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**CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY  
Mary Ann Swetland Center  
for Environmental Health**

# **The Swetland Scoop**

**November 2025**

*Our mission is to accelerate pathways to vibrant and healthy environments through collaborative research, immersive training, and authentic community engagement.*



## **News & Announcements**

Meet the Swetland Advisory Council

We are pleased to announce the newest members of the Swetland Center Advisory

[Council](#). Our council members represent a range of organizations and disciplines integrally linked to the mission and vision of the Swetland Center. Council members advise the Center on strategic directions and partnerships and leverage connections for expanded impact.

## SWETLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL



**Emily Bacha**  
Fresh Water Institute



**Karen Molly**  
Case Western Reserve University



**Nicole Burt**  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History



**Lucy Chamberlain**  
Philanthropist



**Mark Chupp**  
Case Western Reserve University



**Crystal Davis**  
National Parks Conservation Association



**Marianne Eppig**  
Sears-Swetland Foundation



**Anthony Giambroni**  
MidTown Cleveland Inc.



**Dawn Glascoe**  
Dawn Visions



**Yvonka Hall**  
Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition



**Lydia Harrington**  
Sears-Swetland Foundation



**Shelby Kaemmerer**  
Mt. Sinai



**Brandy Phipps**  
Central State



**Zainab Pixler**  
Cleveland Department of Health



**Monica Yepes-Rios**  
Cleveland Clinic



**Francisca Richter**  
Case Western Reserve University



**Ruth Eppig**  
Sears-Swetland Foundation



**Colleen Walsh**  
Cleveland State University



**Michael Walton**  
Catalytic Change Link



**Matt Zone**  
Western Land Conservancy

Our Produce Prescription (PRx) initiative exists to rewrite the healthcare story across Cuyahoga County. The goal is to enable Cuyahoga County residents to easily receive PRx, no matter where healthcare is provided. The groundwork is being laid to make this goal a reality.

Building on infrastructure being developed through our CDC-funded REACH grant in partnership with Cuyahoga County Board of Health, we are finding ways to expand PRx to improve health outcomes, uplift local economies, and restore patient dignity and agency.

At its heart, PRx is driven by the belief that food is more than sustenance—it's powerful, preventative medicine. By prescribing fruits and vegetables to individuals with chronic conditions and limited access to nutritious food, PRx has the potential to transform healthcare into a system that addresses root causes, not just symptoms.

Check out the [new page](#) on the Swetland Center website highlighting real stories from local PRx programs.

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## Sunday Dinner, Reclaimed: How Fresh Produce Transformed Soul Food Traditions

Article Date: October 14, 2025

When Leora Porter learned she was pre-diabetic four years ago, she felt scared and uncertain about her future. What started as a concerning diagnosis became the catalyst for a transformation. Leora would not only reverse her pre-diabetes, but, also shift how she honored her African American food traditions.



**"It literally changed my life, because I am no longer pre-diabetic."**

[Read Leora's story here](#)

# Beyond the Prescription Pad: How One Social Worker Became the Bridge Between Patients and Fresh Food

Article Date: October 14, 2025

Three years ago, Emily Durfey heard about produce prescription programs in passing. As a social worker in a leading healthcare provider's Endocrinology Department, she was intrigued but skeptical. Could fresh produce prescriptions really make a meaningful difference for her patients struggling with diabetes, pre-diabetes, and obesity?

"I wasn't really sure what to expect," Durfey admits. "But my patients really benefited from it."

[Read Emily's story here](#)



## Dawn Glasco Assumes Leadership of Nourishing Power Network



*Darcy Freedman and Tom O'Brien, Co-Principal Investigators of the Nourishing Neighborhoods Empowering Communities Study, passing the baton of the Nourishing Power Network. Dawn Glasco will coordinate the first phase of sustainability, ensuring the network's continued success.*

Dawn Glasco, of Dawn Visions, was selected by a volunteer committee of Nourishing Power Network members to continue leading the network through a one-year grant to support its sustainability phase. Dawn officially started her role on November 1, 2025. You can reach Dawn at [nourishingpowernetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nourishingpowernetwork@gmail.com).

*"I'm honored to lead the next phase of the Nourishing Power Network. This work is vital for our communities and our shared humanity. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working alongside residents across neighborhoods who understand our collective effort to create the positive change we want to see. The goals of Nourishing Power Network to establish Nutrition Zones, increase access to fresh foods, cultivate community wealth in all aspects, and collaborate*

- Dawn Glasco

## New Partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital

Swetland Center faculty and trainees, along with colleagues from CWRU's Center for Community Health Integration, are working with Linden residents in Columbus to understand housing's impact on infant and maternal health. Led by Dr. Deena Chisolm of Nationwide Children's Hospital and funded by NIH, this research explores solutions to root causes of infant mortality. The CWRU team is supporting development of a system dynamics model and decision support tools to shape future housing policies, programs, and practices designed to promote infant and maternal vitality.



