

IN FOCUS

newsletter

Greetings From Our Director



SIRC Director Flavio Marsiglia

Dear friends and colleagues,

Happy New Year to all! 2015 is SIRC's 13th anniversary as a research center and our 18th anniversary as a research team. Congratulations! As I look back I feel very proud of our accomplishments and as I look forward I feel excited and energized about the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. This Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) journey has produced many outstanding interventions. Each one of them are the result of fruitful and rewarding

community partnerships. It is because of the active participation of all of you that SIRC's interventions and programs speak to the needs of our communities and are being implemented across Arizona and by many other communities within the US as well as on a global level. With the help of our very active Community Advisory Board (CAB), we constantly monitor that the efficacious interventions we produce are accessible to the communities that need them the most. At the same time the different research teams continue with the implementation of several innovative and significant efficacy and effectiveness trials.

I am very happy to announce that our portfolio of research projects has been significantly expanded by a competitive supplement to our existing NIMHD/NIH P20 award. This new award will expand SIRC's center of excellence research portfolio to include two new pilot research projects. These studies will deepen our understanding of socio-cultural determinants of health, especially factors that create, reduce, and eliminate health disparities, by employing a multilevel social determinants of health framework. Congratulations to the Principal Investigators, community partners and teams! Read more about these studies on page three.

I encourage our community partners and faculty research affiliates to actively participate in our strategic planning efforts. During the spring semester you will receive ongoing information, including details on how you can participate in the process. I am confident that the strategic planning process we have designed together will result in a very strong road map for SIRC's next five years. Thank you for your commitment and dedication, your ideas and participation are most welcome. Enjoy this issue of InFocus and please keep in touch.

Peace and health,
Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., SIRC Director
Distinguished Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health

SIRC Health Equity Lecture Series

January 21, 2015 -

Jeanne Nizigiyimana, MSW, MA, & Jenelle R. Walker, PhD Refugee Women's Health Clinic
Women for Women: How Resilience and Self-discovery Impact the Health of Underserved Women Survivors of War

January 28, 2015 -

Luis E. Zayas, PhD - Assistant Professor - School of Social Work
Experiences managing T2 diabetes after diagnosis among adults of Mexican ethnicity in the US Southwest

March 18, 2015 -

Fei Sun, PhD - Associate Professor - School of Social Work
The influence of cultural factors in Alzheimer's literacy and caregiving process in Chinese Americans living in Phoenix metropolitan areas

April 15, 2015 -

Sarah Hayford, PhD - Associate Professor - The Sanford School of Social & Family Dynamics
Community Influences on Female Genital Cutting in Sub-Saharan Africa

April 22, 2015 -

Martica Bacallao, PhD, MSW, TEP - Assistant Professor - School of Social Work
Parents Practicing "Parenting Wisely: Implementing Parent/Adolescent Groups Using a Parent-Training DVD with Action Methods

SIRC ACTIVITIES

Weekly recurring Wednesday meetings during active semesters with spring dates starting: 01/14/15 and ending 04/29/15

Data Analysis Clinic (DAC) provides on-going methodological and statistical support and training to investigators, students & the community.
1:00 – 1:45 PM in #707 SIRC

Advanced Statistical Analysis Work Group (ASAWG) is a workshop for students and faculty with advanced statistical training.
1:45 – 2:30 PM in #707 SIRC

Downtown ASU Campus, University Center

SIRC Multi-site Feasibility Study in Mexico



Maria Assad, Secretariat of Social & Human Development, Flavio Marsiglia, Ph.D., and Antonio Assad, Director, Universidad De Monterrey (UDEM)

Sharp increases in substance use rates among youth in Mexico are a major concern in both Mexico and the US. Recently, SIRC entered into an agreement with Mexico's three largest cities to adapt, implement and test the *keepin' it REAL* (*kiR*) prevention intervention program in selected schools. The multisite feasibility study will use the Mexican version of *kiR* (*Manténte REAL*) to be tested in a randomized controlled trial with 1,800 7th grade students in 18 middle schools (6 from each city) in Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey. The bi-national research team including original *kiR* curriculum designers will collaborate to ensure cultural applicability in Mexico and fidelity to core elements of *kiR*. SIRC research team initiating the multi-site feasibility study are Dr. Flavio F. Marsiglia, SIRC Director, Dr. Stephen Kulis, SIRC Director of Research and Mary Harthun, MA, Curriculum Development & Master Trainer at SIRC. Guadalajara research partner is Dra. Bertha L. Nuño-Gutiérrez, PhD, Mexican Institute for Adolescent Health Services. Research collaborators in Mexico City are Rafael Camacho Solís, MD, and Miguel Ángel Mendoza Meléndez, MD, MPH, both with Institute for Attention & Prevention of Addictions (IAPA-DF). Monterrey research facilitator is Mtra. Maria Dolores Corona Lozano, Social Work, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Nuevo León.

