This is the first issue of the 13th volume of InFocus, in other words we have been communicating through this venue for 13 years and this school year (2016-2017) SIRC celebrates its 15th year. SIRC's research portfolio continues to grow and expand based on the needs identified by our community partners and investigators. As we announced last year, CITIR (Center for International Translational Intervention Research) was born as part of such expansion. Through CITIR, SIRC’s evidence based interventions are being adapted and tested by community-investigator teams in many countries around the globe. At the same time we are expanding our research partnerships within the US as the urban American Indian youth and family interventions are being planned for urban American Indian communities beyond the Southwest. All this work is made possible by of the continuous commitment and hard work of our community partners, our competent staff and our very talented faculty affiliates. As students return from their break we at SIRC/ CITIR reflect on a summer well spent advancing our respective missions in Arizona, the nation and the world. This issue of InFocus will give you a taste of our various projects and accomplishments. Thank you for all your contributions to the enterprise. Please continue to participate and keep in touch as a new school year unfolds filled with many hopes and discoveries.

Peace and wellbeing,
Flavio F. Marsiglia, PhD
Regents' Professor and Director, CITIR & SIRC

Welcome visiting faculty, new PhD student, and visiting scholars

We are pleased to welcome the following:

James Herbert Williams, PhD, MSW, MPA, Visiting Faculty
Dr. Williams has served as Professor, Dean, Distinguished Emil M. Sunley Endowed Chair, and Milton Morris Endowed Chair at the University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work from 2007-2016. Prior to going to Denver, Dr. Williams was the Foundation Professor of Youth and Diversity at the ASU School of Social Work. Williams’ research and scholarship focuses on K-12 academic performance, youth violence, delinquency prevention, adolescent substance use, race and gender differences, and mental health service needs and utilization patterns in urban schools. Dr. Williams will spend a year with us at SIRC helping with our strategic planning and sustainability efforts as well as providing leadership on specific projects and cores. Welcome Dr. Williams!

Charlene Poola, PhD Student
Charlene is a 1st year PhD student in the School of Social Work and is a recipient of the diversity fellowship through ASU’s graduate college. Her fellowship at SIRC will focus on reducing health disparities among urban American Indians.

Aigul Chinasilova, Visiting Doctoral Scholar, Kazakhstan
Aigul is currently a doctoral student at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University located in Kazakhstan (central Asia). His research focuses on aging and social welfare.

Ayesha Bugvi, Visiting Doctoral Scholar, Pakistan
Ayesha is currently a doctoral student at the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, University of the Punjab located in Pakistan. Her research focuses on challenges in optimal work performance of community health workers.
In an effort to increase community-wide health literacy, SIRC and its Community Advisory Board (CAB) engage in a collaborative process to translate research to practice. The CAB selects publications that inform about health equity, prevention, and interventions that are relevant to the communities they serve. Together, SIRC and CAB develop “Research in Action” research summaries, and “Policy Briefs” conduct to affect action and advocacy.

This fall season, download and share a copy of the latest Research in Action, October 5, 2016 Title TBD Lubaayna Fawcett, P.T., Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Physical Therapy, Mayo Clinic Community corner

Research in Action

- The Influence of Family and Friends on American Indian Youth’s Intent to Use Substances
- The Need for Mental Health Screening for Refugee Women
- Diabetes Related Stress and the Importance of Self-Care
- The Importance of Acculturation on Latina Women’s Health

Policy Briefs

- Effectiveness of Promotoras in Engaging Latino Parents
- Acculturation and Life Satisfaction among Mexican immigrants
- Battling School Bullying: what works to make schools safer?

Faculty research affiliate news

Congratulations to Drs. Olga Davis and Kelly Jackson on their recent promotion and tenure appointments.

Science in the City

The Community Engagement and Outreach Core (CEOC) of the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) hosted the annual Phoenix Union High School District’s 8th grade summer program. Science in the City. The SIRC CEOC, in collaboration with ASU’s Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (CHPDP) in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation (CONHI), welcomed an average of 28 students and teachers from the Phoenix Union High School District and its feeder elementary districts on June 7, 14 and 21. Each of the three sessions allowed students to learn about SIRC’s health disparities research programs, prevention of diabetes, and the importance of staying active and eating healthy foods. The students learned about the SIRC research projects and participated in physical fitness activities at the Downtown Sun Devil Fitness Center. Each session concluded at the Downtown Taylor Active @ASU Kitchen by creating healthy snacks from granola, low fat yogurt, and fruit. The SIRC-CONHI collaborative, community-university event could not have been successful without the involvement of the volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul, American Diabetes Association, CHPDP Youth Advisory Board, and CONHI Doctor of Nursing Practice, who donated time and resources to teach students about sugar and fat content in foods, the importance of sleep, and maintaining a healthy blood pressure.

