SIRC Director Honored by the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse
The National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN) has awarded SIRC Director Flavio F. Marsiglia the 2006 National Award for Excellence in Mentorship. The award was presented at NHSN’s annual conference in Scottsdale in September 2006, and recognizes a senior investigator who has provided outstanding mentorship in the area of Hispanic drug abuse to graduate students and new investigators.

Eight ASU doctoral students from social work, justice studies and sociology nominated Dr. Marsiglia. The students cited five published co-authored papers, five more under review and others in progress, along with 11 co-presentations, 14 poster sessions and three fellowships as testimony to Marsiglia’s mentorship, research collaboration and guidance. The nominators also praised Marsiglia’s ties to local and international communities and his focus on responsiveness to real-world health problems.

The NHSN is dedicated to improving the health of Hispanics by increasing the amount and quality of interdisciplinary research on drug abuse; and fostering the development of Hispanic scientists in drug abuse research. SIRC is proud to have four NHSN fellows on our core team: Dr. Marsiglia, Dr. Felipe Castro, Ms. Tanya Nieri, and Ms. Monica Parsai.

SIRC Welcomes Dr. Hilda Garcia
SIRC is pleased to announce the expansion of our research training component with the implementation of a Post-Doctoral research fellow program. Dr. Hilda Garcia received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Garcia joins SIRC with a strong academic and research background obtained from many years of experience with various borderlands universities in the United States and Mexico, and is coordinating with Dr. Marsiglia the Guanajuato Youth and Family Health Project and other SIRC Initiatives.

Applications Under Review
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 Spring 2007 Events
2/8: Dr. Paula Tavrow, School of Public Health, UCLA- “Adolescent Reproductive Health in Africa: The Last Frontier”
2/27: Dr. Alyson Shapiro, School of Social and Family Dynamics- “The Baby and the Marriage: Examining Inter-related Family Sub-systems in Low and High Risk Families”
3/21: Dr. José Cobas, School of Social and Family Dynamics- “Stress from Within: Latinas/os in the United States”
3/27: Dr. Mike Niles, School of Social Work- “White Mountain Apache Tribe Early Childhood Intervention - Project Dream Feather”
4/20: SIRC 5th Annual Research Conference
4/24: Dr. Brandon Yoo, School of Social and Family Dynamics- “Experience and Coping Process of Perceived Racism among Asian Americans”

For locations and times visit our webpage at: http://sirc.asu.edu
by collaborators on this proposal include the School of Social Work, Sociology, Nursing, American Indian Studies and Communications.

The proposed main studies aim to advance knowledge on drug abuse prevention with Latino families and American Indian youth. Additionally, there is a pilot study that investigates cultural protective factors in relation to HIV/AIDS risk among adolescents. The application includes a research training core for junior faculty and students of all levels, and a community engagement core designed to address the needs of practitioners.

Global Partnerships for HIV/AIDS Prevention: Research Capacity-building in Northern Tanzania - SIRC was again selected as the sole applicant from Arizona State University to apply to NIH for funding through the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) for a Tanzania-U.S. Global Partnerships for Social Science AIDS Research Infrastructure Grant (R24). SIRC’s application proposes a partnership with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College and Students for International Change to strengthen the HIV/AIDS research infrastructure to conduct social science research in Tanzania by Tanzanian researchers.

Upcoming 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.

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 serves as the community partner for both the pilot and this study.

PI: Dr. Felipe Castro.
Status: R-01 application scheduled for Summer 2007 submission.

Youth Social Acceptance Related to Substance Abuse

This study investigates ethnic appearance differences and substance use attitudes and behaviors among 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. Pilot data is in the analysis stage.

ASU PI: Dr. Lynn Holley.
Florida State PI: Dr. Verna Keith.
Status: Application in development for Fall 2007 submission.

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 grades 5 through 12 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.

Three additional rural Arizona school districts have agreed to participate in the study, and the SIRC team is currently advising on research design and methodology issues in preparation for an application submission.

PI: Dr. Karen Miller-Loessi, CoPI: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia.
Status: R-01 in development for Summer 2007 submission.

Methodological Support

SIRC Data Analysis Clinic

The Data Analysis Clinic is for SIRC faculty affiliates and research assistants who meet to discuss conceptual, methodological and statistical issues that arise from quantitative and qualitative data analysis projects. Our meetings are open to everyone connected to SIRC, including students, faculty and staff.

The clinic meets Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the ASU Down-
town Phoenix Campus during the Spring and Fall semesters.

**Research Incubator Initiatives**

*Guanajuato Youth and Family Health Project*

SIRC is expanding its research presence in Mexico. Dr. Flavio Marsiglia and Arizona State University have negotiated the signing of a research agreement with representatives of the government of the state of Guanajuato. The agreement formalizes SIRC’s school-based research program in the area. The first stage of this project consists of an epidemiological survey to be administered during Spring 2007.

The joint research project has the following objectives: (1) to identify and characterize protective and risk factors associated with the physical and mental health of individual students; (2) to evaluate whether or not these factors affect school retention; (3) to assess whether migration aspirations of these students affect their commitment to school and graduation rates, as well as their health profiles; and (4) to characterize the perceptions of students and families about health, education, work, migration and their communities.

**Monterrey, Mexico**

In collaboration with Mexican researchers at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, SIRC is continuing 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*. The Monterrey project is in the data analysis and manuscript development stage.

**HIV/AIDS**

This study group leads community-based research projects in partnership with local agencies with an emphasis on investigating the cultural dimensions of HIV/AIDS prevention. Partners include TERROS Behavioral Health Services and Concilio Latino de Salud.

SIRC has recently undertaken a research partnership with Dr. Bertram Jacobs from the School of Life Sciences comparing HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of college students and the impact of a college course on HIV through a survey study.

**Child Welfare and Substance Abuse**

This pilot investigates children living with foster parents. Many of the children who come into contact with Child Protective Services and who are subsequently removed from their homes have parents with substance abuse problems. Previous research shows that these children have a relatively high risk of developing substance abuse problems later on in life. The pilot will look at how substance abuse risk and resilience in a school-based foster care population compares to children in other living environments, e.g., adoptive homes, two- and single-parent homes. This project is led by Dr. Judy Krysik with the School of Social Work.

**Externally Funded Research Projects**

**Latino Acculturation & Health Project**

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 objective is reducing health disparities among this group. The sample consists of 150 families in the greater Phoenix area, and 150 families in North Carolina. Researchers collect data from one adult and one adolescent 14-18 years of age in each participating family.

LAHP is a 3-yr study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The project is in its third year, and data collection for Wave 4 has been completed.

ASU PI: Dr. Flavio F. Marsiglia; ASU Project Coord.: Monica Parsai.

UNC PI: Dr. Paul Smokowski.

**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 intervention (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.

ASU PIs: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, Dr. Stephen Kulis.

Penn State PI: Dr. Michael Hecht.
WHO IS SIRC?

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

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