Greetings From Our Director

Welcome back from the winter break! I hope you are all well and reenergized as we start a new semester full of challenges and opportunities. The earthquake in Haiti and its related humanitarian cataclysm is ever present in our minds and spirits. This is a humanitarian crisis caused by forces of nature but very much related to environmental degradation, inequalities and lack of infrastructure and preparedness. Haiti is the least developed country in the hemisphere and one of the poorest countries in the world. The United Nations’ Human Development Index ranks Haiti in 147th place out of 177 countries. Haiti’s case makes us think very hard about global health and about health disparities as a global phenomenon.

At SIRC we are in the businesses of researching interventions to reduce and eliminate health disparities. In April we will be holding our annual research conference under a very timely theme: Health disparities: A global challenge, a local response. The conference’s outstanding keynote speaker, Dr. Nabila El-Bassel from Columbia University, will help us think about these complex issues from her perspective as a leading researcher in Africa, Asia and with marginalized communities in the U.S. I invite you to reflect on this theme as we prepare for the conference to be held on April 23.

At the same time I invite you to continue with your efforts in supporting our brothers and sisters in Port-au-Prince. These are some ASU recommended charities where you can make your contributions: The American Red Cross www.redcross.org, UNICEF www.unicef.org, and CARE www.care.org. Haiti is a reminder that health disparities are a local and a global reality. The resiliency of its people inspires us to redouble our efforts and commitment to reduce and eliminate health disparities. I look forward to seeing or hearing from you soon as the semester progresses and as we continue our important work in partnership with communities in the Southwest and around the globe.

Best wishes for a productive and fulfilling semester,

Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., Director
Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
Distinguished Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health
School of Social Work, Arizona State University

Upcoming SIRC Events

02/03/10 | Health Disparities Journal Club
From the PBS documentary series, “UN-NATURAL CAUSES”: View a 29 minute video titled, “Bad Sugar” followed by a 30 minute discussion. What are the connections between diabetes, oppression, and empowerment in two Native American communities?
Wednesday, Noon | ASU University Center SIRC - Suite 720

02/17/10 | SIRC Lecture Series
Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., SIRC Director
“Health disparities from a global health perspective: The Tanzania Experience”
Wednesday, Noon | ASU University Center SIRC - Suite 720

03/03/10 | Health Disparities Journal Club
Margarita Alegria’s work on the Mental Health Encounter from the NIH Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities.
Wednesday, Noon | ASU University Center SIRC - Suite 720

03/04/10 | SIRC Colloquium
Sheldon D. Fields, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Nursing, University of Rochester
“Project YEAH: Innovative HIV Research for Young MSM of Color”
Thursday, 4:00 PM | ASU University Center SIRC – Suite 720

03/14-21/10 | Spring break

04/07/10 | Health Disparities Journal Club
“Challenges in Health Disparities: Neighborhood Definitions”.
Wednesday, Noon | ASU University Center SIRC - Suite 720

04/23/10 | SIRC 8th Annual Research Conference
“Health Disparities: A Global Challenge, a Local Response”
Keynote speaker, Nabila El-Bassel, Ph.D., Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work and Director of the Social Intervention Group (SIG), Director of the Columbia University Global Health Research Center of Central Asia (GHRCCA).
Friday – Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Phoenix, Arizona
http://sirc.asu.edu/calendar

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 1:00-2:00 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 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 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.

Save the Date - April 23, 2010 | SIRC Research Conference
Speaker: Nabila El-Bassel, Ph.D., Professor at Columbia University

http://sirc.asu.edu/calendar
SIRC Health Information Kiosks

SIRC’s Health Information Website celebrated “Grand Openings” at two community health centers, Valle del Sol and John F. Long Family Services Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The Health Information Website developed by SIRC’s Community Engagement and Outreach Core (CEOC) uses kiosks to bilingually inform public users about health issues in the main core research areas of HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, and Substance Use.

