Greetings From Our Director

Dear colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable break. Based on the high numbers of external funding applications submitted and manuscripts sent out for review, we can say that SIRC had a very productive summer.

Dr. Kimberly Arcoleo, SIRC Early Career Faculty Fellow in Health Disparities Research, was awarded a five year R01 by the National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine/National Institutes of Health. The project is entitled “Asthma Disparities in Latino Children: Acculturation, Illness Representations & CAM.” Warm congratulations to Kim and her Co-PIs!!

Our main funding source, the Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) of the NIH has selected three of our SIRC colleagues as recipients of this year’s Health Disparities Loan Repayment Program (LRP). They are: Dr. Crista Johnson, SIRC Clinical Faculty Affiliate; Dr. Gabriel Shaibi, SIRC Early Career Faculty Fellow in Health Disparities Research and Dr. Stephanie Ayers, SIRC Coordinator of Research. Congratulations Crista, Gabe and Stephanie for this very distinguished recognition.

We are also awaiting notifications on other applications submitted over the summer. They include: two administrative supplements submitted to NCMHD entitled: 1) “SIRC Community Health Network: Health Literacy Evaluation and Community Partners Training.” And 2) “Contextual Influences on Ethnic Minority Youth’s Substance Abuse in Arizona.” Additionally, we submitted an application to the National Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services entitled “Cervical Cancer Alert for Latina Women”.

We are very happy to welcome Margarita Villagran, Ph.D., USC, 2008, who joins SIRC as the Post-Doctoral Fellow in Culturally-Grounded Health Disparities Research. Congratulations to Dr. Wendy Wolfesteig, SIRC Assistant Director of Evaluation and Partner Contracts, who transitioned to full time with the center on July 1, 2009. Congratulations also to Dr. Stephanie Ayers who completed her SIRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Culturally-Grounded Health Disparities Research and has been appointed as the SIRC Coordinator of Research. Welcome ASU graduate Gabriel Nuñez as Accountant Associate for SIRC, and all new and returning research graduate associates and assistants.

To all of you, best wishes for a fruitful and meaningful semester,
Flavio Marsiglia, Ph.D., SIRC Director

SIRC Activities

The Data Analysis Clinic (DAC) provides on-going methodological and statistical support and training to investigators, students and community members, every Wednesday 1:00-2:00pm.

The Health Disparities Journal Club reviews journal articles and supporting material to stimulate discourse on health inequalities. The Health Disparities Journal Club’s aim is to increase public awareness of socioeconomic and racial/ethnic inequities in health and their human and financial costs. The Journal Club meets the first Wednesday of the month at noon.

The SIRC Lecture Series combines Colloquia and Brown Bags where local, national and international experts in health disparities, prevention and intervention research present their work during the academic school year. Presenters are also paired with investigators to provide consultation in their areas of expertise. See the SIRC Calendar of Events on our website.

Visit our website for more details: http://sirc.asu.edu

Upcoming SIRC Events

09/02/09 | Health Disparities Journal Club Brown Bag - Wednesday, Noon
“In Sickness and in Wealth” video and discussion

09/10/09 | SIRC Colloquium
Thursday, 4:00 PM
Helen P. Hazuda, Ph.D., Medical Sociologist and Professor of Medicine at University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio - “Identifying Optimal Targets for Intervention to Prevent Disability in Aging Mexican and European Americans”

09/16/09 | SIRC Brown Bag
Wednesday, Noon
Carol M. Baldwin, Ph.D., R.N., ASU Associate Professor, Director, Office of World Health Promotion & Disease Prevention - “A tale of two studies: Relationship of acculturation to self-reported insomnia symptoms and characterizations of underserved Spanish-speaking Mexican Americans with insomnia symptoms”

09/22/09 | SIRC Colloquium
Tuesday, 4:00 PM
Rodgers Wilson, M.D., Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health - “Racial and Ethnic Variation in the Determination of Psychiatric Diagnoses”

10/06/09 | SIRC Colloquium
Tuesday, 4:00 PM
Damien Salamone, Executive Director, HEAL International “The development of a novel, low cost diagnostic assay for HIV viral load and assessing barriers to implementation among clinicians in northern Tanzania.”

10/07/09 | Health Disparities Journal Club Brown Bag - Wednesday, Noon
“When the Bough Breaks” video and discussion

10/20/09 | CECO & Refugee Clinic Workshop
See website for details.

11/04/09 | Health Disparities Journal Club Brown Bag - Wednesday, Noon
“Becoming American” video and discussion

11/19/09 | SIRC Brown Bag
Thursday, Noon
Margarita Villagran, Ph.D., SIRC Post-Doctoral Fellow, presenting, “Racial/ethnic differences in the nexus of maltreatment type and mental health outcomes for children and youth”.

