SIRC Hosts 3rd Annual Conference
The 3rd Annual SIRC Conference was a great success. It took place at the Fiesta Inn Resort in Tempe on April 29, 2005, under the theme: “Evidence-Based Drug Research in Partnership with Communities.” Findings from the center’s diverse research studies were disseminated through five concurrent sessions and a poster presentation.

Several major social service providers in the Phoenix area co-sponsored the conference events, including Chicanos por La Causa, Terros, Inc., and Valle del Sol. Social workers and other staff of those community agencies and SIRC partners such as Concilio Latino de Salud, Westside Baptist Hospital, Osborn School District, and the Gila Indian Community participated throughout the day. In addition to our community partners, our ASU sponsors included the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Affairs, College of Public Programs, College of Nursing, Intergroup Relations Center, Institute for Social Science Research, Graduate College, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Social Work and Department of Sociology.

Dr. Jerry Flanzer from the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), was the keynote speaker, presenting on “Selected NIH Priorities and Funding Opportunities.” The noon Plenary Presentation by Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, ASU’s Dean of the College of Nursing, was on “Evidence-Based Health Research: Opportunities and Future Directions.” The 2005 SIRC Leadership Award was presented to John W. Molina, MD, from Las Fuentes Clinic in Guadalupe for his compassionate work within the Hispanic and Yaqui communities.

Mark your calendar for next year’s conference that will take place at the ASU Memorial Union center on the Tempe Main Campus on April 21, 2006.

Welcome Paul Christensen
Paul Christensen has joined SIRC as Center Manager, overseeing operations, supervising Center staff, supporting the work of Center pilots and study groups and developing efficient operational systems. Paul has been with ASU six years, previously with the Department of Sociology and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Mr. Christensen will complete his MPA in December 2005 and looks forward to entering the PhD program in the future.

Focus on Externally Funded Research

Latino Acculturation and Health Project
Dr. Paul Smokowski and Rachel Mills from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill visited SIRC in September 2005. The ASU SIRC team and the North Carolina group have been working together for one year on the Latino Acculturation and Health Project. LAHP is funded through a 5-year grant awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The aim of the Latino Acculturation and Health Project (LAHP) is to conduct a comparative study on acculturation, health risk behavior, and health protection in Latino adolescents residing in Arizona and North Carolina. The long-term objective is to promote health and prevent injury and disease in Latino adolescents. The main goals are to increase health protection, enhance quality of life, reduce health disparities, and ultimately lengthen the lifespan for this disadvantaged group of minority youth.

LAHP will conduct quantitative assessments in North Carolina and Arizona with 300 Latino parents and their adolescent children (14–18 years of age). These assessments will examine how acculturation plays a role in their coping strategies, family dynamics, social networks, and cognitive processes and how these processes are related to aggression, suicidal ideation, and alcohol, tobacco, and substance use. ASU PI: Dr. Flavio F. Marsiglia; ASU Project Coordinator: Monica Parsai; UNC PI: Dr. Paul Smokowski; UNC Project Coordinator: Rachel Mills.

Mark your calendars!
SIRC Annual Conference
April 21, 2006
ASU Memorial Union
Tempe, AZ

Who Is SIRC?
• 26 Faculty Research Associates
• 20 Graduate Students
• 21 Community Partners
• International Scientific Advisory Board
• Funded by NIH/NIDA R-24DA13937 and ASU

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Community Initiatives

Co-Occurring Disorder Treatment for Latinas: Recruitment and Retention
This pilot examines how concordance in consumer’s self-assessment and clinician’s assessment of substance abuse and mental-health diagnoses affect treatment engagement. PI: Dr. Layne Stromwall. Community partner: Chicanos por la Causa. Status: SIRC Pilot, R-21 application in development.

HIV/AIDS Secondary Data Analysis
This study is a collaborative effort combining the efforts of the TERROS Behavioral Health Services Counseling and Testing project and HIV prevention data from Concilio Latino de Salud. PI: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia & Dr. Jennie Kronenfeld. Status: SIRC Pilot, R-01 and R-21 applications in development.

