David C. Leach Award

Named to honor the ACGME’s former Executive Director, Dr. David C. Leach (1997 – 2007), and his commitment to resident education and physician well-being, this award recognizes resident/fellow-led projects and innovations.

Han Yu Stephanie Liou, MD
Team Members: Bako Orionzi, MD; Nina Gummadi, MD
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About the Project:
“In less than three years as a pediatric resident, Dr. Liou has channeled her passion for health equity into tangible results for our community, raising over $75,000 for organizations and programs working to eliminate health disparities. In the process, by linking these efforts to residency-based initiatives and incorporating this work into our core curriculum, she and her team have demonstrated what it means to embrace the tenets of one of the key professionalism milestones: a sense of duty and accountability to patients, society, and the profession (PROF2). Because of her leadership, our residents not only work together for the betterment of our community, they graduate with the knowledge and skills to continue this advocacy in their own communities and practices.”

“Among the most impactful of Dr. Liou’s work is Project PEACHES: Pediatricians Engaging Adolescents for Contraception, Health Education, and Safe Sex. Launched in 2019, Project PEACHES consists of an interdisciplinary team including our residency program, the Leadership for Urban Primary Care Education and Transformation (LUCENT) program, the Pediatric Mobile Medical Unit, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3). Centering the needs of the community, the team partnered with South Side-based community group, the Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. (Healthy, Optimistic, Outstanding, and Determined) Foundation.”

“In partnership with our university’s LUCENT program, the Pediatric Mobile Health Unit, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Dr. Liou, Orionzi, and Gummadi developed an initiative to improve reproductive health access and education for adolescents in our community. What is unique about this program is the intersection of public service with clinical skills development, and the recognition that clinical skills development includes not only the nuts and bolts of delivering accurate reproductive health medical guidance, it requires a deep understanding of reproductive health justice, anti-racist action, and de-pathologizing teenage pregnancy.”

“In order to achieve this, the Project PEACHES team:
1. Partnered with the Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. Foundation (H.O.O.D. stands for Healthy, Optimistic, Outstanding, and Determined) to provide health education and access to contraceptive supplies for teen girls on the south side.

2. Secured funding from the Comer Development Board and the LUCENT Program to support the assembly and distribution of “H.O.O.D. kits” containing menstrual and hygiene supplies, condoms, emergency contraception, pregnancy tests, and educational materials about contraception and sexually transmitted infection prevention.

3. Launched an Adolescent Reproductive Health education series in the residency core curriculum with advanced training in STI screening, contraceptive counseling, and HIV and PrEP, and the latest knowledge about consent, privacy, sex trafficking, and intimate partner violence.

4. Instructed residents on the use of point-of-care tools to apply their medical knowledge including the Centers for Disease Control mobile app and bedside charts to assist with counseling and decision making.

5. Augmented these skills with structural competency skills, including examining personal bias in counseling practices, learning motivational interviewing techniques, and applying a reproductive health justice framework to case-based scenarios to practice contraception counseling.

6. Linked all of the above to the patients we care for, including an innovative teen parent panel."