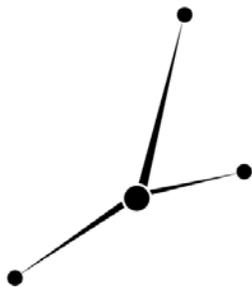


Compilation of Community Engaged Research Projects

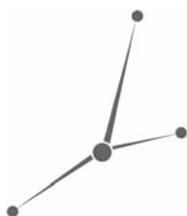
**Tufts Presidential Symposium
February 26, 2010**



EDUCATION FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

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Aligning Researchers and Communities for Health

Aligning Researchers and Communities for Health (ARCH) is a collaboration of academics and community partners who oversee the community engagement activities of the Tufts Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI).

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Done in partnership with:

Asian American Center for Cancer Education and Research, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Boston Museum of Science, Boston Public Health Commission, Center for Community Health Education, Research and Service, Codman Square Health Center/Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health, La Alianza Hispana, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, National Kidney Foundation, New England Quality Care Alliance, Partners for a Healthier Community, Somerville Community Health Agenda

Funded by:

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Faculty researchers:

Harry Selker, MD, MSPH (PI); **Laurel K. Leslie**, MD, MPH (Co-PI); **Doug Brugge**, PhD, MS (Tufts University); **Denise Daudelin**, RN, MPH (Tufts Medical Center); **Lynn Babington**, PhD (Northeastern); **Peter Wong**, PhD (Museum of Science); **Elmer Freeman**, MSW (CCHERS); **Carolyn Leung**, EdD (Tufts Medical Center); **Alex Pirie** (ISPG/H); **Beverley Russell**, PhD, MPH, RN (CCHERS); **Linda Martinez**, PhD (Tufts University); **Veronika Testa**, RN (Tufts Medical Center)

Project description:

ARCH has thirteen community-based partners including several community-based organizations, government agencies, and provider groups. ARCH aims to establish infrastructure to support community participatory research across Tufts CTSI while facilitating open dialogue with community partners to identify priorities for research, barriers to participating in clinical and translational research, and mechanisms for creatively partnering with researchers. Furthermore, ARCH develops tools and strategies for educating researchers and community groups about the critical role of community participation in clinical and translational research.

In its first two years, ARCH has sponsored several projects including a partnership with the Tufts Community Research Center (TCRC) to support infrastructure for community-based participatory research at Tufts University and Tufts Medical Center; a collaboration with the Museum of Science to develop and host a kiosk with stories of clinical translational research; work with the New England Quality Care Alliance on a medical home-based quality improvement initiative on diabetic care and pediatric wellness measures.

ARCH also has several partnerships with the other Boston-area CTSAs, Harvard Catalyst and Boston University.

Assessing and Controlling Occupational Health Risks to Immigrants in Somerville

Housecleaning, the most common occupation of Brazilian women in Massachusetts, has been linked to a range of respiratory, dermatological, and ergonomic health issues. This partnership examined those issues and sought to mitigate them through the launch of a community Co-Op.

Funded by:

Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health

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Done in partnership with:

Brazilian Women's Group

The Brazilian Women's Group promotes political and cultural awareness, aiming at Brazilian immigrants' development and self-sufficiency.

Tufts faculty researchers:

David Gute, Civil and Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering

Project Description:

The Cooperative Vida Verde (Green Life), composed of Brazilian immigrant housecleaners in Somerville, provides green housecleaning products, encourages healthy work practices, and promotes a sense of community among its members. Going beyond a desire to broaden the professional horizons of women who are so often exploited, the Cooperative seeks to change habits and raise awareness about how everyone is responsible for doing something to leave future generations with a planet that is sustainable.

This change in day-to-day habits presented the first challenge for the Cooperative Vida Verde, because often people are only convinced to change habits when they see a direct benefit. Therefore, the first step of the Brazilian Women's Group was to create a training that informed the Brazilian community about the goals of the Cooperative and showed people the benefits it could have on their lives.

From this process emerged a commitment to shared goals and ideals, which allowed the formation of the Cooperative to be successful.

