
THE CONNECTION

Quarterly Newsletter of the NNLM South Central Region

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A Note from the Executive Director

BY BRIAN LEAF

What a roller coaster this past year has been! The philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus is credited as the origin of the idea that "change is the only constant." This year has proven that to be an understatement. Nevertheless, I'm proud of what our team has been able to accomplish and what it continues to strive for. We have improved internal processes, learned to be agile in the face of obstacles, and - thankfully - I'm pleased to announce we've been able to hire a new All of Us Community Engagement Coordinator. Look out for a new Meet Me Monday [Blogadillo](#) post to learn more about Linda Loi, who joins us (remotely) from Philadelphia, PA.

The end of a calendar year doesn't put out fires, but we will be able to finish out this year with some cautious optimism. We continue our COVID-19 response efforts with our subaward recipients - you'll see them featured in this newsletter. We're also developing new education and outreach materials on vaccine hesitancy and misinformation which will be made available to you in the very near future.

I want to give kudos to my fantastic team: Debbie Montenegro, Edward Caldwell, Jen Ortiz, Bailey Sterling, Linda Loi, and Myriam Hernandez. In an informal Zoom call, we realized that while a couple of us have been with the office since the beginning, *all of us* only started in our current roles this year. The talent and experience our coordinators bring has allowed us to thrive instead of just survive, so let us know how we can work with or assist you!

See you in the new year,





Warmest Wishes

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR
FANTASTIC NETWORK.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING
WITH YOU ALL IN 2021!

UNTIL NEXT YEAR,
YOUR SCR TEAM

Network Member Spotlight

SCR is a geographically large region, and the missions of our members and professionals are highly varied. Each quarter, we will highlight the work and interests of members and professionals from throughout our region. Let's get to know each other a little bit better!

Alison Caballero

DIRECTOR

UAMS Center for Health Literacy - Little Rock, AR

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Q: What is one big issue that currently impacts or represents your patrons/clients?

A: COVID-19 and its implications for emotional wellness

Q: What's one amazing resource you think everyone should know about?

A: With NNLM support, our team developed a print guide in English and Spanish called How to MOVE Toward Emotional Wellness. You can see it online on the UAMS Center for Health Literacy website [here](#). We are also happy to share print copies while they last. Soon, we will

be posting an interactive digital module that covers this content (also in both languages).

Q: If you could take any trip without limitation, where would you go and why?

A: I would love to visit Bogota, Colombia, where my husband grew up. His extended family is still there, and his stories of his childhood and adolescence have inspired me so much to want to see the beautiful people, foods, and places he speaks of so often.

Q: What's the worst haircut you ever had?

A: Hands down, the mullet. After my first child was born, I'd been home for nearly 4 weeks with no social interaction and feeling quite frumpy. I decided to treat myself to a haircut on the day of a planned dinner out with my girlfriends for my birthday, and my usual hairdresser was booked, so I took an appointment with the guy at an unknown salon who had an opening (that should've been my first clue). My request for layers turned into a hideous mullet with very short bangs that I could only partially disguise with a headband. So, my birthday treat was not what I hoped for. Move over, Bridget Jones, that diary entry may be a match for you!

Network Member Spotlight

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Edith Romero

HEALTH EDUCATOR

Luke's House Clinic - New Orleans, LA
eromero1@uno.edu



Q: What is one big issue that currently impacts or represents your patrons/clients?

A: The lack of language justice in the healthcare system impacts our communities that speak a different language. This great barrier prevents some from even being able to make appointments, understand navigation and their bills, and even communicate effectively with their providers.

Q: What's one amazing resource you think everyone should know about?

A: An amazing resource that everyone should know about is your local grassroots organization. Your local grassroots organizations will keep you up to date with

what is happening in your community, they will organize towards change that affects you and are a link to other resources in the city.

Q: Do you have any exciting plans in the near future?

A: I am going to Honduras for Christmas to help with the relief efforts after the devastation of hurricane Eta and Iota.

Q: What are you reading right now?

A: *Killing the Black Body* by Dorothy Roberts

Q: There are now 25 hours in a day! How do you spend your extra hour?

A: Sleeping!

Thank You

A huge thanks to everyone who has shared a little bit about themselves with us - we love our network!

COVID-19 Health Information Outreach Awardees

In October, we were please to become the first Regional Medical Library nationwide to develop and offer a round of COVID-19-related funding and support to five of our partners.

This award (up to \$20,000) enables organizations to develop and offer programs, including pilot projects, that will impact health literacy and health information needs related to the COVID-19 / SARS-CoV-2 global pandemic in the South Central Region. Below you will find a summary of the exciting projects we have funded!

Unidos en Nuestra Salud: Providing Capacity Building to our Community Members as Well as Public Health Education Regarding COVID-19

Luke's House Clinic for Healing and Hope: New Orleans, LA

Unidos en Nuestra Salud is an initiative that aims to provide health education, health literacy and health information skills to the Spanish speaking community including but not limited to health information intermediaries, librarians, community health workers, public health professionals and community members that speak Spanish and are medically underserved populations. Through culturally relevant text messages, a Spanish and English direct healthline, an online health education resources library, and partnerships with local libraries and local grassroots organizations, it will provide and promote trainings on health literacy, health education, COVID-19 authoritative information and other related topics.



