



COMMUNITY ACTION RESEARCH TRACK (CART)

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE
Division of Community Medicine

UT SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS & CLINICS

MISSION

The Community Action Research Track (CART) offers medical students opportunities to promote healthier behaviors, address key health issues within communities, and engage in service-learning activities with the underserved.

Students participate in community-based service learning experiences and didactic sessions designed to improve their skills in community medicine. Through these experiences they contribute to improving health in the underserved communities where they train.

“Doctors have a community attached to each patient they treat.”

– JULIA DOBERVICH, Medical Student, CART

DESCRIPTION

The Division of Community Medicine in the Department of Family and Community Medicine sponsors CART for medical students at UT Southwestern.

CART is based on the principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR) and population medicine, with special emphasis on health promotion / disease prevention and the social determinants of health. Students enrolled in CART participate in a coordinated program of instruction, electives, ambulatory care rotations and service-learning experiences. CART offers medical students a long-term experience in community medicine and research with cumulative tracking and evaluation of research data.

The CART program consists of five core curriculum experiences, including:

- Core Concepts Seminar
- Public Health and International Health Pre-Clinical Electives
- Community Medicine Elective
- Ambulatory Care Family Medicine Rotation in an underserved setting
- Participation in the Community Service Core (CSC)

Students who complete CART requirements receive a Certificate of Knowledge in Community Medicine. After completing CART program students are knowledgeable in CBPR techniques and have significant skills in applied community medicine.

“The Community Action Research Track (CART) is an innovative program that links the medical school to the community. CART prepares future physicians to be aware of social, psychological, economic and cultural determinants of health by participating in comprehensive service-learning experiences.”

– NORA GIMPEL, M.D., Program Director

REQUIREMENTS

To enroll in CART, students must

- Be a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year medical student
- Submit an application

To earn a Certificate of Knowledge in Community Medicine, students must:

- Attend CART orientation session
- Attend the core concepts seminar (two 2-hour sessions)
- Participate yearly in community-based service project (20 hours per year)
- Complete one pre-clinical elective during the 1st or 2nd year
- Complete a community medicine elective during either the 3rd or 4th year of training
- Complete a four-week ambulatory care rotation during the 4th year

TEACHING RESEARCH METHODS WHILE REACHING THE UNDERSERVED

CART responds directly to the need for integrating CBPR, population medicine, health promotion / disease prevention and the social determinants of health into the medical school curriculum. CART students and community members benefit equally from the program's array of service-learning opportunities and research projects.

Through CART program, students participate in various activities, including but not limited to:

- Volunteering in a free or reduced-fee clinic
- Helping to establish new clinics
- Providing screening or counseling to participants at local health fairs
- Working with community partners to increase immunizations
- Volunteering in local walking and nutrition programs
- Volunteering with hospice and other home-visitation programs
- Contributing to community-based maternal, child health and parenting programs

COMMUNITY HEALTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A subset of CART students participate in the competitive Community Health Fellowship Program. Community health fellows complete a nine-week program consisting of two weeks of didactic training, five weeks of community medicine fieldwork and data collection, and one week of oral presentation and manuscript preparation.

Nora Gimpel, M.D. • Program Director, Chief, and Division of Community Medicine

Jason J. Wright, BBA • Program Coordinator

Mark DeHaven, Ph.D. • Founding Director

nora.gimpel@utsouthwestern.edu

jason.wright@utsouthwestern.edu

CART@utsouthwestern.edu

214.648.1313

