RESEARCH REPORT 09-10

Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities, University of South Carolina

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Novel Research / Innovation
Elimination of Health Disparities / Environmental/Social Justice
World / Global Health
Strategic Partnerships and Community Outreach
Passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) this year has marked 2010 as an historic moment in time. The PPACA is believed to be the single most critical piece of legislation since the enactment of Medicaid/Medicare in 1965. As public health professionals, we are standing at the forefront of advancing health equity. The significance of health care reform is realized across many racial and ethnic boundaries and both the immediate and long-term impact of its provisions will ensure accessible and affordable health care for many Americans who would not otherwise have options. This new legislation aims to accomplish a number of goals (health care insurance coverage of millions of Americans, comprehensive prevention service delivery, research and evaluation). All of which are cornerstones of the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD) and all of this will be a permanent part of our nation’s health care system. While the passage of this legislation will certainly help to advance our mission of eliminating health disparities, legislation alone will not achieve our goals. We cannot achieve our vision of eliminating health disparities without engaging in healthy, meaningful dialogue around the many issues that our communities continue to face to include chronic disease, racism, poverty, segregation, substandard housing, and high rates of unemployment.

We believe that we have found an effective method of engaging researchers and community members in action initiatives that will serve to enhance public health research and the efforts to eliminate health disparities through the establishment of a series of town hall forums. These forums are aimed at bridging the gap between Washington and small town, USA. We’ve been doing this for the past five years with funding support from the National Center on Minority Health Disparities. We are thrilled to announce our plans to continue to use the Clyburn Lecture as a springboard for these types of forums with grassroots organizations to discuss what this legislation means for us at the community level.

In looking back at our efforts, we’ve made progress but there is still much action to be taken as we continue to promote community growth and capacity building, research infrastructure and sustainability of key initiatives. Sponsored research efforts have yielded an activity volume of over $21 million, of which we are proud to say one hundred percent (100%) of funds generated (or $13.1 million) were research awards, including an estimated $4.6M from the Department of Defense to examine Soldier health disparities. We have participated in a number of pilot research activities, in partnership with local industry, and we are proud to have attracted many new collaborators in our efforts. We are continuing to find creative and meaningful ways to involve grassroots organizations in efforts to improve health outcomes and the IPEHD is poised and ready to do our part as we embark upon the most significant period of our time in the fight to reduce and eliminate health disparities.

Saundra H. Glover, PhD, MBA
Director, Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities
Associate Dean for Health Disparities & Social Justice
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The primary mission of the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities is to eliminate health disparities through academic, community and other strategic partnerships in South Carolina and beyond. Since its inception, the Institute has provided the framework and financial resources to support the Arnold School of Public Health’s efforts to increase the number of partnerships focused on health disparities and facilitate the development of minority public health professionals and faculty. As a result of the Institute’s efforts the University has expanded and expanded its public and private partnerships. These partnerships provide the opportunity for the pursuit of interdisciplinary research, education, and training to address health disparities in South Carolina and the southeast region of the United States.

The following tables highlight sponsored research activity for the fiscal year, a comparison of awards by their primary purpose and the major funding sources from which sponsored research support was received.

Sponsored Research Activity

**FY2009-2010: (ending June 30, 2010)**

- Total No. of Proposals Submitted (including Renewals): 18
- Total No. of Proposals Pending: 2
- Total No. of Funded Proposals: 4
- Total Volume of Sponsored Research Activity: $21.4 Million

Comparison of Awards by Purpose, 2005 – 2009

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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Training/GA</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>$263,000.00 (28%)</td>
<td>$674,978.00 (72%)</td>
<td>$937,978.00</td>
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<td>$551,275.00 (44%)</td>
<td>$704,980.00 (56%)</td>
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<td>2007-08</td>
<td>$1,865,843.00 (95%)</td>
<td>$100,000.00 (5%)</td>
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<td>2008-09</td>
<td>$2,848,912.00 (77%)</td>
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<td>2009-10</td>
<td>$13,107,889.00 (100%)</td>
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<td>$13,111,889.00</td>
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Fiscal Year Research Training/GA Totals

