



ANNUAL REPORT



street medicine institute

2020

OUR MISSION & VISION

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

Our **MISSION** is inspiring and equipping communities worldwide to provide street medicine services to persons experiencing rough-sleeping homelessness.



WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR VISION 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 is a community of individuals with street medicine expertise, we are not engaged in the direct delivery of street medicine health care services. Rather, we work toward standards for the provision of quality care in rough-sleeping environments and assist and support individuals and communities wishing to start or improve a street medicine program.

OUR HISTORY



1992

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 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 sleeping on the street, these individuals were being effectively excluded from care. 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 or her unique reality.

This evolving care model emphasized compassion, creativity, and collaboration in the development of individualized care delivery. To help weave back together the frayed ends of his patients’ health care with these ideals in practice, Dr. Withers, with the support of The Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, founded 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 a powerful first step in sparking a global movement. As Dr. Withers traveled to communities throughout the US and overseas, 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 not embraced by mainstream health care. He sensed a burning desire among these practitioners to link together to share insights and receive encouragement from one another.

2005

To that end, the **International Street Medicine Symposium (ISMS)** was founded in Pittsburgh in 2005, followed by now 16 more successful annual symposia in cities across the US and the world, with more than a thousand participants sharing best practices, learning new skills and strategies, and validating the ideals of their common work on the streets.

2009

Through the efforts of Dr. Withers and a core group of street medicine leaders who met through their participation in the annual symposia, the **Street Medicine Institute (SMI) was founded and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization** in 2009. The intent was to create a separate, 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 dozens of cities across five 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 OR
SHE DESERVES.



OUR WORK IN 2020

Until January 2020, the Street Medicine Institute accomplished its goals exclusively through the efforts of its all-volunteer Board of Directors. As the movement has grown and our scope expanded, we realized the Institute must move toward a more sustainable model. At the beginning of this year, SMI retained a Transition Manager to help implement key work plans and begin laying the foundation for a sustainable operating infrastructure.

Since 2016, the board has held annual strategic planning meetings to establish priorities for the coming year.

IN JULY 2020 GOALS WERE
ESTABLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- 1. Membership and Benefits**
- 2. Administration and Governance**
- 3. Symposia**
- 4. SMI Student Coalition**
- 5. Fund Development**
- 6. Consultation and Seed Grants**
- 7. Resources, Research and Data Repository**
- 8. Advocacy and Racial Disparity**



1. Membership and Benefits

Over the past several years, SMI is proud to have developed a range of resources and tools that are now available to members through our website (StreetMedicine.org). Our need to advance toward a more sustainable financial model combined with this expanding set of tools led the Board of Directors to conclude that it was time to introduce the concept of payment for membership in 2020. In July, we implemented paid membership linking a monetary donation to becoming a formal member of SMI. The model is designed in a tiered fashion - allowing some groups to become members for free (students and Persons With Lived Experience) and others to donate at increasing levels based on their professional status. Special rates are also offered for members hailing from countries other than the United States in recognition of varying costs of living throughout the world.



Members of SMI have access to a broad range of resources not available to the general public, including, in 2020, free registration to SMI's first-ever virtual symposium. This is discussed in more detail below. We are grateful for the hundreds of individuals who joined SMI as members by year end in 2020, along with the Richard King Mellon Foundation, for the financial support that enabled us to take the risk of this change in our membership structure while offering free access to our annual symposium for members.

2. SMI Administration and Governance

As the scope of programs and services offered by SMI continued to grow, it had become increasingly clear that organizational success depends upon the presence of full-time staff rather than simply the volunteered time of our Board members. Hence, in January 2020, SMI contracted with an experienced project manager to work with us to implement key organizational goals. Our Transition Manager, Chris Rafalski, played key roles in the development and implementation of the new membership model along with the presentation of SMI's first virtual symposium.

3. Symposium / Community Building

The annual International Street Medicine Symposium (ISMS) has been a staple throughout SMI's history. The symposia give our community the opportunity to meet, learn from each other, and become recharged from shared positive energy. Given our broad international membership, SMI has routinely alternated ISMS host cities between the USA and other countries.

Our plan had been to hold Symposium XVI in Toronto, Ontario, in the fall of 2020. Of course, like so much of what was planned for this unusual year, this had to be postponed. Recognizing the impact of the pandemic on the rough-sleeping homeless community as well as SMI's membership, we concluded, however, that the event must go on. With a generous grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, we were able to plan for and offer SMI's first-ever virtual symposium free to members.



As the movement has continued to grow, fostering relationships with students has become a top priority as today's students are future street medicine providers. 195 students participated in Symposium XVI, which included a special student track allowing them to meet, exchange ideas, and learn from one another.

STREETMEDICINE.ORG

With so many aspects of our lives transitioning to virtual this past year, SMI also worked to improve several features of our website. This included reorganizing our Resource tab for ease of use and accessibility, along with reopening our forums in response to member interest. A special COVID19 tab was added to provide ready access to the full range of materials SMI offered in response to the pandemic.

4. Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition (SMISC)



The Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition is dedicated to promoting inclusive, reality-based, person-centered care for our unsheltered homeless community members throughout the world. We strive to inspire and equip students to provide high-quality street medicine through transdisciplinary student, consumer, and community collaboration. Viewing the streets as a classroom for social justice with the privilege to empathetically learn from the people, we hope to instill the transcending principles of street medicine throughout healthcare systems.

A major focus of the SMISC leadership team is interdisciplinary representation, and as such the board this year was comprised of students from NP, PA, undergraduate, MD and DO programs.

SMISC'S MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTS OVER 50 EXISTING STUDENT-RUN STREET MEDICINE PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND SOUTH AMERICA, WITH OVER 500 INDIVIDUAL STUDENT MEMBERS.

This year, **SMISC has hosted monthly webinars, trainings and journal clubs** led by street medicine experts - both providers and those with lived experience - on topics which include Trauma Informed Care, Wound Management, Harm Reduction, Occupational Therapy on the Street, and much more. A SMISC stipend for speakers with lived experiences was also introduced this year to emphasize the importance of learning from those with lived expertise and how highly their voices are valued.

Additionally, SMISC has created the **Voices with Meaning** program for patients to share their stories, an updated Student Start Up Manual to guide new Street Medicine teams through the first steps in creating their team, created an archive of all known opportunities for students to partake in a street medicine rotation during their schooling, and is currently underway with creating a Street Medicine Safety Manual, an Advocacy Toolbox, and an Updated Needs Assessment Guide.

Many of these projects came about in the wake of COVID-19 and the unique issues that student-run street medicine teams have faced in efforts to continue to provide care to their neighbors experiencing homelessness. After months of weekly COVID-19 zoom brainstorming sessions in 2020, many student teams are still striving to adjust to the new or changing needs of both their communities and their respective institutions. As such, SMISC has continued to provide support to these student teams by serving as a platform for communication and collaboration, as well as creation of unique resources and educational opportunities for all student members.

5. Fund Development

SMI applied for and was successful in being awarded two significant Foundation grants in 2020. The Richard King Mellon Foundation, as previously mentioned, awarded SMI \$50,000 which enabled us to develop and offer our virtual symposium event to members for free.

In addition, we applied for and were awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Pulte Family Foundation for the purpose of developing and piloting a Seed Grant program.

\$50,000

Richard
King
Mellon
Foundation

\$15,000



We are grateful to both of these Foundations, along with the The Richard King Mellon Family Foundation, for all of their support. We also wish to thank the WaterWheel Foundation, created by the band Phish, for its generous support of SMI across many years and especially through its on-line concerts during the pandemic.

NUMEROUS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS REMEMBERED SMI DURING THIS DIFFICULT YEAR AND WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SUPPORT, AS WELL.

6. Consultations and Seed Grant

Since our inception, consultations have been a staple of SMI's efforts. During 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic prevented onsite visits, yet we continued to offer consultations virtually. Traditionally, our consultations take place through a variety of means including site visits, conference and video calls, lectures, and student internships.

During 2020, we organized and updated our consultation database, which includes all consultations conducted by SMI Board-member experts since 2009.

AT YEAR-END 2020, SMI EXPERTS HAVE PROVIDED
472 CONSULTATIONS TO PROGRAMS AND
ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

Having always held a goal of launching new street medicine programs, SMI applied for and was successful in receiving a grant from the Pulte Family Foundation. This grant enables us to pilot Seed Grants in 2021 to assist with the launch of two startup street medicine programs in the US.

THE AWARDEES OF THE SEED GRANTS WILL RECEIVE:

- **\$3,500 cash grant**
- **Street Medicine Consultation with an SMI board member expert (valued at \$1,500)**
- **Free Program Membership to SMI for One Year (valued at \$750)**

This Pulte award provides SMI the resources necessary to build the infrastructure for managing our seed grant program along with offering the grants.



7. Resources

When the COVID19 pandemic struck, the SMI Board of Directors quickly convened experts from around the globe to develop and publish “STREET MEDICINE PRACTICE during the COVID19 PANDEMIC” on March 20, 2020. These guidelines have been used by SM providers around the world, and guidance later published by the CDC was highly consistent with SMI recommendations.



Recognizing the stress on street medicine providers created by the pandemic, SMI also offered Resilience Conversations allowing members to meet over Zoom and obtain support from mental health professionals with street experience. Caring for our rough sleeping brothers and sisters takes physical and psychological tolls, and during the pandemic the practice of street medicine has been even more challenging. The Resiliency groups allowed us to support each other and promote emotional well-being in our community.