Community Leaders in Promoting Health Equity

The American Dream Academy’s (ADA) Director, Alex Perilla along with ADA staff and facilitators were recognized with a Community Leadership Award for Promoting Health Equity on April 4, 2016 by Dr. Marsiglia and the SIRC team. ADA and SIRC successfully completed a three year partnership to implement the Families Preparing the New Generation (FPNG) parenting curriculum and the keepin’ it REAL. 4R youth drug prevention intervention in 19 Phoenix area public middle schools with 533 Latino parents and youth. The effectiveness trial is funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health and is aimed at equipping a community-based organization such as ADA with an evidence-based curriculum to test the effectiveness of implementing the programs in a real-world setting. ADA will continue to make the FPNG and HR programs available through their extensive ASU – K-12 school partnerships across the Valley.
Health Policy Advocates

The Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) Community Engagement and Outreach Core (CEOC) concluded its six-week Health Policy Advocacy training on June 9, 2016. The advocacy series kicked off its third cohort on May 5, 2016, with 24 participants. The 23 participants who completed the course represented a diverse scope of the community including: Center for Neighborhood Leadership, Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Asian Pacific Community in Action, Chicana Por La Causa, St. Mary’s Food Bank, higher learning institutions including ASU, Midwestern, and Grand Canyon, and other local agencies. The purpose of the training is to inspire and equip citizens with the necessary skills to become active advocates so they can build relationships with policy makers. We are grateful to the City of Phoenix’s HOPE VI Emmett McLoughlin Community Training and Education Center for hosting this training. Health advocacy facilitators, Timothy Schmaltz and Catherine Eden, PhD, delivered “…an incredible training as much for the depth of planned curriculum, as the brilliance of the humans in the cohort,” stated one participant. Another participant added, “From the content of this training, I will be able to advocate appropriately and with correct avenues.” Participants learned about health disparities and the health care system in Arizona, framing political messages, and how to work through community groups and coalitions.

Office of Evaluation and Partner Contracts

Using Data to Empower Arizona Communities is a free training designed to teach preventionists, community leaders and coalitions, policymakers, and other key stakeholders who work on issues related to substance abuse to better use the vast data resources to guide program planning, implementation and evaluation.

Center for International Translational Intervention Research

keepin’ REAL in Mexico

The bi-national research team led by CITIR in collaboration with the National Psychiatry Institute of Mexico, the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon, and The Milton H. Erickson Institute of Guadalajara have initiated Year 2 of the 5 year cultural adaptation and randomized controlled trial of keepin’ REAL in Mexico’s three largest cities: Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey. In Year 1, teams in each site trained teachers to implement keepin’ REAL with 7th grade students and received feedback on cultural adaptation through implementation, and student and teacher focus groups. Drs. Marsiglia and Kulis and the R01 Mexico team met in Guadalajara in August, 2016 in preparation for Year 2 which will involve a revised curriculum based in the Mexican context, and new videos as part of the program that will reflect students from all 3 major Mexican cities.

keepin’ REAL in Spain

The keepin’ REAL or Mantente REAL pilot study in Sevilla, Spain was completed in the spring 2016 semester in collaboration with the Universidad Pablo de Olavide, 10 middle school teachers, and 274 7th grade students. Drs. Marsiglia and Kulis led the keepin’ REAL teacher training with CITIR’s research partners in Spain, including Dr. David Karacin who will complete his 6-month International Exchange Scholar Fellowship with CITIR in October, 2016. The project will continue as more Sevilla schools and students receive the school-based intervention and further data analysis is done to glean insight on cultural adaptation in the Spanish context, and effectiveness of prevention against youth substance abuse and risk.

NIMHD Disparities Research Institute Scholar

Arin D. Martinez, assistant professor in the School of Transborder Studies and an Early Career Faculty Fellow with the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center, has been selected as a 2016 National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar. The Institute, held August 15-19 in Bethesda, Maryland, provides participants with a broad overview of the leading issues facing minority health and health disparities. It also supports development of individual projects by promising scientists early in their careers. Dr. Martinez’ research seeks to integrate both biobehavioral and socio-ecological approaches to understand how the local implementation of immigration enforcement policies creates material deprivation and psychosocial stress in mixed-status families. She is currently leading a Phoenix-based, pilot study examining how chronic stressors, including fear of deportation, are related to saliva biomarkers for stress and inflammation among mixed-status, Mexican families.
Aku Anyi Swastha: Help for Health

Aku Anyi Swastha (AAS)-Help for Health, is a community-based participatory research project that was developed to bridge the gap in health literacy in vulnerable communities by enhancing the dissemination of health information in order to improve access to health care services and the adoption of preventive health behavior. During the first two phases of the project, eleven members of the Burmese and Bhutanese refugee communities in Phoenix were recruited and trained to become Community Health Advisors (CHAs) and Certified Application Counselors (CACs) using the Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Method. In addition to increasing access to health care by enrolling a total of 318 Burmese and Bhutanese refugees in health care plans using the online Marketplace through the Affordable Care Act, the CHAs also assessed health literacy needs and disseminated relevant health information within their respective communities. The next steps will be to focus on addressing mental health concerns which was identified as a health priority in the Burmese and Bhutanese refugee communities. Through a partnership with Catholic Charities Community Services and the Refugee Women’s Health Clinic, the AAS initiative will embark upon a collaborative pilot program to train the CHAs to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate adjustment support groups which will enable them to increase Burmese and Bhutanese refugees’ access to and utilization of mental health services through Maricopa County’s regional behavioral health providers.

Publications


Presentations