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<td>South Carolina Research Foundation</td>
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<td>$200,000.00</td>
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<td>W.K. Kellogg Foundation</td>
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<td>$810,152.00</td>
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<td>Fieldstone Alliance Inc.</td>
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<td>Department of Defense/USAMRAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Center on Minority Health &amp; Health Disparities</td>
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<td>$1,573,912.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitamin D Pilot Study</td>
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**PROGRESS TOWARDS ANNUAL OBJECTIVES**

Each year, the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD) reviews its short and long-term objectives to ensure that we are achieving our mission and having impact on the field of public health. Below we’ve outlined our annual objectives and specific activities/achievements that have advanced those objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase funding levels

- Department of Defense contract for Soldier Health Promotion to Examine and Reduce Health Disparities (SHPERHD) multi-investigative effort in partnership with Fort Jackson
- Center of Economic Development (CoEE) in Prostate Cancer Research, in partnership with the Medical University of South Carolina
- USC-Clalin Center of Excellence in Cancer and HIV Research renewal submitted and approved
- Application submitted for a 2nd Cycle of funding from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for Student Development
- New Undergraduate Course Development (Drs. Edith Williams and Sacoby Wilson)

OBJECTIVE 2: Expand existing partnerships/create new collaborations

- Participated in Research Training Workshop with personnel from Ft. Jackson, Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM), and Department of Defense to expand research initiatives across other military installations (Fort Sill, Fort Benning, Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Hood)
- Identified funding opportunities (RFAs/research areas) to expand research at Fort Jackson
- Expanded (doubled faculty and/or partner participation) in the Health Disparities Research Network (HDRN)
- Added 12 new/returning Faculty Affiliates
- Participated in training, education and community outreach programs focused on increasing the community’s knowledge about preventing and reducing health disparities such as breast and cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease and obesity (East Smart Move More -SC, The National Witness Project, Palmetto Health Office of Community Services, Statewide STD/HIV/AIDS Conference Planning Team)

OBJECTIVE 3: Increase Visibility/Marketing

- 4+1 Degree Program - Official Signing/National Showcase in 2009
- James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lectures
- Center of Excellence in Cancer and HIV Research featured on National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) website
- Fort Jackson Identifying Health Barriers Project (SHPERHD) featured in Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) Annual Report

OBJECTIVE 4: Leverage the Center’s research capabilities towards sustainability

- Special Edition to the Journal of S. C., Medical Association (JSCMA) on Cervical Cancer
- Presentations at the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) Project Directors’ and Advisory Board Meeting
- Expansion of Moving-to-Action (MTA) Initiative to address Cervical Cancer
- Participation on regional panel of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health National Partnerships for Action (NPA) Initiative
- Expansion of research focus areas to include HPV-mediated diseases (head and neck cancer), prostate cancer, lupus and cardiovascular diseases

The IPEHD Compass
Scholarly and Professional Publications


(Select) Journal Submissions/ Acceptances

ACSM’s Exercise Management for Persons with Chronic Diseases and Disabilities
American Journal of Health and Behavior
American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)
Environmental Justice (new journal)
Health Education Journal
International Journal Environmental Research and Public Health
Journal of Community Engagement (new journal)
Journal of Ethnicity and Disease
Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice (JHDRP)
Journal of National Medical Association
Journal of South Carolina Medical Association (JSCMA)
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)
Women’s Health Issues

Research Abstracts

Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting


Piper, C., GLOVER, S. H., Swayampakala, K., “Role of spirituality in the use of CAM therapies among adults with chronic diseases in the United States.”

Research Report 09-10
Multivariate analyses were performed to examine perception of HIV acquisition among women in the United States. Analysis to account for the complex multistage design of NHIS. Parametric testing using Univariate, Bivariate, and Multivariate analyses were performed to examine perception of HIV acquisition among women in the United States.

Results: Of the 5,424 women in the study, over half of the women reported they never had an HIV test. In the multivariate analysis, women who had not been tested for HIV and believed they had no risk of acquiring HIV were more likely to have never been married (OR=2.98, 95% CI 3.1-28.73, p<0.001). In addition, women who had not been tested for HIV and believed they had no risk of acquiring HIV were more likely to report having less than an high school diploma (OR=0.35, 95% CI 0.15-0.78 p=0.002). Discussion: Findings from this study can lend themselves to the development of more efficient and sustainable interventions to prevent HIV infection and decrease high-risk behaviors among more susceptible populations and for the development of HIV testing policy.

