Greetings CAPHIS members and readers, Happy New Year to all! I wish the best of all in 2017, may we have a healthy, safe and productive year.

The countdown to our annual meeting has begun and I have great news to share. Once again CAPHIS is a co-sponsor of a special content session, Call to Action for Diversity and Inclusion: Perspectives for Our Patrons and Our Profession. Our session will take place on Sunday, May 28 at 3:00. I offer a special thank you to Robin O’Hanlon, our Chair-Elect, and Margot Malachowski for all of their hard work to on this program.

I hope you enjoy reading the descriptions of innovative programs and insightful book review in this issue of Consumer Connections. If you have a program or research you wish to share please let us know.

Also, don’t forget about our continuing efforts to raise $25,000 to endow the Consumer Health Librarian of the Year Award.

Submitted by Judy C. Stribling, MLS, Chair, CAPHIS 2016-2017

Announcements
Call for Volunteers

Hello CAPHIS members,

Happy 2017!

With the start of the new year, this is a wonderful time to identify interests and set goals for professional development. Whether you are a new or established member, there are many opportunities for you to participate as a committee member or CAPHIS officer. Through these experiences, you can collaborate with colleagues in promoting and advancing consumer health initiatives.

Given your schedule, if volunteering for a single event would work best, please consider options for volunteering at MLA’17 in Seattle. Assisting with the special content session, blogging or taking photos during CAPHIS events (Business Meeting, special content and/or poster sessions) are just a few of the many ways to engage with our peers.

As a section, CAPHIS' strength is our members. Please contact Judy Carol Stribling, (Chair) (jcs2002@med.cornell.edu), Robin O’Hanlon, (Chair-Elect) (robin.ohanlon@mssm.edu), or Mary Katherine Haver (Past Chair) (haver.mk@gmail.com), for details of how your expertise can foster both your professional goals and CAPHIS.

Thank you,

Mary Katherine Haver, 2016-2017 CAPHIS Past Chair

CAPHIS Co-Sponsors Special Content Session at MLA 2017

By Robin O’Hanlon, CAPHIS Chair-Elect, Assistant Library Director, Outreach & Public Services, Levy Library, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NYC

As Judy Stribling mentioned in her above Message from the Chair notice, we are proud to announce that CAPHIS is co-sponsoring special session has been accepted for the MLA 2017 conference in Seattle, Washington!

Title: Call to Action for Diversity and Inclusion: Perspectives for Our Patrons and Our Profession

Date: Sunday, May 28, 2017

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:25 PM
Location: TBD

Program Description:

We are in a time of movement making, where matters of diversity and inclusion are brought to the forefront of our conversations. Our profession is broadly impacted by current events as we seek to move toward a more equitable society for all. This session covers a wide range of topics related to the unique cultural, gender, and socioeconomic perspectives of the people in our profession and those that we serve. Areas include promoting inclusivity in outreach by identifying unconscious bias, building a diverse profession, providing access to health information for specific populations, being inclusive in our service models, and recognizing developments in biomedical research related to sex and gender specific analysis and health outcomes.

Members from within our profession and others serve as panelists, and they will give short presentations on their areas of interest. Though the presentation topics are diverse, panelists will reflect upon the role each of us play in striving for equality and justice in our world. Following the presentations there will be an interactive discussion with attendees to further discuss issues of diversity and inclusion. The session will conclude with a final perspective drawing together the areas discussed and giving ideas for providing leadership, supporting services, and building relationships that are respectful and thoughtful of our diverse world.

Panelists:

- Megan Threats, UNC Chapel Hill
- Amy Gilgan, University of San Francisco
- James Anderson, Evergreen Treatment Services
- Annabelle Nuñez, University of Arizona Health Sciences Library
- Jerry Perry, University of Arizona Health Sciences Library
- Michele Tennant/Hannah Norton, University of Florida

Facilitators:

- Carolyn Martin, NNLM Pacific Northwest Region
- Bredny Rodriguez, University of Las Vegas

Co-sponsors include:

- CAPHIS
- Latino SIG
- Public Health and Health Administration Section
Ontario Shores Launches the Mental Health Self-Help Lending Library: From Our Door to Your Door

By Mary McDiarmid, MIST, Librarian, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences located in Whitby, Ontario, Canada, provides a range of assessment and treatment services to people of all ages, from youth to older adults, living with complex and serious mental illness.

