HIV Link is now called STAR Community Link, to reflect the STAR Program’s expansion beyond HIV care and its connection to the local and global communities it serves.

The mission of the Special Treatment and Research (STAR) Program is to provide and enhance quality healthcare locally and globally through the integration of treatment, prevention, research, and education.

STAR Program’s New LGBT Initiative

The Special Treatment and Research (STAR) Program of SUNY Downstate Medical Center is implementing a new LGBT Health Initiative focused on the illness prevention and health care needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) and gender non-conforming individuals. A new LGBT clinic began operation in Suite J of University Hospital on Monday evenings from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm starting on October 19, 2015. The Clinic is part of the STAR Health Center (SHC), the STAR Program’s comprehensive ambulatory care program and Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home.

An Open House Breakfast to inaugurate the new LGBT Clinic was held on October 15th in SUNY Downstate’s Health Science Education Building. Attendees heard welcoming remarks from Dr. Jack DeHovitz, STAR Program Director, and Drs. Jameela Yusuff (SHC Medical Director) and Elliot DeHaan (Director of HCV Services) described SHC and LGBT Clinic services. Darryl Thomas, RN (Clinic Manager) and Lori Hurley, LMSW, MPH (Program Manager) served as Masters of Ceremony and introduced the LGBT Clinic care team members. After a slide show featuring local LGBT events in the community, the STAR Program’s new website (www.starprogram.nyc) was unveiled. Staff members from nearly 100 local community-based organizations attended and shared information about their respective services. LGBT-sensitive primary care providers, counselors, and support staff are committed to ensuring that all LGBT persons coming to the SHC have access to high quality, comprehensive medical and behavioral health care provided with sensitivity and compassion and in a confidential setting, regardless of sexual expression or gender identity. SHC providers have extensive knowledge of the health care needs of the LGBT community, and offer access to the full resources of SUNY Downstate Medical Center should the need for further care arise.

Services include:

- Information, referral and case management for LGBT patients and consumers
- Routine HIV testing and counseling
- Primary medical care
- HIV treatment
- Pre and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP)
- Comprehensive STI screening and treatment
- Hepatitis C (HCV) screening and treatment
- High Resolution Anoscopy (HRA)
- Behavioral health care and support groups
- Substance use treatment, including buprenorphine for opiate addiction
- Transgender care for both transmen and transwomen, including hormone therapy, GYN care, and referrals for gender-affirming surgeries
- Routine vaccination with appropriate immunizations
- Comprehensive health education that is LGBT sensitive.

For appointments, please contact the SHC at (718) 270-3745.

SAVE THE DATE
Star Program World AIDS Day Living with HIV quilt Project
Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Exhibit: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Formal Program: 3:00pm - 5:00pm
(Alumni Auditorium)
SUNY Downstate Medical Center Health Science Education Building Atrium
395 Lenox Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203
Free Event
Register and get tickets on Eventbrite.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/world-aids-day-2015-teen-town-hall-tickets-19120788794?aff=erelexporgFor more information, call Davin McFarlane or Pascal Dubois at (718) 270-3898.
**FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES**

**Julie Bell, MPH** joined the STAR Program in May of 2015 as Research Support Specialist with Dr. Tonya Taylor. Her area of research focuses on HIV, aging and sexual health. Ms. Bell and Dr. Taylor just completed follow-up data collection for the SHAPE (Sexual Health and Aging Program) pilot study for older women with HIV, and are preparing to start recruitment for a study exploring the sexual health needs of older and younger men with and without HIV infection. Her duties in these studies include recruiting and administering ACASI assessments to participants, in-depth interviews, qualitative data analysis, and manuscript and grant preparation. Ms. Bell received a Master of Public Health degree from SUNY Downstate in 2013. She has previously worked at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai on diabetes prevention research for adolescents.

**Ingrid Darbouze, LMSW**, joined the Supportive Counseling Program in August 2015 as a Behavioral Case Manager. She conducts supportive counseling in the STAR Health Center and at patients’ homes, and rotates on the Mental Health Lead schedule. Ms. Darbouze has eight years’ experience in child welfare, most recently as a case management clinician for prevention services at SCO Family of Services. She has also worked as a fee-for-service psychotherapist at Interborough Developmental & Consultation Center in Canarsie. She is bilingual in Creole/English.

**Javon Garcia** joined the STAR Program as a Patient Navigator in September 2015. A Maryland native, Mr. Garcia graduated from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa in May 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies. Prior to joining STAR, he was an HIV Outreach Worker for a nonprofit agency called The Night Ministry in Chicago. There, he provided free HIV, STI, and Hepatitis C testing and sexual health education for youth and adults experiencing homelessness.

**Sonny Montoya, MSW** joined the STAR Program’s Medical Case Management Program in August 2015 as a Patient Navigator. Mr. Montoya has over 5 years of experience working in children and family services, with a strong background in screening, assessment, case management and field work. He has trained foster parents and staff on the needs of LGBT youth in foster care.

