



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh Partnership Teaches International Audience to Heal the Homeless

Local media can register for free by emailing lfrye@streetmedicine.org.

Mayor Bill Peduto will discuss Pittsburgh's civic response to homelessness during his keynote address Monday, October 21st at the [Street Medicine Institute's](#) 15th annual International Street Medicine Symposium ([ISMS 15](#)). To be held October 20 – 23, 2019 at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, ISMS 15 is the world's premier educational event dedicated to the health care of unsheltered homeless populations.

"People experiencing unsheltered homelessness are dying on our streets in their 40s and 50s – 10 times the rate of most Americans – largely from treatable illness. Street medicine offers a framework to improve their lives. We have experts from around the globe presenting, but Pittsburgh is actually the epicenter for the street medicine movement. So many street medicine teams have modeled their programs after Pittsburgh," says Dr. Liz Frye, chair of this year's symposium.

Dr. James Withers, founder of Pittsburgh Mercy's [Operation Safety Net](#) and a [2015 Top 10 CNN Hero](#), and Dr. Patrick J. Perri, co-founder of Allegheny Health Network's [Center for Inclusion Health](#), highlight their agencies' collaboration aimed at providing street-based medical care, addiction treatment, and housing for people sleeping on Pittsburgh's streets. The symposium will also feature international street medicine experts, including an award-winning activist and author from India, [Harsh Mander](#), London-based researcher and nurse, [Dr. Alistair Story](#), and South African human rights activist and theologian, Raymond Perrier. Registration for ISMS 15 is available [online](#) and at the symposium.

The Street Medicine Institute (SMI) is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2009. SMI inspires and equips communities worldwide to provide street medicine services to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with the vision those communities are transformed through the delivery of street medicine practices designed to meet the unique needs of rough-sleeping persons.

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