Happy 2016! This is our 14th anniversary as a National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s funded center. We are also entering our 10th year as an exploratory national center of excellence in health disparities research. These two anniversaries give us a renewed opportunity to look back and to look forward.

As we look back we see a transdisciplinary group of researchers working in close partnership with community associates to build a center that can respond to the most pressing health disparities challenges of our times.

As we look forward we see new opportunities to disseminate efficacious interventions at the local, regional, national and international levels. Achieving health equity in our communities is an ongoing concern and goal of all our efforts. In this regard, during the last weeks of fall 2015 we were engaged in the preparation of a very large scale U54 competitive application in partnership with colleagues from California State University-Fresno. The U54 mechanism of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) aims at supporting regional centers to make efficacious interventions accessible to underserved and vulnerable communities. If funded, this initiative will allow SIRC to work in close partnership with local metro Phoenix communities and with researchers and communities in Fresno and the surrounding San Joaquin valley. This is our first systematic attempt to work within the Western Region to advance substance use and diabetes and obesity prevention. We are exploring the possibility of expanding our intervention work with urban American Indian families at the national level.

At the international level, CITIR is up and running implementing two NIH funded studies in Mexico and several feasibility studies in a variety of other countries such as Guatemala, Spain and Uruguay.

All this meaningful and impactful work is only possible because of the tireless efforts and dedication of our staff, faculty and community partners. To all of you thank you! I wish you all a very productive and enjoyable semester. Please mark your calendars for the Annual SIRC Research Conference. I am looking forward to seeing many you at the event.

Health and Peace,

Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D.
Regents' Professor
Director, SIRC & CITIR
Distinguished Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health
Dr. Gabriel Shaibi Receives NIH Funding

Obesity and type 2 diabetes are major public health challenges that disproportionately impact Latino youth. To address these challenges, Dr. Shaibi (PI) and Dr. Colleen Kelly (Co-PI) were awarded a 5-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to test the efficacy of a culturally-grounded, lifestyle intervention program for reducing diabetes risk in obese Latino adolescents with prediabetes. Collaborating institutions include Phoenix Children’s Hospital and the University of Arizona who will partner with Dr. Vincent de Paulo Medical and Dental Clinic and the Valley of the Sun YMOCA to carry out the study. This new study builds upon ongoing work that has been supported by SIRC since 2009 and addresses critical gaps in how diabetes prevention interventions for obese Latino youth are developed, implemented, and evaluated. This innovative approach is an essential step in the development of scalable, cost-effective, solution-oriented programs to prevent type 2 diabetes in this and other populations of high-risk youth.

SIRC Welcomes New Community Advisory Board Members

SIRC’s Community Advisory Board (CAB) serves a critical role by facilitating community-engaged research, community-based partnerships, supporting implementation projects, and enhancing outreach and dissemination efforts. We welcome our newest CAB members, C.J. Eisenbarth Hager, Joseph Fu, and Jason Gillette. C.J. currently serves as the Director of the Healthy Community Initiatives at St. Luke’s Health Initiatives. C.J. is responsible for developing a diverse coalition of organizations that support the passage of a complete streets ordinance within the City of Phoenix; and overseeing investments to increase access to and affordability of healthy food in low income communities with few healthy food options. She has over twenty years of experience in public policy and advocacy, governmental affairs, and workforce training. C.J. Hager earned her Master of Regional and Community Planning degree from Kansas State University and Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Marquette University.

Joseph Fu currently serves as the Strategic Information Officer within the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) at the U.S. Department State. Joseph provides guidance on policy and programs such as vulnerable children, gender, and HIV by translating the latest science through publications and reports, cited by Secretary of State and Institute of Medicine. He has over ten years of experience in policy, policy analysis, and non-profit organization focusing on health outreach and promotion targeting youth. Joseph Fu earned his Master in Public Health degree in Epidemiology and biostatistical methods from Johns Hopkins University and Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology, Microbiology from University of Arizona.

Jason Gillette currently serves as the Director of Health Programs at Arizona Department of Education/Health and Nutrition. Jason manages a team in areas of physical education, nutrition, nursing and health services, community and family collaborative initiatives, and the federal program Healthier U.S. School Challenge. He works with state and local partners to facilitate moving Arizona school health forward and serving children and their families to improve the health and wellness of schools, communities, and families. Jason also works with rural and tribal partners to reduce pediatric health disparities. Jason Gillette earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Health from Arizona State University.

For more information about SIRC’s Community Advisory Board or if you are interested in serving on the board please visit: sirc.asu.edu/content/community-advisory-board

SIRC Research and Policy Briefs Available for Distribution

As a direct response to our Community Advisory Board (CAB) and the communities they serve, our CAB has chosen articles that translate research to practice using language identifiable by the general public. In addition to our “Research in Action” research summaries, our “Policy Briefs” not only summarize research information but most importantly, how the research can inform policy. To increase the knowledge base and build capacity in our communities please support our dissemination efforts, download a copy of our “Policy Brief” or “Research in Action” articles today.

SIRC Leadership Advocacy Training

Navigating the public policy process can be daunting for any citizen in these challenging and polarized political times, even for highly trained public health officials and workers. The Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) set out to provide leadership and advocacy training to an emerging cadre of public health leaders in order to create a strong advocacy base for the development as a part of its mission of conducting community-based research and of supporting community engagement.

The purpose of the SIRC advocacy leadership training is to provide tools and support community health leaders, staff, volunteers, and community members for citizen and voter engagement in the public policy process at the federal, state and local level. SIRC does not engage in any direct lobbying or advocacy activities, instead works with its community partners in increasing their capacity to be effectively engaged in health policy analysis and health policy change. The course enables community health leaders to translate health research findings into policy change and improvements in community well-being.