In order for the Cooperative to be feasible for the long-term, the group also had to find a way to make natural products affordable and accessible. To do this, the group researched and developed a line of home-made cleaning products that are very practical to make and use. These cleaning products have become the trademark of the Cooperative.

The Balance Project: Bringing Healthy Eating and Active Living to Children's Environments

The Balance Project is replicating Shape Up Somerville in six under-served, urban communities across the country in a two-year, randomized controlled trial targeting 1st-3rd graders and their families. The Balance Project uses a multi-level, multi-disciplinary approach, which is grounded in the socio-ecological model of health behaviors. This model recognizes that various spheres of influence in a child's life need to be affected to achieve optimal health outcomes.

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The Balance Project investigators seek to understand 1) whether the Shape Up Somerville model can be effectively replicated in diverse communities; and 2) the extent to which a community's readiness to engage in obesity prevention efforts changes with or without an investment of resources and inputs.

Throughout the study period, intervention communities receive technical assistance, training and materials from Tufts University, based on the lessons learned from Shape Up Somerville. Balance Project communities include six urban cities from Massachusetts, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida.

For more information, please visit: www.tufts.edu/nutrition/childreninbalance/research-projects.htm#balance

Building your capacity: Advancing research through community engagement

This five-month program, beginning in February 2010, is aimed at building the capacity of community-based organizations and community health centers to engage in academic-research partnerships.

Funded by:

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

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Done in partnership with:

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center; Brazilian Women's Group; Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy; Common Pathways: The Worcester Healthy Communities Coalition of Central Mass; Health Resources in Action/Boston Urban Asthma Coalition; Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative; Multicultural AIDS Coalition; Neponset Health Center; Reaching Out About Depression – Cambridge Health Alliance; The Welcome Project, Inc.

Project description:

Between February and June 2010, community research fellows, representing 10 community agencies, will receive basic training in research partnerships, including training in developing research questions, ethics, research design, an introduction to quantitative and qualitative methods, proposal writing and policy work. Each fellow is also paired with a consultant who will help the fellow develop an individualized research project plan for their respective organization.

The goal of this new training program is to build capacity in community-based organizations to participate in community engaged research by providing relevant, interactive sessions that utilize local examples and that support participants as they develop projects for their organizations. This program is asset-based in that it builds human capital (knowledge and technical skills about the research process), provides organizational resources (stipends to organizations to participate), and nurtures social capital (new relationships between community organizations and researchers as well as between different community organizations). Targeted community partners include community members and representatives from community organizations and clinical practice settings that are able to bridge and negotiate both research and community systems. The academic and community partners sponsoring this initiative are the Tufts Clinical Translational Science Institute, Harvard Catalyst, Boston University, the Center for Community Health Education, Research and Services, Inc, and the Immigrant Services Providers Group/Health. We will be selecting our second cohort in summer 2010. Please contact us above if you are interested in applying for this training program.

Cambridge Storm Water/Wetlands Project

This project is tracking whether the Cambridge storm water, wetland management and restoration project on Alewife Reservation, beginning in the summer of 2010, will fulfill the principles of best management practices of sewer-storm water separation with a restored wetland.

Funded by:

Educational Grant from local watershed businesses

Done in partnership with:

Local Pharmaceutical; City of Cambridge; Seacom Inc.; Friends of Alewife Reservation

Faculty researchers:

The project is currently seeking Tufts faculty partners to follow long-term storm water management project for large urban wild area near Tufts. Engineering students would then share their information and potential curriculum with local teachers.

Project description:

Friends of Alewife Reservation (FAR) is a multileveled stewarding and advocacy group that desires to protect the public reservation land, owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). FAR's mission is to bring more positive public attention to the DCR Reservation's, wetlands, and environs by working with community volunteers, elected officials, Alewife area groups and the Mystic River Watershed Association to preserve and protect the Reservation and woodland buffers by means of visible presence of adult volunteer monitors, or school youth projects which include: public clean ups, survey teams, wilderness educational tours, class room studies, water quality testing and other projects which also benefit environmental learning and the Alewife Reservation. FAR also alerts businesses and residents of the urban wild riches, and of their environmental wetland responsibilities to Cambridge, Arlington, and Belmont. We strive to raise funds for purposes of preservation and enhancement of the 115 acre public land reserve in properly planned and supervised projects through grants, city and town funds, and from benefactors.

