SIRC Expands into Research Center

The Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Consortium (SIRC) will celebrate its 3rd anniversary by becoming the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center: Culturally Grounded Prevention and Services Research. The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) votes on granting SIRC ABOR Research Center status on January 28, 2005. The expansion of the Consortium into a Research Center reflects SIRC’s rapid growth and development since its inception in 2002 and the strong institutional support of the ASU administration. The College of Public Programs, the School of Social Work, the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Economic Affairs, and the Office of the Provost have each made major investments in support of SIRC’s candidacy for center status.

As a result of SIRC’s new status:

• Meghan McKendry 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.

• Migs Woodside has joined SIRC as Senior Advisor. Migs was instrumental in developing the strategic plan that led to the application for Center status.

• A part-time Grant Writer will soon be added to the SIRC team to provide grant writing and grant development services to our faculty affiliates.

Center status will strengthen SIRC’s research infrastructure and accelerate its growth into a leading center of community-based research that addresses the health needs of diverse communities, families and children in the Southwest.

International Initiatives

The Galicia Project

This year SIRC welcomed Dr. Maria Angeles Luengo, Professor of Psychology at the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela in Galicia-Spain, as our first international exchange scholar. An expert on prevention research with youth, Dr. Luengo’s residency at ASU is the result of a NIDA international initiative promoting collaborations between drug abuse researchers in Spain and the United States, formalized by an agreement between the Director of NIDA, Dr. Nora D. Volkow, and her Spanish counterpart in Spring 2004.

Dr. Luengo will return to Galicia in mid-January 2005. While she will be missed by the SIRC team, the international collaboration between both universities will continue through our joint Galicia Latin America Immigrant Youth project. Buen viaje, Dr. Luengo!

The Galicia Project is a multiphase project examining the processes of resiliency and risk of youth in Spain who come from families who have emigrated from Latin America. One phase underway is a study of substance use among 12-14 year olds in different regions of Spain compared to youth in Arizona from different ethnic groups, with a focus on the gender gaps in substance use in each country and subgroup. The group has also designed a survey of identity, acculturation and social integration issues for Latin American immigrant youth in Spain, and how they may relate to substance use. The survey will be administered in 10 schools in Galicia in spring of 2005.

Meanwhile, SIRC faculty have been at work with educators from Spain to formally adapt the SIRC and PSU created model program of culturally grounded substance use prevention—keepin’ it REAL—for use with immigrant and native-born youth in Spain. A small scale trial of the adapted program will be fielded in Spain in 2005, forming the basis for an international R-01 application to NIDA with Dr. Luengo and Dr. Flavio Marsiglia as PIs.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SIRC Annual Conference
April 29, 2005
Fiesta Inn
Tempe, AZ

SIRC Research Brown Bags
Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of Spring ’05 at 12:00 p.m. at SIRC, Tempe Towne Center, University and Mill, Suite 205

WHO IS SIRC?

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

Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
Arizona State University
PO Box 873711
Tempe, AZ 85287-3711
Phone: (480) 965-4699
Fax: (480) 727-6085

http://sirc.asu.edu
Community Initiatives

**Latino Adolescent Acculturation and Health Project (LAAHP)**
LAAHP studies acculturation, health risk behavior, and health protection in Latino adolescents residing in North Carolina and Arizona, addressing acculturation and health issues for adolescents in the context of their families. ASU PI: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia. Status: SIRC Pilot, R-01 under development.

**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-related diagnoses relate to effective treatment engagement. PI: Dr. Layne Stromwall. Community partner: Chicanos por la Causa. Status: SIRC Pilot, R-21 application in development.

**Medication Adherence and Treatment Alliances under Voluntary and Involuntary Conditions**
This study investigates the impact of the quality of relationships with case managers on medication adherence for persons with psychosis under conditions of voluntary and involuntary treatment. The study is an outgrowth of a SIRC-NIDA funded pilot that examined issues of coercion, trust, and perceived justice in treatment engagement of parents in family drug courts. PI: Dr. José Ashford. Community partners: Value Options and Mercer Pharmaceutical. Status: R-01 application under review.

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

**Project Corazón**
Project Corazón investigates the relationship between fathers and sons as a protection against drug abuse. Community partner: Chicanos por la Causa. PI: Dr. Felipe Castro. Status: SIRC Pilot, R-01 under development.

**School Initiatives**

**Drug Resistance Strategies: keepin' it REAL for 5th Graders**
This NIDA-funded R-01 study is a 5-year-long 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. This study aims to: (1) 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) enhance the existing 7th grade keepin' it REAL multicultural intervention (a SAMSHA model program) by increasing the dosage adding an acculturation-related material and by examining the most efficacious age of intervention, 5th versus 7th grade; and (3) examine ecological risk and resiliency factors, such as parental monitoring, perceived discrimination, and acculturation stress as moderators of prevention effects. ASU PIs: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia & Dr. Stephen Kulis. Status: Funded NIH/NIDA R-01 with Penn State University.

**Universal Prevention for Diverse Groups**
Proposed under an initiative to support new approaches to studying innovative drug prevention intervention projects, Universal Prevention for Diverse Groups involves secondary data analysis of the efficacy of keepin' it REAL as a universal intervention for subgroups of youth who differ in terms of identified individual and environmental risk and resiliency factors (e.g., prior substance users and more acculturated Latinos). PI: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia & Dr. Stephen Kulis. Status: R-01 application, revise and resubmit.

**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: K application under review.

**The American Indian Youth Pilot Project**
This pilot examines the unique cultural factors that contribute to drug use and resistance of Native youth. The pilot identifies culturally and environmental specific situations where Native youth are exposed to and protected from substance use offers, and to inventory the socially competent and noncompetent ways that they respond in these situations. The focus is on Native students who attend middle schools with non-Native majorities. PIs: Craig LeCroy & 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. PI: Dr. Karen Miller-Loessi. Status: R-21 under development.

Check out our website!
http://sirc.asu.edu