

15th annual
International Street Medicine Symposium

presented by



October 20-23, 2019
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

in partnership with



with generous support from



UPMC Mercy



Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians. Determination of credit is pending.

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@StreetMedInst

street medicine institute

Wifi Access

Network: Theatre

Password: @AWAACC!

WELCOME!

Welcome to the 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium (ISMS 15)! We are excited to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the global street medicine community as it returns to Pittsburgh, site of the very first ISMS in 2005 and birthplace of the Street Medicine Institute. Pittsburgh was chosen as the host city for ISMS 15 to highlight the collaboration between Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net and Allegheny Health Network's Center for Inclusion Health as a leading example of sustainability, longevity, and evolution of the street medicine model. The success of these organizations is a testament to resiliency, partnership, and creative thinking in the face of myriad internal and external challenges common to street medicine practitioners throughout the world.

The ISMS, under the direction of the Street Medicine Institute, is the world's only international educational forum designed exclusively for health care workers who serve rough-sleeper homeless populations. You represent the millions of our brothers and sisters living on the streets throughout the world; we (and they) are honored by your participation. Since the first ISMS in Pittsburgh in 2005, street medicine programs have sprouted in more than 100 communities in 25 countries on 6 continents. At the Street Medicine Institute, we have seen exponential growth in interest from cities around the world to develop street medicine programs in response to the compounding problems of poor health outcomes, increased costs, and deepening social exclusion for people experiencing homelessness. Much of that interest is rooted in the growing body of evidence that the street medicine care model is a highly successful intervention for a complex interplay of population health challenges.

This year's symposium opens with the very popular *Street Medicine 101* workshop, focused on helping new street medicine programs germinate and existing programs grow and thrive. In addition to the typical full-day Street Medicine 101 workshop, the new Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition will offer an entire afternoon dedicated to launching and growing student-led street medicine programs. As always, the main symposium program offers an inspiring array of informative lectures, skills-focused workshops, thought-provoking discussions, and ground-breaking research representing a broad range of topics pertaining to the health care of rough sleepers, delivered by many of the world's foremost street medicine experts. We are particularly excited to highlight the work of Operation Safety Net and the Center for Inclusion Health. Serving as a "classroom of the streets," Pittsburgh's nearly 30-year dedication to rough sleepers has not only positively impacted the health, housing, and human dignity of thousands of people experiencing homelessness, but had an astounding ripple effect on rough sleepers throughout the world as trainees have spread their knowledge in other cities and founded new street medicine programs. We also have the honor to hear from Founder and Medical Director of both Operation Safety Net and the Street Medicine Institute, Dr. Jim Withers, as our keynote speaker. Jim inspires us to subvert systems that perpetuate structural violence and health inequity—transforming our health systems, our communities, and even ourselves. On the following page, you can read more about Jim's work as an indefatigable advocate for rough sleepers and tireless teacher of humanity in medicine.

With a diverse audience of more than 400 clinicians, service providers, educators, researchers, and students representing 70 cities in 15 countries on 5 continents, the opportunities for sharing and networking at ISMS 15 will be outstanding. None of this would be possible without the extraordinary support of Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net and Allegheny Health Network's Center for Inclusion Health, our host city partners. Their dedication of resources, time, and talents to the planning and execution of this event has been integral to its success.

Thank you so much for joining us! Your continued commitment to the Street Medicine movement is essential to the vision that all people sleeping rough throughout the world will have access to quality health care and hope. In turn, we hope you will feel enlightened, inspired, and refreshed amongst your Street Medicine family. Please do not hesitate to call on any of us at the Street Medicine Institute if there is anything we can do to make your experience at ISMS 15 more enjoyable and fulfilling.

In solidarity and service,

Liz

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Chair, International Street Medicine Symposium

Pat

Patrick J. Perri, MD

CME Activity Director, International Street Medicine Symposium

Keynote Speaker: **James Withers, MD**



In 1992, Dr. Jim Withers dressed in tattered clothes and began making medical visits to people living on the streets in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania along with a formerly homeless person serving as a guide and liaison. He was motivated by the desire to reach out to those excluded from mainstream health care systems despite their high rates of illness and premature death. By listening to their stories and bearing personal witness to their suffering, Jim was profoundly moved; he chose to devote his career to changing the way we care for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and other marginalized populations. He became inspired by the idea that this work with the poorest of the urban poor could become a “classroom of the streets,” a unique service-learning opportunity for students and other clinicians to help them better understand and practice a care philosophy he termed “reality-based medicine.” In 1998, Jim, with the support of The Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, founded Pittsburgh Mercy’s Operation Safety Net, an organization that has garnered international acclaim as an exemplary street medicine program and, in whose image, numerous other programs around the world have been created and improved.

In 2005, Jim initiated the annual International Street Medicine Symposium and in 2009, he and other street medicine leaders founded the Street Medicine Institute. The intent was to create a unifying body that would further develop and sustain the emerging field of street medicine, while training and supporting new and existing programs throughout the world. Street medicine has now become a powerful global movement for health care equality and social change by helping to create more compassionate, complete communities where everyone has the value and dignity they deserve.

Jim is a physician trained in Internal Medicine and part of the teaching faculty of the University of Pittsburgh since completing his residency there in 1988. Today, he works as medical director of Pittsburgh Mercy’s Operation Safety Net and volunteers as medical director of the Street Medicine Institute, where he spearheads the spread of the global street medicine movement.

