

## **FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES**

Edwin Chandrasekar  
(312) 372-7070 x223  
edwin@asianhealth.org

### **Developing Sustainable Community Capacity for Health Information Dissemination**

Dec-3, CHICAGO, IL – The complexity of scientific research and technical language typically used to convey research findings requires a thoughtful and concerted effort to ensure that information is communicated in a way that is understandable to ordinary consumers who are not from research communities. Community leaders and representatives from the Partnership for Healthier Asians (PHA) recently met to review accomplishments made over the last 3 years, and discussed next steps for dissemination of findings to a broader audience. A collaborative project which began in 2013, PHA involves researchers from the University of Chicago Medicine (UCM) working together with 7 diverse Asian American communities in the Chicago metropolitan area to find ways to improve the adoption of evidence-based health promotion for limited English-speaking populations.

PHA works primarily in the four-quadrant Cook, Dupage, Kane and Lake counties, where roughly 80% of the Asian American population in Illinois resides. “Our shared decision making approach in working with community-based organizations has been important to the success of PHA because they have an intimate knowledge of the cultural sensitivity and needs of the limited English-speaking and foreign-born Asian populations,” said Karen Kim MD, Professor of Medicine at UCM who has been leading this project. “Such information is key in order for the medical and public health sectors to be able to translate and adapt new evidence-based findings into useful health information products. The expectation that consumers and patients are able to understand evidence and use information to help improve their health is paramount.”



*PHA community leaders and representatives gathered together on Dec-1 to review progress and successes*

“There is power and potential in partnerships between communities and academic institutions working towards social justice and health equity,” remarked Jerry Clarito, a member of PHA representing the Alliance for Filipino Immigrant Rights and Empowerment. “The decision making throughout this project

has been equitable, and community partners have been able to provide input into the design and implementation of this project.”

A full report which summarizes the activities and findings from PHA is expected to be released in early Spring 2016. PHA partners include the Alliance for Filipino Immigrant Rights and Empowerment, Cambodian Association of Illinois, Chinese American Service League, Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Hanul Family Alliance, Korean American Community Services, Lao American Organization of Elgin, Muslim Women Resource Center, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois.

Support for continuing work on this project has been made possible through an R24 award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). For more information about the project, please contact Reena Patel, Research Associate at 312.372.7070 x221.

---

*Asian Health Coalition (AHC): Established in 1996, AHC is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a mission to improve the health and wellness of the Asian American community through advocacy, technical assistance, community-based education and research. To learn more, visit [www.asianhealth.org](http://www.asianhealth.org)*