



**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ASIAN HEALTH COALITION ONE OF NINE INNOVATIVE HEART  
HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO  
RECEIVE GRANT FROM  
ASTRAZENECA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION**

Chicago, IL, Sept. 29, 2020 – The Asian Health Coalition’s innovation and commitment to improve the heart health of the people of Chicago was recognized with a grant from the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation’s *Connections for Cardiovascular Health<sup>SM</sup> Next Generation* program. The \$45,000 grant will provide continued funding for their *Cardiovascular Awareness Recognizing Diet and Integration of exercise Options (CARDIO)* program.

Asian Health Coalition is one of nine organizations to receive funding through this first year of the *Connections for Cardiovascular Health<sup>SM</sup> Next Generation* program. The program, which builds on the Foundation’s [\*Connections for Cardiovascular Health<sup>SM</sup> \(CCH\)\*](#) program and 10 years of lessons learned to address a leading cause of death in the nation, launched on World Heart Day to elevate awareness of cardiovascular disease and ways to address it at the community level.

“Asian Americans are disproportionately affected by cardiovascular disease and diabetes, however many risk factors for these diseases are modifiable,” said Fornessa T. Randal, Executive Director at the Asian Health Coalition.

Under the direction of Alia Southworth, MPH, Director of Chronic and Infectious Disease, the *CARDIO* program has shown success in supporting heart healthy lifestyles among our South Asian participants. “This funding will help us expand our reach to the Chinese community, where *CARDIO* will empower community members with knowledge and techniques to lower their risk for cardiovascular disease and diabetes,” said Southworth.

As a key component of the grant, the Asian Health Coalition serves as a mentor for the *Connections for Cardiovascular Health<sup>SM</sup> Next Generation* program and guides newly funded organizations to help successfully launch and implement their programs.

“Through *CCH Next Generation*, we’re expanding the reach of our program to new communities to continue working to improve heart health across the country,” said James W. Blasetto, MD, MPH, FACC, chairman of the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation. “We’re proud to provide continued support for the Asian Health Coalition and look forward to them sharing lessons learned with our new Grant Awardees and others across the country.”

The grant from the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation will help the Asian Health Coalition further address health disparities in cardiovascular disease and diabetes within the South Asian and Chinese communities of Chicago. *CARDIO* focuses on educating these at-risk populations, equipping participants to make lifestyle changes that reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The Asian Health Coalition plans to disseminate a toolkit designed to help organizations implement culturally tailored cardiovascular health programs, similar to the *CARDIO* program, later this year.

**For more information about *CARDIO*, contact us at:**

Website: <https://www.asianhealth.org/current-work-diabetes-cvd>

Phone Number: 773-834-6599

Email: [alia@asianhealth.org](mailto:alia@asianhealth.org)

**About Asian Health Coalition (AHC)**

Established in 1996, AHC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to improve the health and wellness of primarily Asians and Pacific Islanders, as well as African and other immigrant communities of color through advocacy, technical assistance, community-based education and research. To learn more, visit [www.asianhealth.org](http://www.asianhealth.org). For more information and the latest updates, follow the Asian Health Coalition on Facebook ([@AsianHealthCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/AsianHealthCoalition)), Twitter ([@CAHE\\_AHC](https://twitter.com/CAHE_AHC))

**About AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation**

Established in 1993, the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation is a Delaware not-for-profit corporation and a 501(c)(3) entity, separate from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, organized for charitable purposes including to promote public awareness and education of healthcare issues and support nonprofit organizations consistent with its charitable purpose. [\*Connections for Cardiovascular Health\*<sup>SM</sup>](#) was launched in 2010 and has received \$35 million in charitable contributions from AstraZeneca to date. The program has awarded over \$24.8 million in grants to 58 organizations nationwide. More than 1.7 million people have been reached by the program and over 65,000 people have had their heart health progress tracked through a variety of Grant Awardees' programs. For more information and the latest updates, follow the Foundation on Facebook ([@AstraZenecaHealthCareFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/AstraZenecaHealthCareFoundation)), Twitter ([@ConnectCVHealth](https://twitter.com/ConnectCVHealth)) and YouTube ([ConnectionsCVHealth](https://www.youtube.com/ConnectionsCVHealth)).

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