

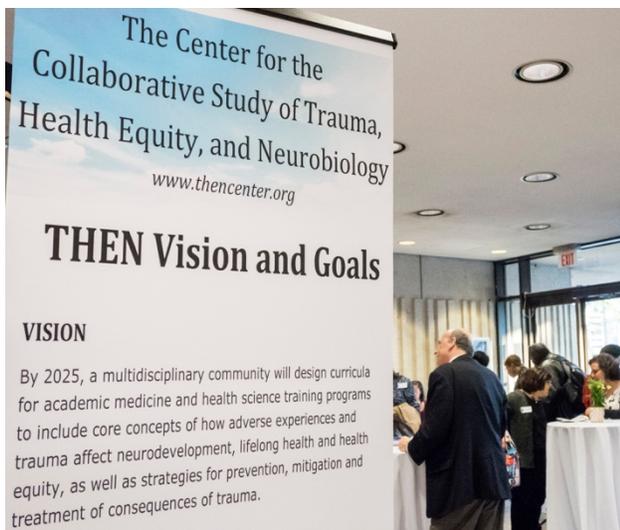
THE CENTER FOR THE COLLABORATIVE STUDY OF TRAUMA, HEALTH EQUITY, AND NEUROBIOLOGY [THEN]

www.thecenter.org

Kickoff Celebration October 2017

The new Center for the Collaborative Study of Trauma, Health Equity, and Neurobiology (THEN) held a lively kickoff Celebration on October 17, 2017. An educational program of the Hektoen Institute (www.hektoen.org), the Center welcomed our new Advisory Panel and interested students, faculty, public health advocates and community members.

Over 80 people attended from diverse backgrounds including 7 Chicago area universities and medical centers: Northwestern, Rush, University of Illinois, Governor's State, National Lewis, Lurie Children's Hospital, Stroger Cook County Hospital, and Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center. Also joining the group were activists working in juvenile justice and community programs in nutrition, yoga, mindfulness, and faith-based organizations.



Hosted at the Illinois Medical Center District Auditorium, the Celebration opened with conversation over appetizers, followed by a short program.

The mission of THEN is to create a multidisciplinary community which, by 2025, will design curricula for academic medicine and health science training programs. Core Concepts include the impact of adverse experiences and trauma on neurodevelopment, lifelong health and health equity, as well as strategies for prevention, mitigation and treatment of trauma.

THEN was co-founded by 4 Chicago healthcare leaders, Drs. Mardge Cohen, Pat Rush and Audrey Stillerman and researcher Kathleen Weber, RN, MS.

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Opening the program, THEN co-founder Dr. Pat Rush gave a brief introduction about the goals of the Center, introduced the THEN Co-Founders and members of the esteemed Advisory Panel, and gave a preview of the new THEN Website.

The centerpiece of the Website is an annotated Bibliography of high impact science articles about Trauma, Health Equity and Neurobiology. All the journal articles listed are linked to the National

Library of Medicine, displaying article abstracts and citations. Over 70% of the journal articles listed have free full-text access. The Website also includes Resource pages with recommended books, science textbooks, reports, videos and podcasts.

THEN Advisor Kim Mann, PhD, LCSW (Deputy Director of Illinois Department of Child and Family Services-Office of Child Well-Being) described her 30 year career teaching two audiences about trauma: to graduate students at multiple universities and to young trauma victims, helping them understand the impact of trauma in their lives and helping them build hope. Dr. Mann stressed the importance of working across disciplines and of making trauma information accessible to the general community.

Stan Sonu, MD, also a THEN Advisor (Fellow-Cook County Preventive Medicine and Public Health) described his surprise to learn about the health impact of childhood adversity only at the end of his 4 year Medicine-Pediatrics residency. Dr. Sonu expressed his belief that an effort like THEN is essential to incorporate the science about the neurobiology of toxic stress, seen through a lens of health equity, into the training of the next generation of health professionals.



The Celebration program concluded with an enthusiastic audience discussion about next steps:

1. Ensuring barriers to Health Equity are deeply explored with an emphasis on dissemination of effective models, taking concrete steps to improve health for the underserved.
2. Using trauma-informed principles in the Built Environment to heal trauma in healthcare, in education and in communities.
3. Expanding the multidisciplinary community to professions beyond healthcare, particularly K-12 teachers and college faculty.
4. Recognizing that community-based programs are already making strides in trauma-informed programs.



In 2018 the Center is planning expert-led journal club/webinars plus student and faculty development summer learning experiences. To learn more, check out the THEN website at www.thencenter.org