A grant from the Whitby Mayor’s Community Development Fund has made it possible to launch a year-long pilot service to individuals with lived experience of mental illness, their families and friends. In October 2016, the Ontario Shores library launched a free lending library service that provides books and DVDs on mental health topics. Residents of the Durham Region may come to the Ontario Shores library in-person to browse and borrow materials, or if they are Whitby residents, they may choose to browse and order materials online and have materials delivered directly to their door using a prepaid return mailing service funded by the grant.

The purpose of the Mental Health Self-Help Lending Library is to improve understanding of mental health disorders, which may help to decrease the stigma that is often associated with a mental illness. Improving access to mental health resources among community members, parents, and families, may lead to seeking earlier interventions and treatment. Bibliotherapy is
a form of guided self-help and evidence strongly suggests that library based interventions and
the provision of needed information could be beneficial for service users and the community at
large.

The Ontario Shores Mental Health Self-Help Lending Library has reached out to local police,
paramedics, high schools, hospital emergency departments and public libraries who have
agreed to promote the service through their encounters with clients requiring mental health
information. People in crisis are given business cards with the lending library contact information
and promotional flyers are posted in community agencies websites and bulletin boards. The
lending library site is now available on the Ontario Shores website:
http://www.ontarioshores.ca/lendinglibrary/

Children’s Mercy Kansas City Health Literacy Committee

By Brenda Pfannenstiel, MALS, MA, AHIP, Manager of Library Services, Children’s Mercy
Hospitals & Clinics, Kansas, MO

Children’s Mercy Kansas City hosted a Health Literacy Research Symposium in 2010, and soon
after established an official, hospital-wide Health Literacy Committee. Brenda Pfannenstiel,
AHIP, was a member of the symposium planning committee and a charter member of the
Health Literacy Committee, which soon attracted people from throughout the hospital interested
in improving patient-provider communication, patient education materials, and promoting health
literacy. The hospital already had done a lot of work in these areas but there was much more to
be done. The Health Literacy Committee allowed a more comprehensive and consistent
approach to health literacy issues, with consistent application of resources, with research
opportunities, and with greater support from the hospital administration. At the same time,
Brenda Pfannenstiel represented Children’s Mercy on a Health Literacy Task Force led by the
Kansas City (MO) Public Health Department and edited the initial New Journey’s Handbook
published by the Family Advisory Board for families of patients newly diagnosed with chronic or
life-threatening diseases or disabilities.

Brenda developed the Committee’s first web site with resources for hospital staff interested in
improving health communication, and advocated for always having a librarian on the committee.
After she completed her three-year term Benjy Stein MLS served a term, and now Courtney
Butler MLS is chair-elect. Committee activities include sharing health literacy tips throughout
the organization, promoting Health Literacy Month in October, recognizing Health Literacy
Heroes and Stories, promoting teach-back and other health literacy techniques, encouraging the
review of all written communications to patients’ families to maximize effective communication
by Committee members, and assessing organizational adherence to health literacy techniques
and processes. Courtney Butler presented a poster on behalf of the Children’s Mercy Health
Literacy Committee at the 2016 Institute for Healthcare Advancement Conference.
Most recently (October 21, 2016), the Health Literacy Committee won the Missouri Trailblazer Award for its continued efforts to integrate health literacy throughout Children’s Mercy and for the example it provides to other organizations. Committee membership includes nurses, doctors, allied health professionals, family-centered care coordinators, and—always—a librarian.