The grand openings were successful in attracting health center visitors and patients in learning how to use the kiosks and access the website for health information. Kiosk users are encouraged to fill out a Needs Assessment survey on the website, anonymously submit questions regarding health issues on the site’s Public Forum and to visit the News and Events page for health information and activities taking place in the Phoenix area. Submission of health related questions and survey responses have increased significantly since the grand openings. The data collected from the kiosks in the Public Forum and Needs Assessment surveys will support SIRC in research endeavors concerning health issues in the local community.

SIRC Research Assistants Kristen Bean and Hector Valdez organized both grand opening events. Dr. Olga Idriss Davis is the CEOC Principal Investigator and leads the efforts for the kiosk project.

SIRC CAB Initiation Luncheon at Sheraton

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) held an initiation luncheon in September at the Sheraton Hotel in Phoenix in recognition of the board’s first Chair and Vice-Chair positions. The CAB nominated and elected Doug Hirano as Chair and appointed Dr. Manuel Medina as Vice Chair. Mr. Hirano is Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Community in Action (APCA) in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Manuel Medina is Vice President of Diversity at TERROS Behavioral Health Services, Inc. in Phoenix, Arizona.

The CAB is currently comprised of seventeen local community organizations providing information and identifying concerns and potential solutions in health and health disparity issues at the community level and in their areas of professional expertise. SIRC strives to incorporate the CAB’s input to develop use-inspired research.

SIRC Family & Supporters Celebrate the Holidays

Approximately 60 SIRC team members, affiliates and supporters came together on December 9, 2009 to welcome the holiday season and celebrate the completion of another year filled with significant accomplishments and a growing list of SIRC supporters. The holiday season provided a timely opportunity to pause, gather and celebrate the sacred friendships and loyal supporters that help SIRC function successfully. Thank you, SIRC friends and family, for making this a memorable and fruitful year!

New Roles with SIRC

Holly Lewis and Aimee Sitzler joined SIRC’s Evaluation and Partner Contracts unit in November. Ms. Lewis was previously associated with SIRC as a Research Assistant while completing her MSW. She served as a community resource manager for the Boys Hope Girls Hope program before returning to SIRC as an Evaluation and Coalition Coordinator.

Ms. Sitzler recently completed her MSW while working as a SIRC Research Assistant with the Familias Sanas study. She continues her association with SIRC as an Evaluation and Suicide Prevention Coordinator. The evaluation team also includes SIRC Research Assistants Elizabeth Schepel and DesiRae Deschine. Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig is the SIRC Assistant Director of Evaluation and Partner Contracts.

SIRC & Community Partners at AIDS Awareness Fair

SIRC displayed an array of posters depicting research studies on HIV/AIDS for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) on October 15, 2009. This year Arizona State University hosted the NLAAD Fair held on Taylor Mall at the ASU Downtown Campus. Other key sponsors including SIRC were community partners Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Concilio Latino de Salud, Heal International, Adelante, SW Center for HIV/AIDS, Ebony House and TERROS. Judy Norton from Arizona’s Office of HIV, STD & Hepatitis and Dr. Elizabeth Valdez from Concilio Latino de Salud fielded questions from fair participants. Tables with information and free HIV testing by Ebony House were part of the fair.

RJ Shannon, Minority Aids Coordinator for ADHS in Arizona and SIRC Community Advisory Board member was the program organizer.
SIRC Senior Advisor Honored by ASU Alumni Association

Migs Woodside, SIRC Senior Advisor, was presented the ASU Alumni Appreciation Award on October 31, 2009 during the halftime program of the ASU-California Homecoming game. Ms. Woodside was a guest of honor in the homecoming parade and received special attention from Sparky, the ASU mascot! Dean Debra Friedman, Dr. Olga Davis and Paul Christensen nominated Ms. Woodside for the Appreciation Award in recognition of her many contributions to ASU. At SIRC, she works on behalf of community outreach and engagement efforts, including a recent restructuring of the center’s Community Advisory Board. In addition to her work with SIRC, Ms. Woodside serves as a board member for the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics at ASU and sits on the board of ASU’s College of Public Programs.

