



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

CERC Connections

From the Community Engaged Research Center at Northwestern University

April - May 2008

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May 28 CERC Seminar

HIV Risk and MTF Transgender Youth:

Developing Interventions
for this Vulnerable
Population

May 28, 2008
11 am
Ward 5-230
Chicago Ave and Fairbanks

Robert Garofalo, MD

Deputy Director
Howard Brown Health Center
Director of Adolescent HIV
Services, Children's Memorial

Dear Colleague,

If you haven't heard our good news, let me be the first to tell you: the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS) received its CTSA funding in this round of NIH awards! At this time, we know we've received a solid score and we are awaiting news of the amount of our grant funding.

As you can imagine, we're pleased at this news. Most importantly, we want to thank our community partners that have worked with us this past year to create a successful application and to form powerful partnerships with CERC that will lead to improved community health in the years to come.

Best Wishes,

Katherine Kaufer Christoffel, MD, MPH
Center Director

CERC Practice-Based Research Networks Test Electronic Health Record Tools to Measure Quality of Care

A new project funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and led by Dr. David Baker and Dr. Stephen Persell is creating and testing tools within an electronic health record to allow physicians to easily enter quality of care information into the EHR and seamlessly link this information to practice-level quality improvement programs. The project is

Hospital

Veja Cleary

Project Coordinator
Broadway Youth Center

Videoconference Locations:
CORE: ENH Research Institute,
Evanston

Children's Memorial Research
Center - 1731 N. Marcey,
Chicago

Please visit our [website](#)
for additional
videoconference
locations.

Save the Date:

June 5

The Programs in Public
Health's Diversity
Committee and the
Community-Based
Participatory Research
Program will present a
workshop for faculty,
students, and staff on
Community-Based
Participatory Research
Basics on

Thursday, June 5th, 2008

8:30 am to 1pm

Mecklenburg Conference
Room
251 E. Huron Street
3rd Floor
Lunch included

Please check our website
for details soon.

SEED GRANT REMINDER

Proposal submissions
for the Community-

called UPQUAL, Utilizing Precision Performance Measurement for Focused Quality Improvement. The project is being conducted as a joint effort between investigators in two of our practice based research networks: the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation General Internal Medicine clinic is part of the REACH network of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and two Internal Medicine and two Family Medicine practices in the Evanston Northwestern Healthcare System practice based research network.

UPQUAL has several components:

- UPQUAL creates simple, standard ways for clinicians to document *patient reasons* or *medical reasons* for why quality measures are not met
- UPQUAL uses the patient reasons and medical reasons that doctors enter to target three quality improvement strategies:
 - When a physician enters a medical reason for not adhering to a guideline, this is automatically sent for peer review. If a clinician enters an inappropriate reason, the clinician is counseled about this and provided with information to change practice
 - If a physician enters an exception code stating that the patient cannot afford a needed medication, the information is automatically sent to a care manager who contacts the patient and attempts to overcome financial barriers to care
 - If a patient refuses a recommended procedure (e.g., colorectal cancer screening) a care manager contacts the patient and provides plain language health education materials to ensure understanding of the benefits of the recommended procedure
- UPQUAL provides clinicians with an easily visible way to see each patient's quality deficits and to order needed medications, tests, or procedures.

The UPQUAL project has the highly ambitious aim of simultaneously improving quality of care for four chronic diseases and five preventive services. Moreover, UPQUAL moves beyond benchmarks and comparisons to national averages and aims to take quality of care to the highest level possible. UPQUAL will help us learn how to make quality measurement and improvement a routine part of medical care and a fundamental component of the medical home.

CERC Announces Mini-Grants for Community Mapping

The Community-Engaged Research Center is offering mini-grants for geospatial analysis (community mapping) to Northwestern University investigators. The grants will allow investigators to

Based Participatory Research Seed Grant Program are due June 2. Click [here](#) to access the materials from the Seed Grant Technical Assistance Workshop held on April 10th at the Rudy Lozano Library in Pilsen, as well as materials from other CBPR Program workshops.

LINKS TO GREAT INFORMATION...

[CERC Website](#)

[CERC Seminars](#)

[CERC Library](#)

[NUCEC](#)



CERC PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

Miguel Palacio and the Greater Humboldt Park Community Of Wellness

Congratulations to CERC Community Partner and Northwestern University Great Academic Medical Center External Advisory Committee Member, Miguel Palacio!

He was one of the Community Hero honorees selected by the *New Communities Program* lead agencies and partners and

work with the [Center for Neighborhood Technology](#), a CERC partner, to produce data maps.

To qualify, investigators must be Northwestern University-affiliated faculty. The Geospatial Mini-Grant Program is designed to support pilot or small projects.

Priority will be given to projects that are part of research that is being conducted collaboratively by NU and community based investigators (in community-based organizations or medical practices).

CERC will receive and review grant requests in conjunction with the Center for Neighborhood Technology and award mini-grants on a rolling basis until the annual funds available for this purpose are expended. The application process for the awards is described on the CERC [website](#), along with application forms. Awards will be announced on the website and in the CERC newsletter, *CERC Connections*.

CERC Website Features Extensive Resource Listings for Community and Academic Partners

Visitors to the [CERC website](#) will find listings for conferences, published resources, external and internal funding opportunities, calls for papers and nominations and other resources for community and academic partners.