From the Library to the Bedside: Health Information Ambassador Program at Rochester General Hospital

By Elizabeth Mamo, MLS, Library Director, Werner Medical Library Rochester General Hospital and Mary Ann Howie, MLS, Senior Librarian, Rochester General Hospital

Werner Medical Library at Rochester General Hospital in Rochester, NY partnered with the hospital’s Volunteer Office to pilot the Health Information Ambassador (HIA) program on a cardiology inpatient unit.

Hospital administrators identified the unit as a priority because of the high volume of patient surveys returned per year and because the unit provides care for a high number of patients with congestive heart failure (CHF). CHF has one of the highest readmission rates, at 25.1%; the mean cost per CHF readmission is $13,000.

The Volunteer Office assigned volunteers as patient/family experience ambassadors. Soon after we realized that augmenting the service with the provision of health information would also impact patient satisfaction and readmission. We designed the HIA pilot and approached the unit’s nursing manager for permission to provide the service. The pilot was launched in
February of 2016. We modeled the pilot after a program at Cushman Health Library at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego.

The Consumer Health Librarian trained volunteers to conduct a reference interview and to address issues pertaining to health literacy. The volunteers round three days per week to offer patients information on their condition or treatment, using a HIPAA-compliant Survey Monkey form to collect requests. The Librarian selects reliable and appropriate material and delivers the information to the patient.

We asked patients to rate their level of knowledge on their topic before and after intervention. Volunteers record the pre-intervention knowledge assessment at the time the service is requested. The Librarian places a follow up phone call approximately one week after intervention to assess the patient’s knowledge post intervention, using the same question. During the five-month pilot, 88 patients received the service. When the health information was requested, 7% of the patients indicated they were well informed of their topic, 40% of the patients indicated they had some knowledge but not enough, and 19% of the patients indicated they had no knowledge. After receiving information, 100% of the patients reached for follow up indicated they were well informed.

Volunteer Claire is interested in a career in healthcare. She rounds on the unit and uses the iPad to collect health information requests from patients.

As of June 30, 2016, 15 of the 88 patients completed and returned a HCAHPS survey. Four months of patient satisfaction data shows that patients who received assistance through the HIA program reported a significantly better patient experience than those patients who did not receive health information assistance through this program. Specifically, patients who received our service gave a rating in the 99th percentile for both overall rating of the hospital and the
willingness to recommend Rochester General Hospital. Patients who did not receive our service rated their experience at around the 50th percentile in the nation.

Patients and families favor the program, as evident by comments provided at follow-up:

- I am well informed after reading the materials from the library, especially about Coumadin and Vitamin K. Now I can help my father with his diet.

- This is a very good program. The list of Vitamin K levels in foods is a great resource for me. I appreciate this.

- I keep referencing the materials. This is helpful to me.

- Very helpful to me and my family. We read all the materials and learned a lot about how to prevent problems in the future.

- I refer to the materials and have learned new things that I did not know.

- Great service! Glad the library is available through this program.

The pilot, a partnership which brought volunteers and the library to the bedside, resulted in an increase in patient satisfaction and understanding of health issues. The outcomes support the health system’s strategic focus areas of patient experience, innovation, and population health. Given the success of the pilot, plans are underway to expand the program to additional hospital units.

References


Health Education Lesson Plan Kits: Fun and Useful for Community Health Education

By Judy Griggs, MLIS, Medical Librarian, Akron Children’s Hospital, Louis Lame Family Resource Center

The Louis A. Lame Family Resource Center- Family Library at Akron Children’s Hospital created health education lesson plan (H.E.L.P.) kits for school, hospital, and community use. The hospital worked in collaboration with the Outreach Educator at a local PBS station to develop several kits. Other H.E.L.P. Kits were developed with the assistance of Akron Children’s subject specialists on a variety of health promotion and disease specific topics.

