Greetings From Our Director

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of our fourth year of the five year award funding our Exploratory Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities. The continuation committee and our very active community collaborators are fully engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process. I would like to thank the CAB (Community Advisory Board) subcommittees for their very detailed feedback and recommendations for the future. There is a clear consensus that SIRC’s work is having a great impact and many innovative ideas are emerging regarding future research, training and community engagement. The planning phase for the renewal application will come to an end soon and the actual writing will begin. Please continue to actively participate in the process.

I want to welcome the selected Community Research Fellows (CRF), Emma Kibieu (Arizona Department of Health Services) and Zenan Hasan (Asian Pacific Community in Action) as they begin their intensive research training at SIRC. The main purpose of the CRF program is to strengthen the capacity of our community partners to conduct health disparities research. We plan to continue this initiative in the coming years and offer this opportunity to interested candidates representing our community organizational partners. I would also like to welcome Dr. Steven Anderson, Director of the ASU School of Social Work. We are very happy to have Dr. Anderson as our colleague and as a strong supporter for SIRC.

In closing, I need to remember the victims of the tragic events of Tucson in January, including Representative Gabrielle Giffords. The loss of lives and the overall senseless violence weighed heavily on our hearts as we were starting a new semester. One of the fatalities in the rampage was Gabe Zimmerman, MSW. He was an ASU graduate from the School of Social Work-Tucson Component and served as Director of Community Outreach for Representative Giffords. His death brought the tragedy even closer to home. The ASU Foundation is receiving donations for an endowed scholarship in Gabe’s memory. This painful event has deeply affected our communities, the state of Arizona and the nation. Our research projects to improve the well-being of our communities through our joint work inspire and energize us to redouble our efforts and hope.

Best wishes for peace and a fruitful semester,

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

Upcoming SIRC Events

January 19, 2011 | SIRC Colloquium
Sex, Drugs and Race: Decomposing the Network Contributions of Differing HIV-Risk Behaviors by Dr. Jimi Adams, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Arizona State University, School of Social and Family Dynamics, SIRC Faculty Research Fellow.
Wednesday – Noon to 1:00 PM
UCENT – SIRC Suite 720

February 2, 2011 | SIRC Colloquium
Why we like the foods we do: the Good, the Bad and the Fattening by Elizabeth Capaldi, Ph.D., University Provost and Executive Vice President at Arizona State University.
Wednesday – 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm
UCENT SIRC Suite 720

February 23, 2011 | SIRC Colloquium
Evaluation Data for Decision-making: Results and Recommendations by Wendy Wolfestein, Ph.D., SIRC Assistant Director of Evaluation & Partnership Contracts
Wednesday – Noon to 1:00 PM
UCENT SIRC Suite 720

March 23, 2011 | SIRC Colloquium
Understanding the Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Perceptions of the East African Culture by Angela Allen, MAT, EdS, EA, CRRN, Faculty Associate, Arizona State University, College of Nursing & Health Innovation
Wednesday – Noon to 1:00 PM
UCENT SIRC Suite 720

April 14, 2011 | SIRC Leadership Institute
Moving Forward: Building Healthy Communities through Leadership, Policy and Practice
Thursday – 8:00 to 5:00 pm
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona

April 15, 2011 | SIRC 9th Annual Research Conference
Moving Forward: Translating Health Disparities Research into Policy and Practice
Friday – 8:00 – 5:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona

http://sirc.asu.edu

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 1:00-1:45 PM

The Advanced Statistical Analysis Work Group (ASA WG) is a user’s group for advanced students, faculty and community partners addressing more complex methodological and statistical analysis. This group meets every Wednesday from 1:45 – 2:30 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 inequalities in health and their human and financial costs. The Journal Club meets first Wednesday of the month at noon.

The SIRC Lecture Series invites local, national and international experts in health disparities to present their prevention and intervention research 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. Typically these lectures are scheduled on Wednesdays at noon.

Check our website for dates/times and details.

http://sirc.asu.edu
Welcome to SIRC!

