Project Leaders: Lucy Marcil, MD and Michael Hole, MD
Project Title: StreetCred

Decreasing the rate of poverty, a condition affecting over 20% of American children, is a challenging obstacle to improving child health. Poverty negatively affects children’s brains, learning, and health. This effect extends into adulthood and costs the US economy more than $500 billion yearly from lower workplace productivity and healthcare costs. One effective poverty-alleviation tool is the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a federal tax credit for the working poor. Receipt of the EITC has been associated with improved infant and maternal health. Unfortunately, almost a quarter eligible for this money do not receive it.

Dr. Lucy Marcil and Dr. Michael Hole developed StreetCred, a novel free tax preparation service integrated into pediatric primary care. Their program leverages both clinic wait times and the trusting relationship families have with their pediatricians to improve child health via poverty reduction and increased participation in pediatric care. They implemented these services in the Pediatric Clinic at Boston Medical Center (BMC), a large urban catchment hospital. Families of patients with appointments during tax season were offered tax appointments. If accepted, families provided StreetCred with their tax documents upon arrival to clinic for their pediatric appointment and returned after their doctor’s visit to find their taxes done. The program returned over $400,000 to approximately 200 families during the 2016 tax season.

Project Leaders: Nikita Nagpal, MD; Hillary Zieve, MD; and, Nisha Narayanan, MD
Project Title: Team KiPOW Orange County: A school based intervention targeting pediatric dietary and physical activity behaviors

Drs. Nikita Nagpal, Hillary Zieve, and Nisha Narayanan developed Team Kid Power (KiPOW!), a school based intervention targeting pediatric dietary and physical activity behaviors based on the observation that a large proportion of the children in Orange County were overweight or obese. Team KiPOW is comprised of pediatric residents along with medical and undergraduate student volunteers who have all been trained in health education. Once per week, these volunteers enter the classroom and mentor the students. Specifically, they provide health education on topics such as MyPlate, exercises and sleep. They then eat lunch with the children, and lead them in active play. In order to evaluate the efficacy of the program, Team KiPOW collected anthropometric data and assessed health behaviors using HABITS questionnaires. Team KiPOW completed a pilot study in spring 2016 and will
continue during the 2016-2017 academic year, with plans to grow to other Title One Orange County Schools. The project also entails close collaboration with the elementary school, school district, department of education, parents and local health care providers.

Team KiPOW can engage students in decisions about their health and may be a successful model for obesity prevention. The ultimate goal of the project is to replicate and scale Team KiPOW into diverse communities as a viable adjunct to health policies against childhood obesity.

**Project Leaders:** Heyman Oo, MD and Peter Cooch, MD  
**Project Title:** FUERTE (Family Reunification and Resiliency Training) program for recently immigrated youth

In 2014, a staggering total of 68,541 unaccompanied minors were apprehended at the US-Mexico border after long and perilous journeys to escape violence in their home countries. This manner of immigration and resettlement is a very stressful and traumatizing experience for many of these children. Far too frequently, Dr. Peter Cooch and Dr. Heyman Oo saw these recently-immigrated Latino children present to their clinics for urgent care needs with no established primary care and no sense of orientation to their new environment. To remedy this and promote a healthier transition period for these youth in San Francisco, Drs. Heyman and Cooch felt it was critical that they have easier access to behavioral health support, in addition to primary medical care. From 2014 to 2016, they successfully built a collaboration of community partners to expand the capacity of high school Wellness Centers to provide on-site behavioral health services directly to recently immigrated adolescents and families. Through this collaboration, they have designed a school-based, five-module group therapy curriculum (FUERTE) for recently immigrated youth with a focus on navigating family reunification, managing post-traumatic stress, and developing effective coping skills in a foreign environment.