mRNA technology — was developed in the 1980s and has been proven safe.

Q: What kind of outreach do you have?

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Upcoming Events

Wed. February 17th 5:00-5:45PM
Policy in a Post–COVID–19 World: A Conversation with Dean Baicker and Dr. Landon
Register Here
Join Harris Dean and Emmett Dedmon Professor Katherine Baicker and Associate Professor of Medicine and Executive Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control Dr. Emily Landon for a conversation on the state of COVID–19

Thurs. February 18th 5:00PM CT
Bowman Society Lecture: “Preserving our Breath: Lung Fibrosis in African–American Communities” Register Here
Ayodeji Adegunsoye, MD, MS, FCCP
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Scientific Director, Interstitial Lung Disease Program
Section of Pulmonary & Critical Care

Thurs. February 18th 5:30–6:30PM
The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration (SSA) and the African American Alumni Committee (AAAC) present: Black Mental Health: A TIME DURING COVID–19 AND CIVIL UPRISING Register Here by Feb 16th
Moderator:
Tina Sacks, AM ’98 PhD ’13
Panelists:
Janelle Goodwill, PhD (panelist – mental health expert)
Kouri Marshall (panelist – government/political expert)
Suzet McKinney, MD (panelist – public health expert)

Mon. February 22nd 1:00–2:00PM Register Here
Diversity Dialogues with John Schneider “COVID–19 Prevention and Vaccination Hesitancy in the United States”
Diversity Dialogues are designed to bring together individuals from the University to learn about and act upon issues related to diversity and inclusion. This session, titled COVID–19 Prevention and Vaccination Hesitancy in the United States, will feature John Schneider MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Social Work. Dr. Schneider will share results from a population–based survey of COVID–19 prevention and vaccination among US adults with a specific focus on disenfranchised communities like those who are criminal justice involved. In addition, he will share insights from instituting the largest community contact tracing program in the Midwest that aims to engage communities most impacted with important resources and services. He will close with public health network interventions that may help us move towards COVID–19 elimination.

Previously Listed Events

Thurs. February 18th 5:00 – 7:30PM
45th CHEF Virtual Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation Register Here
Healthcare 2021: A National Perspective for Local Leaders Innovation, Leadership & Transformation in the Midst of the Pandemic
This year’s event will begin with a virtual networking opportunity with your colleagues and peers. Our 2020–2021 CHEF President, Leslie R. Johnson, RN, FACHE, will provide opening remarks and invite attendees to join our esteemed panel of experts:
David B. Nash, MD, MBA
Allison Arwady, MD, MPH
Bechara Choucair, MD
Moderator Kim Byas, Sr., PhD, MPH, FACHE

Opportunities

Business School Healthcare Conferences

8th Annual Health Care Conference - Feb 21
Harvard Business School Healthcare Conference – Feb 21
Tickets are $20 for students. Tickets for the virtual conference can be purchased here.
The theme for the conference is ‘New Normal Post Pandemic’. Full agenda here.

UChicago Booth Healthcare Group Conference – Feb 25–26
The Booth Healthcare Conference will be held February 25 – 26. Learn more and register at the conference website.

NOTE: GPHAP has a limited number of free tickets to the conference. Reach out to Laura if you would like one! Booth students who are members of the Booth Health Care Group can register for free, so please register using your free ticket and not go through the GPHAP lottery.
Tickets are free for Chicago Booth HCG members, $5 for current UChicago students, and $10 for general admission attendees.
The event will feature 3 keynote talks from Lee Shapiro, Managing Partner at 7wireVentures and former CFO at Livongo Health; Griffin Myers, Chief Medical Officer at Oak Street Health; and Bruce Broussard, President and CEO at Humana. The panels will also discuss healthcare policy, investing, entrepreneurship, and digital healthcare.
Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management Healthcare Conference – Feb 24–27
Kellogg’s 21st Annual Business of Healthcare Conference Saturday, February 27th with pre-conference events starting on Wednesday, February 24th. The ticket cost is $25. See [https://www.kellogggbhc.com](https://www.kellogggbhc.com).

GPHAP Social Media

GPHAP has a Facebook Group for Current Students and Alumni. Go to Facebook and search for The UChicago Graduate Program in Health Administration & Policy or click on: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/gphap/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/gphap/)

There is a LinkedIn Group for GPHAP Alumni. Current students are welcome to join. Go to LinkedIn and search for “GPHAP” and Request to Join.

GPHAP has a Twitter Page. Please follow @UCgphap.

GPHAP’s calendar: [GPHAP iCal](https://www.google.com/calendar/.addField?eula=accept)

GPHAP’s website is: [https://gphap.uchicago.edu](https://gphap.uchicago.edu)

Join the WhatsApp GPHAP Social Group. Students can reach out to see who is going to GPHAP events or to provide info about other activities.

WhatsApp Social Group: [https://chat.whatsapp.com/invite/YMEUqghxH1K6xpD50mAk](https://chat.whatsapp.com/invite/YMEUqghxH1K6xpD50mAk)