The topics include: Asthma, Dental Care, Diabetes, Doctor/Anatomy, Emotional Development, Eye/Vision, Fire Safety/Burn Prevention, Hand Washing, Head Lice, Nutrition, Safety, Skin/Sun Safety, Smoking, Tattoo & Body Piercing, and Teaching Tolerance (bully prevention). Each kit is assigned an age group such as K-4 or 5-8 depending upon the contents of each kit. Inside,
users will find multiple activities, DVD’s, children’s books, puppets, games, handouts and more. The materials are housed in a sturdy plastic file box with a handle for easy carrying.

This photograph shows the handwashing kit. Especially popular with all ages, this kit features a black light and glow potion from Brevis Corporation (UV fluorescent powder mixed in a special hand lotion) to teach the importance of proper handwashing. Nursing staff use this kit frequently for staff in-service trainings. Our volunteer department has incorporated it into their regular training sessions for new volunteers. Kits circulate for a two-week time period. Users simply complete a request form that requires all contact information and a signature. Presentation sites have included health fairs, schools, Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troop meetings, after school programs, child care centers, YMCA programs and a juvenile detention center. Users complete an evaluation form which reports the number of students exposed to the material, where the kit was used, what items were presented, and other feedback. We have found the kits are effective teaching tools and that presenters would recommend the kits to others, one of the primary marketing tools! So far this year over 1,700 students have used the kits. Kits have gone missing, but loss has been rare.

Newly Launched Recommended Resources on Cancer and Related Topics

By Adela V. Justice, MSLS, AHIP, Senior Librarian, Patient Education office, The Learning Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center’s patient education/consumer health library, The Learning Center, has launched its new Recommended Resources LibGuides at http://mdandersonltc.libguides.com. These guides, that target patients and health consumers, cover specific cancers as well as related topics such as caregiving, nutrition, financial/legal assistance and much more.
These 40+ online Recommended Resources provide users with access to MD Anderson’s patient education and information resources, links to external authoritative websites, online pamphlets and patient stories. Each guide also lists selected books and videos on that topic which are available for checkout at The Learning Center.

Since launching the Recommended Resources in mid-2016 The Learning Center has received feedback from patients that the guides have been helpful, especially when patients do not have an opportunity to visit The Learning Center in person very frequently. MD Anderson staff also report that they are useful in assisting their patients.

Book Reviews


In her first book, specialist in reproductive psychiatry, Kelly Brogan, MD, explores functional underpinnings of female mental health issues through an investigation of the impact of lifestyle and biological triggers on adrenal and nervous system health in the female body. The foundation of her radical treatise is deconstructing what she believes is a Western medical fallacy, that is, depression modeled as a disease rather than a symptom.
She dedicates considerable real estate in the introduction to her book to debunking generally accepted myths regarding the effects of antidepressants on individuals treated for depression. Rather than solely gesticulating on the “chemical imbalance” definition of depression, she critically appraises key studies and provides a grid of research evidence (previously published in Behavior Therapist) on both the lack of an established link between neurotransmitter dysregulation and depression in humans as well as the inability of SSRIs to affect a potential dysregulation.

In contrast, she presents the inflammatory model of depression and outlines key biological triggers that she believes produce systemic imbalances in the body. The ensuing chapters offer guidance on environmental, nutritional, pharmacological and lifestyle adjustments to minimize stress and inflammation in the body. She augments her advice with tips on how to partner with one’s medical provider on appropriate testing to unearth potential factors such as toxicants, autoimmune disease or thyroid issues. The final section of the book includes a 30-day plan and recipes to experiment with implementing lifestyle changes she recommends in the text.

Dr. Brogan’s writing style is conversational and appealing. While she is sure to include sources and thorough descriptions of concepts, a casual, high school level reader will find the text easily accessible. The book is best described as a popular or consumer mental health title and would be appropriate for public or college library collections. Established primarily from her intersecting specialties of female reproductive health and psychiatry, this book is most relevant to those with female sex characteristics.

