



ANNUAL REPORT



street medicine institute

2021

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:

- Assisting communities establish and improve their own Street Medicine programs through customized consultation and training along with awarding of Seed Grants;
- 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 2021

SMI's Board meets annually for two days to review progress, lay out future dreams and establish a pathway to further our mission. In July 2021, goals were established in the following areas:

IN JULY 2021, GOALS WERE ESTABLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- 1. Mission, Vision and Values**
- 2. Governance and Management**
- 3. Financial Stability**
- 4. Program Development**
 - a. Seed Grants**
 - b. International Street Medicine Symposium**
 - c. Membership Benefits**
- 5. Adjunct Communities**
 - a. Street Medicine Institute Student Coalition**
 - b. Street Medicine Institute Educators Coalition**



1. Mission, Vision and Values

Sadly, the Covid pandemic continued throughout 2021 and contributed to growth in the number of persons sleeping rough throughout the world. In view of a need that seems to be expanding rather than diminishing, SMI has determined that our Mission and Vision are more necessary than ever and renewed our commitment to their pursuit. Further, while we have always operated in accordance with a set of shared values, we had not previously taken the time to write those concepts down and confirm what they mean to us as an institute. Hence, at our 2021 annual planning retreat, the Board of Directors finalized a Values Statement formalizing the principles that guide our decision-making.



WE INVITE OUR STREET MEDICINE
COMMUNITY TO CONSIDER THESE
CONCEPTS AND SHARE THOUGHTS AND
REACTIONS WITH US REGARDING
WHETHER THEY APTLY DESCRIBE YOUR
EXPERIENCE OF OUR SHARED WORK.

SMI's **CORE VALUES** are as follows:

[Go to the People](#) – Street medicine is effective only when we meet people on their own terms in their own spaces.

[Solidarity](#) – We stand with our sisters and brothers sleeping outside, advocating for others to see them for the beloved human beings they are.

[Authenticity](#) – Being genuine, transparent, and honest allows our organization to maintain trust with people sleeping rough and the street medicine teams who care for them.

[Transformative Disruption](#) – We drive change in our communities and health care systems to achieve justice and health equity for all of us, no matter where we sleep at night.

[Streets as a Classroom](#) – People sleeping rough are our best teachers. In learning from them, we learn how to provide healing for others and ourselves.

[Healing Community](#) – In caring for people society shuns, street medicine workers can feel equally marginalized. We offer a place of refuge for people involved in street medicine globally to refuel and grow with each other.

2. Governance and Management

As the Street Medicine Institute advances toward a more sustainable model that includes paid staff, we have recognized the need to move our Board of Directors away from operational tasks and toward an emphasis on governance responsibilities. To this end, during 2021, SMI leaders engaged in an educational and self-assessment process assisted by individuals from Robert Morris University's Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management BoardsWork! Program. Outcomes from this effort included a board development plan, a formal job description for SMI board members, and a commitment to proceed with the hiring of an Executive Director.

By 2021 calendar year end, a new slate of Board officers was elected and were oriented to their roles. Further, a position description for an SMI Executive Director was agreed upon, with recruitment targeted for the first quarter of 2022.

3. Program Development

SMI SEED GRANTS

In December of 2020, SMI received a \$15,000 grant from the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation which had two 2021 objectives:

1. To help underwrite SMI's costs of developing and implementing a Seed Grant program designed to assist with the launch of emerging street medicine programs in areas not served by street medicine; and
2. Allow SMI to award its first ever Seed Grants to include a cash component and free SMI program membership, along with intensive on-site consultation and support for the awardees from SMI experts.

As we reflect on our achievements for 2021, we are delighted to report success with both of the above objectives. SMI's seed grant infrastructure is now fully formulated and includes seed grant application requirements and an electronic application form, a scoring rubric and structured process for assessing submitted requests to choose awardees, consultation delivery mechanisms and a formal evaluation tool.

SMI awarded our first-ever seed grants in July of 2021 to the following two emerging street medicine programs:

CU STREET MEDICINE: SUBMITTED BY KIERA CONNELLY AND REBECCA HENKIND

The primary mission of CU (Colorado University) Street Medicine, in conjunction with YHC Clinic, is to improve access to healthcare and resources for people experiencing homelessness in the Commerce City and Aurora geographic areas.



STREET HEALTH DC, INC: SUBMITTED BY TOBIE SMITH, MD, MPH, MED

The mission of Street Health DC, Inc is to provide health care for unsheltered individuals in Washington, DC. This mission is based in the understanding that housing is health care, and advocacy to change the environmental, social, and political power structures that marginalized populations is necessary to achieve health and well-being for all members of our collective DC community. Our mission is to be patient led in all aspects of care with focus on the needs of this community in partnership with established community organizations. We strive to empower our patients to be the primary lead in their healthcare and we will assist as partners in their journey.



SMI experts, Jim Withers, MD and Brett Feldman, PA-C, both SMI board members, conducted site visits with each of these awardees in the fall of 2021 at which time they met with the local team and selected partner organizations to advise, support and teach as needed and requested. Ongoing consultative support has been available in the months since the face-to-face sessions. Both programs continue with their developmental processes and will provide formal evaluations of their seed grant experience in the summer of 2022.



Further positive news on this front is that SMI applied for and was successful in receiving a second grant from the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation in December of 2021. This additional funding of \$35,000 enables SMI to continue its seed grant program for a second year and to increase the cash award to \$10,000 for each of two additional awardees. We extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to the Pulte Family for their ongoing support!

17TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL STREET MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM

622
attendees

287
students

21
countries

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



Our plan and hope was to hold ISMS XVII in Toronto, Ontario, in the fall of 2021 after having postponed due to the pandemic in 2020. Of course, like so much of what was planned these past two years, Plan B was required, and SMI produced our second successful virtual symposium in October 2021.

The 17th annual International Street Medicine Symposium had more registrants than any previous ISMS, with a total of 622 attendees representing six continents and 21 countries. Fostering relationships with students who are potential future street medicine providers is an SMI priority. Symposium XVII included a special student track, designed by the SMI Student Coalition, to help student attendees meet, exchange ideas, and learn from one another; to our delight, 287 students participated in this event!



4. Adjunct Communities

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. SMISC strives to inspire and equip students to provide high-quality Street Medicine through transdisciplinary student, consumer, and community collaboration.

SMISC'S MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTS OVER 50 EXISTING STUDENT-RUN STREET MEDICINE PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND SOUTH AMERICA, WITH MEMBERSHIP GROWING BY 34% FROM 567 STUDENTS TO 758.

SMISC initiatives this year included updates to frequently used program start-up tools including the Student Start Up Manual and Needs Assessment. SMISC also introduced **quarterly subject themes** which became the focus of their popular webinars and newsletters, focusing on such topics as harm reduction and advocacy. A Diabetes Best Practices Guide was also published.

STREET MEDICINE EDUCATORS COALITION (SMEC)

As interest in Street Medicine has grown among students in the health professions, a need for educators familiar with and fluent in the language and principles of our work has become apparent. A work team of Street Medicine expert educators including Denise Kohl, Joel Hunt, Corinne Feldman, Brett Feldman and Jim Withers gathered through 2021 to design a model for addressing this need. From their efforts, the concept of the Street Medicine Educators Coalition (SMEC) was born; a proposal was presented at ISMS and received an enthusiastic response.

SMEC's mission is to set up a framework by which street medicine providers can be formally trained to acknowledge and address the isolation, suffering and health inequities experienced by people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in our society with humility and love. SMEC will develop a suggested foundational framework for street medicine education that includes competencies, learning objectives and standards. They will continue to survey the current needs of educators and develop materials to support educators such as sample course syllabi or the development of a content library. SMI's Board of Directors is supporting the launch of SMEC and the group will begin its work during 2022.

5. Member Benefits

In addition to free registration to 2021's virtual International Street Medicine Symposium, three new benefits were offered to SMI members in 2021:

SMI Forums

The forums can be accessed through the SMI website (streetmedicine.org) these forums have newly been reopened and are moderated by street medicine experts. The forums allow members to raise questions or post ideas related to their experiences with the delivery and planning of street medicine services.

Free videos from ISMS XVII

These include all lectures, breakout sessions, poster sessions and Street Medicine 101

Job Opportunity Board

Members may post open positions on streetmedicine.org. Postings remain in place for 90 days and are accessible to the public.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021 SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS	
REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Funds Raised	36,538
Program Revenue	114,346
Total Revenue & Support	150,884
EXPENSES	
Program Expenses	119,145
Management & General	8,353
Fundraising	4,749
Total Expenses	132,247
Change in Net Assets	18,637
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	359,654
Restricted Net Assets	35,000
Net Income	18,637
Total Equity	413,291
Total Liabilities & Equity	413,291

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING
FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 2021:

OUR 1,709 MEMBERS AND PROGRAM MEMBERS

THE PULTE FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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

SMI 2021 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
Founder

Joseph Bensen

David M. Deci, MD

Liz Frye, MD, MPH

Steve Perry, MS

Henrik Thiesen, MD, GP

Adjunct Advisor:

Ellie Small
Chief Coordinator of SMISC



WHAT'S NEXT

There are many forces in the world today posing risks for our brothers and sisters sleeping unsheltered, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the expanded availability of deadly substances; SMI remains vigilant and strives to provide the necessary responses for the safety of our SMI community and those we serve. Our work continues, and SMI has ambitious goals for 2022 and beyond, including but not limited to:

- **Award Seed Grants to two additional applicant start-up programs,**
- **Publish additional Clinical Guidelines specific to the care of rough-sleeping homeless persons,**
- **Publish a text related to the provision of mental health services in the street medicine setting,**
- **Update and publish a Street Medicine Program database,**
- **Launch the Street Medicine Institute Educators Coalition,**
- **Expand involvement from the international community,**
- **Broaden research in the area of street medicine outcomes and benefits.**

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

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Photography Credit:

Cover: Chris Rafalski
Location: Aurora, Colorado

Page 1: Chris Rafalski
Subjects: Jim Withers, MD and Brett Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C
Location: Washington, DC

Page 4: Chris Rafalski
Location: Colorado

Page 7: Chris Rafalski
Subjects: Sarah Nachtman; Kiera Connelly, CON, UCAN; Scott Harpin, RN, MPH, PhD;
Kathryn Boyd-Trull, MD; Rebecca Henkind, SOM, MS1; SMI Team
Location: Aurora, Colorado

Page 7: Chris Rafalski
Subjects: Catherine Crosland, MD; Tobie Smith, MD; Emili Delp; and Braden Remington,
SMI Team
Locations: Washington, DC

Page 8: Chris Rafalski
Subjects: Jim Withers, MD and Brett Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C
Location: Aurora, Colorado and Washington, DC

Page 9: Liz Frye, MD
Subjects: Kevin Sullivan, MD; Katherine Koh, MD, MSc; and Nick Maguire, DClInPsy
Location: ISMS XVII

Page 9 Chris Rafalski
Subject: Liz Frye, MD
Location: ISMS XVII

Page 11: Chris Rafalski
Location: Aurora, Colorado

Page 13: 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 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.