## Welcome our New Interns, Jugnu and Zhongyu!



**Jugnu Shrestha** is a Family Medicine Resident at University Hospitals. She is interning at the Swetland Center this Fall and Spring, primarily supporting PRx infrastructure development within the REACH Project. Jugnu is excited to be part of a project that can be applied in the primary care settings where she intends to work. Learn more about Jugnu [here](#).



Swetland Center. He will primarily work on the REACH Project. Originally from China, Zhongyu hopes to learn more about strategies to support policy justice and promote equity through community-based work. Learn more about Zhongyu [here](#).

## Celebrating Swetland's SNAP-Ed Initiatives

The Swetland Center is wrapping up a decade of SNAP-Ed work due to changes in funding for this national program resulting from the "Big Beautiful Bill" passed by Congress in July 2025. In the federal funding bill, SNAP-Ed is no longer funded through a "mandatory" appropriation. All of our SNAP-Ed work will end November 30, 2025. However, the lessons learned and relationships established -- especially with our partners at The Ohio State University -- will continue. We look forward to innovating new approaches to make healthy choices the easiest choices for families in Ohio and beyond.

### Highlights of our SNAP-Ed Evaluation Work

- Created and scaled the [PSE READI](#) - an online tool to tailor community nutrition interventions to community readiness and capacity.
- Created and scaled [Produce Path for Customers](#) - an app to support two-way communication about farmers markets and nutrition incentive programs between low-income shoppers and farmers market staff.

### Highlights of our SNAP-Ed Direct Education Work (in-field programming launched in January 2025)

- Engaged 2,300+ adults and youth in 300 direct education sessions
- Partnered with the following sites to deliver nutrition and physical activity programming in Cuyahoga County:

Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Hunger Network

CWRU Food Pantry

National Church Residences

Sisters of Charity

Haven Home

The Centers Recovery Housing

The Centers Workforce Development

The Centers Head Start

Catholic Charities Head Start

Catholic Charities Senior Programming

East Cleveland Neighborhood Project  
East Cleveland City Schools  
Saint Martin de Porres High School  
University Hospitals Rainbow BabyCafe  
Discovery Point Early Learning Center  
AdvantageCLE

## Events & Opportunities

Join our Final Seminar for 2025

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**11/18/2025**  
9 - 10 AM  
Virtual

**REGISTER  
HERE:**  
[https://tinyurl.com/N\\_0vSwetland](https://tinyurl.com/N_0vSwetland)



Accelerating  
Progress Towards  
Environmental  
Health for All  
Communities

CASE.EDU/swetland

Join us for the next  
Swetland Seminar

**Sociodemographic Composition  
and Barriers to Advancements in  
Water Treatment in U.S.  
Community Water Systems**



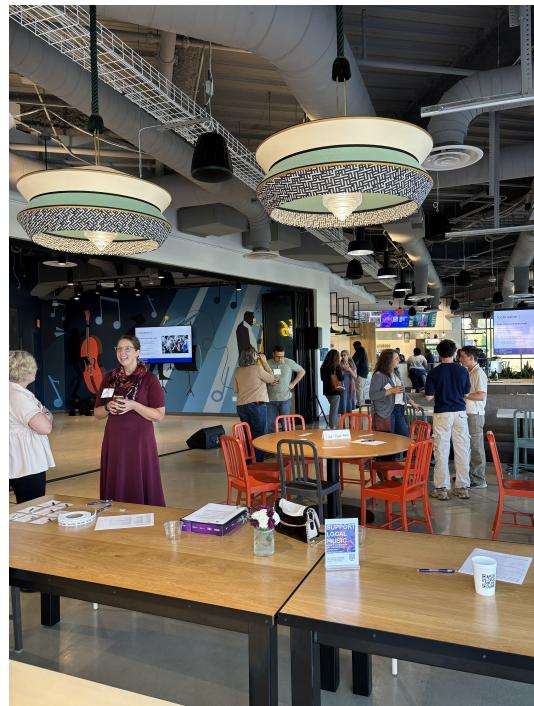
**Jahred Liddie, PhD**  
**Postdoctoral Associate**  
*Water, Health & Opportunity Lab*  
*Milken Institute School of Public  
Health*  
*George Washington University*  
[Website](#)

Studies situated in the US have documented unequal access to safe drinking water and associations between elevated drinking water contamination and adverse health outcomes. However, the underlying data are often analyzed at non-ideal spatial scales, rendering it difficult to interpret and compare findings. Recently released data from the US Environmental Protection Agency offer valuable opportunities to develop nationwide estimates of sociodemographic composition for community water systems (CWS) at the preferred spatial scale, known as the service area boundary. In this talk, I will discuss geospatial approaches to estimate the sociodemographic composition of over 44,000 CWS service area boundaries nationwide. Data quality assessments indicate these approaches estimate total populations well. They hold promise for both improving the available resolution of drinking water quality data for communities in the US and standardizing drinking water quality research that use geospatial data. Next, I'll discuss the use of these estimates in an ongoing study to investigate sociodemographic disparities in the adoption of advancements to water treatment processes among CWS nationwide. Finally, the talk will zoom out and discuss improvements to the harmonization and accessibility of US drinking water data for researchers and the public.

