

New UChicago Center a Step Forward in Asian-American Health Research

Research into Asian-American health disparities in the Midwest has taken a big step forward with the formal launch of the [Center for Asian Health Equity](#) (CAHE) at the University of Chicago.

About 80 academic researchers, clinicians, health profession students and community leaders convened at the Newberry Library on April 13 for a kickoff event designed to start an important public conversation about the role of research in tackling health inequities that disproportionately impact Asian-Americans.

CAHE is the first academic center dedicated to the study of Asian-American health in the Midwest and its establishment represents UChicago's commitment to one of the nation's fastest growing demographic groups with a large immigrant segment and distinct set of health care needs. The Chicago metropolitan area is home to the nation's fifth-largest concentration of Asian-Americans. The group numbers more than 603,000 people representing 63 ethnic subgroups.

Guests at the kickoff event listened to a panel discussion moderated by Emmy-award winning journalist Nesita Kwan.

"Two of the biggest challenges that inhibit the progress for Asian-American research are the lack data and, more specifically, the lack of subgroup data which may mask prominent disparities between groups," remarked panelist [Karen Kim](#), MD, CAHE Director and a professor of medicine at the university. "CAHE will address these gaps through the creation of a data warehouse, which provides researchers and communities with subgroup information to advance forward our mission of shedding light on Asian health disparities."

Other panelists also included Julie Morita, MD, commissioner for the Chicago Department of Public Health, Jerry Clarito, a long-time civic leader and founding member of the Alliance for Filipino Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE), and medical student Phillip Hsu, from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. In the next few months, CAHE plans to create and implement collaborative and innovative programs to address issues surrounding health disparities among Asian -Americans. To learn more about CAHE's initiatives, visit asianhealth.uchicago.edu.



Panelists answering questions during the event's Q & A session (from left: Julie Morita, MD, Karen Kim, MD, Phillip Hsu, and Jerry Clarito).