15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Sun., Oct. 20th

Pre-symposium Workshop: Street Medicine 101

*The August Wilson African American Cultural Center
980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222*

8:00 – 9:00 am

REGISTRATION

9:00 – 9:15 am

Room: Theater

Welcome Address and Workshop Overview

James Withers, MD

Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Founder, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium

Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Psychiatrist, Georgia Regional Hospital (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

9:15 – 9:45 am

Brief History and Evolution of the Street Medicine Movement

James Withers, MD

Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Founder, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

9:45 – 10:15 am

Crafting the Argument for Street Medicine: What Funders, Health Systems, and Communities Need to Hear

Patrick J. Perri, MD

Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Co-founder, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

10:15 – 10:45 am

BREAK

10:45 – 11:15 am

Anatomy and Function of a Successful Street Medicine Program: Three Developmental Stages

James Withers, MD

Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Founder, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

11:15 – 11:45 am

Street-based Trauma-informed Care

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium

Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Psychiatrist, Georgia Regional Hospital (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

11:45 am – 12:15 pm

Measurable Outcomes in Street Medicine

Brett J. Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C

Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Director of Street Medicine; Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Keck School of Medicine of
University of Southern California (Los Angeles, California, USA)

The afternoon session is divided into two tracks. Track 1 contains programming for the general street medicine audience and will be led by the Street Medicine Institute (SMI). Track 2 contains programming specific to students and student-led street medicine programs and will be led by the Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition (SMISC).

TRACK 1: GENERAL AUDIENCE

12:15 – 1:30 pm **LUNCH** (*on your own*)

1:30 – 3:00 pm **ROUND TABLE CONSULTATIONS: SESSION I** (*concurrent*)

Table 1: Room: Highmark BCBS Education Center

Packing for Success: What to Bring in your Backpack

Joel Hunt, PA-C

Director, Care Connections Outreach, JPS Health Network (Fort Worth, Texas, USA)

Table 2: Room: Highmark BCBS Education Center

Nuts and Bolts: Preparing for your First Year of Street Medicine

William Toepper, MD

Medical Director, Portland Street Medicine (Portland, Oregon, USA)

Drew Grabham, LCSW

Social Services Director, Portland Street Medicine (Portland, Oregon, USA)

Table 3: Room: Highmark BCBS Education Center

Nuts and Bolts: Planning for Street Psychiatry

Sheryl B. Fleisch, MD

Founder and Medical Director, Homeless Health Services and Street Psychiatry Programs; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Jonathan Constant, DO

Resident Physician, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Daniel F. Nygren, MD

Resident Physician, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Table 4: Room: Studio

Clinical Consult: Treating Psychiatric Disorders on the Streets

Jose A. Arriola Vigo, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Jessica N. Walker, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC

Assistant in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Elise S. Scott, MD

Resident Physician, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Table 5: Room: Studio

Clinical Consult: Wound Care on the Streets

Mary Sligh, RN

Street Nurse Navigator, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Table 6: Room: Studio
Clinical Consult: Managing Complex Illness on the Streets
 Patrick J. Perri, MD
 Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute
 Medical Director and Co-founder, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network
 (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Table 7: Room: Studio
Clinical Consult: Prescribing for Substance Use Disorders on the Street
 Mariel Lougee, MD
 Street Physician, Contra Costa County Healthcare for the Homeless (Martinez, California, USA)

Table 8: Room: Studio
Engagement Challenges: Acute Intoxication, Paranoia, and Beyond
 Kevin Sullivan, MD
 Street Team Physician, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program; Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

Table 9: Room: PNC Foundation Donor Lounge
Risk Management and Safety
 Brett J. Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C
 Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute
 Director of Street Medicine; Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California (Los Angeles, California, USA)

Table 10: Room: PNC Foundation Donor Lounge
Financing for Street Medicine
 Liz Frye, MD, MPH
 Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium
 Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute
 Psychiatrist, Georgia Regional Hospital (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)
 Steve Perry, MS
 Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute
 Director of Analytics, Gateway Health Plan (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Table 11: Room: PNC Foundation Donor Lounge
Medical Leadership and Business Planning for Street Medicine
 Irene McFadden, MS
 Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)
 Andrew J. Bond, MD, CCFP, FCFP, MHA(c)
 Medical Director, Inner City Health Associates; Staff Physician and Health Justice Program Faculty, St. Michael's Hospital; Lecturer, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto; Chair, Canadian Network for the Health and Housing of the Homeless (CNH3) (Toronto, Canada)

3:00 – 3:15 pm **BREAK**

3:15 – 4:45 pm **ROUND TABLE CONSULTATIONS: SESSION II**
(concurrent; same tables as Session I)

4:45 – 5:00 pm Room: Theater
Closing Remarks
 Liz Frye, MD, MPH
 Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium
 Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

TRACK 2: STREET MEDICINE INSTITUTE STUDENT COALITION

12:15 – 1:00 pm **LUNCH** (*on your own*)

1:00 – 1:30 pm Room: Theater
Student Liaison Meeting

1:30 – 2:00 pm Room: Theater
Opening Discussion
Student Coalition Leaders

2:00 – 3:00 pm **ROUND TABLE CONSULTATIONS: SESSION I** (*concurrent*)

Table 12: Room: Café
HOUSED BEDS: Taking the History of an Unsheltered Patient
Corinne Feldman, PA-C
Member, SMISC Learning & Education Advisory Panel
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (Los Angeles, California, USA)

Table 13: Room: Café
Advocacy Using Technology and Social Media in Street Medicine
Lissie Arndt, DO-PhD candidate
2018 – 2019 Advocacy Chair, Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition
DO-PhD candidate, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (East Lansing, Michigan, USA)
Amanda McKenna, Post-baccalaureate student
2019 – 2020 Communications Coordinator, Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition
Post-baccalaureate student, California State University – San Marcos (San Marcos, California, USA)
David Deci, MD
Founding Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute
Associate Professor and Medical Student Education Director, Department of Family Medicine, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (Madison, Wisconsin, USA)