This is a free learning opportunity that is open to the public. Visit [youtube.com/@swetlandcenter9524](https://youtube.com/@swetlandcenter9524) for a complete video archive of the series.

[Register Here](#)

academics, organizational leaders and community partners to discuss future collaborations and opportunities to improve environmental health. The next networking event is planned for Spring 2025 (details coming soon).



## Hot Off the Press

Check out our Latest Publications - Owusua add publications

***Bold = Swetland Center Affiliates or Trainees***

**Whitehouse, P.**, George, D. R., & **Riegal, C.** (2025). [The Quest for Cure of "Alzheimer's": Reimagining the Goal by Changing Culture](#). *Hastings Center Report*, 55, S48-S56.

Johnson, D. A., **Yamoah, O.**, Raghuvanshi, Y., Barnett, T., Blanchette, J. E., & Hatipoglu, B. (2025). [The Associations Between Neighborhood Safety and Address Stability with HbA1c Levels among Adults with Diabetes](#). *AACE Endocrinology and Diabetes*.

**Yamoah, O.**, Gee, R., Ruhde, N., & Veerasekar, T. (2025). ["You just made out with what you had": Experiences of food pantry patrons in Northeast Ohio during COVID-19 pandemic](#). *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 1-15.

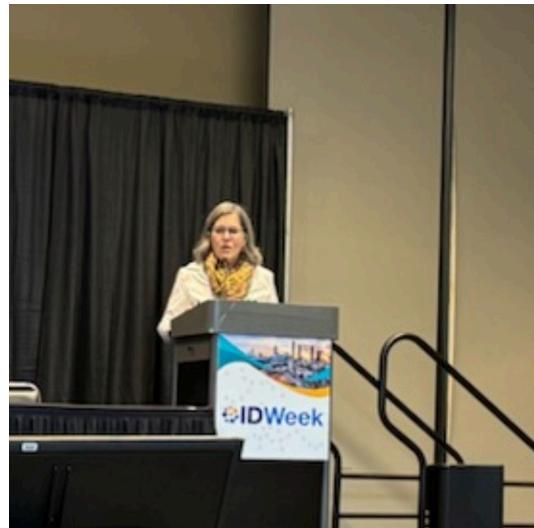
## Data Days Cleveland

Our Research Scientist **Dr. Emily Nelson** (left) teamed with **Dr. Francisca García-Cobián Richter** (right) to present on their project *FAIR2 Data Chats: A Participatory Research Tool to Advance Public Interest Technology in Data Analytics* at Data Days Cleveland at the Cleveland Public Library.



## Infectious Disease Society of America

*Swetland faculty Dr. Shannon Conrey presented at the Infectious Disease Society of America (ID Week) on the Prevail Project. Her presentation was titled: Optimizing the sensitivity of detection of respiratory syncytial virus infections in longitudinal studies using the combination of weekly sample testing and biannual serology.*



## Swetland Spotlight

### Consider Using a Community Engagement (CE) Studio

The Community Engagement (CE) Studio team is currently recruiting investigators interested in receiving community input on their research. CE Studios are an evidenced-based consultative model utilized to gain valuable patient or community insight to inform study design, implementation, translation and dissemination. Dr. Darcy Freedman and Dr. Ivory Simms from the Swetland Center provide leadership to

For more information please contact **Dr. Ivory Simms** at [ij34@case.edu](mailto:ij34@case.edu).



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Clinical and Translational  
Science Collaborative

# Community Engagement Studios



**Are you engaged in research and looking for community input?**

## What is a CE Studio?

Community Engagement (CE) Studios are an evidence-based consultative model utilized to gain valuable patient or community insight to inform ongoing research. CE Studios are a one time in-person or virtual discussion with investigators, community experts, and a trained facilitator.

## How will I prepare?

Throughout 3-month planning period you will prepare:

- 1-page research overview
- 1-minute video introducing your research
- 10-15 minute presentation

## **Contact**

To request more information please contact  
Dr. Ivory Simms at [ij34@case.edu](mailto:ij34@case.edu)

## What is the value of a Studio?

CE Studios can be utilized to inform study design, implementation, translation, dissemination, and/or sustainability of ongoing work. Studios support investigators seeking feedback in these areas and help to build community-academic partnerships

## How Do I Apply?

Investigators can apply for a voucher through the CTSC for a CE Studio. Vouchers are awarded \$7,500 for an in-person studio and \$6,775 for a virtual studio.



To Register Click or  
Scan the QR code

[case.edu/medicine/ctsc](http://case.edu/medicine/ctsc)



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