Keywords: Women and HIV/AIDS, Behavioral Research

Acupuncture and stress in persons living with HIV/AIDS in rural South Carolina: A Qualitative Perspective

Minnjouen Froumoy, PhD, Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
Jason R. Jaggers, Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Exercise Science, University of South Carolina
G. William Lyerly, MS, Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Exercise Science, University of South Carolina
Saundra Glover, MBA, PhD, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
Greg Hand, PhD, Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Exercise Science, University of South Carolina

Abstract

The USC/Clainn Center for Partnerships, Outreach, Research on Health Disparities and Training focuses on HIV/AIDS, particularly among people living in Orangeburg County, South Carolina. The rates of incidence and mortality from HIV infection are disproportionately higher in Orangeburg and several other rural regions across South Carolina. As evidenced in scientific literature, HIV/AIDS is becoming more of a chronic disorder rather terminal illness. Medical care and subsequent medications are oftentimes expensive, thus making accessibility more challenging for persons who are uninsured or underinsured. This led to the exploration of alternative treatments for some symptoms associated with HIV/AIDS. Research indicates that when a person is diagnosed with HIV, their stress level increases while oral immune function decreases over time. Sixty-three HIV+ persons were enrolled in the Acupuncture and Oral Immune Function project. This research utilized a single-blinded, randomized crossover design. Persons were asked open ended questions about their experiences with acupuncture and their opinions on its effectiveness at baseline, midpoint and at the conclusion of the treatment. Responses were coded and analyzed using NVivo 2.0. “Themes that emerged were barriers to this type of treatment (systemic and intrinsic), perceived reduction of stress because of acupuncture from placebo-receiving participants, and an overall reduction of stress, pain relief, and muscle relaxation from participants receiving acupuncture. This research indicates that if systemic barriers to access are reduced or eliminated, acupuncture can be a viable method of reducing stress and alleviating other symptoms experienced in HIV-positive persons.

Keywords: Women and HIV/AIDS, Behavioral Research

American Public Health Association Oral Presentation, November 7-11, 2009, Philadelphia, PA

Health Disparities Research Abstracts (continued)

Beliefs and perceptions of risks among women that have never been tested for HIV in the United States

Crystal Piper, MPH, MHA, PhD, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Saundra Glover, MBA, PhD, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
Edith M. Williams, PhD, MS, Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities, University of South Carolina
Bankole A. Olatoji, MPH, PhD, Healthcare Management and Organizational Development, Mount Olive College
Shaniece Charlemagne, MPH, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
Dayna Anne Campbell, MS, PhD (ci), Division of General Education, Allen University
Chinelo Amaranachuku Ogbaunu, MD, MPH, Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
Lucy Annang, PhD, MPH, Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, University of South Carolina
Mena Lee, MRAci, USC Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities, University of South Carolina
Eljiah Onsomu, MS, MPH, PhD(c), CHES, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of North Carolina

Abstract

Background: There is a disproportionate burden of some health conditions such as HIV/AIDS among minority women, particularly African American (64%) and Hispanic (15%) women who accounted for more than three quarters of the women living with HIV/AIDS in 2009. Objective/Purpose: The purpose of this study is to examine the correlates of non-utilization of HIV testing services among women age 18-64 in the United States. Methods: This study is a retrospective secondary data analysis of the 2006 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). SAS and SUDAAN were utilized for data analysis to account for the complex multistage design of NHIS. Parametric testing using Univariate, Bivariate, and Multivariate analyses were performed to examine perception of HIV acquisition among women in the United States.

The IPEHD Compass

Research Report 09-10

American Public Health Association Oral Presentation, November 7-11, 2009, Philadelphia, PA
The Moving to Action Initiative began in June 2008, as a result of the Center of Excellence (COE) for HIV and Cancer Research bringing together partners and stakeholders from throughout the state of South Carolina, for the purpose of discussing cervical cancer and to stimulate conversations that would lead to the development and implementation of strategies to address cervical cancer disparities through education, social, and policy changes.

One of the many activities of the Initiative was the Moving to Action Summit. As a result of the many discussions held at the Summit came the recommendation that the South Carolina Cancer Alliance (SCCA) form a “Cervical Cancer Subcommittee”. The subcommittee was formed and is now part of the Alliance’s Breast and Female Cancer Work Group.

Three teams have been completing the work of the subcommittee: Public Education and Communication, Health Care Provider Education, and Policy and Access to Care.