Table 14: Room: Café
Gaining and Maintaining the Support of your Clients, School, and Community
Matt Sumethasorn, MD candidate
2018 – 2019 Interim Co-Chief Coordinator and Student Liaison Coordinator, Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition
Second-year medical student, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (Los Angeles, California, USA)
Jennifer Wang, MD candidate
Medical Coordinator, Mobile Clinic Project
Second-Year Medical Student, University of California-Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine (Los Angeles, California, USA)
Justin Zhang, MD candidate
Head Coordinator, Mobile Clinic Project
Second-year medical student, University of California-Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine (Los Angeles, California, USA)

Table 15: Room: 1st Floor Lobby
Keeping Students and Clients Safe
 Lauren Burgoon, MD candidate
 2018 – 2019 Communications Coordinator, Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition
 Third-year medical student, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (Camden, New Jersey, USA)
 Marina Naijar, MD candidate
 2019 – 2020 Student Liaison Coordinator, Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition
 First-year medical student, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (Camden, New Jersey, USA)

Table 16: Room: 1st Floor Lobby
Reflective Practice and Education in a Street Classroom
 Aurinés Torres-Sánchez, EdD, MPHE
 Consultant, SMISC Learning & Education Advisory Panel
 Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine
 (San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA)
 James Withers, MD
 Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute
 Medical Director and Founder, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy
 (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

3:00 – 3:15 pm

BREAK

3:15 – 4:15 pm

ROUND TABLE CONSULTATIONS: SESSION II

(concurrent; same tables as Session I)

4:15 – 4:45 pm

Room: Theater

Closing Discussion

Student Coalition Leaders

4:45 – 5:00 pm

Room: Theater

Closing Remarks

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium

Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Psychiatrist, Georgia Regional Hospital (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

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Mon., Oct. 21st

Symposium Day 1: Host City Presentations

*The August Wilson African American Cultural Center
(980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222)*

7:30 – 8:30 am

REGISTRATION

8:30 – 8:45 am

Room: Theater

Introductory Remarks and Session Overview

James Withers, MD

Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Founder, Operation Safety Net, Operation Safety Net
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium

Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Psychiatrist, Georgia Regional Hospital (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

8:45 – 10:00 am

The Story of Street Medicine in Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net

James Withers, MD

Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Founder, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy

Janice Kochik, MSN, CRNP, FNP-C

Family Nurse Practitioner, Operation Safety Net and Mercy Family Health Center, Pittsburgh Mercy

Sharon Sumansky

Senior Manager, Homeless Services, Pittsburgh Mercy

Matthew Cotter, MSW

Medical Practice and Respite Program Manager, Pittsburgh Mercy

Brian Matous

Homeless Services Manager, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy

10:00 – 10:30 am

BREAK

10:30 am – 11:45 am

From the Margins to the Mainstream: Allegheny Health Network's Center for Inclusion Health

Patrick J. Perri, MD

Medical Director and Co-founder, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network

Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Stuart Fisk, CRNP

Director and Co-founder, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network

Special Populations Outreach: People Who Inject Drugs, Travelers, and Women

Jimmy Miller, MD

Street Medicine Team Lead, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network

Dave Lettrich, MDiv, MBA

Executive Director and Founder, Bridge to the Mountains

Mary Sligh, RN

Street Nurse Navigator, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network

11:45 am – 12:15 pm

HOST CITY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Civic Response to Homelessness in Pittsburgh

William Peduto, MPA

Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

12:15 – 1:30 pm

LUNCH (*provided*)

1:30 – 2:45 pm

GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOPS: SESSION I (*concurrent*)

A. Room: Theater

A More Perfect (Outreach) Union: How to Provide for the Spectrum of Benevolence, Promote Mission Fidelity, and Ensure the Space for Competing Philosophies on the Street?

Moderator: Dan Palka

Supervisor of Street Outreach, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy
Co-chair, Allegheny County Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee

Panelists: Dave Lettrich, MDiv, MBA

Executive Director and Founder, Bridge to the Mountains

Charles Chapman

Founder, L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry

Chief Development Officer, The Pittsburgh Project

Founder and Chair, Northside Homeless Alliance

Christy Pietryga

Chief Operation Officer, Veteran's Leadership Program

Executive Committee, Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

Chris Roach

Member, Uptown Partners

Former Street Outreach Supervisor, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy

Chair Emeritus, Allegheny County Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee

B. Room: Highmark BCBS Education Center

The Opioid Overdose Epidemic: How to Enhance Harm Reduction and Reduce Barriers to Treatment Access on the Streets?

Moderator: Jimmy Miller, MD

Street Medicine Team Lead, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network

Panelists: Calla Kainaroi, MA

Resource Coordinator, Bridge to the Mountains

Nikki DiMaria

Individual with Lived Experience

Lauren Ballew

Addiction Recovery Specialist, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network

Dana Lynch

Street Outreach Specialist, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy

Ron Ready

Harm Reduction Specialist, Prevention Point Pittsburgh

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C. Room: Studio

Making Space: How to Elevate Critical Consciousness and Create an Adaptive Shelter Continuum to Impact the Health of Rough Sleepers?

