



A RESEARCH CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

Spotlight on Community-Based Research

CEMHD works in partnership with community groups, healthcare providers, county and State health departments, and higher education institutions to assess community needs, goals and resources. Together with our partners, we implement and test specific solutions in the affected communities.



From left, Arylee Ojumu, Dr. Christine Pluvolse, Jeanette Johnson

The Center's Research Core contains three major projects, two of which involve Community Based Participatory Research. The third is a statistical analysis of national health disparities data.

The Women's Health Project Hudson, N.Y.

Drs. Annis Golden and Anita Pomerantz of the Communication Department are the lead researchers for "Overcoming Barriers to African American Women's Reproductive Healthcare Seeking," also known as The Women's Health Project (WHP). It works to encourage women in Hudson, NY, particularly those who

face cultural, financial, or geographic barriers, to use reproductive health services.

The WHP, in coordination with its community partners, provides three basic services: monthly community events on health and wellness for women, including resource fairs; taxi vouchers for women to get to appointments at Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood (UHPP) and Columbia Memorial Hospital; and reproductive and sexual health services. *Continued on p. 2*



Beverly Cook and Katsi Cook, with Marilyn Sharrow listening, discuss Dr. Schell's presentation.

Environmental Contaminants and the Reproductive Health of Akwesasne Mohawk Women

The Akwesasne Mohawk territory sits on the St. Lawrence River, adjacent to one Federal and two State Superfund sites. This has caused considerable concern in the community about difficulties in conceiving and bearing healthy children. *Continued on page 2*

Newsletter

Spring 2012

IN THIS ISSUE



Peer outreach assistants at their graduation. From left, Sylvia Jones, Maria Hansberry, Tiffany Garriga, and Arylee Ojumu.

Spotlight on Community-Based Research Page 1

The Women's Health Project, Hudson Pages 1-2

Environmental Contaminants and the Reproductive Health of Akwesasne Mohawk Women Pages 1-2

Spring 2012 Events Calendar Page 2

FAST FACTS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

African American women are nearly 40 percent more likely to die of cardiovascular disease and more likely to die from breast cancer than white women.

Among American Indian/Alaska Native women ages 15-34, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death.

The proportion of women receiving late or no prenatal care is highest among Native Americans, non-Hispanic blacks, and those of Mexican origin (6-8 percent).

Latinas are 17 times more likely to die from diabetes than non-Hispanic white women.

Sources: National Institutes for Health, the National Women's Health Information Center

Spring 2012 EVENTS CALENDAR

April 13

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Communicating with Your Healthcare Provider

Inman Center

53 Guy Park Ave, Amsterdam NY

For mor information call:

Nilda Giraldi a: 518-842-1205

April 20

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Symposium on Community Based Research Scholarship

CEMHD director, Dr. Lawrence

Schell, will be on the panel

Empire Commons Conference Room

Uptown Campus

April 25

2 - 4 pm

A Road Less Traveled: Diabetes and Depression Among Ethnic Minorities

Husted Hall Auditorium

Downtown Campus

La Dra. Michelle Owens-Gary

from the Centers for Disease Control
will lead the discussion.

For more information contact:

Dra. Lani V. Jones

ljones@albany.edu

(518) 442-5167

April 27

2 - 4 pm

NYS Regional Multicultural Advisory
Committee

Regional Town Hall Meeting of the Hudson River Region

Downtown Campus ,

Husted Hall Auditorium

135 Western Avenue, Albany

To RSVP contact:

Frances.Priester@omh.ny.gov

The Women's Health Project

cont'd from p. 1. Every Tuesday, UHPP arrives at the WHP office to provide information, safe sex supplies, and clinic appointment sign-ups. Once a month, the AIDS Council provides free, confidential HIV testing, and STD/ hepatitis C screenings.

In December of 2011, four Hudson residents completed a ten-week training as adult peer outreach assistants. Tiffany Garriga, Maria Hansberry, Sylvia Jones and Arylee Ojumu have since been very successful in getting low income women of color in Hudson to take positive steps toward caring for their reproductive health. These women not only help the WHP connect with more women in the community, they have also increased its longer-term capacity for health promotion.

Environmental Contaminants and the Reproductive Health of Akwasasne Women

cont'd from p. 1

The project, a collaborative effort between the St. Regis Mohawk Health Services, headed by Debra Martin, and the University at Albany, seeks to determine whether the reproductive health of women of Akwasasne has been adversely affected by exposure to chemical pollutants, primarily polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The study design has innovative elements. It measures some of the hormones in saliva, which is collected daily throughout the menstrual cycle, and supplements this by blood



Community members react to the findings measurements of these hormones. It also examines the effects of several pollutants simultaneously, whereas most studies have looked at one pollutant at a time.

Results from an earlier study of Akwasasne youth showed that age at menarche, a marker of sexual maturation, was delayed in relation to lead levels but advanced in relation to PCB levels.



Dr. Schell presenting the research

These results support the community's concern about the effects of pollutants on reproduction.

In January, Drs. Schell and Gallo presented the results of their past and present research to a community meeting. Later on in the spring, they will return to present newer, more preliminary results from the Women's Reproductive Health Research Project.

We've Moved!

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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
- Community Hospice
- 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
- Montgomery County Community Services
- Montgomery County Office for Aging
- NYS Department of Health
- Sigma Pi Phi/Beta Psi Boule
- St. Mary's Hospital, Amsterdam
- United Way of Northeastern New York, Inc.
- Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood
- Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center