

BRANCATI CENTER BULLETIN



DEAR NEIGHBORS,

In this issue of the Bulletin, we highlight Black Maternal Health Week which is focused on “Our Bodies Belong to Us: Restoring Black Autonomy and Joy.” We also want to remind you about the bivalent COVID-19 booster and COVID-19 vaccination events that we have coming up this month and in May. We are pleased to be launching our community-based hemoglobin A1c screening soon; we hope that being able to do A1c tests at community events will help even more people be aware of their diabetes risk. Finally, in November 2022, we were fortunate to receive funds from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation to support sustainability planning for Brancati Center programs. We’d love to hear from you and know what you’d like to hear about next month.

–The Brancati Center Team

COVID CORNER

While 71% of Baltimore City residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, less than 50% of residents in many neighborhoods have received their first vaccine shots. The communities with lowest vaccination rates also tend to have the highest COVID-19 infection rate.

To reduce this COVID-19 vaccine disparity, the Brancati Center, in partnership with Walgreens, the Israel Baptist Church, the Garden of Prayer Christian Church, and Greenmount West Community Center, is implementing the COVAX grant.

From March to late May, a series of community health discussions and COVID-19 vaccine events will take place in:

- Midway/Coldstream
- Clifton-Berea
- Madison/East End
- Greenmount East.

Find the calendar of events on page 2. For more information, contact Megan Brown at mbrown61@jhmi.edu.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH

The Black Maternal Health Week is an annual event that takes place every April in the United States with the goal of raising awareness about the health disparities faced by Black mothers and advocating for policy changes to improve their health outcomes.

What is it?

It was founded in 2018 by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance. April 11th marks the start of Black Maternal Health Week 2023. This year the theme is “Our Bodies Belong to Us: Restoring Black Autonomy and Joy!”

Who is at risk?

- 30% of maternal deaths in 2021 were Black women.
- Black women are two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than White women.

How to prevent it?

- Expanding insurance coverage throughout the first postpartum year
- Improving the quality and accessibility of maternal health care, particularly for historically marginalized communities
- Reducing bias and discrimination in care
- Enhancing trust and respect in care
- Increasing awareness and education about maternal health and pregnancy-related complications
- Standardizing care in health care facilities that serve disproportionately impacted communities
- Investing in research to better understand and address the root causes of maternal mortality and morbidity

Akua Afrah Amoah, MD, MPH & S. Michelle Ogunwole, MD, PhD



Program recruitment

Diabetes Prevention Program Recruitment

Recruiting for the DPP!

What is it? A yearlong lifestyle change program that lowers the risk of diabetes

Who can join? Adults with prediabetes and an elevated body mass index (BMI)

How do I learn more? Visit our website:

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/population-health/dpep/diabetes-prevention-program/>

How do I join? You can email us at brancaticenter@jhmi.edu or call us at 410-614-2701

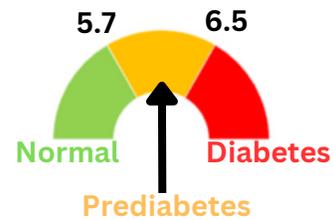


Dear neighbors, hemoglobin A1c screening is coming!

The Brancati Center is excited to announce that we will be able to conduct hemoglobin A1c testing at community events this summer.

The hemoglobin A1c test is a lab test that estimates the blood glucose (sugar) level in the body over the past 2 to 3 months. This test is better than a single blood glucose test which only tells us the blood glucose at one point in time as your blood glucose changes constantly based on what you eat and how active you are.

The hemoglobin A1c test can be used to diagnose prediabetes and diabetes:



We hope that having the hemoglobin A1c test available will help community members learn their risk for diabetes. People with prediabetes may be able to join our Diabetes Prevention Program, and we will provide resources, like educational materials and connections to health care, for people who already have diabetes.



the David & Lucile Packard FOUNDATION

Packard Funds Announcement

In November 2022 we were delighted to receive a grant from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation to help support the core infrastructure and functions of the Brancati Center. During the two-year funding period, the grant will help us engage new partners from the community and the university and health system. It will also help us increase our social media and web presence. A key goal is to find ways to help us build and sustain our programs over many years. We are very excited to receive this much needed support!

The Sydney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center Education Sessions

Join our Webinar:

What You Need To Know About Lung Cancer

May 16, 2023
at 6:00 pm
REGISTER HERE



COVAX Events

April 27, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM: Community Health Discussion at the Garden of Prayer Christian Church (1148 Homestead Street).

April 30, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM: COVID-19 vaccination clinic/Health Fair at the Israel Baptist Church (1200 N. Chester Street).

May 05, 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM: Health Education session/COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Greenmount West Community Center (1634 Guilford Ave).

May 06, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM: Health Fair/COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Garden of Prayer Christian Church (1148 Homestead Street).