Moderator: Laura Drogowski

Critical Communities Initiatives Manager, Office of Mayor William Peduto
Executive Committee, Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board
Co-chair, Allegheny County Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee

Panelists: Jeremy Waldrup

CEO, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Christina Farmartino, MPH
Executive Director, The Open Door, Inc.
Board Chair, Prevention Point Pittsburgh
Adrienne Walnoha, MSW, LSW
Director of Community Health Initiatives, Omicelo
Homeless Services Advisory, Housing Opportunity Fund Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

D. Room: PNC Foundation Donor Lounge

Street Medicine Isn't Enough: How to Catalyze Health Systems Change and Promote Inclusion for Our Patients and Providers?

Moderator: Patrick J. Perri, MD

Medical Director and Co-founder, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network
Treasure and Immediate Past Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Panelists: Stuart Fisk, CRNP

Director and Co-founder, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network
James Withers, MD
Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute
Medical Director and Founder, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy
Todd Wahrenberger, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer, Pittsburgh Mercy
Medical Director, Pittsburgh Mercy Family Health Center

2:45 – 3:00 pm **BREAK**

3:00 – 4:15 pm **GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOPS: SESSION II**
(concurrent; same topics and rooms as Session I)

4:15 – 4:30 pm **BREAK**

4:30 – 5:00 pm Room: Theater

GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOPS: WRAP-UP
Conclusions, Unresolved Challenges, and Action Steps

Dan Palka

Supervisor of Street Outreach, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy
Co-chair, Allegheny County Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee

Jimmy Miller, MD

Street Medicine Team Lead, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network

Laura Drogowski

Critical Communities Initiatives Manager, Office of Mayor William Peduto
Executive Committee, Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board
Co-chair, Allegheny County Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee

Patrick J. Perri, MD

Medical Director and Co-founder, Center for Inclusion Health, Allegheny Health Network
Treasure and Immediate Past Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

6:15 pm

Walk to the Warhol

Meet in front of the August Wilson African American Cultural Center to join a walking group to the evening social reception.

6:30 – 9:30 pm

EVENING SOCIAL RECEPTION

The Andy Warhol Museum
(117 Sandusky Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212)

****complimentary hors d'oeuvres with cash bar****

****symposium ID badge required for admission; no guests please****



Tues., Oct. 22nd **Symposium Day 2: Invited Presentations**

*The August Wilson African American Cultural Center
(980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222)*

7:45 – 8:30 am **REGISTRATION**

8:30 – 8:45 am Room: Theater

Introductory Remarks and Session Overview

James Withers, MD

Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Founder, Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium

Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Psychiatrist, Georgia Regional Hospital (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

8:45 – 9:15 am **Development of a Spirituality (Guiding Values) for a Street Medicine Programme**

Wayne Renkin, MDiv, PhD Candidate

Project Coordinator, Tshwane Leadership Foundation; Researcher, Centre for Contextual Ministry,
University of Pretoria (Pretoria, South Africa)

9:15 – 9:45 am **Examining the Collective Impact of Street Medicine: An International Study**

Sophie Roe, BA

Student Researcher, Pomona College Public Policy Analysis Department (Pomona, California, USA)

Brett J. Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C

Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Director of Street Medicine; Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Keck School of Medicine of
University of Southern California (Los Angeles, California, USA)

9:45 – 10:30 am **WITHERS FAMILY KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

What is Street Medicine?

James Withers, MD

Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Founder, Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

10:30 – 11:00 am **BREAK**

11:00 - 11:30 am **Health Care Spending and Utilization in Unsheltered and Sheltered Homeless Individuals**

Katherine Koh, MD, MSc

Street Team Psychiatrist, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program
(Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

Jill S. Roncarati, PA-C, MPH, ScD

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and Harvard TH
Chan School of Public Health (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

11:30 am – 12:00 pm **Defining the Business of Value-Based Homeless Healthcare on the Street**

Sheryl B. Fleisch, MD

Founder and Medical Director, Homeless Health Services and Street Psychiatry Programs; Assistant
Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
(Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

- 12:00 – 12:45 pm **LUNCH** (*provided*)
- 12:45 – 1:30 pm **POSTER SESSION** (*with poster presenters standing by*)
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm **WORKSHOP SESSION I** (*concurrent*)

A. Room: Theater

The Intersection of Recovery Coaching and Harm Reduction Among the Rough Sleeper Population

Michael Jellison, CARC, LADCII, CPS, NCTTP

Recovery Coach, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

B. Room: Highmark BCBS Education Center

Connecting Rough Sleepers to the Public Hospital Resources

Yinan Lan, MD

Medical Director, Bellevue Primary Care Safety Net Clinic (New York, New York, USA)

Eileen Leonard, LMSW

Social Worker, Bellevue Primary Care Safety Net Clinic (New York, New York, USA)

C. Room: Studio

Prioritizing an International Research Agenda for Street Medicine Partners

Al Story, PhD, FFPH, MPH, RN

Founder and Lead, Find & Treat; Associate Professor & Co-Director, UCL Collaborative Centre for Inclusion Health (London, UK)

D. Room: PNC Foundation Donor Lounge

Creating and Sustaining Spaces for Reflection in our Practice

Aurinės Torres-Sánchez, EdD, MPHE

Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine (San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA)

- 2:30 – 2:45 pm **BREAK**

- 2:45 - 3:45 pm **WORKSHOP SESSION II** (*concurrent*)

A. Room: Theater

Behavioral Emergencies 101: The Basics of Developing Rapport, Violence De-escalation, and Pharmacotherapy

Rebecca Creel, MD

PGY3 Psychiatric Resident Physician, UF Health Jacksonville Psychiatry (Jacksonville, Florida, USA)

Colleen Bell, MD, FACHE

Medical Director of Behavioral Health, Sulzbacher (Jacksonville, Florida, USA)

Ana Turner, MD

Street Psychiatrist, University of Florida, Sulzbacher (Jacksonville, Florida, USA)