8. Advocacy

The Street Medicine Institute continues its commitment to support street medicine teams throughout the world in fighting structural and systemic violence against people of color, women, sex-workers, religious minorities and others that promotes marginalization, poor health, poverty, and homelessness. We remain in solidarity with our members and our brothers and sisters sleeping rough. We understand the importance of including as many voices as possible, so at ISMS XVI, we convened a group from around the world to help develop an Advocacy Toolkit which we hope to bring forward at a future symposium.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2020 was a turning point year for the Street Medicine Institute. After having been a free membership organization since we launched our new web platform in 2017, we determined it was time to ask our community to consider making a donation in exchange for membership. Overlaid on this change was the unexpected COVID19 Pandemic, the potential negative financial impact of which was mitigated by a generous grant from the Mellon Family Foundation. This award was restricted for SMI to use in developing and presenting our first-ever virtual symposium for which we had the goal of participation by 500 individuals. This award along with smaller gifts from several other parties listed below enabled SMI to conclude 2020 with the resources needed to achieve our goal: to formally hire our first staff person.

2020 SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Funds Raised	99,654
Program Revenue	140,162
Total Revenue & Support	239,816

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	73,752
Management & General	3,339
Fundraising	8,745
Total Expense	85,836
Change in Net Assets	153,979

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	374,654
Total Assets	374,654
Total Equity	374,654
Current Liabilities	-
Total Liabilities & Equity	374,654

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING
FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 2020:

OUR 750 MEMBERS AND PROGRAM MEMBERS

THE RICHARD KING MELLON FOUNDATION

THE RICHARD KING MELLON FAMILY FOUNDATION

THE WATERWHEEL FOUNDATION (ESTABLISHED BY THE BAND PHISH)

The numerous small companies and individuals who provide ongoing financial support by whatever means they are able

SMI 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Irene F. McFadden
Chair

Brett J. Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C
Vice Chair

Amanda C. Cook, J.D.,
Secretary, Marketing & Communications Committee Chair

Patrick J. Perri, MD
Treasurer, Immediate Past President

James Withers, MD
Medical Director

Joseph Bensen

David M. Deci, MD

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Steve Perry, MS

Ellie Small
Chief Coordinator of SMISC

Henrik Thiesen, MD, GP



WHAT'S NEXT

SMI has ambitious goals for 2021. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we will continue to stay involved and provide the necessary responses for the safety of our SM Community. As things normalize post-pandemic, we hope to also accomplish the following:

- Award our first-ever Seed Grants to two applicant start-up programs
- Hire our first employee
- Publish additional Clinical Guidelines specific to the care of rough-sleeping homeless persons
- Introduce an Advocacy Tool Kit
- Develop a repository of published articles related to street medicine
- Continue to expand the multi-disciplinary nature of the SMI Student Coalition

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Street Medicine Institute encourages active participation in our member community through attendance at the annual International Street Medicine Symposium, through conversations in our website-based Forums and through your ongoing communications with us through info@streetmedicine. Please become a formal member of the Street Medicine Institute to enjoy access to all of our resources and to assist us financially through your membership donation.

Thank you so much for your support!



info@streetmedicine.org

www.streetmedicine.org

Street Medicine Institute
P.O. Box 431
Ingomar, PA 15127

Photography Credit:

Page 7: Chris Rafalski

Subject of Photo: Behind the Scenes

Location: Pittsburgh, PA

General Info: The picture was taken at ISMS XVI.

Page 11: Chris Rafalski

Subject of Photo: Dr. Jim Withers

Location: Pittsburgh, PA

General Info: The picture was taken at ISMS XVI. Dr. Withers is giving his presentation entitled "Ask Jim Withers! Philosophy and Ethos of Street Medicine Practice".

Page 2: Mount Carmel Street Medicine

Subject of Photo: Jalee Helmuth, RN

Location: Columbus, OH

General Information: The photo was uploaded to the Whova Platform at ISMS XVI.

Page 13: Mount Carmel Street Medicine

Subject of Photo: Jalee Helmuth, RN

Location: Columbus, OH

General Information: The photo was uploaded to the Whova Platform at ISMS XVI.

Page 11: Traverse Health Clinic

Subject of Photo: None given

Location: Traverse City, Michigan

General Information: The photo was uploaded to the Whova Platform at ISMS XVI.

Page 5: Traverse Health Clinic

Subjects of Photo: Kyle Monteith and Sara Bush

Location: Traverse City, Michigan

General Information: The photo was uploaded to the Whova Platform at ISMS XVI. Kyle Monteith, and Sara Bush, Clinic Lead RMA from the Traverse Health Clinic, team up with Goodwill Inn Northern MI Street Outreach Team to visit homeless encampments in Traverse City, MI.

Page 15: Traverse Health Clinic

Subjects of Photo: Kyle Monteith, NRP and Dr. Lynn Swan

Location: Traverse City, Michigan

General Information: The photo was uploaded to the Whova Platform at ISMS XVI. Kyle Monteith, NRP and Dr. Lynn Swan from the Traverse Health Clinic perform weekly Rapid COVID screening for staff and residents living in both of the homeless shelters in Traverse City.

Copyright © 2021 Street Medicine Institute

The Street Medicine Institute is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization since 2009
Street Medicine™ is a Registered Trademark of the Street Medicine Institute

