Making Equity Standard in Healthcare (MESH)

Mission

Making Equity Standard in Healthcare (MESH) is a student-led, faculty-guided initiative set out to train and support the next generation of healthcare advocates and professionals in ReThinking patient-centeredness, inclusivity, and equity.

Vision and Goals

- To raise awareness of the multitude of health/healthcare disparities and develop strategies to effectively combat them.
- To achieve cultural humility through celebration and immersion into Austin’s diverse communities.
- To recognize and minimize the impact of bias on health care.
- To create an inclusive and supportive climate for the students, trainees, faculty, and staff
- To equip students, trainees, faculty, and staff with the skills necessary to provide equitable care.

Committees

Community Exposure — Provide opportunities for exposing medical students to the greater Austin community, with particular attention to the underserved, to ensure we are equipped to serve all populations in Austin in an equitable manner.

Education & Training — Coordinate talks, seminars, and events to educate and train our students in the culture and disparities that affect specific populations.

Undergraduate & Academic Mentorship — Build connections to local universities, including Huston-Tillotson, to provide group mentorship for aspiring health professionals who are underrepresented in medicine.

Health Advocacy — Engage with established advocacy efforts in Central TX, particularly those led by members of Population Health’s Community Strategy Team, to build skills in health advocacy as it relates to politics and social justice for marginalized communities.

Affiliated Groups/Projects

- Student National Medical Association
- The HEALing Project
- White Coats 4 Black Lives
- LGBTQ+ Alliance
- The Language Initiative

Faculty Advisors

- Nitakuwa Barrett, MSN, R.N.
- Kristin Escamilla, MD
- Ricardo A. Garay
- Aliza Norwood, MD
- René Salazar, MD

Student Leadership Team
• Co-Presidents: Dekoiya Burton, Class of 2021 — dmburton@utexas.edu / Katie McNiel, Class of 2021 — khf.mcniel@utexas.edu
• Community Organizers – Odera Okafor, Class of 2023 – od.okafor@utexas.edu / Girijia Hariprasad, Class of 2023 – ghariprasad@utexas.edu
• Education and Training - Allison Teng, Class of 2023 – allison.teng@utexas.edu / Alex Fincher, Class of 2023 – afincher@utexas.edu
• Social Justice and Advocacy - Ruth Sanchez, Class of 2021 — ruth.sanchez@utexas.edu, Kelsey Mumford, Class of 2023 – kelsey.mumford@austin.utexas.edu
• The HEALing Project: Karen Haney, Class of 2021 — karen.haney@utexas.edu
• SNMA: Ciaura Brown, Class of 2022 — ciaurabrown@utexas.edu / Ife Shoyombo, Class of 2022 — ifeshoyombo@utexas.edu
• White Coats 4 Black Lives: Ruth Sanchez, Class of 2021 — ruth.sanchez@utexas.edu / Sharmila Paul, Class of 2022 — sp46276@utexas.edu