Representatives from the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD) and its Center of Excellence (COE) for HIV and Cancer Research bringing together partners and stakeholders from the National Institutes of Health (P20MD001770). The National Institutes of Health (P20MD001770). Minority Health and Health Disparities in the United States, National Institutes of Health (P20MD001770). The Center of Excellence in Cancer and HIV Research is serving on these teams.

Since January 2009, activities have included a statewide billboard campaign launched during Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Supported with funds from the American Cancer Society, South Carolina Cancer Alliance, Palmetto Health, and the South Carolina Advertisers Association, the billboards featured messages to “Stop Cervical Cancer” and included action-oriented steps such as being screened regularly for cervical cancer, following up on abnormal screening results, and learning more about the HPV vaccine.

Other efforts have included developing a process to deliver educational updates and materials on cervical cancer to health care providers and communicating with legislators, in an attempt to advocate for funding to provide cancer care to women diagnosed in our state but unable to afford treatment.

In December 2009, a special issue of the Journal of the South Carolina Medical Association was published. It was another follow up activity of the Moving to Action effort. Utilizing a peer-reviewed process with a managing editor, team, and guest editor, articles were submitted and reviewed by scientists and health care providers in the field of cervical cancer prevention and control and health disparities research from throughout the United States.

The findings from the study are reported in the December issue of the Journal of the South Carolina Medical Association.

Among the findings reported in the journal: 1) S.C. women who did not receive a Pap test were more likely to be over age 65, unmarried, have less than a high-school education and be from a non-Hispanic race group, including African Americans; 2) nearly one-fourth of women not receiving a Pap test lacked healthcare coverage and nearly 20 percent were unable to see a healthcare provider because of costs; 3) a telephone survey of African-American and white women found that about half of the study’s 1,002 respondents had “high” levels of knowledge about the human papillomavirus, a sexually transmitted infection that has been linked to cervical cancer.

South Carolina ranks third in new cases of cervical cancer and eighth in deaths due to cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is a disease for which many cases can be entirely prevented through screening and vaccination.

USC cancer researcher Dr. Heather Brandt is chair of a subcommittee of the S.C. Cancer Alliance that organized recent billboard efforts, in partnership with the USC-Clallin EXPORT Center, South Carolina Cancer Disparities Community Network, and other individuals and groups from across the state to educate communities about HPV.

Health care reform was the central theme of this year’s 3rd Annual James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture held on April 9, 2010 at the University of South Carolina. The Honorable James E. Clyburn served as keynote speaker and presented the lecture around the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), signed into law on March 23, 2010 by President Barack Obama, in what many have called yet another landmark piece of legislation under the Obama Administration.

Congressman Clyburn’s presentation was delivered during National Public Health Week (April 5-11) and could not have come at a more opportune time as many Americans continue to be without health coverage. This year’s lecture provided an opportunity for the community to gain insight into the details of this landmark legislation and where our Nation’s health care system is headed in the near future.

Before an impressive crowd of faculty, staff, students and members of the community and media, Congressman Clyburn reminded each of us of the rich history we have and how far we’ve come in our efforts to address health disparities and provide equitable health care. He enlightened many of the tolls of passing such an historic bill and meticulously shared what we as citizens in South Carolina and across the Nation can expect in the coming months and years as provisions of the bill. The 2-hour program was well-attended and included a question and answer session which offered attendees an opportunity to have questions relative to the health reform bill answered by Congressman Clyburn.

Following the lecture, a reception was held along with presentations of public health research projects. Members of the platform included Dr. Thomas Chandler, Dean of the Arnold School of Public Health; Dr. Stephen Kresovich, Vice President for Research and Graduate Education; Mr. Drexel Ball, Vice President of Claflin University; Kristen Mason, student intern, and Dr. Saundra Glover, IPEHD Director.

To view the lecture, please visit: mms://ms3.deis.sc.edu/allaccess/clyburn_lecture_04_09_10.wmv.

This landmark health care legislation which, similar to the Civil Rights Act, was literally decades in the making and which struggled through to the final vote...will have a similar profound and positive impact on the many socioeconomic and racial health disparities that exist in our society today.