12/02/09 - Health Disparities Journal Club Brown Bag - Wednesday, Noon
“Place Matters” video and discussion.
Dr. Johnson at NIH Summer Institute

Dr. Crista Johnson was selected to participate in the 2009 NIH Summer Institute on Community-Based Participatory Research Targeting the Medically Underserved, that took place August 2-7, 2009 in New Orleans, LA. The NIH Summer Institute addressed methodological and practical issues inherent in conducting research with community partners on health and health disparities targeting medically underserved areas and populations. Only 20 Principal Investigators, along with their community partners, were selected from a highly competitive national pool of 147 applicants to participate in this research program.

Dr. Johnson is an OB/GYN with the Maricopa Integrated Health System and Medical Director for the Refugee Women’s Health Clinic in central Phoenix. She plays an active role at SIRC as Clinical Research Affiliate and PI of the Refugee Women’s Health Project.

SIRC at Spain Conference

Flavio Marsiglia, Stephen Kulis and Monica Parsai traveled to Spain in June to participate in a Methodology Seminar and conference organized by SIRC's Spanish collaborator and former SIRC International Visiting Scholar, Dr. Maria Angeles Luengo of the Universidad Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In addition to presentations at the Congreso Español de Criminología in Santiago de Compostela, Dr. Marsiglia and Dr. Kulis gave two invited presentations at universities in Galicia and in Sevilla.

SIRC Visitors Scholar

Visiting Scholar for the 2009 Spring semester at SIRC was Karen Farchaus Stein, PhD, RN, FAAN. Dr. Stein is a Professor of Nursing and Associate Professor of Psychiatry in the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. While at SIRC, Dr. Stein participated in Data Analysis Clinics and Statistical Work Groups. In addition to her ongoing writing projects, Dr. Stein presented, “Eating Disorders in Mexican American Women: Is It Really Just About Body Image?” for the SIRC Lecture Series.

SIRC Mentoring Project

SIRC participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program with the city of Phoenix. For four weeks the SIRC Administrative Team mentored and shared basic job skills with 17 year old Montserrat Arredondo, a senior at North High School. We wish her well and hope that her work experience with SIRC will add to her success in the future.

SIRC Intern Wins Poster Competition

Karina Hernandez took first place for an outstanding poster presentation at the 2nd Annual College of Public Programs Scholars Reception and Undergraduate Research Poster Competition on April 23, 2009. The poster, “Familias Sanas (Healthy Families): A Culturally Grounded Approach to Improve the Interconception Care of Latina Mothers”, was created for the Familias Sanas project. Karina is a SIRC undergraduate intern assisting Dr. Monica Parsai, Assistant Director of Family Intervention Research.

SIRC Authors Recognized

An article written by lead author Dr. Monica Parsai and co-authors Sarah Voisine, Flavio F. Marsiglia, Stephen Kulis and Tanya Nieri was ranked 12 out of 50 most frequently read articles from the journal Youth & Society. The article, “The Protective and Risk Effects of Parents and Peers on Substance Use, Attitudes, and Behaviors of Mexican and Mexican American Female and Male Adolescents”, is a study that explores the extent to which parental and peer behaviors and norms may affect substance use, personal antidrug norms and intentions to use drugs in a group of Mexican heritage pre-adolescents in the Southwest United States, and whether these parental and peer influences differ according to gender. Congratulations SIRC authors on this very important peer recognition and accomplishment!

Welcome to SIRC!

New at SIRC: Beatriz Vega de la Luna, Meghan Garvey, Deidre Greyeyes, Sheera Gilbao, Dania Valle. Standing from left: Dr. Margarita Villagrana, Saud Zazueta, Marisol Ocegueda, Kristen Bean, Jennifer Mullins and Alex Wagaman. Other newcomers not pictured: Guadalupe Gonzalez, Stephanie Cordova, Christina Zendejas, Delitha Livingston, Desiree Deschine, Durina Dee Keyonne, Josie Burnley and Simon Tapaha. Welcome to the SIRC family!

A warm “Welcome Back” to: Al Kopak, Julie Nagoshi, Hector Valdez, Carlos Calderon, Andrea Hernandez, Joshua Kellison, Jamie Booth, Crescencia Tso, Aimee Sitzler and Steve Hoffman.

Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
Dr. Mark Dowling, School Superintendent for Roosevelt School District No. 66, received the SIRC Leadership Award for outstanding leadership support of school-based research with children and youth of the Southwest.