For more information, please visit www.friendsofalewifereservation.org

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Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health (CAFEH) Study

CAFEH is a community-based participatory research study of the relationship between air pollution gradients and health effects in individuals living next to major highways. It has full participation of the community partners in all aspects of the science, including developing the proposal, leading the study, collecting, analyzing and interpreting the data.

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Done in partnership with:

The Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)

CPA is a 30 year old grassroots organization based in Boston Chinatown, which works for full equity and empowerment of Greater Boston's Chinese community and to involve people in decision-making.

The Chinatown Resident Association (CRA)

CRA was founded in 1999 to increase the resident voice on issues that affect Chinatown (Boston). Its mission is to advance the quality of life of Chinatown residents and promote community-building for Chinatown's future.

The Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (STEP)

STEP promotes transportation equity and environmental justice in Somerville, MA.

The Committee for Boston Public Housing (CBPH)

CBPH improves the quality of life for Boston's public housing residents through organizing, advocacy and services to achieve social, environmental and economic justice.

Funded by:

National Institutes of Health (NIH): National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Tufts faculty researchers:

Douglas Brugge, Public Health & Community Medicine, School of Medicine; **John Durant**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering; **Barton Laws**, Public Health & Community Medicine, School of Medicine; **Mkaya Mwamburi**, Public Health & Community Medicine, School of Medicine

Project description:

There is evidence that people living close to highways experience significantly elevated exposures to constituents of motor vehicle exhaust including ultrafine particles and black carbon. C-reactive protein (CRP), an inflammatory marker of risk for cardiac illness, has been shown to increase in response to changes in particulate exposure, making it a viable indicator of the potential impact on cardiac health. Our core study measures 5 traffic-related pollutants in Somerville, Dorchester/South Boston and Chinatown.

To learn more, visit <http://www.tufts.edu/med/phfm/CAFEH/CAFEH.html>.

Carol R. Goldberg Civic Engagement Initiative: Mitigating Obesity in Boston's Immigrant Communities

This initiative aims to spearhead collaboration and communications across multiple sectors in order to bring about the systemic changes necessary to reduce the prevalence of obesity in Boston's immigrant communities.

Funded by:

The Boston Foundation, Cabot Family Trust, additional funding applications in process

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Tufts faculty researchers:

Christina Economos, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy; **Shirley Mark**, Tisch College; **Alia Hastings**, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Done in partnership with:

Not yet determined – potential organizations have been identified but have not been contacted for participation

Project description:

More than 68% of adults can be classified as overweight, and 34% of adults as obese. Rates for children are not much more encouraging with 31.7% of children ages 2-19 years classified as overweight and 16.9% obese. Unfortunately, these rates are even higher among immigrants to the United States.

The population served by this study will be the more than 130,000 immigrants living in the Boston area with a specific focus on those who have resided in the United States for less than 10 years. Four main groups of immigrants will be targeted determined by the percentage they represent of Boston's population. These groups are; Haitian, Dominican, Chinese, and Vietnamese immigrants.

The top three goals are:

1. To understand issues facing Boston's immigrant communities that contribute to increased weight gain
2. To convene stakeholders and diverse immigrant leaders to promote interdisciplinary and cross-sector dialogue in Boston's diverse immigrant communities and develop an action plan
3. To develop and implement a strong organizing and communications strategy to increase awareness and influence services, programs, and policy development related to health, fitness, food, in-school and out-of-school time, with a focus on services affecting Boston's young immigrants

Impact of street crime on Boston Chinatown

This partnership is looking at how gentrification has changed or moved crime rates in Boston's Chinatown as well as examining the health impact of those crime rates.

