



A Research Center at the University at Albany, SUNY

## Health Disparities Research Development Funds at Work

Research projects that involve community partnerships can be difficult to get off the ground due to a lack of funding for the initial phase of the research. CEMHD has developed a University-funded grant program that helps resolve this problem by providing funds for pilot studies that employ community-based participatory research (CBPR) methodologies. Each year, it awards several grants of \$5,000-\$6,000 for projects that show promise to develop into fully-funded, large-scale investigations. Five pilot studies are currently in progress.

**Dr. Akiko Hosler** (School of Public Health) is partnering with local health services organizations and West Indian community groups on a project called, "Exploring Cyber and Community Approaches for Glycemic Control Among Indo-Guyanese with Diabetes in Schenectady: a Feasibility Study."

The project is an outreach and assessment component of a larger School of Public Health study on diabetes in the Indo-Guyanese community, where individuals have been found to have high rates of diabetes regardless of their weight. Since barriers to diabetes awareness and care exist in all areas of life, a multi-faceted intervention effort is necessary.

Dr. Hosler is investigating which cyber- and community-based tools

work best to increase knowledge about diabetes and foster social support; there has been little research on which approaches are most effective for West Indians in small cities. Dr. Hosler and six students have surveyed 900 people to assess needs, and preparations are now underway to conduct focus groups early next year.

The study has produced a paper, "Elevated Diabetes Prevalence among Indo-Guyanese adults: Schenectady REACH Study," which will appear in *Preventing Chronic Disease* in 2013.

**Drs. Jennifer Manganello and Janine Jurkowski** are working with community partners to determine the best ways to provide health-related information to members of vulnerable populations. Their study, "New Technology and Social Media for Health Improvement: A Discussion with Mothers from Vulnerable Populations in the Greater Albany area," involves conducting focus groups and health literacy assessments with groups of ethnically-diverse, low-income mothers of children under five.

The researchers will ask the women about their access to media and technology, media use, and the sources of information on health and healthcare they prefer. The focus groups are set to begin in December.

# Newsletter

## Fall/Winter 2012

### IN THIS ISSUE

*Health Disparities Research  
Development Funds at Work* p. 1

*Hurricane Sandy* p. 1

*Congratulations to Dr. Janine  
Jurkowski* p. 2

*Recent Publications* p. 2

### Hurricane Sandy

Our thoughts go out to the victims of Hurricane Sandy and their family and friends in the community.

A campus effort called Project Sandy is underway. After taking 2 busloads of supplies to New York City and volunteering their labor, students and faculty are raising funds for the NYC Food Bank. You can donate directly at: [www.foodbanknyc.org](http://www.foodbanknyc.org).

Below are some of the organizations providing hurricane relief:

**American Red Cross**

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

**Church World Service**

[www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

**Humane Society**

[www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)

**New York Cares**

[www.newyorkcares.org](http://www.newyorkcares.org)

**Occupy Sandy Relief**

<http://interoccupy.net/occupysandy>

**Salvation Army**

[disaster.salvationarmyusa.org](http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org)

**United Way of New York City**

[www.uwsandyrecovery.org](http://www.uwsandyrecovery.org)

A complete list of organizations involved in relief efforts on the East Coast and in the Caribbean is available on the Ad Council website: [sandy.adcouncil.org](http://sandy.adcouncil.org). News on individual relief groups is available at the Center for Disaster Philanthropy: [www.Disasterphilanthropy.org](http://www.Disasterphilanthropy.org).

**Dr. Toni Naccarato** (School of Social Welfare) is partnering with local service providers on a project entitled: "Enablers and Barriers to Obtaining and Maintaining Health Care for Youth who have Transitioned from the Foster Care System: A Pilot Study." She will be conducting focus groups and individual interviews with youth who have been in foster care, service providers and program administrators in order to identify the factors that help or hinder youth in accessing health care after they age out of the foster care system in upstate NY.

Dr. Naccarato and a graduate student have developed a survey instrument and focus group guide, and are now recruiting study participants.

**Dr. Paul Jenkins** (Bassett Healthcare Network and the School of Public Health) is partnering with the Finger Lakes Clinic for Migrant Farmworkers on a project called "Community Collaborations for Farmworker Health." He

will analyze data from focus groups and individual interviews with the workers and their employers, and draw on medical data to identify high priority occupational health problems among migrant farmworkers in the Finger Lakes area. Dr. Jenkins is in the process of getting the requisite permissions for the study.

**Dr. Lani Jones** (School of Social Welfare) is working with local health clinics on a project entitled, "Exploring Disease Acceptance among Black Women with Diabetes and Lupus." During 2013, she will be conducting focus groups with black women diagnosed with diabetes and lupus, and doing individual interviews with health-care providers and community leaders. Dr. Jones' goal is to increase our knowledge of the disease acceptance process so that culturally congruent behavioral interventions can be developed that will improve health outcomes among black women.

**Congratulations to Dr. Janine Jurkowski**, Associate Professor of Health Policy, Management and Behavior, for receiving the 2012 *Tom Bruce Award of Honor*.

Each year at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting, the Community Based Public Health Caucus presents the award to an individual who exemplifies leadership in community-based public health and has made a significant contribution to the Caucus and the movement.

Dr. Jurkowski is a long-time CEMHD Associate and we are very pleased with this public recognition of her many contributions to the field of public health.

**Happy Holidays  
from everyone  
at CEMHD**

### Recent Publications

- Back, EE; Bachwani, AS; Strogatz, DS; Sherman, ZMV. **Profile of Diabetes Mellitus Among Immigrants from Guyana: Epidemiology and Implications for Community Action.** *Ethnicity and Disease* 2012; 22: 473-478.
- Bilbao González, E; Burrell, J; Collins, J. **La Migración Mexicana y su acceso a los servicios de salud. Una perspectiva binacional desde Puebla y la region de la capital del estado de Nueva York.** (Mexican Migration and Access to Health Care Services. A Bi-national Perspective from Puebla to the Capital Region of the State of New York). *Iberoforum. Revista de Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad Iberoamericana.* No. 13. Enero-Junio 2012 (Jan-Jun), pp. 61-97.
- Schell LM, Burnitz KK, Gallo MV. **Growth as a Mirror: Is Endocrine Disruption Challenging Tanner's Concept?** *Annals of Human Biology.* 2012 Sep; 39(5):361-71
- Yucl, R. **Dissemination of Missing Data Techniques in Medical, Biomedical and Social Research.** *Journal of Biometrics and Biostatistics* 2012; 3:1.

### Contact Us CEMHD

University at Albany, SUNY  
ES 0028  
1400 Washington Ave  
Albany NY 12222  
(518) 442-4904  
[www.albany.edu/CEMHD](http://www.albany.edu/CEMHD)  
Director: Lawrence M. Schell, Ph.D.  
Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Campisi, Ph.D.

### Community Partners and Supporters

Amsterdam Resource Center for Independent Living • Black Child Development Institute, Albany Chapter • Centro Civico of Amsterdam, Inc. • Capital District African-American Coalition on AIDS • Capital Area School Development Association • The College of Saint Rose • Empire State College • Fulton Montgomery Community College • HealthNow New York, Inc. • Healthy Capital District Initiative • Hudson Valley Community College • Internships in Aging Project • Macedonia Baptist Church • NYS Department of Health • St. Mary's Hospital, Amsterdam • Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood • Trinity Alliance/Albany SNUG • Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Services • WMHT