B. Room: Highmark BCBS Education Center

Incorporating Panel Management and Population Health into Street Medicine Teams

Beckie Tachick

Street Outreach Manager, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

Kevin Sullivan, MD

Street Team Physician, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

- C. Room: Studio
Involving Trainees in Street Medicine: Medical Education about Unsheltered Homelessness
Emma Lo, MD
Street Psychiatry Attending, Connecticut Mental Health Center (New Haven, Connecticut, USA)
Phil Costello, APRN
Clinical Director of Homeless Care, Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center (New Haven, Connecticut, USA)
Lilanthi Balasuriya, MD
PGY-4/Public Psychiatry Fellow, Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut, USA)

- D. Room: PNC Foundation Donor Lounge
Connecting Street Work with Personal Spirituality
Raymond A Perrier, MA, MA, MSc
NGO Director, Denis Hurley Centre (Durban, South Africa)

3:45 – 4:00 pm **BREAK**

4:00 – 5:00 pm **WORKSHOP SESSION III** (*concurrent*)

- A. Room: Theater
Health-seeking Behavior and Adherence to Treatment amongst TB Patients on the Street and in Shelter: A Case Study of Delhi, India
Harsh Mander
Director, Centre for Equity Studies; Special Commissioner, Supreme Court of India (Delhi, India)
Harry Coleman
Researcher, Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Delhi, India)

- B. Room: Highmark BCBS Education Center
Sustaining Physician-Led Street Medicine Efforts Despite Ever-Changing Priorities for the Unsheltered
Noha Aboelata, MD
Chief Executive Officer, Roots Community Health Center (Oakland, California, USA)

- C. Room: Studio
Different Space-time Continuums: Problem-solving Capabilities while Homeless
Michiel Vermaak, MD
Registered Intellectual Disability Physician, Department of Public Health Rotterdam (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)

- D. Room: PNC Foundation Donor Lounge
Caring in an Uncaring System
Maxine Radcliffe, ANP, MPH
Manager, Homeless Healthlink Team for Dublin (South) Kildare and West Wicklow (Dublin, Ireland)

Wed., Oct. 23rd

Symposium Day 3: Invited Lecture Presentations

*The August Wilson African American Cultural Center
(980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222)*

8:00 – 8:30 am

REGISTRATION

8:30 – 8:45 am

Room: Theater

Session Overview

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium

Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Psychiatrist, Georgia Regional Hospital (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

8:45 – 9:15 am

Towards Standardisation in Street Medicine Practice? Homelessness and Healthcare in Delhi

Harry Coleman

Researcher, Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Delhi, India)

9:15 – 9:45 am

Reducing Disparities in MAT: Low Barrier Buprenorphine One Year Later

Mariel Lougee, MD

Street Physician, Contra Costa County Healthcare for the Homeless (Martinez, California, USA)

Joseph Mega, MD

Medical Director, Contra Costa County Healthcare for the Homeless (Martinez, California, USA)

9:45 – 10:15 am

Housing Boston's Chronically Homeless Rough Sleepers: Ten Years Later

Jill S. Roncarati, PA-C, MPH, ScD

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

Beckie Tachick

Street Outreach Manager, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

Jim O'Connell, MD

President, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (Boston, Massachusetts, USA)

10:15 – 10:45 am

BREAK

10:45 – 11:15 am

Values-Based Engagement in Healthcare

Nick Maguire, DClInPsy

Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology, University of Southampton

Social Enterprise Director, Outcome Home (Southampton, UK)

Stephanie Barker, PhD

Psychologist, University of Southampton; Outcome Home (Southampton, UK)

David S. Buck, MD, MPH

Associate Dean for Community Health, University of Houston College of Medicine; Patient Care Innovation Center (Houston, Texas, USA)

11:15 – 11:45 am

Identifying Community Leadership Through Life History Interviewing

Crister Brady, MD, MPH

Resident Physician, UCSF Family and Community Medicine

(Sacramento and San Francisco, California, USA)

Dee Marie Chavez, Community Health Promoter

Community Health Leader, The Island (Sacramento, California, USA)

11:45 am – 12:15 pm

Street Medicine Institute Annual Update: Fulfilling the Mission

Irene McFadden, MS

Chair, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

12:15 – 12:30 pm

Concluding Remarks

James Withers, MD

Medical Director and Founder, Street Medicine Institute

Medical Director and Founder, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Chair, 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium

Member, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

Psychiatrist, Georgia Regional Hospital (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)