The course is designed to help leaders organize for action, learn how to build relationships with key policy makers, and how to organize a basic issue oriented campaign. The sessions include learning about the public policy process, role-plays of conversations and meetings with public officials, written communication skills, media relationships skills, and preparing an issue oriented campaign action plan. Experts in health disparities and community outreach, media experts, current and former legislators, public administrators, legislative staff and community advocacy experts are the faculty for the various course sessions.

The project has trained thirty-six community leaders who reported very positive feedback and evaluation results. Participants have included physicians, psychologists, mental health counselors, social workers, public administrators, anti-poverty advocates, affordable housing and anti-homelessness experts, and community health center personnel. The participants have represented many diverse community groups engaged in building community health and well-being.

Dr. Catherine Eden, Professor in the School of Public Administration is Project Leader and Timothy Schmaltz, an adjunct faculty member in the School of Social Work is the project consultant. Naomi Lane, Project Coordinator, and Shannon Johnson, Center Operations Manager, coordinated the logistics of the course, facilities, materials, and evaluations processes.

Center for International Translational Intervention Research (CITIR)

keepin’ it REAL in Mexico: An Adaptation and Multisite Trial

Shortly after receiving the R01 grant from the National Institutes of Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health for the 5 year cultural adaptation and randomized controlled trial of the keepin’ it REAL program in Mexico in September 2015, Drs. Marsiglia and Kulis traveled to Mexico City in October 2015 to gather with the bi-national research team. The team consists of partners in the three largest cities in Mexico: Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey. The partners will reconvene in Mexico City in February 2016 for preparation of focus groups with middle school students and teachers and a Training of the Trainer (ToT) for teachers who will begin implementing the keepin’ it REAL curriculum with their 7th grade students this semester. The trial is currently in the adaptation phase where it will investigate and incorporate into the curriculum gender-specific and culturally relevant drug resistance strategy experiences and scenarios that will be most appropriate for the Mexican context.

CITIR Exchange Scholar at ASU and keepin’ it REAL in Sevilla, Spain

CITIR is pleased to welcome its first International Exchange Scholar, Dr. David Alarcón Rubio to the Center for the Spring 2016 Semester. Dr. Alarcón joins us from the University Pablo de Olavide in Sevilla, Spain where he is a professor on the Faculty of Social Sciences and is skilled in developmental psychology and cognitive development. During his time here, Dr. Alarcón will be responsible for research duties within the Center and brings an enriching perspective to SIRC and CITIR’s work through his research on multiculturalism and learning in schools in Andalucia, Spain. Dr. Alarcón is also the Principal Investigator for the keepin’ it REAL trial in Spain, which will launches this spring in middle schools in Sevilla, Spain.
13th Annual SIRC Research Conference

Culture as an Anchor in Preventing and Reducing Health Disparities

Friday, April 8, 2016, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm | Sheraton Grand Phoenix | sirc.asu.edu/conference

Conference Keynote, Dr. Donald K. Warne

Donald Warne, MD, MPH is the Director of the Master of Public Health Program at North Dakota State University, and he serves as the Senior Policy Advisor to the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board. In addition, he is an adjunct clinical professor at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law where he teaches American Indian Health Policy. Dr. Warne is a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe from Pine Ridge, South Dakota and comes from a long line of traditional healers and medicine men. He received his MD from Stanford University in 1995 and his Master of Public Health from Harvard University as a Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellow in Minority Health Policy in 2002. Dr. Warne is a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE), and he is a Diplomate of both the American Board of Family Practice and the American Board of Medical Acupuncture. In addition to Minority Health Policy, he completed a Fellowship in Alternative Medicine from the Arizona Center for Health and Medicine.

Donald Warne’s work experience includes several years as a primary care and integrative medicine physician with the Gila River Health Care Corporation in Sacaton, AZ, and three years as a Staff Clinician with the National Institutes of Health in Phoenix where he conducted diabetes research and developed diabetes education and prevention programs in partnership with tribes.

SIRC Health Equity Lecture Series

January 20, 2016*
Eric Hedberg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics
Statistical Power for Randomized Health Experiments: Examples of Calculations and Pitfalls

January 27, 2016*
Wendy Wolfersteig, Ph.D., Director, SIRC Office of Evaluations
Meeting Community Partners’ Needs for Evaluation

February 3, 2016
Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., Regents’ Professor, School of Social Work, and Director, SIRC/CITIR
Translational Research: Disseminating locally developed interventions at the regional, national and international levels.

March 2, 2016
Josiemer Mattei, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, Harvard T.H. Chan
Culture-specific Diet Quality and Cardiometabolic Health among Hispanics/Latinos

March 23, 2016
José M. Causadias, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics
What is the Relationship between Culture and Genetics? An Introduction to the Field of Cultural Genomics

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Data Analysis Clinic
Data Analysis Clinic (DAC) provides on-going methodological and statistical support and training to investigators, students & the community. Held weekly, Wednesdays, beginning January 20th, 1:30 – 2:30 pm, University Center, Room 707

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week
The National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is sponsoring a national health observance for teens linking students with scientists and other experts to counteract the myths about drugs and alcohol that teens get from the internet, media, social media, or their peers. This weeklong event, January 25-31, encourages educational events in communities so teens can learn what science has taught us about drug abuse and addiction. SIRC has partnered with Blackwater Community School - Akimel O’otham Pee Posh Charter School located on the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) which will host this year’s event. Dr. Marsiglia was recently funded for a five-year R01 grant from NIDA for his keepin’ it REAL in Mexico adaptation project.
Recent Publications


Spring Academic Conference Presentations