Mr. Doug Hirano has accepted to serve as the Chair of SIRC's Community Advisory Board. Doug is currently Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Community in Action (APCA) in Phoenix, Arizona and has years of experience in program development and grant management in the health, wellness, and fitness industry as Bureau Chief for Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

Dr. Manuel Medina has been appointed Vice Chair of SIRC’s Community Advisory Board in support of Mr. Hirano. Dr. Medina is Vice President of Diversity at TERROS Behavioral Health Services, Inc. in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Medina received his Ph.D. from ASU’s School of Social Work and has been part of the SIRC Community Advisory Board for the past six years.

The Keynote Address for the SIRC Conference was delivered by Dr. Aida Giachello, Associate Professor at Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Giachello is the Founder/Director of the Midwest Latino Health Research, Training and Policy Center (MLHRC). Dr. Amitabh Chandra addressed the afternoon Plenary Session. Dr. Chandra is a Professor of Public Policy at Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government and a Research Fellow at the IZA Institute in Bonn, Germany and at the national Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The conference offered 3 afternoon sessions and a research poster exhibition where SIRC graduate students, invited faculty and community research collaborators featured SIRC projects with local, national and international partners.

In a collective effort to assist our community during the economic downturn, SIRC sponsored a food drive during the March conference. In lieu of conference costs, participants were encouraged to support the Arizona community by donating to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the largest regional distribution hub supporting main food centers throughout the community and a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief charity. Christina Calio, Business Development Officer and volunteers Irma Leyendecker and Susan Ekback accepted tax deductible contributions at the registration table. The positive response and generosity was overwhelming with donations that helped alleviate the food deficit by funding 10,750 meals.

Scheduled to be released on September 15, 2009 by the American Psychological Association is the “Handbook of Drug Use Etiology: Theory, Methods, and Empirical Findings”. This handbook will prove to be an essential resource for researchers, practitioners and policymakers working with the persistent social issue of the causation, consequences and prevention practices of drug use.

The top researchers in drug abuse were invited to participate in this publication project. Among this select group of researchers are SIRC authors Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., Scott J. Smith, Ph.D., Felipe G. Castro, Ph.D., and Tanya Nieri, Ph.D. Dr. Marsiglia and Dr. Smith collaborated for the article titled, “An Exploration of Ethnicity and Race in the Etiology of Substance Use: A Health Disparities Approach”. Dr. Castro and Dr. Nieri’s contribution is titled, “Cultural Factors in Drug Use Etiology: Concepts, Methods, and Recent Findings”. Both articles are under Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in chapter five of the handbook.

Congratulations SIRC authors for this important accomplishment!
Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center

An Exploratory Center of Excellence
- Four Core Groups
- Faculty Research Affiliates
- Graduate Students
- Community Advisory Board
- International Advisory Board

SIRC is Funded by:
- The National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)/National Institutes of Health (NIH), award: P20MD002316
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, award: 1H0CMS03207
- Arizona State University

Mission Statement
To generate use-inspired knowledge on the cultural determinants of health to reduce and prevent health disparities in partnership with communities of the Southwest.

SIRC at a Glance
Health Disparities Research at SIRC: Cultural Processes in Risk & Resiliency
Principal Investigator: Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D.

Familias en Acción (Families in Action): A Supplemental Parent Education Intervention to Enhance the Efficacy of keepin’ it REAL
PI: Felipe G. Castro, Ph.D.
Co-PI: Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D.
Project Director: Monica Parsai, Ph.D.

Living in Two Worlds: Culturally Specific Substance Abuse Prevention for Urban American Indian Youth
PI: Eddie Brown, DSW - Co-PI: Stephen Kulis, Ph.D.
Project Director: Patricia Dustman, Ed.D.

Familias Sanas (Healthy Families): A Culturally Grounded Approach to Improve the Interconception Care of Latina Mothers
PI: Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D.
Project Coordinator: Monica Parsai, Ph.D.
MIHS Co-PI: Dean Coonrod, M.D.

Community-Based Participatory Research to Improve Health and Quality of Life of Latino Youth: Every Little Step Counts
Principal Investigator: Gabriel Q. Shaibi, Ph.D.

Illness Representations among Mexican Mothers of Children with Asthma: A Factor in Health Disparities?
Principal Investigator: Kimberly Arcoleo, Ph.D.

Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Sexual Risk Behavior in Juvenile Female Offenders: A Secondary Analysis of Project SHARP Data
Principal Investigator: Alyssa G. Robillard, Ph.D.

Hot off the Press!
A Sample of Recent SIRC Publications


For a complete listing of our publications and presentations, visit our website at:
http://sirc.asu.edu

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