**Karimah Phillips** joined the STAR Program’s Fiscal Unit as a Staff Assistant in May 2015. In that role, she coordinates and monitors STAR’s requisition system, works with STAR program staff, other departments and vendors to process requisitions, issue disbursements and deliver receivables. She has a Bachelor’s degree in technology/computer systems from New York City College of Technology.

**Jean Frantz Richard** joined the Supportive Counseling (SC) Team in September 2015 as a Community Health Worker. He accompanies SC patients to medical and other appointments and makes home visits to coordinate services. A human service professional with over 7 years’ experience, Mr. Richard most recently worked as a trainer and supervisor for peers at Harlem United’s HIV outreach program. He also has experience working with immigrant professionals and providing social services to older populations. He conducted HIV training for World Relief Corporation in Port au Prince, Haiti for many years and is trilingual in Creole, French and English.

**Darryl Thomas, RN** joined the STAR Program in August 2015 as Clinic Manager for the STAR Health Center (SHC). He oversees day to day patient care activities to ensure a therapeutic patient experience. Mr. Thomas has been in the medical field since 2006 as a Registered Nurse. In 2010 Mr. Thomas began his administrative journey supporting operations by supervising staff; planning, organizing, and implementing administrative systems. He is also dedicated to supporting the optimal growth of the Brooklyn community and beyond via the SHC by addressing the challenges they face and helping them to improve their access to public resources.

**Woigline Zamy** joined the STAR Program in August 2015 as a Patient Navigator. Ms. Zamy has significant experience working with individuals with psychiatric and developmental disorders. She is experienced in implementing service plans and accompanying individuals to medical appointments. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from CUNY/York College and is fluent in Creole.

**Jessica Yager, MD** is the latest recipient of the STAR Program Recognition Award. Dr. Yager has worked at the STAR Program since 2012. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to working collaboratively with STAR’s healthcare team to produce optimal patient outcomes. She consistently goes above and beyond what her job requires and she has been willing to take additional steps to see that a project is completed in a timely and efficient manner. She also makes a point of helping coworkers and other discipline members who need assistance, and has volunteered for difficult projects. Dr. Yager is genuinely enthusiastic, creates a positive work atmosphere for everyone, and embraces change with enthusiasm. She is the Project Director for the Family Focused Health Care Program, and is a member of the Patient Wellness Committee and University Hospital’s Ethics Committee. This December she will earn her Master of Public Health (MPH) and publish an article entitled “Prevalence of Chagas Disease in a Region Endemic for T.Cruzi” (Global Heart, Vol. 10, No.3, 145-150).
The STAR Program received an award of $945,000 over three years from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to create the SUNY Downstate SBIRT Training Center. The new center will train resident physicians in the Departments of Medicine, Family Medicine, and Psychiatry in the College of Medicine and physician assistant and midwifery students in the College of Health Related Professions in the skills necessary to provide evidence-based screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) to patients who are at risk for a substance abuse disorder.
JOBS OPENINGS

Patient Navigators (2)
SUNY Downstate Medical Center is seeking 2 Patient Navigators to provide field-based health education on a monthly or weekly basis and skills building service to patients.

Responsibilities:
- Accompany patients to primary care appointments and to other health care and social service encounters. Coordinate ongoing navigation and logistical support for appointment keeping reminders, transportation and childcare arrangements. Track patients’ progress through health education curriculum. Conduct social service and benefits reassessment and follow-up.
- Provide critical feedback to other members of the health care team based on observations in the field through EMR notes, EMR messages, participation in multidisciplinary care conference meetings and phone communication. Educate, coach and empower patients.
- Provide directly observed therapy (DOT) in patients’ homes as needed; observe and record patient self-administration of antiretrovirals (ARVs); and assess for and report any ARV related side-effects.
- Document all patient activities on required data forms for submission into AIDS or alternative data system.

Requirements:
- High School diploma or GED with 1 - 3+ years of experience working in an agency providing case management, social services or health care services required.
- Some college education preferred. Bilingual in English/Haitian Creole or English/Spanish preferred. Experience working with HIV positive, substance abuse using and/or mentally ill chemically addicted (MICA) populations preferred.

Salary Range: $25,000-$37,000 based on education and experience with comprehensive benefits.

Submit resume and cover letter to: Lori Hurley, LMSW, MPH
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 1240
Brooklyn, NY 11203-2012
Email: Lori.hurley@downstate.edu

Physician Assistant HIV Training Program Coordinator

Exciting opportunity for a Physician Assistant to implement a new grant funded PA HIV Specialist training program, developed in collaboration with SUNY DMC’s HIV primary care program and the College of Health Related Professions (CHRP). The individual selected for this position will receive an academic appointment in CHRP’s PA Program.

