Health Equity Circle
Community Organizing for Health Equity
Luis Manriquez, MD
OHSU/VA FM/PM
I am the founder of the Health Equity Circle for which I receive compensation more important than money.

I would additionally like to disclose an unrepentant bias in favor of justice, equity and democracy.
Medicine as a practice of social justice

Last time I was in Miami:
Additionally, as evidence based clinicians we must accept that health is larger than healthcare.

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal.”

WHO, Report of the commission on the social determinants of health, 2008
Health Equity

Health Equity is the assurance of the conditions of optimal health for all

Inequity: 3 core components
- multiple axes of inequities

1) One group is unjustly advantaged

2) One group is unjustly disadvantaged

3) The whole is made less by the loss of human potential
Back to the Future

“Our concept of health is to make social change, to build the institutions that make social change, and to keep it going.

We call it Community Health Action”

-H Jack Geiger, MD
Health Equity has to be part of our professional identity

It should be the foundation of our civic society
Health Equity Circle

An interdisciplinary student group that partners with community organizations to advance health equity using the tools of community organizing.
Relational organizing

Broad based alliance of community institutions that come together to use their collective power to advance a vision of the common good.

HEC is a dues paying member of alliances in Seattle, Spokane and Portland. The IAF-NW organizers serve as our faculty in community organizing.
The Organizing Cycle

Listen → Plan → Reflect → Act
Health Equity Circle

Regional network in Washington and Oregon

- Seattle: UW
- Spokane: WSU/EWU/UW
- Portland: OHSU/PSU

in development: Pacific University and NUNM
Health Equity Circle

- Tent City: Passed Seattle ordinance legalizing encampments on city property
- Students for Anti-racist UWSOM
- Advocates for the Underserved Lobby day
Residency Education

Swedish FM Cherry Hil
- 2nd year residents
- social medicine curriculum

OHSU FM
- 4th year population health curriculum
- longitudinal Health Equity curriculum (in development)

Residency curriculum deeper than student training and based on weeklong IAF regional/national training
Residency Education

Best Starts for Kids

-$392 million for King County
Most comprehensive approach to early childhood development in the nation
Clinic Based Community Organizing

Modern update of Community Health Action

Partnership between:
- HEC
- IAF-NW
- OHSU Richmond/Scappoose
- Swedish: County Doc, Carolyn Downs

Relational organizing using clinic as a base to bring together patients, staff and providers to act collectively for health equity.
Early results

- Tax Increment funding: $67 million in funding for affordable housing
- Lifting of ban on inclusionary zoning
- 1% Commercial Excise Tax for affordable housing
Thank you

Questions?

Imanriquez@gmail