



ANNUAL REPORT 2023





THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

For those of us who have had the privilege to serve on the Street Medicine Detroit (SMD) board and participate in the board selection process, we often recognize a common theme that arises during interview season. So many students eagerly choose to attend Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM) with the goal of getting involved in this amazing work.

As I write this letter, I cannot help but pause and reflect, because I was one of those students. I learned of SMD and its beautiful mission prior to interviewing at WSUSOM. Over 4 years later, I can confidently say that I am forever indebted to this organization. It has been an absolute honor and privilege to work alongside a group of individuals who effortlessly and consistently display so much passion, wisdom, and sacrifice. I have learned so much over the past few years, and these are lessons and memories that will forever shape the way I interact with the world around me.

One of the most meaningful interactions I have had with an individual living on the streets was during my very first shelter run. I was making rounds from table to table at Fort Street letting everyone know that we were there when I stopped to chat with one of the gentlemen eating breakfast. In our conversation, he shared a reflection that I have held onto since that day. He told me bits and pieces about his life story and informed me that he wasn't always living on the streets. He was previously married, lived in a house, and had what he described as a "normal life." Then, one day it all changed. The reflection that he shared with me is that we can all be just one day away from experiencing houselessness - you never know who will face it or when.



The reason this gentleman's words left me deeply moved is because he gave me a much needed reality check. The reason I find this work so deeply fulfilling is not simply because it allows me to give back to the community. I had to acknowledge that the community does not need me. Rather, this work is fulfilling because it calls us to engage with the world around us in a way that appropriately responds to our inherent, natural recognition of the reality of life. While the community most definitely does not need me, I am undoubtedly in need of it. I do not know what my future holds, but I am comforted by the fact that SMD exists. It has been an immense honor and privilege to work alongside selfless individuals who recognize the fleeting nature of this world, and who are willing to fight through barriers of oppression and injustice to ensure that all people are treated with dignity.

To say that this year has been filled with growth for SMD would be an understatement. While I could list off all the areas of expansion and innovation, I am going to intentionally defer to the remainder of this annual report. In no way would I want to attribute any of this progress to myself. I urge the reader to delve into the sections of this report that speak on the growth of the HF consult system, the inception of the DMC consult system, the successful execution of the very first Street Medicine of Michigan Symposium, the creation of brand new departments (shout out to Food Systems and Continuity of Care!), and much, much more. As I sit in on some of my final SMD executive board meetings, I am so unbelievably excited to hear






about and hopefully participate in the new developments that are on the horizon. We often reflect on how much has changed since 2012 when SMD was founded, and it is so surreal to witness more SMD history being made. Although there are no words to fully express my gratitude, from the bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you to our volunteers, dedicated board members, preceptors, sister organizations, community partners, and of course our patients. This work can be thankless at times, and much of it happens when nobody is watching. For these reasons, amongst many others, I am forever inspired by this community, and I pray for its continued growth and success.

With sincere gratitude,
Nedda Elewa



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INPATIENT CONSULTS



HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM

In April 2023, a new cohort of third-year medical students inherited the Street Medicine Consult Service at Henry Ford Health System (HFHS). This dedicated group was composed of former second-year board members Denise Bilbao, Kathy Lu, Karis Tutuska, Kat Young, Megan Seyerle, Matthew Myhand, Bhavana Garapati, and Alexis Malecki, under the direction of Abhijay Kumar. Our mission was clear: to coordinate targeted, upstream care in collaboration with unhoused patients prior to their discharge, aiming to decrease readmissions, enhance health and housing outcomes, and ensure continuity of care for our vulnerable patient population.

Since its establishment a decade ago, the team's function has been to evaluate and support consult patients, arrange follow-up interventions, and offer recommendations to the primary teams on primary and preventative street medicine. To build on this foundation, our objective for the year was to streamline the service's structure. We implemented a monthly call schedule, conducted monthly team meetings focused on quality improvement, established new departments dedicated to chart review, research, and inventory, introduced a novel sign-out protocol to enhance continuity of care, and facilitated closed-loop communication between consultant and street leader teams. Additionally, we expanded our care team by onboarding five residents and fellows for the first time.





From April 2023 to March 2024, our team completed 111 consults. Based on 57 encounters with retrievable notes, we elicited key patient demographics and characteristics for quality improvement. Most patients identified as being male (63%) and African American (60%), with a 4.2 year average duration facing housing insecurity or houselessness. With almost half of our patients demonstrating vaccine hesitancy (43.9%), one of our focuses was to address immunizations through education, counseling, and interdisciplinary communication with the primary teams caring for the individuals. Another area of improvement for equitable, sustainable care for our particular patient population was reducing emergency department (ED) visits and readmission rates, as 43.9% of our patients presented to the ED within 30 days of discharge, with 56% of those individuals requiring readmission.

