

### **Change Grant Award 2022**

Covid-19 the digital divide.

*Foundation Grant Northeast Georgia Health System, \$20,000*

Digital Health has revolutionized how health information and services are accessed and used, however not everyone has the same access, skills or literacy to take advantage of the benefits and convenience offered through digital health platforms. The broad scope of digital health includes categories such as mobile health (mHealth), health information technology (IT), wearable devices, telehealth and telemedicine. This digital divide has the potential to widen existing health inequities; a divide that the WHO cautions, if not addressed, could leave certain populations further marginalized. Patients recovering from Covid-19 have reported a wide range of lasting health effects, including fatigue, shortness of breath, headache, depression, heart palpitations and chest pain. This project will directly have an impact on patient care by informing us about the health conditions of Covid-19 survivors. Outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic provide us with a unique opportunity to help the vulnerable population in our community that were made increasingly vulnerable following their COVID-19 illness by using digital health technology (Fitbit and Fitbase data platform). The Fitbit and Fitbase data platform will be used to evaluate end-user physical activity and physiological measures, where we will further examine patient recovery from SARS-CoV-2 infection across populations in our service area.

**The purpose of this project** is to examine the impact of a low-cost digital monitoring device on health behaviors of socially disadvantaged COVID-19 survivors. We will observe the behaviors of a self-empowerment by using continuous digital health monitoring data obtained from the Hall County, Georgia partners such as the Good News Clinic, Latino Chamber Alliance, New Town Florist, & United Way. Patients can use digital health technologies to better manage and track their health and wellness-related activities.

### **Technology Improvement Award 2021**

Virtual Reality Diversity Equity & Inclusion: A novel approach to recognizing and managing biases by developing an interdisciplinary longitudinal simulation curriculum.

*Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine. \$14,000*

**The overall project goal is to improve physician cultural competency through shared patient care experiences.** To accomplish the specific aims of the project, we propose a longitudinal diversity simulation curriculum incorporating virtual reality (VR). By leveraging technology, coupled with a diversity stimulation curriculum, physicians will be able to experience the patient care experience through the lens of patients from diverse background through VR technology. Residents and faculty will learn strategies on how to recognize their own biases while mitigating patient bias toward healthcare providers and promoting allyship. This project

will aid the physician in developing cultural competency and awareness of unconscious bias. Ultimately enhancing physician trust improving the patient care experience and promoting healthcare equity. This project will support the mission of NNLM by providing education and opportunity to advancing the progress of medicine to underserved and marginalized populations in the Northeast Georgia area. Therefore, it is our hope to incorporate specific diversity, equity, and inclusion training into resident curriculum to improve the culture of patient/physician encounters and form better communications connections.