SIRC Hosts 4th Annual Research Conference

SIRC held its 4th Annual Conference on April 21, 2006. Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano proclaimed that date the “Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center Day,” recognizing the valuable contribution of the center’s research to substance abuse prevention with populations of the Southwest. The conference’s theme—cross-cultural generalizability—stimulated intellectual exchanges among 125 participants from ASU, other universities, and community organizations.

VIP guests included Dr. Carlos Flores Vizcarra, Cónsul General of Mexico; Dr. Ricardo Sánchez Huesca, Centros de Integración Juvenil in Mexico City; and Ms. Barbara Fenster and Mr. Rob Evans from the Governor’s Office. The keynote address was presented by Dr. Maria Elena Medina-Mora, Chief Executive Director, Concilio Latino de Salud for “Outstanding Leadership and Support of Evidence Based Research with Communities of the Southwest.” Throughout her career, Dr. Valdez has devoted endless energy to studying and preventing HIV/AIDS in the local Latino community.

SIRC Leadership Award was presented to Elizabeth Ortiz de Valdez, M.D., Executive Director, Concilio Latino de Salud for “Outstanding Leadership and Support of Evidence Based Research with Communities of the Southwest.”

SIRC would like to thank all of our sponsors for their financial support of this important event. To peruse the program and view the presentations and additional photos, please visit the conference website at: http://sirc.asu.edu/2006-SIRC.html

ASU Downtown Phoenix Campus is new home to College of Public Programs, SIRC

The College of Public Programs, including SIRC and the School of Social Work, has moving to the new ASU Downtown Phoenix Campus. SIRC is located at 411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 720. Our facilities will enhance our research efforts, and we look forward to hosting our Brown Bag series and other events at our new location.

Other units located downtown include the College of Nursing, the School of

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SIRC 5th Annual Conference
April 20, 2007

WHO IS SIRC?

• 25 Faculty Research Associates
• 21 Graduate Students
• 22 Community Partners
• International Scientific Advisory Board
• Funded by NIH/NIDA R24DA13937 and ASU

SOUTHWEST INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTER

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BARBARA FENSTER WITH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR PRESENTS THE HON. JANET NAPOLITANO’S PROCLAMATION TO KICK OFF THE 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

(1-R) DR. CARLOS FLORES VIZCARRA, DR. MARIA ELENA MEDINA-MORA, AND DR. MARSIGLIA

(1-R) SIRC GA MARIA GURROLA, DR. RICARDO SANCHEZ HUESCA, AND DR. ELIZABETH VALDEZ DISCUSS A RESEARCH POSTER AT THE 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
Public Affairs, and the School of Community Resources and Development. Please note our new contact information on the bottom right corner of the front page! For more information on the ASU Downtown Campus visit: http://www.asu.edu/downtownphoenix

SIRC Welcomes Dr. James Herbert Williams
SIRC would like to welcome Dr. James Herbert Williams to the faculty of the School of Social Work and as a SIRC Faculty Research Affiliate. Dr. Williams comes to ASU from Washington University in St. Louis. His areas of specialization include Juvenile Delinquency, Mental Health Services in Public Schools, Cultural Similarities and Differences in Etiology, Consequences and Intervention Effects, and Urban Community Practice. The SIRC team looks forward to our future collaborations with Dr. Williams.

National Hispanic Network on Drug Abuse Fellows
SIRC would like to congratulate Ms. Monica Parsai, SIRC Project Coordinator, on her selection as a fellow with the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse. The NHSN is dedicated to improving the health of Hispanics by increasing the amount and quality of interdisciplinary translational research on drug abuse; and fostering the development of Hispanic scientists in drug abuse research. NIDA/NIH is a major sponsor of the network. NHSN will host its 6th annual conference, “Drug Use and HIV/AIDS: Implications for the Hispanic Population”, September 13-16 at the Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale. Other SIRC NHSN fellows include Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, and Ms. Tanya Nieri.

SIRC Strategic Direction
SIRC is dedicated to interdisciplinary research in health disparities with populations of the Southwest and increasing the number and capacity of social work researchers working in the areas of substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, and mental health. To achieve our goals, the center is engaged in an ongoing strategic planning process to retain and increase our funding base, support our community-based and expanding international research programs, and ensure sustainability for the future.

SIRC is proud to announce that we have been selected to represent Arizona State University in its single application for a NIH P20 Center Grant. The National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities has released a request for proposals for Establishing Exploratory NCMHD Research Centers for Excellence. The announcement has an October 2006 proposal submission deadline with an anticipated award date of September 2007. Total funding for five years is over $7 million, with the possibility of continuation.

One aspect of this funding opportunity that appeals to SIRC is the expectation by NIH that competitive proposals include a detailed plan for community involvement and outreach, as well as interdisciplinary research teams. SIRC has built strength in these areas through our Community Advisory Board as well as our Executive Committee made up of our interdisciplinary Faculty Affiliates.

SIRC Fall Grant Submissions
The Galicia Project
This international collaboration between Arizona State University and the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain will refine and test a proposed adaptation model for interventions in ways that address the tension between specific cultural groups and fidelity to core program elements. It will apply a Cultural Adaptation model to modify an efficacious U.S. prevention intervention (keepin’ it REAL) for use with middle school students in Spain. The team will assess the performance of the model for the creation of adaptations. The study also examines variations in program efficacy and adaptation concerns among culturally diverse subgroups in Spain (e.g., immigrant and native-born youth; youth with different cultural orientations).

ASU Co-PIs: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, Dr. Felipe Castro, Dr. Stephen Kulis. USC: Dr. Maria Angeles Luengo Status: Resubmission

Project Corazón
This R01 proposes a 5-year study that seeks to extend the capacity of the Corazón pilot study in understanding early life and current determinants of drug dependence and effective recovery from illicit drug use by screening, admitting, and tracking a cohort of 200 non-Hispanic white males and 600 Hispanic males who received substance abuse treatment from Project Corazón. Chicanos Por la Causa continues to serve as the community partner for both the pilot and this study.