We recognized the importance of showcasing how a student-led street medicine consult service can ameliorate patient outcomes at a leading US hospital. We presented at Grand Rounds in the Departments of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine at HFHS, as well as at various state and national forums including the Society of General Internal Medicine, National Health Care for The Homeless, and Street Medicine of Michigan Symposium. We take pride in the fact that street medicine teams from institutions across the country have connected with us for guidance in establishing their own consult services, highlighting the crucial role such services play in addressing the needs of unhoused patients nationwide.

Finally, we welcomed seven rising third-year students, all of whom had previously served on the SMD board, to continue this important work at HFHS in the coming year. We look forward to witnessing how our talented successors uphold our mission of serving HFHS patients and addressing health inequities facing one of Detroit's most overlooked and undervalued communities.



OPERATIONS

The Operations team worked as a liaison between our medical students, street leaders, the physician preceptors, our M4 elective takers, our partner shelters, and patients. The Operations team worked to create a schedule of both shelter runs and street runs for our team. This schedule was based on both the M1 and M2 class schedules as well as our preceptor availability. After determining the schedule we shared it with our team to determine street leaders for each run. We were able to conduct about 10 runs per month consisting of about 4 shelter runs and 6 street runs per month. We completed 90 runs (average of 7.5/month) with 139 student volunteers. This year we focused on increasing the number of preceptors available to join us on our street runs. We continued our partnerships with the Pope Francis Center, YWCA Interim House, and COTS. We also were able to set up volunteering for the Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) Day of Hope as well.



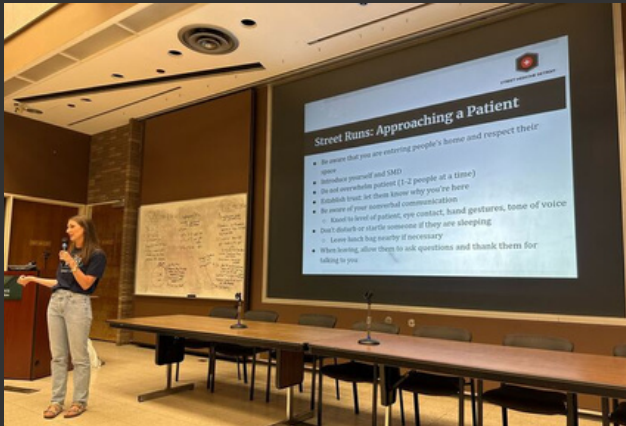
Operations aimed to support our street leaders in their availability for runs, sending reminders to them via Slack before runs with all of the pertinent information about preceptors and volunteers, and overseeing schedule changes. Additionally, we sent out training information for new preceptors as we onboarded them.

Lastly, Operations also worked closely with both Michigan State University's Detroit Street Care and the University of Michigan's

Wolverine Street Medicine team to ensure that patients had ample opportunity to have visits with our team. We also worked diligently to remind street leaders about consult follow-ups as well.



EDUCATION & TRAINING



Over the past year, the Education and Training team was dedicated to bringing an interactive component to our annual incoming MI street medicine training. We were fortunate to have Ms. Lydia Adkins as a speaker during our training; she spoke to our 167 trainees about her past experience with homelessness and the work she does in the Detroit community to support those navigating housing insecurity. Per usual, our post-training surveys indicated that students found that hearing from her was the most impactful part of our afternoon together. During this training we also debuted a “role-play” exercise to help reinforce ideas, including Street Medicines’ approach to harm reduction, and encouraging conversation about how we can best provide care for our patients while considering personal biases. In reviewing pre- and post-training survey responses, we found that our training led to a 65.8% increase in the number of respondents reporting that they had a “strong understanding” of the importance of deconstructing personal biases related to street medicine. In addition to these exercises,

we detailed our shelter and street-based operations, our clinical capabilities, and our ongoing work with community housing partners.

We also conducted our annual street leader training to onboard the incoming executive board; we aimed to structure this training as a comprehensive, chronological run walk-through to minimize gaps in understanding and to allow for exploration of potential roadblocks and problem-solving strategies. During this training, we brought in all our clinical and outreach supplies so the board could explore our capabilities. Following these training sessions, the Education and Training team supported authorship of a proposal for the International Street Medicine Symposium which highlighted our narrative-driven approach to training. This proposal was accepted and we continued with submissions to the American College of Physicians and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council conferences where we were able to discuss our training methods and engage in dialogue with other street medicine programs.

