Addressing Diabetes Disparities on the South Side of Chicago: Engaging Students in Service and Scholarship

Date: Friday, January 17, 2014
Time: Noon - 1 pm
Location: Scaife Hall, Lecture Room 3

Dr. Monica Peek is an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Chicago where she provides clinical care, teaches and does health services research in the area of health disparities. She received her medical degree and master’s degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins University, and completed her residency training at Stanford University Hospital. She then worked for the National Health Service Corps for two years at a community health center for the medically underserved in Ohio before relocating to Chicago.

As a member of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) program office Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change, Dr. Peek is the led the systematic review of health care interventions to reduce disparities in diabetes care and outcomes. She has been funded by RWJF and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to explore racial differences in patient/provider communication and to pilot patient-empowerment interventions to enhance such communication among blacks with diabetes. She is the Principal Investigator of grants from the Merck Company Foundation and NIH/NIDDK to improve diabetes care and outcomes among residents on the South Side of Chicago, a predominantly African-American working class community with significant disparities in diabetes health outcomes such as lower extremity amputations. Dr. Peek was part of the NIDDK strategic planning committee whose 2010 report ‘Advances and Emerging Opportunities in Diabetes Research’ set forth the diabetes research agenda for the next 5-10 years.

Dr. Peek also does research on the development and evaluation of community-based, culturally-tailored interventions to promote healthy behaviors and preventive care, including women’s health (i.e. breast cancer screening), physical activity and diabetes self-management.

About This Session

The South Side Diabetes Project is a multi-site, multi-targeted intervention designed to address the multiplicity of factors that drive diabetes disparities among low-income racial minorities. This NIH-funded intervention contains 4 key pillars: patient education and empowerment, healthcare provider training, quality improvement (QI)/health systems change, and community connections to local
resources for diabetes self-management. Data supports the success of the intervention in terms of patient experience, patient skills and health behaviors, changes in the processes within health systems, and diabetes-related health outcomes. Dr. Monica Peek is the project’s Principal Investigator and will discuss her work and the ongoing opportunities the intervention has created for engaging medical students and trainees in education, service-learning and academic scholarship.