Health Education Program in Africa

As part of a Global Initiative sponsored by SIRC, Dr. Jenelle Walker and Jeanne Nizigiyimana, Program Manager for the Refugee Women's Health Clinic (RWHC) in Arizona, travel to Burundi, Africa to learn about health issues faced by women survivors of war who are either internally displaced, affiliated with ex-combatant or returnees (repatriated). The long term goal of this health education initiative is to reduce health disparities through culturally and gender specific health interventions sustainable in the urban and rural communities of Burundi. This would first be achieved through a needs assessment of the community. Using a community-based participatory research approach, this program will focus on several culturally sensitive dimensions of wellness (spiritual, mental, and physical) important for health behavior. This work may also provide the opportunity to compare health changes between those still in the native country to those who have left and reside in other countries (e.g. the United States). Additionally, the information collected could be transformative for disease prevention.



From right: Jeanne Nizigiyimana, Esperance N., Hermes N., Florette N., Dr. Jenelle Walker, & Appolinaire N.



Maria Porta training teachers for Keepin' it REAL

SIRC in Guatemala

In 2010, it was discovered from a comprehensive needs assessment for the city of Guatemala that "prevention" as a specific public health approach was an unknown concept in both city and schools. Maria Porta, General Director of a private non-profit organization, contacted SIRC to request assistance to implement the school-based prevention program *Manténte REAL* (the Spanish language version of *kiREAL*) in a small number of schools in Guatemala. In a 2011 pilot project, Maria recruited 2 schools in the "red zones" of the city. "Red zones" are areas in which both the crime rate and the rates of violence against people and property are the greatest. The teachers were trained and certified in how to deliver *Manténte REAL* to students in the classroom. The results of the pilot were substantial and more schools expressed an interest in the prevention program. Due to the increased demand, Maria and SIRC decided to move forward with a randomized effectiveness trial that included additional schools. In 2012, the project expanded to include 7 schools that had been randomized by size while ensuring that all sites were in the red zones. The second full year of the effectiveness study was completed in October 2014 and plans are underway for Year 3 with an increased number of teacher training sessions starting in March 2015.



American Indian Recognition Event

SIRC, the Phoenix Indian Center and the Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona celebrated a successful collaboration on a culturally grounded parenting program with a special recognition event in September.

The program, Parenting in 2 Worlds (P2W) was developed at SIRC specifically for urban American Indian families. The event brought together community members, project staff, and researchers who have worked for four years to create and test P2W with the help of over 600 families from urban Indian communities in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson. In addition to lunch the group shared lessons learned in strengthening Native families and the initial study results of the effectiveness of the P2W curriculum.

Principal Investigator: Stephen S. Kulis, PhD

Invited Health Disparities Conference

SIRC and the College of Health Solutions sponsored an invited health disparities conference at the Arizona Science Center. Approximately 70 participants attended where key community leaders and health disparities ASU Faculty and ASU pre & post-doctoral students centered discussions on the conference theme of Fostering Collective Impact to Eliminate Health Disparities. Prominent and active ASU investigators, who focus on outcomes relevant to Maricopa County health priorities, were invited to explore ways so that further collaboration might emerge. ASU conference presenters were: Crista Johnson-Agbakwu, MD, Gabriel Shaibi, PhD, Adriana Umaña-Taylor, PhD, Tamara Underiner, PhD, Seline Szkupinski-Quiroga PhD, Christopher Wharton, PhD, Punam Ohri-Vachaspati, PhD and Paul Smokowski, PhD. The invited community leaders represented a broad range of health and cultural services that provide assistance and resources to those experiencing health disparities. Community leaders included: Yvonne Fortier (Native American Connections), Dr. Elizabeth Ortiz de Valdez (Concilio Latino), Patty Hibbeler (Phoenix Indian Center), Estela Barraza (P1Kids), Dr. Katherine Coe (IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health), Essen Otu (Mountain Park Health Center), Teresa Peña (Mercy Maricopa) and Luis Samudio (Phoenix Police Department). The event's table talk discussions created different perspectives among academicians and community leaders; it fostered partners' collaboration; generated interdisciplinary discussions with community partners and academia, and opened future engagement opportunities.



Scott Yabiku, Ph.D.

SIRC Awarded Funding for New Pilots

NIH has awarded SIRC competitive funding to support the implementation of additional pilots. This new NIH funding will expand SIRC's center of excellence research portfolio to include two new pilot research projects. These pilots will significantly expand SIRC's current efforts and will generate new knowledge that can result in specific improvements on the health and well-being of racial/ethnic minorities of the Southwest.



The first pilot study, *The Role of Refugee Mothers' Experiences with Trauma and Forced Migration on Child Emotional and Behavioral Health*, explores how Vietnamese and Cambodian refugee parents' pre- and post-migration experiences influence family dynamics and youth behavioral and mental health outcomes. The study investigates if parental involvement, parent-child

communication, and parent-child conflict are influenced by parents' pre- and post-migration challenges. Principal Investigator for this project is Cindy Sangalang, PhD, ASU, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work.