street medicine institute

Tues. Oct. 22nd **Symposium Day 2: Poster Presentations**

- 1. Community-Based Palliative Care for Unsheltered Homeless Populations: Provider Perspectives of Feasibility and Implementation**
Laura Addicks, LMSW
Graduate Student, Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, Texas, USA)
James C Petrovich, LMSW, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, Texas, USA)
- 2. Efficacy of Single Dose Pranziquantal Therapy for Schistosomiasis Among Nigerian Street Sleepers**
Oyinkansola Babayode, MB, BS
Associate Fellow, Street Medicine Network Medecine De Rue Foundation (Ibadan, Nigeria)
- 3. Los Angeles Street Medicine Provider Mapping**
April Banayan, MS
Student Researcher, Gehr Center for Health Policy; Keck Department of Street Medicine of University of Southern California (Los Angeles, California, USA)
- 4. Treatment of HCV in PWIDs and Other Socially Complex Populations**
Jaclyn M. Bandell, DNP, FNP-C
Director of Hepatitis C, Appalachian Mountain Community Health Centers (Asheville, NC, USA)
- 5. Peer Support & Homelessness**
Stephanie Barker, PhD
Psychologist, University of Southampton; Outcome Home (Southampton, UK)
- 6. Bringing Clinical Care to the Street Through Paramedic-Physician Collaboration**
Ellen Charge, Advanced Care Paramedic
City Centre Team Community Paramedic, Alberta Health Services EMS Mobile Integrated Healthcare (Calgary, Canada)
- 7. “Looking for the Places Only They Would Know” Find & Treat: Targeting Health Interventions for Rough Sleepers and Street Dwellers in London**
Phil Foley
Mobile Health Unit Coordinator, Find & Treat, UCLH (London, UK)
- 8. Student’s Role in Introducing an Elective Course – “Healthcare for the Homeless”**
Ruth Habartova
Coordinator of Student Initiative, Medicinaulici (Prague, Czech Republic)
Václav Melenovský
Leader of student project, Medicinaulici (Prague, Czech Republic)
Marek Havrda
Leadership member, Student Initiative, Medicinaulici (Prague, Czech Republic)
- 9. Needs Assessment of the Unsheltered Homeless Population in Phoenix, Arizona**
Jeffery J. Hanna, MPH, MS
Co-founder, Street Medicine Phoenix (Phoenix, Arizona, USA)
Justin Zeien, MPH, MS3
Co-founder, Street Medicine Phoenix (Phoenix, Arizona, USA)
- 10. How Did the Street Medicine Team Build Your Trust?: Learning from Rough Sleepers**
Calla Jamison, MPH
Student Researcher, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

11. A Scoping Review of Literature on Unsheltered or Rough Sleepers

Alyssa Landen, MPH

Project Coordinator, Center for Public Health Practice, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Katherine A. Ringstad, DNP-FNP

Clinical Care Manager, Operation Safety Net, Operation Safety Net (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Mary Hawk, DrPH, LSW

Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

David Finegold, MD

Professor, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

12. Implementation of a Mobile Buprenorphine Clinic

Rebecca Lee, MD

Family Medicine Resident, Greater Lawrence Family Medicine Residency (Lawrence, Massachusetts, USA)

13. The Creation and Growth of a De-Medicalized Foot Clinic

Onagh MacKenzie, MPH, MD candidate

Community Outreach Coordinator, Rhode Island Medical Navigator Partnership (Providence, Rhode Island, USA)

Leanna Travis, MD candidate

Community Outreach Coordinator, Rhode Island Medical Navigator Partnership (Providence, Rhode Island, USA)

14. Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Tampa Bay: Naloxone for Unsheltered Laypersons

Kimberly Menezes, MD candidate

Student Volunteer, Tampa Bay Street Medicine (Tampa, Florida, USA)

15. Stable Housing and Health and Healthcare Utilization of Homeless Individuals in Allegheny County

Katherine A. Ringstad, DNP-FNP

Clinical Care Manager, Operation Safety Net, Pittsburgh Mercy (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

16. Horizontal Governance of a Student-run Street Medicine Group: Experiences of Recinto Pa' la Calle in Puerto Rico

Jadailine Bermudez Santos, MS3

Student Leader, Recinto Pa' la Calle (San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA)

17. Effectiveness of Psychological Interventions for Homeless People: A Meta-Analytic Review

Elizabeth Bodley Scott, BSc

Assistant Psychologist/Research Assistant, University of Southampton (Southampton, UK)

18. Medical Navigators: Integrating Continuous Care for Rough Sleepers with Structural Competency

Pranav J. Sharma, MD and MSc candidate

Community Outreach, Team Leadership, Rhode Island Medical Navigator Partnership (Providence, Rhode Island, USA)

Megan C. Smith, MSW

Outreach Worker, Boston University, House of Hope CDC (Providence, Rhode Island, USA)

Marga Kempner, MS2

Medical Navigator, Rhode Island Medical Navigator Partnership (Providence, Rhode Island, USA)

Lindsey A. Vandergrift, MS2

Student Liaison, Rhode Island Medical Navigator Partnership (Providence, Rhode Island, USA)

Sara C. Melucci, MSW, LCSW

Outreach Program Manager, House of Hope CDC (Providence, Rhode Island, USA)

Sarah Kler, MD candidate

Rhode Island Medical Navigator Partnership (Providence, Rhode Island, USA)

19. A Snapshot of Chicago's Unsheltered Homeless Population

Joshua Smith, MPH, MS4

Co-founder, Chicago Street Medicine (Chicago, Illinois, USA)

20. Impact of Obtaining Permanent Housing for Homeless Persons on Hospital Utilization in an Academic Medical Center

Samuel W. Trump, MD candidate

Student Liaison, Vanderbilt Street Psychiatry, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Jessica N. Walker, DNP, APRN

Assistant in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Sheryl B. Fleisch, MD

Founder and Medical Director, Homeless Health Services and Street Psychiatry Programs; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

21. Development of a Vaccination Program to Combat Hepatitis A in Rough Sleepers

Samuel W. Trump, MD candidate

Student Liaison, Vanderbilt Street Psychiatry, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Daniel F. Nygren, MD

Resident Physician, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Jonathan Constant, DO

Resident Physician, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

Sheryl B. Fleisch, MD

Founder and Medical Director, Homeless Health Services and Street Psychiatry Programs; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Nashville, Tennessee, USA)

22. Mental Health First Aid Training for Medical Students and its Impact on Homeless Individuals' Access to Mental Health Services

Anita Ukani, MD candidate

Research Director, Street Medicine Detroit (Detroit, Michigan, USA)

Amanda Manly, MS3

Vice President of Inpatient Homeless Consults, Street Medicine Detroit (Detroit, Michigan, USA)

23. Expanding Access to Women's Health Services for the Unsheltered of Tampa Bay

Amanda Vakos, BA

Clinic Director, Tampa Bay Street Medicine (Tampa, Florida, USA)

Lauren Buckley, MS4

Co-President, Tampa Bay Street Medicine (Tampa, Florida, USA)

Katherine Akeley, MS4

Co-President, Tampa Bay Street Medicine (Tampa, Florida, USA)

Ali Wells, MS4

Women's Clinic Coordinator, Tampa Bay Street Medicine (Tampa, Florida, USA)

24. The Contribution of Mental Health Outreach to Health Equity for Rough Sleepers

Garrick Martin, RN

Clinical Team Leader, Assertive Community Outreach Services, Auckland District Health Branch (Auckland, New Zealand)

STREET MEDICINE and the STREET MEDICINE INSTITUTE

What is STREET MEDICINE?