A sample of opportunities on the CERC website includes:

[External Funding:](#)

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-OECA-OEJ-08-01: This grant program, established by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice, is to support and empower communities that are working on local solutions to local environmental and/or public health issues. The Program is designed to assist recipients in building collaborative partnerships that will help them understand and address the environmental and/or public health issues in their communities. Successful collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders involve well-designed strategic plans to build, maintain and sustain the partnerships, and to work towards addressing the local environmental and/or public health issues. Details: [click here](#). Deadline: Jun 30

[Resources:](#) **Job Announcement: Coordinator, Greater Humboldt Park Community of Wellness (GHPCoW)**

The coordinator position will provide assistance with GHPCoW

presented at the 2008 Getting it Done Conference.

As current Associate Director of Association House of Chicago, Mr. Palacio is uniting groups and individuals to work for a healthier Humboldt Park.

He is also a leading voice in the CBPR Program Steering Committee Member Greater Humboldt Park Community of Wellness, where he serves as co-chair and steering committee member.

Welcome Gina Curry!

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Gina Curry has joined our staff as a Community Networker with a focus on working with Chicago's African American communities. Gina comes with a wealth of experience in community organizing and faith based programming and has a Bachelor's degree in Public Health. She also brings knowledge and skills in community-based participatory research from her previous position, where she worked for 5 years as the research field coordinator for a CDC-funded CBPR study in Chicago's southeast side.

projects initiatives. Tasks include: providing support to 8 task forces of collaborating partner organizations who plan, implement, and evaluate their own projects addressing health disparities; developing/fostering relationships with community residents and other coalition members; supporting the Director in strategic decision-making and planning, grants acquisition, and budget development. Job requirements: Bachelor's degree in health education or related field preferred, effective public speaker, bilingual (Spanish/English) required, minimum 3 years experience in coordinating and implementing community health initiatives. **To apply:** Send (Email subject line: Last name, first name Coordinator Application) cover letter (include salary history/expectations), resume, and writing sample (Answer these 4 questions in sample: Why are you interested in this position? Why are you qualified for this position? What are your top 3-5 talents and when have you utilized these talents in a work setting? How do you envision your first 90 days on the job?) to juanaballesteros@hotmail.com. **Deadline:** May 16

Check back often for updates, as well as online videos of presentations and workshops, CBPR resources, our CERC seminar schedule and more.

CERC Community-Based Participatory Research Program Team Selected to Join National Initiative

[Faculty for the Engaged Campus](#), a national initiative of Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) in partnership with the University of Minnesota and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, aims to strengthen community-engaged career paths in the academy by developing innovative competency-based models of faculty development and building academic institutional capacity for community-engaged scholarship. From over 100 applications, a team from NU's Community-Engaged Research Center was selected to be one of twenty teams participating in a faculty development charrette from May 28-30 in Chapel Hill, NC to collaboratively design innovative models of community-engaged scholarship faculty development as part of this initiative. As the NUCATS Institute takes strong steps to imbed community engagement as a key contributor to achieving the institution's academic mission, the CBPR Program team will be seeking to further their understanding and learn from colleagues at other institutions about diverse successful strategies for advancing and encouraging community-engaged scholarship. CERC will incorporate these ideas into developing plans from the beginning and will strive to take a leadership role at NU in furthering university-wide support for community-engaged scholarship.

CERC Awarded Pfizer Visiting Professorship in Diabetes

Gina is currently working on an IDPH-funded breast cancer project. She is working with the CBPR program part time until her current project is completed on June 30th. She will begin working full time for the CBPR Program on July 1st, 2008. Gina is excited to have joined our department and looks forward to this work that matches her passion for community.



upcoming academic year.

This Fall, CERC and its community partners will host Dr. Hector Balcazar, a noted expert in Latino health and community-based participatory research as a visiting professor.

CERC was one of eight recipients nationwide that received support for a visiting professorship in diabetes for the

Dr. Balcazar serves as the Regional Dean of the El Paso campus and is the co-director of the Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center NIH initiative, a collaborative between the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), and the University of Texas School of Public Health El Paso Regional Campus. He also serves as faculty for the College of Health Sciences and the Chicano Studies Program at UTEP.

He received his Ph.D. in International Nutrition in 1987 from Cornell University. He is an NIH-funded investigator for numerous studies on health disparities and Hispanic health, including "Can promotoras change clinical outcomes for chronic diseases in El Paso, Texas?" He completed a study for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services called "A Community-Based Diabetes Self-Management Education Program for Use in the Hispanic American Population." He has also received research funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the University of Texas System, the Centers for Disease Control, the Texas Department on Aging, HRSA, the Department of Health and Human Services, and from Arizona State University.

Dr. Balcazar has published widely in the field of public health on the role of promotoras in improving Latino health, and the role of ethnicity and acculturation in a wide range of health issues affecting Mexican-Americans. He has also contributed to public policy in the field, helping to increase knowledge and partnerships between medical professionals and para-professionals (community health workers).

Dr. Balcazar's expertise on cardiovascular disease, behavioral science and nutrition makes him the ideal partner to promote educational exchange in order to explore the impact of diabetes in the Latino community-a multifaceted issue requiring creative approaches. His community-based participatory research methods, and his cultural and psychosocial understanding of health, make him an outstanding candidate for the Visiting Professor Program for our Center.