Project Corazón
This pilot examines the life trajectories of Hispanic and non-Hispanic males who are heavy users of illicit drugs. Project Corazón examines multiple cultural aspects of the addicted person’s life experiences, including resilience, life stressors, cultural identification, acculturation, machismo, and other personality and social variables related to recovery from addiction. PI: Dr. Felipe Castro, Community partner: Chicano Por la Causa. Status: SIRC pilot, R-01 under development.

Selected School Initiatives

Drug Resistance Strategies: keepin’ it REAL for 5th Graders
This NIDA-funded study is a 5-year randomized trial of an adapted and enhanced version of keepin’ it REAL involving 7 Phoenix school districts, 30 schools, 96 teachers, and over 2,000 students. ASU PI: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia & Dr. Stephen Kulis. Status: Funded NIH/NIDA R-01 with Penn State University.

Ecological Factors and Drug Use of Native Hawaiian Youth
The objective of Ecological Factors and Drug Use of Native Hawaiian Youth is to develop the knowledge base in the area of substance use and indigenous youth populations (e.g., American Indian youth, Native Hawaiian youth). It examines “pan-Native” drug prevention principles (i.e., the shared core of norms related to drug and alcohol use) as well as the Native-specific substance abuse prevention principles. PI: Dr. Scott Okamoto. Status: SIRC Pilot, R-21 application in development.

Youth Social Acceptance or Rejection Related to Substance Abuse
This study investigates phenotypic differences in the substance use attitudes and behaviors of Mexican-origin high school adolescents to determine if and in what ways cultural orientation (i.e., acculturation) mediates the relationship between phenotype and substance use. PI: Dr. Verna Keith. Status: SIRC Pilot, R-21 application in development.

Mining Town Isolation and Economy: Influences on Youth Risk Behaviors
Mining Town Isolation and Economy studies the protective family structures among youth residing in mining town communities in Arizona. This research partners with local school districts. The project completed surveying 844 students in the 5th through 12th grades of the Miami Unified School District and in the Superior Unified School District in Spring 2005. The study addresses issues of economic challenges and stress encountered by students; the extent of support they receive at school, home, and in the community; peer dynamics at school; students’ aspirations and goals for the future; and substance use issues. PI: Dr. Karen Miller-Loessi. Status: R-21/R-01 development.

Grrrl Power: The Effectiveness of Gender-specific Intervention for Early Adolescent Girls
Is gender-specific intervention more effective than mixed-gender interventions for early adolescent girls? This is the primary research question of an R-01 grant written by Dr. Craig LeCroy. Based on his earlier work on a universal prevention program for adolescent girls (Go Grrris), this grant examines whether gender-specific interventions offer additional benefits to their participants. The study will compare gender-specific intervention with a well-known evidence-based program and examine outcomes such as substance abuse, mental health, and positive functioning over a 2-year follow-up period.

International Initiatives

The Galicia Project
For over a year, teams from SIRC and from the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (USC), in Galicia, Spain have been developing a joint research project to design and test the effectiveness of a culturally adapted drug prevention program for adolescents in Galicia. The prevention program is being adapted from the keepin’ it REAL drug prevention program developed by SIRC researchers for Phoenix-area middle school students, which has been named a model program by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The Galicia Project will apply, elaborate and assess principles for effectively adapting prevention programs for different cultural groups, and will examine the processes of resiliency and risk of youth in Spain who come from families that emigrated from Latin America.

The SIRC and USC teams will submit an R-01 grant proposal in Fall 2005 to NIDA to support the Galicia adaptation study. In preparation, the team conducted a pilot study in Spring 2005 with over 900 adolescents in 10 secondary schools in Galicia. Both teams have begun analyzing data to assess how vulnerability to drug use is related to cultural identity, risk, and resiliency processes among Galician natives and immigrants. ASU PI and co-PIs: Dr. Flavio M. Marsiglia, Dr. Stephen Kulis, Dr. Felipe Castro; ASU project coordinator: Ms. Tanya Nieri; University of Santiago de Compostela PI: Dr. María Angeles Luengo; USC team members: José Antonio Gómez-Fraguela, Estrella Romero, & Paula Villar.