Street Medicine is the provision of health care directly to those living and sleeping on the streets – the unsheltered or “rough sleeper” homeless – through mobile services such as walking teams, medical vans, and outdoor clinics. The fundamental approach is to engage people experiencing homelessness in their own environments and on their own terms to maximally reduce or eliminate barriers to care access and follow-through. Visiting people where they live – in alleyways, under bridges, or within urban encampments – is a necessary strategy to facilitate trust-building with this socially marginalized and highly vulnerable population. In this way, Street Medicine is the first essential step in achieving higher levels of medical, mental health, and social care through assertive, coordinated, and collaborative care management.

The emphasis on unsheltered or “rough sleeper” homeless populations is noteworthy, since most homeless health care efforts are primarily designed to serve people experiencing homelessness who live in sheltered settings. This stance reflects SMI’s fundamental belief that living on the street is not an acceptable reason to be excluded from health care. Nonetheless, SMI and its related street medicine programs will always collaborate with others who deliver health care at any point across the spectrum of homelessness as well as with those who work to alleviate the overarching problem of homelessness and its consequences. Any group whose resources are relevant to the street homeless is a natural partner of Street Medicine.

Street medicine is not adequate primary care by itself, but is best viewed as a form of intermediate “home care.” In every encounter, an effort should be made to identify and refer patients to a comprehensive, longitudinal primary care relationship if none already exists or if the Street Medicine providers themselves lack capacity to fulfill that role. Whenever possible, communication and collaboration with other members of a patient’s health care team are priorities. Some street medicine providers are fortunate to practice under the umbrella of a local or regional Health Care for the Homeless Program which may enhance primary care access and coordination.

The practice of street medicine is guided by the following principles:

- Each person living on the streets has the full value of any other person, and has the right to pursue his/her full potential.
- Services will be delivered directly in the person’s unsheltered setting without discrimination or blame.
- Street medicine will respect each person’s individuality and autonomy, remain sensitive to his/her assets and limitations, and work in partnership to enhance his/her well-being.
- Street medicine will collaborate, advocate, and innovate with community partners to improve health care access for those living on the streets.
- Street medicine will maintain the highest standards of medical care possible.
- Those with the experience of living on the streets will help guide the design and implementation of street medicine service delivery.
- Street medicine will practice goal-negotiated care by working to learn each person’s specific goals, and whenever possible, assisting him/her in achieving those goals within the context of the therapeutic relationship.

Why do we need street medicine?

Millions of people experiencing street homelessness throughout the world face extreme poverty, poor access to health care, and social disenfranchisement. As a result, they bear a disproportionate burden of illness, suffering, disability, and premature death. Street people in the United States die nearly three decades earlier than their housed peers on average, most commonly due to preventable and treatable chronic medical conditions. Meanwhile, their health care utilization costs are more than five times the national average, primarily as a result of over-reliance on emergency room visits for routine medical care and increased hospitalization rates for illnesses presenting in advanced stages. These observations provide

evidence that mainstream health care delivery models are failing to meet the complex needs of this vulnerable population in a socially-responsible manner.

It has been said that the measure of a society is reflected in its treatment of its most vulnerable members. The same maxim applies to health care systems, where health care workers are ethically bound to promote health and alleviate suffering for all people—including the poor and powerless. Street medicine embraces these foundational moral and professional principles, but it also argues that when a community fails to respond to the health care needs of those experiencing this most severe form of poverty, it incurs magnified and compounding social costs. Street medicine programs are uniquely positioned to navigate many of the most complex challenges to providing high-quality, low-cost health care to unsheltered homeless populations. Local studies of existing street medicine programs have revealed substantial impact on health care costs and mis-utilization patterns for the rough sleeper populations they serve, including reductions in emergency room visits, hospital admissions, and hospital length-of-stay. As a result, the street medicine care delivery model can also be incredibly instructive for health care systems seeking to improve access and efficiency for the general public and for other socially-excluded and medically-complex populations.

What is the STREET MEDICINE INSTITUTE?

The Street Medicine Institute (SMI) facilitates and enhances the direct provision of health care to the unsheltered homeless where they live. SMI does this by providing communities and clinicians with expert training, guidance, and support to develop and grow their own street medicine programs. SMI has become the global leader in developing the field and practice of street medicine and has helped cultivate or improve street medicine programs in more than 100 cities among 25 countries on 6 continents.

It is the **VISION** of the Street Medicine Institute that communities throughout the world are transformed through the delivery of street medicine practices designed to meet the unique needs of rough-sleeping persons.