Dr. Thomas Chandler, Dean, Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health
The Witness Project®
Supporting Community Based Efforts to Prevent and Reduce Breast and Cervical Cancer in South Carolina

On February 27, 2010, twenty-three women gathered at the USC Cancer Prevention and Control Program to learn what they can do to help reduce the mortality rates of breast and cervical cancer among African American women in South Carolina. Women from various regions of South Carolina were trained by The Witness Project® to become Witness Role Models and Lay Health Advisors. The training was facilitated by Dr. Rachel Mayo from Clemson University, Pastor Jacqueline Talley and Anjiosa Brown from Refugee Fellowship Ministries Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

“The National Witness Project® is a culturally competent, community-based breast and cervical cancer education program through which cancer survivors and lay health advisors increase awareness, knowledge, screening, and early detection behaviors in the African American population in an effort to reduce morbidity and mortality from cancer. The National Witness Project® has 27 sites located in 21 states nationwide.”

“The Project was initiated in 1991 by Dr. Deborah O. Erwin, a medical anthropologist at the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and Dr. Thea Spatz, a certified health education specialist at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The project was developed in cooperation with the American Cancer Society (Mid-South Division), Arkansas Department of Health, Delta Health Education Center, and local churches and community groups.”

In South Carolina, the project was started by the SC Cancer Disparities Community Network, the State Baptist Young Women’s Association, Dr. Deloris Williams, and Dr. Rachel Mayo from Clemson University. It has been operating in four regions of the state, but the project leadership is now interested in expanding the project into four additional regions of South Carolina. The Midlands is one of them.

In an attempt to help further the work of The Witness Project® in the Midlands Region and to expand IPEHD’s efforts to become more actively involved in and supportive of community outreach efforts to eliminate breast and cervical cancer disparities in South Carolina, IPEHD staff, Andrea Williams and Gwen Preston, are now trained Lay Health Advisors (LHAs) and have worked with two teams who have gone to churches and community centers in the Columbia area to conduct workshops, where Witness Role Models “witness” (share their experience) with breast cancer and treatment.

In their role as Lay Health Advisors (LHAs), Gwen and Andrea will share breast and cervical cancer facts, inform participants of available cancer screening resources in the community, and teach Breast Self Exam (BSE), using ethnic models.

Since receiving the training in January, they have educated approximately 30 women about the importance of monthly self breast exams, yearly clinical breast exams, and mammograms. In an attempt to increase the number of women in the Midlands region who are actively engaged in educating other women and the community about preventing and reducing breast and cervical cancer, they have also recruited four breast cancer survivors who have agreed to be trained to become Witness Role Models.

For more information about the National Witness Project and its efforts to address breast and cervical cancer disparities please visit: www.thenationalwitnessproject.org.

The IPEHD Compass

Andrea Williams (L) and Gwen Preston (R) are pictured above.

4+1 Degree Program: Extending the Public Health Research Pipeline

The Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, in collaboration with Clalin University, officially signed an agreement to offer a dual-degree program called the “4+1 Degree Program” on April 21, 2009 during the 2nd Annual James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture.

On hand for the signing (pictured above, L to R) was Dr. Henry Tisdale and Dr. Harris Pastides (seated), Dr. Greg Hand, Dr. Thomas Chandler, Dr. Verlie Tisdale, and Dr. Sandria Glover.

The agreement, signed by Dr. Harris Pastides (USC president) and Dr. Henry N. Tisdale (Clalin University president) creates the new program aimed at increasing access for students pursuing public health careers. Under this new five-year, dual degree program, Clalin undergraduates who participate in the program will earn bachelor's degrees in biology from Clalin and master's degrees in public health from the Arnold School of Public Health. Clalin biology majors will declare their interest in the 4+1 Program at the end of their sophomore year. They will take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) in their junior or senior year and take the master's level, public health courses at the Arnold School as seniors. These classes will count toward an MPH degree.

The 4 + 1 Program was announced at the beginning of the Clyburn lecture, which featured Dr. Adewale Troutman, director of the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (pictured at right with Dr Pastides and Dr. Tisdale). Dr. Troutman delivered the second annual James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture at the Public Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina.

Troutman has undertaken new initiatives to improve the health of citizens throughout the area, including the Center for the Elimination of Health Disparities in Louisville, the only such center at a city or county health department in America; the Mayor's Health Hometown Movement, a community effort to encourage Louisville’s citizens to be physically active and adopt healthy lifestyles; the Office of Faith and Health to work with the faith community to improve health; and the Office of Emergency and Public Health Preparedness.