Funded by:

Tufts University American Studies Department's Ted Shapiro Award; Tufts Dean Glaser's Undergraduate Research Fund

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Done in partnership with:

Chinese Progressive Association (CPA); Chinese Historical Society (CHS); Chinatown Main Street (CMS); Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS); Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC)

Project description:

This study is examining a number of questions related to crime rates in Chinatown, including:

- As the adult entertainment district or the Combat Zone decreases and gentrification of Chinatown increases, are crimes being pushed towards the residential areas?
- Does crime have adverse health effects on community members and residents?
- In reference to crime, how do the residents and other community members interpret their health and safety?

Legislative Aide

This project is piloting Legislative Aide, a computer game that allows classes of high school students to experience what it's like to be a staffer for a US Representative.

Funded by:

US Department of Education

Done in partnership with:

Hillsborough County Public Schools

Located in Tampa, Florida, this is the 13th largest school district in the United States and serves a diverse, urban public school population

Faculty researchers:

Peter Levine, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, Tisch College

Project description:

With intense input from teachers and administrators in Tampa, CIRCLE has helped to develop a computer game and simulation called Legislative Aide. Classes of high school students log onto computers and become the staff of a fictional US Representative. They interact with fictional characters (ultimately controlled by their teacher) and with one another online. They conduct community based research, including interviews of adults, and develop an action plan for addressing a Tampa problem.

As students use the Legislative Aid program, this study is tracking several civic outcomes. Specifically, the research will look at what effects the simulation of adult civic roles has on urban teenagers and will examine if it is possible to raise teens' confidence in their ability to make a difference while also raising their civic knowledge and academic skills? This second question is particularly important since many programs that raise civic knowledge also lower confidence as students learn how difficult it is to make change.

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Live Well: Assessing and Preventing Obesity Among New Immigrants

Done in partnership with:

Brazilian Women's Group, Community Action Agency of Somerville, Haitian Coalition, Immigrant Service Provider Group, and the Welcome Project

Funded by:

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

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Tufts faculty researchers:

Christina Economos, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Project description:

New immigrants to the U.S. are at high risk of weight gain and obesity as they adapt to their new "obesogenic" environment. This four-year, randomized, controlled research trial funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) includes a two-year preventive intervention designed to moderate or reduce weight gain in mother/child dyads of new immigrants in Somerville, Massachusetts. The 435 mother/child dyads recruited to participate will be randomized to either receive the intervention or to serve as controls. Once the main trial is completed, controls will receive a delayed intervention. Developed with active input from our community partners, this intervention aims to improve the long-term health of participants by promoting physical activity and proper nutrition as a means by which to prevent chronic disease.

The principals of community-based participatory research informed the design and implementation of the project. The steering committee, charged with the task of making decisions regarding all aspects of project implementation, consists of active input from five grass roots immigrant-led, community-based organizations in partnership with Tufts investigators, doctoral students, and project staff.

For more information, please visit www.tufts.edu/nutrition/childreninbalance/research-projects.htm#immigrants

Mejorando Nuestras Oportunidades para Recreación y Actividad Física: Engaging Youth in Research and Local Policy Advocacy

This study seeks to document how the management and maintenance of parks and playgrounds affects how they are used. Specifically, the research examines the usage of parks and playgrounds, management and maintenance policies, and an assessment of departmental coordination and communication.

Tufts faculty researchers:

Flavia C. Peréa, Ph.D. Tufts University School of Medicine; **Linda S. Martinez**, Ph.D., Tufts University, Community Health Program, School of Arts and Sciences

Project description:

The health benefits of physical activity are well documented. Moderate activity can reduce the risk of chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity, as well as reducing feelings of anxiety and depression. However, 25% of youth ages 12-21 participate in no physical activity, possibly due to the quality and condition of outdoor spaces, such as parks and playgrounds.