Reviewed by: Rebecca Snyder, MSIS, Manager, Reference & Instruction Services, Levy Library, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NYC


Women’s Health Issues Across the Life Cycle: a Quality of Life Perspective by the late Dr. Angela Sammarco (d. 2016) is a female-centric textbook which examines the holistic healthcare needs of women throughout the developmental stages of adulthood. Dr. Sammarco (PhD Nursing, educator, and New York Academy of Medicine Fellow) was inspired to author this text when she could not find an appropriate textbook to use in an undergraduate nursing course during her tenure at the City University of New York at the College Staten Island. “Current textbooks in women’s health, although suitable for other purposes, were insufficient to meet the learning needs of my students” (xiii).

Attention is paid to the ways in which culture, age, socioeconomic status, and politics affect the delivery of healthcare for women. Dr. Sammarco successfully incorporates case studies, non-textual elements, and clinical knowledge to encourage the critical thinking skills needed by students entering nursing and healthcare.
Noteworthy is the chapter on complementary and alternative therapeutic modalities. Dr. Sammarco elucidates the historical origins of ancient healing systems and reviews the current clinical evidence on natural products and mind-body practices. “[Emerging] evidence suggests that some of the perceived benefits of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) are real or meaningful, yet overall, the scientific evidence about many of the modalities is limited” (p. 89).

University libraries whose institutions offer courses in women studies should add Sammarco’s text to their collection and encourage educators to add it to their syllabi. Suitable for academic health center libraries and nursing school library collections. If your library holds a copy of the Boston Women’s Health Collective’s Our Bodies, Our Selves, then Women’s Health Issues Across the Life Cycle is an appropriate addition to the collection.

Reviewed by Kathleen Fox, Health Sciences Librarian, Peter Nicholas Memorial Library, New York Health & Hospitals, Elmhurst, NY


This book is one of several consumer health titles from Addicus Books. The publisher offers an impressive assortment of titles in addition to this one.

The authors are physicians. Schechter is a neurologist affiliated with Beaumont Health System in Michigan. Cram, now deceased, was a dermatologist and Parkinson’s disease (PD) patient who also wrote the first and second editions of this book. The advance reading copy of this book includes 9 chapters that cover the experience of Parkinson’s, from diagnosis, through drug treatment, surgery, and exercise. The book is rounded out by chapters about coping and caregiver self-care. These last 2 chapters also include concise tips about dressing, grooming, nutrition, eating, and medical decision-making. A glossary, list of resources, and index are available (the index was not final for the advance reading copy). The title page verso includes a disclaimer that the book is not intended to supplant the advice of an attending physician.

The writing is readable and encouraging, but not unprofessional. Readability Score.com gives a random passage an average grade level of 10.8. Illustrations appear to be stock photographs or simple drawings. The text uses checklists, bullet lists, and other efforts to use white space effectively, while still presenting substantive information about PD.

A quick search of WorldCat shows this is one of several titles to address this topic. What distinguishes this book is authorship by practicing physicians, and for that reason, the book has an edge over other texts, some of which may be patient narratives of living with Parkinson’s. Books like this fill the niche to provide valuable information for patients for whom PD is a new diagnosis. This book could help “fill in the gaps” between doctor visits, or provide a structure for non-caregivers to learn about PD. However, families and patients who have been living with PD for years may already know much of this information. Depending on collection development

Whether it is called cellulite, blubber, or just plain fat, it is something that people would prefer not to have. They spend millions on spa treatments, fad diets, and drugs that claim to help them lose weight, but they do not realize that fat has some important functions. It is in fact an organ, part of the endocrine system. Fat stores energy, releases hormone, generates heat and provides insulation. While too much fat is a factor in heart disease, diabetes, and cancer, too little can also cause problems. Ms. Tara, a biochemist who has dealt with weight issues, offers readers information about current research about fat (some viruses and bacteria may cause excess fat production) and about methods for controlling it (diet, exercise, nutrition). This is an interesting book that will help people understand that fat is not necessarily a bad thing. Barbara M. Bibel, retired from Oakland Public Library.

