Greetings From Our Director

This summer break was very eventful due to the many momentous developments in our state, the nation and the world. Some of these events - such as legislative initiatives on health care reform and immigration - have significant implications for the well being and public health of our communities.

Dr. David Satcher, former US Surgeon General, recently wrote: “Broadening our collective approaches to reducing health inequalities by addressing the social and structural conditions needed for good health for all is urgently needed now” (2010, p. 6). This important statement speaks to SIRC’s social determinants of health perspective and validates the transdisciplinary nature of our work.

Our own work consistently shows that the health status of individuals and communities is profoundly influenced by their social environment. As we start the new school year I encourage fellow investigators, students, and community partners to reflect and discuss the public health significance and public policy implications of our joint research projects.

• How is our research advancing knowledge about the conditions that are needed to promote and sustain healthy communities?
• How will the life and health of real people and actual communities be improved as a consequence of our research?
• How can we translate the findings of our studies so they can be easily applied to real life settings?

As ASU President Dr. Michael Crow often reminds us, our times call for use-inspired research. Public health significance and public policy implications are key aspects to consider as we continue to develop our health disparities research agenda. We are fortunate to have the support of NCMHD/NIH and ASU and to have very competent and committed community partners, researchers and students. Once again the different work teams had a very productive summer. I encourage you to read this issue of In Focus and to become acquainted with the many achievements and developments.

Please visit the SIRC webpage often and check the calendar of events. I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you soon as the semester progresses and as we continue to advance our important mission in collaboration with our local, national, and international research partners.

Best wishes for a productive, healthy, and fulfilling semester,

Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., SIRC Director
Distinguished Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health School of Social Work, College of Public Programs

SIRC Activities

The Data Analysis Clinic (DAC) provides on-going methodological and statistical support and training to investigators, students and community members every Wednesday from 1:45-2:30 PM.

The Advanced Statistical Analysis Work Group (ASAWG) is a workshop for students and faculty with advanced statistical training. This workshop meets every Wednesday from 1:00 – 1:45 PM.

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 from 12:00 - 1:00 PM.

The SIRC Lecture Series combines Colloquia and Brown Bags where local, national and international experts in health disparities, prevention and intervention research are invited to present their work during the academic school year. Presenters are also paired with investigators to provide consultation in their areas of expertise. Everyone is welcome to attend. Most lectures are scheduled on Wednesdays at noon.

Check our website for details.

Upcoming SIRC Events

09/01/10 | Health Disparities Journal Club
Methodological and Conceptual Issues in Health Disparities Research: Social Determinants
Wednesday, Noon – 1:00 PM
ASU University Center, SIRC, Suite 720

09/22/10 | SIRC Lecture Series
Bullying Interventions that Work by the SPR Cup Champions – Dr. Stephanie Ayers, Dr. Monica Parsai, Jennifer Mullins and Alex Wagaman.
Wednesday, Noon – 1:00 PM
ASU University Center, SIRC, Suite 720

10/06/10 | Health Disparities Journal Club
Methodological and Conceptual Issues in Health Disparities research: Measuring the Effect of Race and Racism
Wednesday, Noon – 1:00 PM
ASU University Center, SIRC, Suite 720

10/20/10 | SIRC Lecture Series
Health Disparities and Nursing Issues in Nigeria by Ebere Ume, Graduate Research Assistant, Nursing and Health Innovation.
Wednesday, Noon – 1:00 PM
ASU University Center, SIRC, Suite 720

11/03/10 | Health Disparities Journal Club
Methodological and Conceptual Issues in Health Disparities Research: Geography, Race and Health
Wednesday, Noon – 1:00 PM
ASU University Center, SIRC, Suite 720

11/17/10 | SIRC Lecture Series
The Challenge of Reducing Disparities in America: We May Need a Different Approach by Leonard Syme, Ph.D., Professor of Epidemiology and Community Health (Emeritus), School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley.
Wednesday, Noon – 1:00 PM
ASU University Center, SIRC, Suite 720

12/01/10 | Health Disparities Journal Club
Methodological and Conceptual Issues in Health Disparities Research: Translating Science into Practice
Wednesday, Noon – 1:00 PM
ASU University Center, SIRC, Suite 720

http://sirc.asu.edu/calendar

http://sirc.asu.edu
SIRC Team Wins SPR Cup Competition

A team of early career researchers from SIRC were the winners of the 2010-2011 Sloboda and Bukowski SPR Cup, awarded by the Society of Prevention Research at its 18th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado on June 1-4, 2010. The Cup honors a team that devises a creative, rigorous and methodologically sophisticated analysis of an existing data set about an important prevention issue.

The “SIRC du Soleil” team members are Dr. Stephanie Ayers, Dr. Monica Parsai, Jennifer Mullins and Alex Wagaman. Drs. Ayers and Parsai received their doctorates from ASU in Sociology and in Social Work respectively while Ms. Mullins and Ms. Wagaman just completed their first year of Ph.D. studies in social work.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Eric Hedberg, Director of Research at the ASU College of Public Programs, the “SIRC du Soleil” researchers prepared and presented a symposium talk on “Bullying Interventions that Work”.