It is the **MISSION** of the Street Medicine Institute to inspire and equip communities worldwide to provide street medicine services to rough-sleeping homeless persons. This mission will be accomplished through:

- Customized, on-site consultation and training programs designed to assist communities to establish or improve their own street medicine programs
- Documentation and sharing of best practices in the delivery of street medicine
- Encouragement of a global street medicine community primarily through the annual International Street Medicine Symposium
- Creation of service-oriented street medicine learning opportunities for students in the health sciences

NOTE: While the Street Medicine Institute has the expertise of street medicine providers, it is not engaged in the direct delivery of street medicine health care services. Rather, it assists and supports individuals and communities wishing to start or improve a street medicine program.

SMI is guided by the following principles:

- A global community dedicated to the well-being of those living on the streets is essential for the street homeless and for the betterment of our society.
- Care for those living on the streets must be improved by the identification and dissemination of best practices.
- Collaboration with other organizations and movements that strive for health, social inclusion, and the elimination of disparities in health care access and quality is critical.
- Street medicine provides a unique “classroom of the streets” for health sciences students to experience reality-based health care and other key concepts that are difficult to teach in traditional

settings. These service-learning opportunities are valuable resources that must be developed, disseminated, and encouraged as a transformative force for positive change in healthcare.

What services does SMI offer?

- On-site and remote consultations and trainings to encourage and support the initiation of new street medicine programs and the improvement of existing street medicine programs
- Annual International Street Medicine Symposium
- Membership that enables collaboration and sharing of best practices
- Formal organizational certification program supported by best practices standards
- Framework for epidemiological and outcomes research related to the plight of the unsheltered homeless and the impact of street medicine programming
- Repository for the growing body of evidence that street medicine programming reduces health care costs, improves health care access, and promotes better health and quality-of-life outcomes
- Network of service-learning opportunities for health sciences students with Street Medicine programs around the world

How does SMI measure its impact?

- An expanded and growing body of evidence that street medicine programming yields measurable improvements in health status, health outcomes, and health care mis-utilization costs for unsheltered homeless populations
- Increased numbers of communities with street medicine programs
- Increased numbers of unsheltered homeless persons receiving health care through street medicine programs
- Increased numbers of health care providers and health sciences students motivated and trained to deliver street medicine
- Increased participation in the annual International Street Medicine Symposium, symbolizing a broadening interest in serving people living on the streets around the world

How did SMI develop?

In 1992, Dr. Jim Withers dressed in tattered clothes and began making medical visits to people living on the streets in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania along with a formerly homeless person serving as a guide and liaison. He was motivated by the desire to reach out to those who seemed to be excluded from mainstream health care systems despite their high rates of illness and premature death. By listening to their stories and bearing personal witness to their suffering, Dr. Withers was profoundly moved, and he chose to devote his career to changing the way we care for the unsheltered homeless and other marginalized populations. He became inspired by the idea that this work with the poorest of the urban poor could become a “classroom of the streets,” a unique service learning opportunity for students and other clinicians to help them better understand and practice a care philosophy he termed “reality-based medicine.”

Dr. Withers observed that because of a variety of internal and external barriers, many street homeless individuals he encountered were unable to access and navigate existing health care services. Since the mainstream health care system’s traditional care models were not particularly sensitive or adaptable to their unique realities of life, illness, and circumstance, the street homeless were being effectively excluded from the care they desperately needed. Instead, as Dr. Withers learned, they required a more patient-centered, relationship-focused, and culturally-sensitive care model that vows to meet and work with each patient in the context of his/her unique reality and on his/her own terms. This evolving care model emphasized compassion, creativity, and collaboration in the development of individualized engagement and treatment strategies. To help weave back together the frayed ends of his patients’ health care with these ideals in practice, Dr. Withers founded Pittsburgh Mercy’s Operation Safety Net (OSN), a local organization that has garnered international acclaim as an exemplary street medicine program, and in whose image numerous other programs around the world have been created and improved.

Dr. Withers quickly realized that there were others like him working to bring medical care directly to people living on the streets in the US and around the world. His first meeting in India with Dr. Jack Preger, a health care champion for “pavement dwellers” in Calcutta, convinced him that finding a way to bring together Street Medicine pioneers would be an incredibly powerful first step in sparking a global movement. As Dr. Withers traveled to communities throughout the US and overseas to visit similar programs, he was struck that many practitioners were working in isolation, essentially “homeless” themselves within the medical community. Not only were their street practices not recognized by their peers, but the values they held about the kind of care that street people deserved were also not embraced by mainstream health care systems. He sensed a burning desire among these practitioners to link together to share insights and receive encouragement from one another. To that end, the International Street Medicine Symposium (ISMS) was founded in Pittsburgh in 2005, followed annual symposia since then in cities across the US and abroad with more than 4,000 total participants from around the world sharing best practices, learning new skills and strategies, and validating the ideals of their common work on the streets.

Through the efforts of Dr. Withers and a core group of Street Medicine leaders who had met through their participation in the annual ISMS, the Street Medicine Institute (SMI) was founded and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2009. The intent was to create a unifying body that would further develop and sustain the emerging field of street medicine, while training and supporting new and existing programs throughout the world. With the help of this coordinated effort, a network of street medicine programs in over 100 cities among 25 countries on 6 continents has developed and continues to grow. Street medicine has now become a powerful global movement for health care equality and social change by helping to create more compassionate, complete communities where every person has the value and dignity he/she deserves.

Where is there more information about SMI?

Visit the Street Medicine Institute website at www.streetmedicine.org to learn the latest updates on street medicine activities around the world, to initiate a request for consultation to start or grow a street medicine program, or to connect with the expanding international network of street medicine programs.



street medicine institute

Go to the People

Live among them

Love them

Learn from them

Start from where they are

Work with them

Build on what they have

But of the best leaders

when the task is accomplished
the work completed

the people all remark

We have done it ourselves

- Lao Tzu