MOVING Beyond COVID-19: Helping Consumers Move toward Emotional Wellness through Accessible Online Learning

UAMS Center for Health Literacy: Little Rock, AR

A team of health educators and plain language writers will address emotional wellness needs exacerbated by COVID-19 by adapting, developing, and promoting accessible authoritative consumer health resources. The team will adapt the English language *How to M.O.V.E. toward Emotional Wellness* print booklet into an interactive, web-based tutorial. In addition, they will develop and promote an interactive, web-based tutorial to address COVID-19-specific emotional wellness concerns. New resources will be developed using plain language best practices and will be housed on a public, accessible web site and promoted through established partners within the NNLM SCR region and more broadly through social media and related outreach.

Connecting with Health

Pottsboro Library: Pottsboro, TX

This public library project will facilitate access to quality health care via telemedicine in a rural community. In a COVID-19 world, avoiding in-person visits not only adheres to self-quarantine and social distancing guidelines, but also lightens hospital and physician loads to focus on patients with the most acute sickness and symptoms. The virtual experience will lessen the risk of exposure and infection of other persons. As a highly respected anchor institution in this small town, the Pottsboro Library is well positioned to create a pilot telemedicine program in consultation with medical and information professionals.



The Superwoman Project

Black Girl Health Foundation: Houston, TX

The Superwoman Project will provide mothers of color with up-to-date and medically sound information related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This project is an opportunity for African American mothers in the Houston, TX Metropolitan Area to learn how to cope with the added stresses of being a ‘Superwoman’ in an age of fear, loss, and uncertainty, to and gain access to a trusted resource that will point them to regularly updated science-backed information about protocols, changes, and new developments amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



Expanding the ReDiReCT Toolkit to inform COVID19 Community Health Worker (CHW) Response: An interdisciplinary approach

University of Texas at Arlington: Arlington, TX

Texas A&M University College of Nursing, Libraries, and School of Public Health are collaborating to expand the ReDiReCT toolkit to include resources specific to Community Health Workers (CHWs). The updated toolkit will include topics designed to help CHWs navigate the myriad of health information related to COVID-19, improve CHWs’ understanding of community response to disasters, and population specific topics. The selection of the content will be informed by the National Community Health Worker Training Center’s assessment of needs. The application portal will be further informed by connecting CHW trainers with community health nursing students.

Upcoming Classes

Visit [NNLM.gov/calendar](https://nnlm.gov/calendar) for a complete list of offerings this quarter. If you are accessing the web version of this document, clicking the class and webinar titles on pages 6-7 will lead you to their information web page.

[Bioinformatics and Biology Essentials For Librarians: Databases, Tools, and Clinical Applications](#)

JANUARY 4 - APRIL 9, 2021
CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS: 30

[Beyond the Binary: Health Resources for Sexual and Gender Minorities](#)

JANUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 1, 2021
CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS: 4

[Beyond an Apple a Day: Providing Consumer Health Information at Your Library](#)

JANUARY 8 - FEBRUARY 5, 2021
CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS: 4

**NEW!
FORMAT!**



[Library Carpentry Workshop](#)

JANUARY 20 - JANUARY 21, 2021
CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS: 20

[Health and Wellness @ the Library: The Essentials of Providing Consumer Health Services](#)

FEBRUARY 8 - MARCH 5, 2021
CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS: 12

Upcoming Webinars

This is a small selection of the many webinars NNLM has to offer in the coming months. Visit [NNLM.gov/calendar](https://n.nlm.gov/calendar) for a complete list of offerings this quarter.

[Yoga as an Act of Self-care for Librarians](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021
1:00PM CT

[2021 MeSH Changes and PubMed Searching](#)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021
NOON CT

[Identifying the Gaps:](#)

The Status of Data Management Education in Doctoral Nursing Programs

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021
2:00PM CT

[Trauma Informed Approach in Libraries](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
2:00PM CT

[Substance Use Disorder Treatment in the Time of COVID](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021
1:00PM CT

[Self-Care During Stressful Times](#)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021
NOON CT

[NLM's History of Medicine Division:](#)

A Research Collection of Rare Medical Materials

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021
2:00PM CT



SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: AN EVER CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

SCR CONNECTIONs

Wednesday, January 13th, 2021
8am PT / 9am MT / 10am CT / 11am ET

Please join us and Mona M. Ramonetti, Head of Scholarly Communications at Stony Brook University Libraries, as she shares insight on working with entities on and off campus to meet Stony Brook University and Hospital's scholarly needs.

[Click here for more information.](#)

See you there!

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

There are 8 differences between the images below.
How many can you find?



The NNLM South Central Region RML team is here to serve you!

We are diligently working to bring you the content you want and the training you need. If you should have any ideas, comments, or concerns to share with us, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team.

We value you and your feedback!

