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## **Kansas City Research Team Launches Community Art Project as Part of Public Health Outreach about Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)**

*Team collaborates with Mattie Rhodes Center on Call for Artists*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (March 2, 2020) — To raise awareness about peripheral artery disease (PAD) in Kansas City, a research team affiliated with Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute and led by Kim Smolderen, Ph.D., of Yale University is partnering with the Mattie Rhodes Center to create a collaborative community art project in the historic northeast neighborhoods of Kansas City, Mo. The team is issuing a call for artists to work on the project this spring.

This public art installation will shed light on PAD, a common but not well known condition, and how it puts people at greater risk of heart attack and stroke. PAD occurs when fatty plaque builds up in the blood vessels and reduces blood flow to the legs and feet. The most common symptom of PAD is pain in the legs or buttocks while walking. PAD can be managed by focusing on the risk factors that lead to decreased blood flow, such as smoking and an inactive lifestyle.

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### **Call for Artists**

This is an open call for Kansas City area artists who work in all media. The team is looking for artists who are interested in working collaboratively to create a meaningful and interactive multi-faceted art installation in the historic northeast neighborhoods of Kansas City, Mo.

This call extends to artists who are interested in working on a health-focused project with community members. There will be several events where community members will be invited to contribute to the art project, and the final product will require a team effort. The intent is for this collaborative art project to increase awareness about PAD and its risk factors, as well as shed light on ways to prevent PAD.

**How to Apply?** Submit the Artist Application or letter of interest to Kiki Serna, Project Coordinator at Mattie Rhodes Center: [kserna@mattierhodes.org](mailto:kserna@mattierhodes.org)

**Deadline?** March 15, 2020

**More Details?** The artist selected for this project will receive payment. An informational event for interested artists to learn more about this opportunity will be held **Thursday, March 12, 5-7 p.m.** at the Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery, 919 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64108.

**Questions?** Contact Jenny Mendez, Project Creative Director: [jmendez@mattierhodes.org](mailto:jmendez@mattierhodes.org)

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### **Project Funded by National Award**

The research team followed nearly 800 patients with peripheral artery disease (PAD) from the Kansas City area and across the U.S. for one year. They gained insights into how patients with a new diagnosis of PAD navigated care and made decisions about treatments as they learned to live with PAD. In 2019, the team received an award from the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards program, an initiative of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The award supports a two-year [PAD outreach program](#) to promote understanding and disseminate information to members of the Kansas City community, empowering individuals to take charge of their cardiovascular health.

“PAD affects more than 8.5 million Americans over the age of 40. Data from the American Heart Association shows that inner-city neighborhoods are especially at risk of late diagnosis, and if PAD goes untreated, it can lead to amputation,” Dr. Smolderen explains. “We will focus this community art project on the historic northeast neighborhoods of Kansas City, Mo. We want to reach people where they live and spread the word about ways to prevent and manage PAD.”

To this end, the research team has worked to develop key partnerships with local community organizations and the City of Kansas City, Mo. This community engagement project will engage residents of the neighborhoods in Kansas City’s [Paseo Gateway](#), which received a Choice Neighborhood grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to revitalize the area and improve quality of life.

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### **About this Project:**

Researcher Kim Smolderen, Ph.D., received funding of nearly \$300,000 in 2019 through the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards program, an initiative of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) based in Washington, D.C. The funds support a two-year

program to promote understanding about PAD and disseminate information collected about PAD back to the Kansas City community, thereby empowering individuals to take charge of their cardiovascular health. Dr. Smolderen previously worked at the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Medicine and Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute. In 2020, she was named Co-Director of the Vascular Medicine Outcomes Program at Yale University. For more information about this project, visit [Show Me PAD](#).

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