NEWS RELEASE

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2013-14 Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows Named
11 Graduate Students Will Spend Next Year Improving Community Health and Developing Lifelong Leadership Skills

Berkeley, California, May 21, 2013—The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) today announced the selection of its 2013-14 class of Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows — 11 graduate students who will spend the next year learning to effectively address the social factors that impact health, and developing lifelong leadership skills. In doing so, they will follow the example set by famed physician-humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, for whom their Fellowship is named.

This year’s class of Schweitzer Fellows will be inducted during the 100th anniversary year of the building of The Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon (known as French Equatorial Africa when the hospital was built in 1913). Today, the Albert Schweitzer Hospital continues to serve those in need of care, and it is a living monument to Dr. Schweitzer’s commitment to service, peace, and his philosophy of Reverence for Life.

“Schweitzer Fellows are passionate about improving the health of those living in underserved communities, and they are committed to improving their own skills to do so,” said ASF Executive Director Sylvia Stevens-Edouard. “They come from all academic disciplines—medicine, law, dentistry, and other allied health fields—and they are pursuing work that improves lives. Over the next 12 months, they will also learn how to be effective leaders so they can inspire others to increase the health of those who experience barriers to care. They will carry these lessons into their professional careers, and further promote Dr. Schweitzer’s legacy to show reverence for life.”

“Our Fellows were selected after a competitive process, and they have signed up for an enriching leadership development experience. They develop and implement projects that will address the root causes of health inequities, and they will be doing this while also fulfilling their academic responsibilities,” said Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows Program Director Dale Ogar. “Under the close guidance of community and academic mentors, their projects—each of which is set in a community-based organization that serves vulnerable populations—are designed to make measurable differences on issues ranging from childhood literacy to diabetes to behavioral health.”

The 11 Bay Area Fellows will join approximately 220 other 2013-14 Schweitzer Fellows working at 13 program sites, 12 in the US and one in Lambaréné, Gabon at the site of The Albert Schweitzer Hospital. Upon completion of their Fellowship year, the 2013-14 Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows will become Schweitzer Fellows for Life and join a vibrant network of nearly 2,700 Schweitzer alumni who are skilled in, and committed to, addressing the health needs of underserved people throughout their careers. Fellows for Life routinely report that ASF is integral to sustaining their commitment to serving people in need.
Since 2006, the Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows Program has supported 80 Schweitzer Fellows in delivering over 16,000 hours of service. The Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows Program has been funded through the generosity of the [please fill in sponsors and participating schools].

2013-14 Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows

Mark Dela Cruz, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
Dela Cruz is educating and empowering female inmates to become proactive agents of their own health through the Women’s Jail Health program in the San Francisco County Jail. The program will establish a “Medical Checkout” system that will establish access to longitudinal care to inmates upon release.
Community Site: San Francisco County Jail

Susan Fang and Amlu Natesan, University of California Berkeley School of Public Health and University of California San Francisco School of Medicine (Joint Medical Program)
Fang and Natesan are implementing a concussion education program targeting middle and high school youth throughout the diverse classrooms of the Berkeley Unified School District. Given the growing concern of head trauma and its short and long-term impact on cognitive functioning, which is particularly salient in the development of this young population, this project aims to empower youth with the tools they need to understand what concussions are, why preventing them is important, and how to recognize and respond to them.
Community Site: Berkeley Unified School District

Michael Fu, Stanford University School of Medicine
Fu is developing and leading a mindfulness-based stress reduction program for grade-school students in the Ravenswood City School District. The program will embrace proven methods of meditation, yoga, attention-building exercises, and reflection to help students learn how to respond to stress.
Community Site: Ravenswood City School District

Jolie Goodman, University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry
Goodman is working with homeless youth in San Francisco to address their unmet dental needs. Her project is providing this population with prevention services, education, and a connection to dental care. The program is developing a means to provide each of the youth involved a dental screening, a referral to a dental home, and oral health education. Workers at the partner site will be trained to continue the project in order to ensure sustainability of the program.
Community Site: Larkin Street Youth Center

Karen Hong, Stanford University School of Medicine
Hong is working with Prevent Blindness Northern California to provide vision screening services to underserved preschool students in San Jose and other parts of Santa Clara County. She is also collaborating with a team of undergraduates to screen preschoolers, connect them with care, and follow up with their treatment.
Community Site: Prevent Blindness/Northern California

Jocelyn Ko, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
Ko is developing, distributing, and assessing low-literacy, linguistically-appropriate community resource guides tailored to the needs of low-income postpartum women in San Francisco. As part of her project, she is engaging low-income postpartum women and their providers in determining these mothers’
unmet needs and how to best provide them with resource support during this vulnerable and demanding time in their lives.

Community Site: Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Section, San Francisco Department of Public Health

**Timothy Mok, University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy**

Mok is improving health literacy for the transgender community through group workshops and individual sessions. These sessions are equipping the community with communication skills so they can better navigate through San Francisco's healthcare system, while empowering them to be advocates of their own care.

Community Site: Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center

**Melissa Myo, University of California Berkeley School of Public Health and University of California San Francisco School of Medicine (Joint Medical Program)**

Myo is working with the Women and Transgender Section of the Berkeley Free Clinic to develop an intimate partner violence screening protocol. She is working with clients who disclose experiencing violence and providing them with referrals to shelters and legal resources.

Community Site: Berkeley Free Clinic

**Alison Starling, University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing**

Starling is collaborating with the African Advocacy network, a program of Dolores Street Services, to initiate the Bay Area African and Afro-Caribbean Health Access and Promotion Project. This project is identifying health issues that exist in this community and finding the community resources and educational tools needed to combat the targeted health concerns.

Community Site: African Advocacy Network

**Emily Wineland, University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry**

Wineland is partnering with the Native American Health Center and CARACEN to develop and implement oral health education to underserved adults with Type II diabetes. She is emphasizing the relationship between blood glucose levels and the severity of periodontitis (gum disease), as well as the importance of maintaining periodontal health as a way to manage the progression of diabetes. The program includes health interventions such as brushing, flossing, nutrition, blood glucose monitoring, and smoking cessation.

Community Site: Native American Health Center and CARACEN

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**About The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship**

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) is improving the health of vulnerable people now and for the future by developing a corps of Leaders in Service—professionals skilled in creating positive change with and in our communities, our health and human service systems, and our world.

Through community-based, mentored direct service and a multidisciplinary, reflective leadership development program, ASF is building community capacity and training a professional workforce that is:

- **skilled** in addressing the underlying causes of health inequities;
- **committed** to improving the health outcomes of underserved communities; and
- **prepared** for a life of continued service.
To date, nearly 2,500 Schweitzer Fellows have delivered nearly 500,000 hours of service to nearly 300,000 people in need. Additionally, more than 100 Fellows have provided care at the 100-year-old Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Africa. Through this work and through the contributions of Fellows whose professional careers serve their communities, ASF perpetuates the legacy and philosophy of physician-humanitarian Dr. Albert Schweitzer. ASF has 12 program locations in the U.S. and one in Lambaréné, Africa. Its national office is located in Boston, MA and hosted by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.