New at SIRC this semester are Shannon Hendricks, Jacob Yanachek and Tamima Ali working for the Office of Evaluation and Partner Contracts under the direction of Assistant Director, Dr. Wendy Wolfenstein. New Administration Assistant, Lori Chaira and SIRC Coordinator of Health Literacy, Kristen Baird have also joined SIRC. We also extend a warm SIRC welcome to Community Research Fellows, Emma Kibiou from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Zeenat Hasan representing the Asian Pacific Community in Action (APCA).

HEAL International Partners with SIRC

HEAL International is a nonprofit organization that provides healthcare, microfinance, and health education to resource-limited communities. HEAL has volunteers in Tanzania and paid employees working in East Africa but it also operates from multiple locations in Arizona pairing ASU volunteer students with youth.

HEAL volunteers began working with youth at the Boys & Girls Club and Flight33 in Guadalupe, Arizona (the small town between Phoenix and Tempe) in May of 2007. “The most important thing we’re doing in Arizona is our mentoring program for at-risk youth in Guadalupe,” said Damien Salamone, Executive Director of HEAL International. “Our volunteering is with children from ages 7 to 18, and is intended to empower them to make good choices for their health.”

HEAL uses professional trainers from SIRC to coach its volunteers and utilizes SIRC’s nationally certified keepin’ it REAL curriculum for education in drug prevention strategies. HEAL’s aim, which is to educate children in the power of good choices that may impact their health and SIRC’s goal in conducting minority health and health disparities research, training and community outreach, truly complement one another.

Dr. Johnson Receives Health Care Heroes Award

Dr. Crista Johnson, the Medical Director for the Refugee Women’s Health Clinic (RWHC) at Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) received the Phoenix Business Journal’s Health Care Heroes Award under the category of community outreach last semester.

Dr. Johnson specializes in obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) and is also an expert on the practice of female genital cutting—a cultural procedure that remains prevalent in some developing countries despite international bans. Her expertise and sensitivity help her and the clinic reach out to refugee women and girls who have been subjected to the genital cutting procedure in their home countries. Since the clinic opened in October 2008, it has served more than 500 refugee women, speaking 14 different languages, from over 18 countries.

“Dr. Johnson provides culturally sensitive, comprehensive women’s health services across the life span of refugees,” said SIRC Clinical Research Affiliate Dr. Dean V. Coonrod, Department Chair and Research Director of the OB/GYN department at MIHS.

Dr. Johnson is an Arizona State University Research Assistant Professor and plays an integral role at SIRC as Clinical Research Affiliate and Principal Investigator for the Refugee Women’s Health Project.

Media Attention for SIRC GA

SIRC Graduate Associate, Nicole Weller was among the ASU graduate students recognized for their outstanding research proposal and selected for funding by the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) and the Graduate College. Nicole was awarded $2,000 for her research project and plans to use the funds towards further development of her dissertation in Washington DC where she will have access to the restricted data source of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG).

Nicole, a doctoral student in sociology, presented her preliminary research findings regarding the relationship between early sex education and the onset of sexual activity at the 138th annual American Public Health Association Meeting & Expo in Denver, November 8, 2010. Her presentation reporting that “females are more likely to have an unprotected first sexual encounter than their male counterparts” generated local and national media attention. Success on all levels for Nicole!
SIRC GA Selected as Spirit of Service Scholar

The Spirit of Service Scholars (SOSS), initiated by University Vice President and Dean of Public Programs, Debra Friedman, is the first program of its kind in the country that recruits, selects and helps develop ambitious and academically outstanding students into effective and ethical public service leaders prepared to address and resolve the complex challenges of the next generation. Marcos Martinez is one of seventeen chosen from a competitive pool of 215 applicants, to participate in the SOSS program and one of three scholars selected to speak at an event launching the ASU program. As a Spirit of Service Scholar, Marcos receives a $5,000 scholarship, mentorship from high-profile practitioners and community leaders and several educational opportunities that focus on core public service topics.