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PATIENT EDUCATION



The Patient Education team is devoted to providing resources and knowledge that will better serve this Detroit community. Our main goal for this year was to provide as much education to our patients that would not only be helpful to them but to many others that they encounter. The Patient Education team had the opportunity to partner with NSO for the 2023 year along with the American Heart Association to present health and wellness seminars to the residents of NSO Bell building bi-weekly. We presented relevant topics

to this community such as hypertension, diabetes, colon and breast cancer, and heart health, to name a few. We received amazing feedback from the residents and NSO. They informed us that this will be expanded to their Clay residents beginning in 2024. In addition, we created a pre- and post-survey for the residents to assess the effectiveness of these seminars. Additional data will be collected from 2023-2024 Patient Education department and then analyzed. On July 30th 2023, we partnered again with NSO for their "Day of Hope" event where we provided health screenings, medical resources, community health outreach, and hygiene products to those who participated in this community-wide service at Cass Park in Detroit. We had over 30 medical students there to provide medical services, education, and resources to one of Detroit's most vulnerable populations.

Outside of our outreach efforts, Patient Education was committed to providing more easily accessible, concise information that our patients could have at hand. We revamped and updated our resource guides into two trifold brochures that were categorized into medical/health and community/housing/food resource guides. Since the pandemic, many new changes have occurred, and making sure that our patients have the best medical follow-up, housing, and food was a necessity. With new resources added, updated hours of operation, and contact information, our patients needed to be equipped with the latest.



With the addition of the consult team, Patient Education has ensured that our patients have the best medical care, social needs, and harm reduction follow-up as much as possible. We implemented a follow-up process that provides our street leaders with information that would best serve them for their outreach runs. Before



every run, our department sent an encrypted email to the street leaders containing information about the patients that needed to be seen on the run together with the location and a list of items that should be picked up before the run. The list of patients included those who were discharged from Henry Ford Hospital – Main Campus as well as street encounters. Street leaders found this very useful, therefore SMD decided to create a separate department for this specific role called Continuity of Care (CofC).

HARM REDUCTION



After a successful year of launching the Harm Reduction committee, we have continued our partnership with Safe Point Detroit (based out of Eastern Market) to distribute a variety of harm reduction kits to members around the Metro Detroit area. These kits include a safer snorting kit, safer crack smoking kit, wound care kit, fentanyl test kit, safer crystal smoking kit, safer injections kit, and supplies of Narcan nasal spray. The Harm Reduction team presented research (*The Extent of Medical Student Stigma in Healthcare Delivery to Populations Experiencing Homelessness or with Substance Use Disorders*) at the Society of Student Run Free Clinic and Wayne State University School of Medicine Medical Education Conference. Additionally, the team created informative presentations to promote harm reduction education within the medical student body at various school-wide events, such as the Street Medicine training and the student organization “Procedure Fest”. Our department is also creating a comprehensive harm reduction training to be implemented into future MI curriculum that highlights the history of the harm reduction philosophy and current domestic policies surrounding substance use.



TECHNOLOGY



The Street Medicine Detroit Technology department has been dedicated to improving and maintaining a robust medical record system. Transitioning to the Practice Fusion EMR system has significantly improved our ability to function as a professional and effective student organization. We strive to create efficient patient notes and ensure patient safety via note signatures by our licensed providers.

Practice Fusion has allowed us to keep structured and thorough notes for our patients that can be readily accessed during follow-up encounters, enhancing the quality of care we provide. Moreover, as part of our commitment to training medical students to become compassionate and efficient physicians, we have exposed our volunteers to a professional-grade EMR system. This exposure helps them develop confidence and proficiency in patient charting skills, which is crucial for their future roles during clerkships and beyond.

Furthermore, the Technology department presented our poster on the “Assessment of EMR Utilization for Student-Run Street Medicine Clinic Serving Homeless Patients” at the Student Run Free Clinic Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Alongside presenting our work, our team took away valuable lessons and networking, leading to new innovations by Street Medicine Detroit.

Looking ahead, we are focused on continuous innovation and improvement. One of our upcoming initiatives includes combining our use of a phone donation program with the appointment system through Practice Fusion to enhance continuity of care. Moreover, we are expanding our research initiatives on EMR usage in free clinic settings to glean insights into how technology can improve patient care on the streets of Detroit.