Ms. Woodside is the recipient of numerous past awards, most recently from the National Association for Children of Alcoholics, South Oaks Foundation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She was the founder and president of the Children of Alcoholics Foundation from 1982 to 1995 and currently chairs the Harvard School of Public Health’s advisory council for the Center for Health and Society.

Migs’ SIRC family held a surprise reception in celebration and appreciation of her many contributions and accomplishments. ASU Alumni picked a winner! Congratulations dear Migs!

MIHS - SIRC Community Partner

Left: MIHS Research Team: Back Row, Colin Irving, Research Assistant, Lucy Hosmer, Certified Nurse Midwives, Renju Raj, M.D., Kathie Records, Ph.D. and Maria Manriquez, M.D. -Front Row: Blanca Flor Jimenez, Research Manager, Dean V. Coonrod M.D. and Research Director, Monica Gutierrez, MS, Allison Nagle Williams, MSW, Monica Parsai, Ph.D., Lacey LaBarge, M.D. and Sheena Samaniego, Research Assistant

SIRC’s community partners play an important collaborative role in perpetual research efforts. The Ob/Gyn Research Department of Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) is one of SIRC’s invaluable partners participating in the study of health and health disparities. Some contributions include studies such as Familias Sanas with PI and SIRC Director, Dr. Flavio F. Marsiglia and Dr. Monica Parsai, SIRC Assistant Director of Family Intervention Research; the Refugee Women’s Health Project with PI Dr. Crista Johnson; and a newly funded Asthma Disparities in Latino Children initiated by Principal Investigator Dr. Kimberly Sidora-Arcoleo. The MIHS Ob/Gyn Research Department is under the direction of Dean V. Coonrod, MD, MPH and Ob/Gyn Department Chair and Research Director.

SIRC Affiliate Receives Community Luminary Recognition

Dr. Christa Johnson has been selected as a Community Luminary by the State of Black Arizona Advisory Council. The State of Black Arizona is a collaboration between educational and community organizations dedicated to disseminating research findings and knowledge about African Americans in Arizona. In addition, this organization serves as a data repository to help inform decision makers of the status of African Americans and a forum for community input and proposals.

The Community Luminary process was created to help identify and acknowledge individuals that impact lives by devoting their time and talents in hospitals, schools, churches and local organizations. Dr. Johnson was nominated for the Community Luminary award by Dr. Olga Davis and Dr. Alyssa Robillard.

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 integral role at SIRC as Clinical Research Affiliate and Principal Investigator for the Refugee Women’s Health Project.

Congratulations to Dr. Crista Johnson for her significant contributions and dedication in addressing health and health disparity issues within the local community and the state of Arizona!

SIRC Affiliate Receives Inspire Award

AARP The Magazine salutes outstanding individuals who are using their energy, creativity, and passion to make the world a better place. Dr. Aida Luz Maisonet Giachello, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago and director of the Midwest Latino Health Research, Training and Policy Center is one of 10 individuals that recently received the 2010 Inspire Award from AARP The Magazine. Dr. Giachello is a renowned Latino health activist working to enact policies in health and health disparities among the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, women and elderly populations.

Dr. Giachello is a prominent member on SIRC’s International Scientific Advisory Board. Her most recent visit to the Valley of the Sun was as the keynote speaker for SIRC’s 2009 Research Conference where Dr. Giachello’s theme was “Addressing Health Disparities through Community and Health System Change”.

Congratulations, Dr. Aida Giachello!
SIRC at a Glance

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

Global Health International Initiatives: Spain, Mexico and Tanzania
PI: 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 Intercultural 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.

Arizona Department of Health Services: Evaluation, Coalition Building & Prevention contract
PI: Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., Co-PI: Wendy L. Wolfsteig, Ph.D.,
Project Director: Holly Lewis, MSW

Arizona Department of Health Services: Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention grant, external evaluation contract
PI: Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., Co-PI: Wendy L. Wolfsteig, Ph.D.,
Project Director: Aimee Sitzler, MSW

City of Phoenix, HUD HOPE VI Community and Support Services for Krohn West housing redevelopment, external evaluation contract
PI: Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., Co-PI: Wendy L. Wolfsteig, 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