In addition to Marcos’ exceptional academic record, he is an athlete and an accomplished classical pianist. Marcos is working towards his doctoral degree in Social Work and is an active Research Graduate Associate with SIRC. Congratulations Marcos!

Grant to Aid Urban American Indian Families

In September, SIRC was awarded a five-year, $1.9 million grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advance the Center’s mission of decreasing and/or eliminating health disparities issues in partnership with urban American Indian (AI) communities in Arizona.

This grant will allow SIRC researchers and community partners to develop, pilot, and test the efficacy of a parenting intervention designed to prevent behaviors that put AI youth at risk. The study responds to a need, identified by urban Indian coalitions in Arizona, for a culturally grounded prevention program that focuses on effective parenting strategies. The program will be tailored to the cultural and social forces that urban AI families face when addressing substance use and risky sexual behavior among their youth.

Until recently, SIRC’s research efforts with AI populations were limited to the metropolitan Phoenix area. This award allows research opportunities to be extended to a statewide level in collaboration with Arizona’s three urban Indian centers - the Phoenix Indian Center, the Tucson Indian Center, and Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) in Flagstaff.

The PI of the study is Dr. Stephen Kulis, who is also SIRC Director of Research, and the Co-PIs are Dr. Eddie Brown and Dr. Monica Parsai. Other key personnel include: Ms. Patti Hibbeler, director of the Phoenix Indian Center and member of SIRC’s Community Advisory Board, Dr. Stephanie Ayers, Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig, Dr. Eric Hedberg, Ms. Mary Harthun, and Ms. Leslie Reevea.

SIRC Embedded in Community

Helen Gándara, was recognized as a Diversity Champion on January 12, 2011 at the 17th Annual Scottsdale Community Celebration. The event was sponsored by the nonprofit organization, Community Celebrating Diversity (CCD), in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. Gándara was recognized for assuming a leadership role in improving the department’s relationship with the Hispanic community resulting in many significant and positive outcomes. Gándara is the Administrative Services Bureau Director for the Scottsdale Police Department and a valued SIRC Community Advisory Board member.

SIRC 9th Annual Research Conference

The 9th Annual SIRC Research Conference is scheduled to take place on Friday April 15, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. This year the conference theme is Moving Forward: Translating Health Disparities Research into Policy and Practice. Keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas A. LaVeist is a Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Center for Health Disparities Solutions at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD. See SIRC website for other distinguished presenters.


SIRC Leadership Institute

A pre-conference event, the SIRC Leadership Institute, will take place on Thursday, April 14, 2011. This seminar is designed for managers and leaders working in behavioral, community, mental health, education, safety/law enforcement, justice and community coalitions. The keynote speaker is James G. Hodge, Jr., J.D., LL.M. - Lincoln Professor of Health Law and Ethics at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law and Fellow at the Center for the Study of Law, Science, and Technology, at Arizona State University. This event will follow the theme of: Moving Forward: Building Healthy Communities through Leadership, Policy and Practice.

Registration starts February 28, 2011 at http://sirc.asu.edu

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SIRC - Exploratory Center of Excellence

Health Disparities Research at SIRC: Cultural Processes in Risk & Resilience
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
PI: Felipe G. Castro, Ph.D., Co-PI: Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D.,
Project Director: Monica Parsai, Ph.D.

Living in 2 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.

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

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

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

Using CBPR to Adapt a Culturally-grounded Prevention Curriculum for Urban American Indian Parents - The PI of the study is Dr. Stephen Kulis and the Co-PIs are Dr. Eddie Brown and Dr. Monica Parsai.

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

Who is SIRC?
38 Faculty Research Affiliates
4 Clinical Research Faculty Affiliates
2 Community Research Fellows
4 Early Career Research Faculty Fellows in Health Disparities Research
1 Postdoctoral Health Disparities Research Scholar
4 Ph.D. Research Interns in Health Disparities
9 Graduate Research Associates
20 Graduate Research Assistants
5 Undergraduate Interns
16 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 Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the National Institutes of Health (NIMHD/NIH), award: P20MD002316
- The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the National Institutes of Health (NIMHD/NIH), award R01 MD006110
- 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