The second pilot study, *Unintended Consequences for Minority Health at a Time of Changing Immigration Policy and Economic Conditions*, seeks to understand how economic and socio-political change affects health care use for Latinos. The study investigates the temporal variation on health care utilization surrounding key immigration and economic events in recent years.

Principal Investigator is Jennifer Glick, PhD., ASU, Sanford School of Social and Families Dynamics.

Findings from the pilots will pave the way for the design and implementation of future culturally specific interventions to prevent, reduce and eliminate health disparities.

SIRC highlights

Flavio F. Marsiglia, PhD., was elected to serve a two year term as President of the Association of Latina and Latino Social Work Educators (ALLSWE). ALLSWE is an organization for the development of education in Social Work especially among the Latino population. As an autonomous organization it strives to guarantee a mechanism for participation and representation in all matters that affect the work done in education and research in the field of Social Work and to promote the professional development of its members.

Four SIRC faculty affiliates named as 2015 Fellows of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), join Flavio Marsiglia, PhD, who was named in the first cohort of Fellows last year. The 4 new Fellows are: David Hodge, PhD, Stephen Kulis, PhD, Paul Smokowski, PhD, Lela Rankin Williams, PhD. The SSWR Fellows are members who have served with distinction to advance, disseminate, and translate research that addresses issues of social work practice and policy and promotes a diverse, equitable and just society. The Fellowship was established to recognize individual accomplishments, leadership and contribution to SSWR as a scientific society. It is anticipated that SSWR Fellows will serve as role models and mentors for individuals pursuing careers in social work research and will continue to actively advance the mission of SSWR.

SIRC updates

Manténte REAL in Montevideo, Uruguay:

In collaboration with a local foundation, Uruguayan educational authorities, and the American embassy in Montevideo, SIRC conducted a pilot study to test the feasibility of implementing *keepin' it REAL* in Uruguay and to determine if this middle school-based curriculum would need adaptation to the Uruguayan population. Five middle schools, public and private, in the poorest neighborhood in the capital city of Montevideo, were randomized into two treatment conditions (control versus implementation). Regular teachers were trained to implement the Spanish-translated version of *keepin' it REAL (Manténte REAL)* in the second half of 2014. The sample includes 388 adolescents aged 12-15 years who completed pretest and post-test questionnaires. Principal Investigators: Flavio F. Marsiglia & Stephen S. Kulis

Flavio F. Marsiglia and Dr. Stephen Kulis will join other researchers in Monterrey, Mexico on January 31, 2015 for an all day follow up meeting to the multi-site feasibility study with Mexico. Dra. Bertha Nuño-Gutierrez will provide updates for the Guadalajara site. Dr. Miguel Angel Mendoza Melendez will report on the Mexico City site and Mtra. Maria Dolores Corona Lozano will share progress information for the site in Monterrey. Guest speaker, Dra. Maria Elena Medina-Mora, General Director for the National Institute of Psychiatry Ramón de la Fuente (México), will provide a national perspective on the *Manténte REAL* project in the context of prevention of alcohol and other drugs among young people in Mexico.

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: R01MD006110 | Arizona State University | Evaluation contracts with community partners

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ASU Southwest Interdisciplinary
Research Center

A R I Z O N A S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

Recent publications

Hedberg, E. C., & Ayers, S. L. (2015). The power of a paired t-test with a covariate. *Social Science Research*, 50, 277-291. doi:10.1016/j.ssresearch.2014.12.004

Booth, J. M., Marsiglia, F. F., Nuño-Gutierrez, B. L., & Garcia-Perez, M. (2014). The association between engaging in romantic relationships and Mexican adolescent substance use offers: Exploring gender differences. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 49(11), 1480-1490. doi:10.3109/10826084.2014.913627

Marsiglia, F. F., Booth, J. M., Ayers, S. L., Nuño-Gutierrez, B. L., Kulis, S., & Hoffman, S. (2014). Short-term effects on substance use of the 'keepin' it REAL' pilot prevention program: Linguistically adapted for youth in Jalisco, Mexico. *Prevention Science*, 15(5), 694-704. doi:10.1007/s11121-013-0421-7 PMID: PMC3864112

Marsiglia, F. F., Nagoshi, J. L., Parsai, M., & Castro, F. G. (2014). The effects of parental acculturation and parenting practices on the substance use of Mexican heritage adolescents from southwestern Mexican neighborhoods. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*, 13, 288-311. NIHMSID:NIHMS635206

Williams, L. R., Marsiglia, F. F., Baldwin, A., & Ayers, S. L. (2014). Unintended effects of an intervention supporting Mexican-heritage youth: Decreased parent heavy drinking. *Research on Social Work Practice*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/1049731514524030. NIHMSID: NIHMS617418

Marsiglia, F. F., Williams, L., Ayers, S. L., & Booth, J. M. (2014). Familias: Preparando la Nueva Generación: A randomized control trial testing the effects on positive parenting practices. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 24(3), 310-320. doi:10.1177/1049731513498828

