

# SHAB Newsletter

## Student Health Advisory Board

In this issue: Information about SHAB, Wellapalooza, the new Trauma center and a conversation with Jennifer Connor, Director of Operations of Student Health Services (SHS)



## A Conversation with Jennifer Connor

**SHAB:** Can you briefly introduce the new initiatives that the Student Health and Counseling Services implemented this year?

**Jennifer Connor:** We have a few newer initiatives that we are working on this year. Being able to offer PrEP to the high risk population that we have is one of our big celebrations this year. We felt that it was a very

important topic on this campus and a very important resource that our students needed. PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) prevents HIV infection in HIV-negative individuals. With the implementation of this PrEP program, high risk students can get the needed labs every three months at Student Health Services. Student insurance generally covers PrEP but students need to follow a registration step for co-pay coverage with Gilead.

**S:** How do students enroll in the PrEP program?

**JC:** If people think that they would benefit from taking PrEP, they should come to SHS and talk to one of the providers. These providers will assess whether the student is at high risk, and make decisions based on the results of those assessments. We are also working on our Women's health services. Pap smears, breast exams, STI screening, yearly screening and treatment of gynecological disorders (for example, yeast infections) can be done at Student Health Services. Our main goal is to keep the female population on campus healthy. Currently, our nurse practitioner, Natalie Benson, is assessing women who may be at high- risk of breast cancer. *Cont. on pg 2*

## What is SHAB?

The Student Health Advisory Board (SHAB) is a committee made up of undergraduate and graduate students, administrators, and health care providers that actively and openly discuss ways to improve student health and wellness throughout campus. All students are encouraged to apply this spring to be 2016-2017 SHAB members, and to contact any current members with issues and concerns that they have with the university's offered healthcare services.

Apply to be on SHAB!

The application as well as more information about the committee including past and current members, and active projects can be found at <https://studenthealth.uchicago.edu/page/student-health-advisory-board-shab-0>

## Trauma Center Update

In mid-February, University of Chicago Medicine announced it had submitted a \$269 million proposal for state approval to build a Level I adult trauma center on its Hyde Park campus, *cont. on pg 2*

## Wellapalooza

Wellapalooza, UChicago's bi-annual wellness festival, will take place on

**Wednesday, May 18**

on the main quad from

**11:30am-1:30pm**

The event will feature various activities to support many facets of wellness.

Come out and join in the fun!

- Plant some seeds herbs and take them home (pots and seeds provided)
- Relax with a backrub from a physiotherapist
- Play with some time with cute dogs
- Win farmer's market "money"
- Register your bicycle with UCPD
- Enjoy games and win prizes

Live music and much more!!

## All About USHIP

Full-time students at the University of Chicago are automatically enrolled in the University Student Health Insurance Plan (USHIP) unless they provide proof of comparable coverage. Some part-time students, such as those in the evening Booth program, are eligible to opt-in to coverage directly through UnitedHealthCare Student Resources. Here is some information to help you navigate health care at UChicago:

- UnitedHealthcare Student Resources representatives are on campus to answer USHIP insurance questions (e.g. understanding your bill, how mid-year insurance changes are filed, etc). Call (773) 834-4543, option 2, or visit Janice and James M-F 8:00- 4:30. For more information and office location go to <https://studenthealth.uchicago.edu/page/insurance-contacts>
- Free 24-hour nurse advice line. Have an urgent medical question while off-campus, or when the student health clinic is closed? Call (773) 702-1915 for guidance from experienced nurses.
- MyChart is an online platform for scheduling appointments, reviewing medical test results, and exchanging secure emails with your doctor at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Register today at <https://mychart.uchospitals.edu/mychart>.
- Dental and vision insurance options to supplement USHIP are available from multiple insurance providers, with differing degrees of coverage and costs. For more information visit <https://studenthealth.uchicago.edu/page/summary-coverage-2015-2016>

**Conversation with Jennifer Connor, cont...** She has secured financial support from labs to run a standard genetic screening test for breast cancer risk at virtually no cost to students. We do the counseling here, and then we are able to refer them to the proper place. Being able to offer this service here is very exciting because it is not offered at most student health centers.

**S:** Do you have any major plans for the new academic year?

**JC:** We are interested in improving students' access to student health services. Currently, students can make appointments for non-urgent care, but we would like to improve our urgent care services. We are leading several focus groups with our APNs, physicians, nurses, front-desk staff etc to look at that process and figure out how to improve it. We're also exploring different opportunities to potentially implement online appointments to make things easier for the students and make the wait-times lower if we can. So, next year, we hope to roll out a new and improved program for access.

**S:** Is there anything else you would like the students to know about SHS?

**JC:** One of the most important things that the students should understand is the high quality of healthcare that they'll get here. The physicians and the APNs are so dedicated, educated and loyal to their student population, and I think that the students will find a very open and welcoming center here. We track patient experiences in Student Health and we are always looking for ways to improve the care we provide. Students should feel very comfortable coming here or calling to ask questions!

**Trauma Center Update, cont...** as well as to add more hospital beds, expand its emergency room and convert Mitchell Hospital into a cancer treatment facility. The announcement marked the latest development in a decades-long campaign calling for the University to provide trauma treatment and care to the surrounding South Side community.

In September of last year, U of C Medicine announced it would open a trauma center at Holy Cross Hospital on the Southwest Side. A few months later, U of C Medicine decided instead to add trauma care as part of the University's broader expansion project, a move welcomed by campaign activists, who had argued that the Holy Cross proposal still left much of the South Side neighborhood underserved.

The recent proposal combining the adult trauma center plans in Hyde Park with the larger Emergency Department and hospital bed capacity expansion project is now working its way through the complicated state approval process. Advocates of the trauma center argue that having such a center in Hyde Park would benefit not only residents of the South Side, but the broader city as well. It would be a "hub" for mass casualties as well as single patient injuries, while also contributing to the improvement of trauma care by acting as a space for research and training. If the proposal is approved, the project will be completed by early 2018.