Requirements:
- Graduate of accredited physician assistant (PA) program; MS in PA studies or related field; current NYS PA license and NCCPA certification. Effective written, verbal, organizational, and interpersonal skills required. Two years’ direct clinical care experience. Two years’ experience in clinical education training preferred. Two years’ experience as direct clinical care provider in HIV ambulatory care preferred.

Substitute resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Dr. Jameela Yusuff
STAR Program
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 1240
Brooklyn, NY 11203-2012
Email: Jameela.yusuff@downstate.edu

Patient Care, Community and Medical Education, and Research Programs are listed below. For more information, please call the numbers listed below or the STAR Program at: (718) 270-2301. OR visit our website at: www.starprogram.nyc

PATIENT CARE AND SERVICES FOR ADULTS
Out-Patient Care
STAR Health Center (SHC): (718) 270-3745
Mental Health Services: (718) 270-3745
Family-Centered Care Program (FCCP): (718) 270-2357 or 3745

FOR ADOLESCENTS
Health & Education Alternatives For Teens (HEAT) Program: (718) 467-4446

FOR CHILDREN
Infant and Child Learning Center (ICLC): (718) 270-2598

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL EDUCATION
Prevention Services for Adolescent and Young Adults – SUNY Adolescent Education Program (AEP): (718) 270-3203
Educating People at Risk (EPAR): (718) 270-3897
HIV Residency Track: (718) 270-6747
Physician Assistant HIV Track: (718) 270-4752

RESEARCH
Women’s Interagency HIV Study (WIHS): (718) 270-4435

SUNY Downstate Medical Center
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 1240
Brooklyn, NY 11203-2012

Director Jack A. DeHovitz, MD, MPH, FACP
Editorial Board Mary Crymes, RN; Volene Gousse, DVPH, Ellen Honey, LMSW; Jennifer Lee, MPH; David Odegaard, MPH; Adrienne Pierce, MS; Christine Rucker, MA; Kathleen Russell, MPH, JD
Design Biomedical Communications
Telephone (718) 270-2301
Fax (718) 270-3386
Web www.starprogram.nyc

Responsibilities
- Provide direct classroom instruction of core courses within the PA Program.
- Participate in the development of marketing materials, training curricula, and web-based educational resources.
- Work in partnership with PA Program to integrate student didactic and clinical training schedules for the HIV Specialist Track.
- Provide direct clinical supervision of 2nd year PA students in HIV care and coordinate supervision with additional program faculty.
- Provide direct HIV patient care 1-2 sessions per week.
- Monitor ongoing program objectives to ensure that all deliverables are met according to established timeline; report on these deliverables to funder and senior management, as appropriate.
- Develop comprehensive CQI program to ensure the development of the program (i.e., student knowledge/skills, faculty assessment), including the development of tools to measure program effectiveness.
- Develop Training of Trainers curriculum to ensure sustainability of the program after the 5 year funding period.

Salary Range: $80,000-$102,000

Submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to:

David Odegaard, MPH
Director, Professional Education and Training STAR Program
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
Fax: (718) 270-3386
Email: david.odegaard@downstate.edu

Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Midwife or PA
Requirements:
- New York State Licensed Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwife or Physician Assistant. Minimum 4 years’ experience in primary and gynecological care. PREFERRED: Minimum of 2 years’ experience in HIV care. Colposcopy training and experience.

Responsibilities:
- Provide comprehensive HIV and primary medical care to patients.
- Provide gynecological assessment of women with or at risk for HIV infection.
- Document plan of care in medical records.
- Provide appropriate interventions in the form of prescription and non-prescription medications, education, referrals and follow-up care.
- Complete study related procedures and instruments as required by WIHS protocol.

Salary Range: Based on Experience $60,000-$80,000 @ 60-80FTE (3-4 days a week, may include Wednesday evening clinic sessions 9:00am-5:00pm/22.5-30 hrs. per wk.)

Submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to:

Lori Hurley, LMSW, MPH
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 1240
Brooklyn, NY 11203-2012
Email: Lori.hurley@downstate.edu

Care Coordinator
Requirements: BA/BS or LMSW/LCSW/LMHIC or RN/LPN degree with at least two years of case management experience and two years of supervisory or program management experience. PREFERRED: EMR experience. Experience working with HIV positive, substance using and/or mentally ill chemically addicted (MICA) populations. Bilingual in English/Haitian Creole or English/Spanish.

Responsibilities:
- Provide direct supervision to 3-4 Patient Navigators. Monthly reviews will include face-to-face assessment of staff competency; chart-based review of staff work to ensure quality of service delivery; and review of field-based encounters. Perform a comprehensive assessment, including social services and benefits assessment.

Salary Range: $45,000 - $55,000

Submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to:

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Email: Lori.hurley@downstate.edu

STAR Community Link

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Brooklyn, NY 11203-2012