Reviewed by: Barbara M. Bibel, M.A., MLS, Reference Librarian/Consumer Health Information Specialist, retired from Oakland Public Library


Dr. Barton Schmitt is the author. The American Academy of Pediatrics is the publisher. There are four pages listing names of reviewers, all highly credentialed. The book was published in 2017. This should be enough said but the book is also easily accessible for parents who need to grab it in a panic to get some quick, practical advice on what to do when their child is presenting with a particular symptom or set of symptoms.

There are 15 parts to the book each representing different areas of the body. Part 1, for example, is Fever Symptoms with four chapters devoted to issues related to fevers in children. Within each chapter is a checklist style of clearly written short sentences describing the symptom. Subchapters are Definition, When to Call Your Doctor and Care Advice.

The book follows the rules of creating clear communication pieces. The text is bolded when it needs to be and there is plenty of white space on each page. Highlighted text, the numbering format and arrow bullets separate information clearly.

The final chapter is titled Drug Dosage Charts. Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen and Benadryl each have their own chart illustrating how much to give a child according to weight. My beef is that
the liquid measurements are in mL’s. Though, a notice below each chart reminds the reader that 1 level teaspoon equals 5 mL’s.

I vote this text a great baby shower gift along with a set of measuring spoons in milliliters.

Reviewed by: Judy Griggs, Medical Librarian, Family Resource Center Akron Children’s Hospital, Akron, OH


Our healthcare system is built around a disease model. People get sick or injured and the system spends huge amounts of money curing them. Cohen, founder and Executive Director of the Prevention Institute, has a better way. Bringing awareness of health issues to both the authorities and the public leads to effective measures that will prevent most diseases and injuries. He uses vignettes to illustrate how this can happen. John Snow discovered that cholera was the result of contaminated water from one contaminated pump. Removing the handle from the pump so that people could not use it prevented new cases. For more contemporary examples, he looks at anti-smoking laws, controlling traffic in New York City, and efforts to reduce violence. Bringing about change involves influencing policy and legislation, changing organizational practices, fostering coalitions and networks, educating providers, promoting community education, and strengthening individual knowledge and skills. It is difficult, but it pays off, which is both interesting and thought-provoking. Recommended for anyone involved in public health.

Reviewed by: Barbara M. Bibel, M.A., MLS, Reference Librarian/Consumer Health Information Specialist, retired from Oakland Public Library
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Statement

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Newsletter articles and book reviews are copyrighted; please contact the editor for reprint permission.

Call for Submissions

Do you have an interesting consumer health initiative or project taking place at your Library? Have you been spearheading innovative work with consumer health librarianship and want to let the world know it? We want to hear from you!

Consider submitting a brief article (200-400 words) to Consumer Connections, the electronic newsletter of the Consumer Health and Patient Information Section (CAPHIS) of the Medical Library Association! We are also seeking book reviews on consumer health topics. Writing for Consumer Connections is a great, low pressure way to get experience writing and publishing!

Include the following information: Author, title, name, name of publisher, publisher location, date of publication, price, number of pages, ISBN. Also include author information (i.e., name and position/organization, if applicable). All submissions submitted be as Microsoft Word documents. Images should be sent as JPGs. Please send submissions in electronic format to the editor:

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Book Review Disclaimer

Consumer Connections Newsletter considers for review books of interest to librarians, patients, caregivers, and the general public. This column will concentrate on reviews of recent books about consumer health care information available in print and/or electronic formats. General interest titles related to healthcare and medicine may also be considered. It is the purpose of each review to provide a detailed description and critical evaluation of the work. Recommendations for purchase are also included. Book reviews should be 200-400 words. Reviews reflect the opinions of the reviewer, not of the Consumer Connections Newsletter Editors.

Persons interested in becoming a book reviewer or suggesting titles for review in the Consumer Connections Newsletter should contact the Book Review Co-Editors: Kay Hogan Smith, Senior Research Librarian, UAB Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences (khogan@uab.edu), or Mary Katherine Haver, Medical Librarian, Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital Family Resource Center Library, St. Petersburg, FL (mhaver1@jhmi.edu).
Consumer Connection Submission Schedule 2017

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