ASU PI: Dr. Felipe Castro. Status: SIRC Pilot, R-01 application in final stages of development.

Youth Social Acceptance 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. Lynn Holley, Status: SIRC pilot, R01 application in development.
**Mining Town Isolation: Economic Influences on Youth Risk Behaviors**

This pilot partnered with school districts to study protective structures of youth residing in mining towns in Arizona, surveying a total of 844 students in the 5th—12th grades in two separate communities. The questionnaire addressed specific issues regarding: economic challenges and stress; the extent of support received at school, from their families, and communities; peer dynamics in the school setting; students' aspirations and goals for the future; and substance use issues, as reported by the students.

**Pl:** Dr. Karen Miller-Loessi. **Status:** R01 under development.

**Other Selected SIRC Initiatives**

**HIV Prevention in Arusha, Tanzania**

SIRC is partnering with other organizations to study HIV prevention in Tanzania. Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, Dr. Stephen Kulis, and Dr. Bert Jacobs and other SIRC team members are planning a proposal to secure funding from NIH to develop, administer, and test a prevention intervention in Africa. Further, Students for International Change, an organization formed to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in northern Tanzania, approached SIRC for assistance in evaluating the effectiveness of their HIV prevention efforts in Arusha.

**Mexico Initiatives**

In collaboration with Mexican researchers at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, SIRC is conducting culturally-specific drug abuse research in Monterrey, Mexico. The project is focused on studying the etiology of youth drug use in Monterrey and adapting and testing an existing prevention curriculum, *keepin’ it REAL*. Findings from this study were presented at the International Congress of Addictions held in the city of Guadalajara in April 2006. SIRC was represented by Dr. Marsiglia, Dr. Kulis, and two Graduate Research Associates working on this project (Jason Castillo and David Becerra). Mr. Gregorio Martinez, from the School of Nursing of the UANL co-presented with the SIRC team.

SIRC is expanding its research in Mexico. Dr. Flavio Marsiglia is negotiating the signing of a research agreement with representatives of the government of the state of Guanajuato. The agreement will formalize SIRC’s school-based research program in the area as well as a new family-centered migration and health study to be implemented in partnership with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Latino Acculturation & Health**

The Latino Acculturation and Health Project (LAHP) is a collaborative study between research teams at Arizona State University and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The study examines how acculturation plays a role in the families’ 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. One long term aim is reducing health disparities among this group. The research teams work with 150 Latino-families each. One adult and one adolescent 14-18 years of age participate from each family.

LAHP is a 3-yr study funded by a grant awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The project is entering the third year of the study and both teams are in the process of gathering Wave 4 data.

**ASU** Pl: Dr. Flavio F. Marsiglia; **ASU Project Coordinator:** Monica Parsai

**Drug Resistance Strategies: keepin’ it REAL for 5th Graders**

This NIDA funded R01 study is a 5-year longitudinal randomized trial of an adapted and enhanced version of *keepin’ it REAL* involving 7 Phoenix school districts, 32 schools, 96 teachers, and over 2000 students. Study aims are: (1) to describe the development of ecological risk and resiliency factors as Mexican/Mexican American students transition from 5th to 9th grade and undergo acculturation processes; (2) to enhance the existing 7th grade *keepin’ it REAL* multicultural interven-

**Male Batterers & HIV**

This exploratory pilot will examine sexual behaviors and attitudes among Mexican-American men with a history of intimate partner violence (IPV), with a specific emphasis on how these behaviors and attitudes relate to gender norms, ethnic identity, perceived discrimination, and acculturative stress associated with changing social norms in the American Southwest. This study explores the context and consequences of these attitudes and behaviors within their sexual relationships, and provides the formative research necessary to develop a culturally-specific, evidence-based HIV/AIDS intervention that can be used with Mexican-American communities affected by both intimate partner violence and HIV/AIDS.

**ASU Co-Pls:** Dr. Yasmina Katsulis and Dr. Felipe Castro.

**Secondary Data Analysis**

This study is a community-based collaboration exploring cultural dimensions of HIV/AIDS prevention. Partners include TERROS Behavioral Health Services and Concilio Latino de Salud.

**Pls:** Dr. Flavio Marsiglia & Dr. Jennie Kronenfeld. **Status:** SIRC Pilot, R-01 and R-21 applications in development.

**HIV/AIDS**

**Keepin’ it REAL** for 5th Graders
tion (a SAMSHA model program) by increasing the dosage adding acculturation related material, and by examining the most efficacious age of intervention, 5th versus 7th grade; and (3) to examine ecological risk and resiliency factors, such as parental monitoring, perceived discrimination and acculturation stress, as moderators of prevention effects. Surveys are conducted at several points in time, including a pre-test and 6 post-tests, with the last occurring in the 9th grade.

ASU PIs: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia & Dr. Stephen Kulik. Status: Funded NIH/NIDA R-01 with Penn State University, Dr. Michael Hecht, PI.

Please visit our website for a complete listing of our publications and presentations:
http://sirc.asu.edu

In foreground, SIRC Graduate Assistants (l-r) David Becerra, Maria Gurrola and Kathlyn Shahan engaged by the keynote address of Dr. Maria Elena Medina-Mora at the 4th Annual Conference in April 2006. Dr. Medina-Mora presented Lessons from Mexico: Epidemiological and Psychosocial Studies in Drug Abuse Prevention Research. To view Dr. Medina-Mora’s presentation, please visit the SIRC website at: http://sirc.asu.edu/2006-SIRC.html