The program featured a community Q&A session to discuss issues of public health.

Bynum accepts postdoctoral position at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute

Dr. Shalanda Bymun has accepted a 2-year postdoctoral position in behavioral oncology at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute starting January 4, 2010. This is an NCI-funded interdisciplinary training program designed to prepare fellows for careers as independent investigators engaged in research on behavioral aspects of cancer prevention, detection and control. The training program seeks to train researchers in the identification and promotion of behaviors that can lead to a reduction in cancer risk, earlier detection of cancer, and improvements in quality of life following cancer diagnosis.

As a postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Bynum will be engaged in community-based participatory research to address cancer health disparities to include cultural and literacy issues in cancer prevention and control.

“I believe that my training as a COE Fellow has well equipped me to address complex issues such as health disparities. As I move beyond the role of student and into a postdoctoral position at Moffitt Cancer Center I will be utilizing much of the skills learned as a COE Fellow particularly in community-based participatory research.”

Dr. Shalanda Bynum, PostDoctoral Fellow
Community Hosts United in Prayer Event

The National Week of Prayer, set for March 7-13, is the expansion of the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS that marked its 20th anniversary in 2009. The Kingdom Life Ministries, Victory Tabernacle Deliverance Temple and Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, all of Orangeburg, partnered with South Carolina State University and Claflin University and hosted a “Standing Together to Decrease the Spread of HIV/AIDS” conference. The event was held on March 6, 2009 in Belcher Hall on the campus of S. C. State University.

The conference, which was free to the public, included a continental breakfast and lunch along with four workshop sessions that targeted the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The state DHEC’s Quarterly Surveillance Report, through December 2008, reported that the Edisto Health District, which serves Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg counties, had the highest rate in the state of people infected with HIV/AIDS.

“This will be our third year of celebrating the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS here in Orangeburg. It’s about bringing the communities together to pray for those that have HIV and AIDS and to pray for continued support for those individuals and their families,” said Pat Kelly, a member of Victory Tabernacle who is living with AIDS. She is also member of the church’s “A Family Affair” support group for those with HIV/AIDS and their families. The featured workshops on HIV/AIDS spiritual and healthy lifestyle, linkages to care for HIV/AIDS patients and also provided free, confidential HIV testing. Post-test counseling was also available.

Community Health Conference 2010

The USC-Claflin University EXPORT Center of Excellence is planning a “Be a Pro for Your Health” Community Conference at the Claflin University Gymnasium in Orangeburg, SC. This community health conference will offer attendees a variety of sessions on key health care topics. DETAILS COMING SOON!!!

Glover Receives Social Justice Award

Dr. Saundra Glover, associate dean for health disparities and social justice in the Arnold School of Public Health, received the faculty 2010 Martin Luther King Day Social Justice Award.

The Social Justice Award is presented annually to a USC faculty member, a student and a staff member who have exemplified the philosophies of the late civil rights leader through random or ongoing acts of community service, social justice or racial reconciliation. Glover was recognized at the university’s recent MLK Day breakfast, together with student winners Anna Walton, a biology/Spanish major, and staff winner Pamela Robinson, director of the Pro Bono Program in the School of Law. Glover, who has been on the Arnold School faculty for 19 years, was lauded for her “consistent commitment to educational outreach and research aimed at eliminating disparities.”

Glover also is director of the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD) and associate director of the S.C. Rural Health Research Center. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator for the Center of Excellence in Cancer and HIV Research, a $7.5 million, 5-year partnership between the University of South Carolina and Claflin University to eliminate health disparities in HIV/AIDS and cancer in the Palmetto State; the Ft. Jackson Identifying Health Barriers Project, a $1.1 million contract with the Department of Defense to examine attrition rates in military recruits. In addition, Dr. Glover is one of 3 principal investigators responsible for securing a $7.2 million Center of Economic Excellence in Prostate Cancer with two lead investigators from the Medical University of South Carolina and South Carolina State University.

Williams Appointed Deputy Director for Research and Sustainability

Edith M. Williams, Ph.D. has been appointed as Deputy Director for Research and Sustainability at the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities. As Deputy Director, Dr. Williams will be responsible for advancing the Institute’s research mission and goals.

A graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo, Dr. Williams joined the IPEHD in 2007 with a doctorate degree in epidemiology and community health. Williams received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master’s degree in epidemiology from the State University of New York. Her research interests include health disparities, women’s health, cardiovascular diseases and lupus.

Dr. Williams has investigated several research studies to include carotid intima media thickness (IMT) in African American college students as well as other cardiovascular risk factors. She has performed a number of NHANES analyses as well feasibility studies for major research instrumentation.

Dr. Williams will facilitate the Affiliate Faculty Program (AFP) and the Health Disparities Research Network (HDRN). The affiliate faculty program is designed to further the institute’s mission through creation of productive and mutually beneficial relationships with faculty members who currently occupy full-time or part-time positions in other units across the University and serve as a vehicle for cooperation between IPEHD and the department in which affiliated faculty members have academic appointments. The network research network was established to foster an environment that will increase the amount of highly trained minority faculty researchers aimed at conducting work to reduce and eliminate health disparities. The network goals are to: 1) increase the capacity of minority faculty to conduct health service research; 2) provide research project support; develop a research agenda that will improve the capacity to address and eliminate health disparities; and 4) publish findings that reduce or eliminate health disparities. The structure consists of three subcommittees - manuscript writing, grant proposals, and research. Meetings are held twice a month throughout the fiscal year.

Faculty interested in participating in the AFP or the HDRN are encouraged to contact Dr. Williams or visit the IPEHD website: http://www.sph.sc.edu/health_disparities/default.htm.
Conduct cancer disparities
Develop specific, targeted
As the new Community-Based
Provide training in cultural
Increase the number of

Wigfall Joins MUSC’s Hollings Cancer Center Disparities Advisory Board

In 2005, Andrew S. Kraft, MD, Director, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Hollings Cancer Center (HCC) initiated the HCC Cancer Disparities Advisory Board. In 2006 Marvella E. Ford, PhD was appointed Associate Director of the new HCC Disparities Program. The Board was formed for two purposes: 1) to advise and support the HCC Cancer Disparities Program in their effort to reduce cancer disparities among racially and ethnically diverse and medically underserved populations in South Carolina and 2) to develop partnerships with groups that are working to reduce cancer disparities.

Recently Lisa Wigfall, PhD, a graduate of the University of South Carolina – Arnold School of Public Health’s Community-Based Public Health (CBPH) Program in their effort to reduce cancer disparities among racially and ethnically diverse and medically underserved populations in South Carolina. She has served on the Board for over five years and continues to provide guidance and support.

Lee Installed as 2010 CBPHC/PPWG Community Co-Chair

As the new Community-Based Public Health Caucus (CBPHC) Presentations and Publications Workgroup (CBPHC PPWG) Community Co-Chair, Ms. Menia Lee will be responsible for facilitating action-oriented initiatives designed to increase CBO, youth and lay community participation in research, with a specific focus on community needs, strengths and capacity building. The academic co-chair facilitates the institutional equitable representation and attention to both sides of research partnerships. As a member of the CBPHC Steering Committee, Ms. Lee will assist in developing initiatives to stimulate grassroots involvement in public health policy.

Hightower Joins IPEHD Staff

Krystle Hightower is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. She recently relocated to Columbia, SC to join the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD) staff in the position of Program Coordinator. Ms. Hightower completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After graduating, she went on to complete a Masters in Public Health at the University of Alabama. Ms. Hightower is a member of the American Public Health Association and is active in the Women’s and Perinatal Health Section as well as the Improving Pregnancy Outcomes Section. She is also a member of the National Association of Social Workers. Ms. Hightower has done extensive volunteer work with organizations that serve vulnerable populations such as the Crisis Center’s Rape Reponses program, YWCA, and the March of Dimes. She continues to demonstrate a passion for working to reduce health disparities with great emphasis on working to reduce the persistent disparities that exist in maternal and child health. She looks forward to utilizing her skills to further the mission and goals of the Institute.

Research Report 09-10

Lee Installed as 2010 CBPHC/PPWG Community Co-Chair

Community-Based Public Health Caucus Business Meeting. ACPHA 157th Annual Meeting (Menia Lee, IPEHD Grants Administrator (2rd from左 on front row)

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Research Report  Spring 2010

Novel Research/Innovation
Elimination of Health Disparities/Environmental/Social Justice
World/Global Health
Strategic Partnerships and Community Outreach

The IPEHD Compass ©
Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities
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