A panel of senior prevention scientists and the symposium audience chose the SIRC team as winners of the SPR Cup competition based on the quality of their research work and presentation.

Science Showcase for School Community

The Community Engagement and Outreach Core (CEOC) at SIRC hosted three half-day science workshops in June as part of the community “Science in the City” summer program. Ninety students preparing to enter Phoenix Union Bio Science High School in Phoenix and nine teachers participated in the science showcase.

From Left - Alex Wagaman, Jennifer Mullins, Monica Parsai, Ph.D., Stephanie Ayers, Ph.D.

Dr. Olga Davis, Dr. Patricia Dustman, Holly Lewis, Leslie Reeves and SIRC Graduate Researchers Hector Valdez, DesiRae Deschine, Kristen Bean, Elizabeth Shapel, and Crissy Tso, as well as interns Joe Rivas and Maria Bañuelos engaged the future researchers in interactive workshops focused on the message portrayed in the video “Bad Sugar” from the Unnatural Causes PBS series. The sessions centered on how health issues can affect entire communities creating serious health disparities. Most importantly, the sessions discussed how people can effectively influence the health of their community.

Dr. Olga Davis participating in one of three Science in the City workshops.

RWHC - SIRC Community Partner

One of SIRC’s community research partners, the Refugee Women’s Health Clinic (RWHC) at Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) in Phoenix, AZ opened its doors on October 2008 to meet the reproductive health care needs of the growing refugee and immigrant communities in the Phoenix Metropolitan area. The RWHC serves as a medical home for refugee women, providing culturally grounded and linguistically appropriate health services while seeking to reduce/eliminate health disparities and cultural barriers to care. SIRC engages in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) in collaboration with the RWHC to promote trust, capacity-building, and sustainable co-equal partnerships in health and health disparities with refugee communities. Dr. Crista Johnson is the Director of the RWHC, OB/GYN at MIHS, ASU Research Assistant Professor and SIRC Clinical Research Affiliate.

Picture the multidisciplinary Refugee Women’s Health Community Advisory Coalition (RWHCAC), comprised of representatives from local ethnic organizations, academic institutions, health and refugee-focused social services agencies.

African American Breast Cancer Summit

SIRC’s Community Engagement and Outreach Core (CEOC) and the Mayo Clinic hosted the African American Community Leadership Breast Cancer Roundtable on July 15, 2010 at the AE England Building on the ASU Downtown Campus. Seventy five African American community leaders were invited to attend this educational awareness forum. The goal was to outline the direction for future community dialogue in understanding and addressing breast cancer and healthcare disparities within the African American population. Mr. Marion K. Kelly, Director of Office for Community Affairs at Mayo Clinic, organized and led the forum. Dr. Michele Halyard, Mayo Radiation Oncologist and Cancer Researcher, facilitated the audience/roundtable and presented “Breast Cancer in African American Women”. Dr. Olga Davis, Principal Investigator of the CEOC, represented SIRC with her contribution “Community Leadership/Healthcare Disparities – It Does Take a Village”. The event was a success with future projects in the planning stage including participation in the October Breast Cancer Summit.

SIRC Research Student Receives Top Recognition

Crescentia Tso was selected by the College of Public Programs Dean’s Office for recognition as an “example of excellence” among her graduating class. Vice President & Dean Debra Friedman’s speech during the May 14th college convocation ceremony praised Crissy for her success.

Crissy shares her experience as a SIRC MSW Research Assistant: “Being a part of a great research family at SIRC has opened my eyes to the culture, diversity, and health disparities in the southwest. It’s great to know I am able to contribute to a greater cause and give back to the Native communities.” Crissy has been invited to enter the doctoral program at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
SIRC Annual Conference

SIRC hosted its 8th Annual Research Conference on April 23, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. Representatives from thirteen universities and fifty-six local government and non-governmental partner organizations were in attendance. SIRC’s international guest was Dr. Bertha L. Nuño-Gutierrez, from the Mexican Institute of Social Services in Jalisico, Mexico.

The keynote address was delivered by Nabila El-Bassel, Ph.D. from Columbia University. Dr. El-Bassel is a professor at the School of Social Work, the Director of the Social Intervention Group (SIG) and Director of the Columbia University Global Health Research Center of Central Asia (GHRCCA).

