2021 COVID-19 Symposium, held on Friday, June 4, 2021

Host: Immunology, Inflammation, & Infectious Disease (3i) Initiative, University of Utah

Winner List Poster Information

Poster Title: **Incidence Rates in Urban Areas: Role of Structural Inequality at the Neighborhood Scale**

Poster Size: 48"x36"

Presenter: Rambabu Pothina

Department: Mining Engineering, University of Utah

Project PI: Daniel L. Mendoza

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Short Abstract:

In order to address the question of how lockdown policies during pandemic (Study period: February 17 through May 28, 2020) affected various demographics –low income, minority, and white collar "structural" groups – in terms of mobility and infliction of COVID-19 positive rates, we have examined neighborhood level traffic volumes and micro-processes of "structural inequality" in Salt Lake County. Our observations of reduction in neighborhood traffic levels during (Mar 16- Apr 26) and post-lockdown (May1 -May 28) periods suggests that the lockdown policies have minimum impact on mobility of low income and high minority status communities which is likely a factor resulting in their high COVID-19 incidence rates in contrast to affluent communities. In the light of our research findings, we suggest that future policies should include remedies to deal with structural inequalities so that most vulnerable populations can be benefited. As vaccination efforts continue, vulnerable and affected populations should also be considered for equitable distribution.

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