

# Research-Based Health Activism Course

## October 2006



"...being part of the month in a lovely progressive place was a breath of fresh air in a world of medicine."

### Programming Tracks:

#### **Health Policy and Activism—The history and the present:**

Bertrand Bell, MD: Making Real World Change As A Physician—Jo Ivey Boufford, MD: Public Policy—Steve Cha, MD and Joseph Ross, MD: Health Care Organization—Ernest Drucker, PhD: A Plague of Prisons: The Epidemiology of Mass Incarceration—Oliver Fein, MD: US and Universal Health Care—Ann Lindsay, MD: Substance Abuse in a Rural Setting: Strategies and Tactics—Paul Lipson, Chief of Staff for Bronx Congressman José Serrano: Health Topics as they relate to the policies in the Bronx—Ruth Macklin, PhD: Research Ethics: Protecting Human Subjects of International Research—Eva Metalios, MD: Human Rights Clinic—Barbara Seaman: Women's Health Activism—Peter Selwyn, MD, MPH: Research and Advocacy at the Dawn of AIDS—Victor Sidel, MD: Social Injustice and Public Health, and War, Terrorism, and Public Health—Hal Strelnick, MD: Health Policy at Local, State, and National Levels—Bruce Vladek, PhD: Medicare and the Role of Physicians in the Future—Sidney Wolfe, MD: Research Topics/ Questions

#### **Research Methods—how to produce activist research:**

Matthew Anderson, MD, MSc: Planning the write-up process of your project—Chinazo Cunningham, MD: Grant Writing—Alison Karasz, PhD and Galit Sacajiu, MD, MPH: Research Methods I & II—Peter Lurie, MD, MPH: Research Ethics—Paul Meissner, MSPH: Using Secondary Demographic and Clinical Databases—Noga Shalev, MD: Social Epidemiology—Galit Sacajiu, MD, MPH: Survey Design and Research—Nancy Sohler, PhD: Study Designs

#### **Advocacy—how to create change:**

Ramin Asgary, MD, MPH, MSc: Humanitarian Assistance: The Principles—David Appel, MD: Lobbying—Ricardo Barreras, PhD: Theories on the Intersection of Science, Policy, and Activism—Laura Caruso, MPA of GMHC: Coalition Building—Aaron Fox, MD: Housing and Health—Daliah Heller, MPH: Harm Reduction and HIV: a grass root organization—David Herszenon, MD: Physician Prescription Habits when drugs go generic—Bob Goodman, MD: Pharmaceutical Industry and Physicians—Mikhail Kogan, MD and Deborah Swiderski, MD: A Student's Experience with AMSA—Atsuko Koyama, MD: Public Speaking—Hillary Kunins, MD, MPH and Claudia Calhoon, MPH: Case Workshop: Advocating for Choice—Sharon Lerner, MPH: Media Relations in Health Research and Advocacy—Steve Max of Midwest Academy: Intro to Organizing and Strategy Building—Adam Richards, MD, MPH: Public Health and Human Rights in Burma—Lanny Smith, MD, MPH, DTM&H: Liberation Medicine, Health and Human Rights—Leonora Tiefer, PhD: FSD-Alert, Organizing Against PHARMA—Judy Wessler, MA: Picking An Issue

Research-based health activism describes a growing sector of the medical and public health worlds where the classic skills of clinical research and epidemiology are combined with grass-roots advocacy to influence federal and state health policy, stemming the influence of private industry and market forces on public and community health. The Residency Program in Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine has a rich tradition of innovations in community oriented primary care and a history of progressive research and practice. Our faculty, together with experts from throughout the New York Metropolitan area, will provide training in this growing field of research-based health activism.

We have developed a unique course, which combines both didactic and project based approaches, to the teaching of research-based health activism. Didactic lectures will introduce three major topic areas: research methods, health policy, and advocacy skills. Individual and small group mentorship will be provided to help students utilize these skills by developing their own independent research proposal. Other sessions will include physician-activist guest lecturers and visits to state or private health organizations that both create and influence health policy. Finally, students will work in groups to develop a research proposal for a project which reflects their interests that can be used when completed to influence health policy. This proposal will be presented on the final day of the course at a luncheon including all students, the course directors, returning session leaders, and Peter Lurie, MD, MPH, from the Public Citizen's Health Research Group.

**FACULTY AND RESIDENTS:** Galit Sacajiu, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine \* Carolyn Chu, MD, PGY 3, Family Practice Residency Program \* Aaron Fox, MD, PGY 3, Social Medicine Residency Program

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Please visit our website on Public Citizen at: <http://www.citizen.org/hrg/activistcourses/einstein.htm> or contact us at: website: [http://www.medicine-residency.org/special\\_programs/social/curriculum.html#F](http://www.medicine-residency.org/special_programs/social/curriculum.html#F) or Galit Sacajiu, MD, MPH, email: [GSACAJIU@montefiore.org](mailto:GSACAJIU@montefiore.org).