*Practice Fusion has allowed us to keep **structured and thorough notes** for our patients...**enhancing the quality of care we provide.***





ADVOCACY & LIASON

Advocacy devoted this year to understanding the needs of Street Medicine Detroit's clinicians, volunteers, and, most importantly, patients, to best represent them at a series of meetings for Detroit's Strategic System Improvement Plan to End Homelessness. This department hoped to emphasize the need for improving the continuity of care for unsheltered persons admitted to the hospital, as well as to ensure that shelters are outfitted to meet the mental, physical, and social needs of their clients. We also connected the nascent harm reduction team at Wolverine Street Medicine (WSM) with SMD, which facilitated the development of WSM's harm reduction efforts in Detroit and in Ann Arbor.

GRANTS

Our team was able to secure two substantial grants this year. We received the Healthy Equity Challenge Grant from the Detroit Science Policy Network for \$2,500 as one of ten honorable mentions. This grant opportunity had the goal of uncovering new and innovative approaches that support health equity in Detroit. We also received a grant from Whole Foods as a part of their Community Giving Program. They provided \$8,600 to support our organization. Additionally, we organized a Giving Tuesday fundraiser again this year.



FINANCE

The year 2023 provided the Finance team with many opportunities to assist SMD with its mission of serving persons experiencing houselessness in Detroit. One of our primary tasks throughout this year was helping to allocate funds and reimburse SMD members for purchases made for the organization. These purchases included supplies for lunches, which were made by SMD board members and distributed during street runs. Other funds were used to attend and present at conferences, obtain new bags to carry medical supplies during street and shelter runs, and purchase items such as foot powder, underwear, etc. to provide to patients. At the end of the year, we were able to collaborate with the SMD President, Vice Presidents, and Inventory team in order to provide a monthly inventory fund for this team to draw from when purchasing needed items for our patients that are challenging to obtain through other avenues. We hope that this fund will go a long way in helping our patients in the years to come.

Additionally, we were able to fundraise for SMD this year through apparel sales. These sales took place both through online order forms and at in-person events. Our team worked to order new apparel, as well as to organize the apparel we currently have in-stock in our Scott Hall storage room. Our apparel sales helped to contribute to the funds needed for supplies used on street and shelter runs. Finally, our team worked to ensure that SMD continues in its 501c3 status. We updated documentation and filled out paperwork as needed throughout the year. We managed our various banking and donation platforms and kept track of funds throughout the year. We are thankful for a wonderful year as a part of the SMD team and look forward to seeing the Finance team continue to serve this organization and its patients in future years.



INVENTORY



Over the past year (end of 2022 through 2023), the Inventory department has gone through a large change in regards to storage. Through the help of one of our physician volunteers, we acquired a larger storage space allowing inventory to accommodate larger volumes of donations. This was especially important this year because we received much more winter supplies for a harsh Winter we had in 2023. With a larger storage space, it poses challenges for upkeep, maintenance, and compliance—in which the inventory department has worked hard to devise plans to mitigate any foreseeable problems. We first started with creating a map of storage space

and designating specific areas of where items are placed. We also require students to stock the street run bags every run and keep track of what was used.

Through partnership with MSU Detroit Street Care’s inventory department, we also created a schedule to clean the storage space and maintain its organization. This was by far the largest project the Inventory department has handled this year with the help of the rest of the SMD Board. The new storage space has helped (and will continue to help) SMD by making it easier to visualize and access supplies. It has also helped with cutting back on ordering supplies and medication that we already have. Lastly, it has helped with obtaining larger donations.



RESEARCH



The 2023 SMD Research team, in collaboration with the Harm Reduction team, completed a study that examined the prevalence of stigma among medical students in caring for populations experiencing houselessness and substance use. The team conducted an IRB-approved online survey targeting medical students from WSUSOM's graduating classes 2023-2026 who volunteered with SMD. The survey, administered via Qualtrics, collected anonymized data on demographics, experiences, and attitudes towards providing care to these populations. The outcomes of this study are expected to provide insights into the prevalence of stigma among medical students towards populations experiencing houselessness and substance use, thus informing efforts to improve education, training, and ultimately patient

care while promoting social justice. This project was presented at the 2023 Society of Student-Run Free Clinics. Thank you to the Harm Reduction team and the entire SMD team for their help and participation in this study.

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2023: BY THE NUMBERS



139
VOLUNTEERS

90
RUNS

40%
SHELTER

60%
STREET



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



WAYNE STATE
School of Medicine



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Metropolitan Detroit



DMC
DETROIT MEDICAL CENTER

**HENRY
FORD
HEALTH**