This year the conference was open to accommodate an audience of 200 pre-registered participants and offered four concurrent morning and afternoon sessions where eighteen researchers shared their work with an engaged conference audience. The juried research poster exhibition included twenty posters created by SIRC Faculty Affiliates, graduate associates and assistants, depicting the conference theme: “Health Disparities: A Global Challenge, a Local Response”. The conference program is available on line at: http://sirc.asu.edu/events/conferences/2010-conference

SIRC Aids Haitian Community

In lieu of conference costs associated with the SIRC April conference, participants were encouraged to support the relief fund for the humanitarian crisis in Haiti. Rita Audisio, Special Event Coordinator for the American Red Cross and four volunteers accepted tax deductible contributions at the registration table. Those that donated were entered for a beautiful oil painting by Haitian artist L. Anton won by Dr. Bonnie Carlson. The generous response from conference participants for the Red Cross Haitian Relief fund resulted in a total donation of $2,521.00.

Publication on Latina Mothers

SIRC collaborated with Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) to develop an educational intervention program designed to reduce existing health disadvantages of Latina mothers by empowering them to take an active part in the management of their health and encouraging them to advocate on their own behalf. Familias Sanas (Healthy Families) was implemented at a prenatal clinic on the campus of MIHS. A subsequent article was authored by SIRC Director, Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., Monica Bermudez-Parsai, Ph.D., and Dr. Dean V. Coonrod, MD, MPH, OB/GYN and Research Director for MIHS.

The article titled, “Familias Sanas: An intervention designed to increase rates of postpartum visits among Latinas”, has been published by the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved.

SIRC Visiting International Research Scholar

SIRC was delighted to host Dr. Cristina Villalba as the 2010 Visiting International Research Scholar during the month of March, 2010. Dr. Villalba received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology and is a tenured Professor of Social Work at the Universidad Pablo de Olavide in Sevilla, Spain where she also directs Ph.D. research methods seminars. Her research interests are family studies, specifically foster care and family treatment and developing interventions for families at risk. Dr. Villalba culminated the SIRC visit by sharing her research work in an afternoon colloquium on March 31, 2010 presenting, “Child Welfare Workers in Southern Spain: Their stories and their dreams”. Please visit our website for a full citation and abstract.

SIRC Leadership Awards

From Left: Dr. Mary Gillmore, Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, and MiAsia Pasha

SIRC Research Leadership Award

for Outstanding Contributions to the Elimination of Health Disparities

SIRC accepts nominations from the academic arena for scholars that exceed expectations in research contributions toward the prevention and elimination of health disparities. Mary R. Gillmore, Ph.D., received the SIRC Research Leadership Award for her dedicated role in recruiting and training aspiring research scholars to understand the social, psychological, and biological determinants of health disparities. Mary educates the next generation of researchers on the cultural processes that affect health disparities in the Latinos, American Indian, African American and Asian American populations of our Southwest region. Dr. Gillmore recently completed her term as the Director of Social Work at Arizona State University and continues to be active as the Principal Investigator for the Research, Education and Training Core (RETO) at SIRC.

SIRC Community Leadership Award

for Outstanding Contributions to the Elimination of Health Disparities

SIRC recognizes individuals that are involved in their community to help minimize the effects of health disparities and maximize the hope for better health. Ms. MiAsia Pasha received the SIRC Community Leadership Award during the April conference for her dedication to eliminate HIV/AIDS disparities within minority populations of the Southwest. She is committed to the education and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the African American community. MiAsia’s involvement with the community includes helping the homeless and the women of Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS). She is affiliated with the Ryan White Planning Council and is a community advocate for the Black AIDS Task Force.
SIRC - Exploratory Center of Excellence

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

Families Preparing the New Generation: A Supplemental Parent Education Intervention to Enhance the Efficacy of keepin’ it REAL
Pl: Felipe G. Castro, Ph.D., Co-Pl: 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
Pl: Eddie Brown, DSW, Co-Pl: Stephen Kulis, Ph.D.,
Project Director: Patricia Dustman, Ed.D.

Community-Based Participatory Research to Improve Health and Quality of Life of Latino Youth: Every Little Step Counts – Pl: Gabriel O. Sharbi, Ph.D.

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

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

Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
School of Social Work, College of Public Programs

Who is SIRC?
38 Faculty Research Affiliates
3 Clinical Research Faculty Affiliates
2 Early Career Research Faculty Fellows in Health Disparities Research
1 Postdoctoral Health Disparities Research Scholar
4 Ph.D. Research Interns in Health Disparities
10 Graduate Research Associates
18 Graduate Research Assistants
2 Undergraduate Interns
12 SIRC Staff Members

• Consulting services by the Office of Evaluation and Partner Contracts, Assistant Director, Wendy Wolfsteig, Ph.D.
• Community Advisory Board
• International Scientific Advisory Board
• Research Core - Focus on addressing knowledge gaps pertaining to cultural processes and fundamental causes affecting health and health disparities.
• Research, Education & Training Core (RETC) - Developing the next generation of health disparities researchers and scholars through research training and education.
• Community Engagement & Outreach Core (CEOC) - Expands outreach efforts and recruits community partners to identify health and health disparities issues.

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 is Funded by:
• The National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) / National Institutes of Health (NIH), award: P20MD002316
• Arizona State University
• Evaluation contracts with community partners

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

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