This study, taking place in Lawrence, MA, is based on the hypothesis that how parks and playgrounds are managed and maintained affects how they are used. This study examines this hypothesis by:

- Measuring the utilization and quality/condition of parks and playgrounds
- Identifying and assessing city policies affecting the maintenance and management of outdoor spaces, specifically local policies that govern city departments, as well as those within the Department of Public Works, Recreation Department, and the Police Department
- Assessing communication and coordination among departments for the purposes of managing and maintaining outdoor spaces
- Determining associations between policies, and the quality/condition and utilization of open space

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Monitoring and Evaluation of Better Work

This field study, focused on workers earning less than \$2 per day in apparel factories supplying western markets, examines working conditions, factory organization, productivity, wages, hours, and the wellbeing of workers.

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Done in partnership with:

Better Work Global, Better Work Vietnam, Better Work Jordan, and Better Work Haiti

Better Work brings together government, employers, workers and international buyers to improve labor standards and competitiveness in the global apparel industry. The program makes practical improvements through a focus on workplace cooperation, combining independent assessments of labour standards with advice and training.

Funded by:

International Labour Organization and International Finance Corporation

Tufts faculty researchers:

Drusilla Brown, Economics, School of Arts and Sciences; **Rajeev Dehejia**, Economics, School of Arts and Sciences; **Francine Jacobs**, Child Development, School of Arts and Sciences; **Sharun Mukand**, Economics, School of Arts and Sciences; **Ann Rappaport**, Urban and Environmental Policy, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; **Beth Rosenberg**, Community Health, School of Medicine; **Tama Rosenthal**, Child Development, School of Arts and Sciences

Project description:

Current plans are to enroll 700 Vietnamese factories, 115 Jordanian, 37 Haitian factories, and comparable numbers in Indonesia and Morocco. Each factory will be provided with consultation and training services and will have third party assessment of their compliance with local labor law and internationally recognized core labor protections. Factory response will be assessed in terms of their innovations in Human Resource (HR) management, factory productivity, product quality and complexity, supply-chain position and worker perceptions of working conditions and workplace satisfaction. Evidence will be developed on the process and mechanisms through which firms choose and adopt innovations in labor management practices, the role that labor standards play in prompting HR experimentation and innovation, the business case for HR innovations in traditional industries, the causal relationship between labor management and factory performance and the relative contributions of assessment, enforcement, information and training in supporting HR innovation.

Data collected from factory managers will include detailed questions on workplace organization, workplace productivity, position in the supply-chain, product quality, product complexity, range of high value-added operations and detailed financial information. Data collected from workers will corroborate factory manager reports on workplace operation. Additionally, data on wages,

hours, educational attainment, mental and physical health of workers and their families are also being collected.

New Immigrant Health Project

New immigrant families are at high risk for obesity due to a number of social and environmental factors. With the active participation of new immigrant communities in Somerville, this study is developing interventions to prevent or moderate weight gain.

Done in partnership with:

Brazilian Women's Group

The Brazilian Women's Group promotes political and cultural awareness, aiming at Brazilian immigrants' development and self-sufficiency.

Funded by:

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Tufts faculty researchers:

Christina Economos, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Project description:

This study is engaging community partners in assessing risk factors for obesity and determining behavioral and psychosocial characteristics in the households of new immigrant families. These factors will be used to design, implement and evaluate a two-year randomized, controlled obesity prevention intervention for new immigrants residing in Somerville. This intervention will target the entire household and provide knowledge, skill-building and support to help new immigrants adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Finally, the researchers and community partners will share both knowledge and findings from this study within the Somerville immigrant community and generate a replicable intervention model to reduce the risk of obesity for new immigrants to the US.

To learn more, visit: www.verdeamarelo.org

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Nuestro Futuro Saludable (Our Healthy Future)

Caribbean Latino youth are disproportionately impacted by health disparities across a spectrum of health outcomes. This partnership seeks to develop, implement, evaluate and disseminate an intervention targeted at Caribbean Latino youth in Jamaica Plain.

Project description:

Latinos are the largest minority population in the United States, and Caribbean Latinos represent the largest segment of the Latino population in the northeast. Nonetheless, Caribbean Latino youth are disproportionately impacted by health disparities in disease and chronic conditions which are the function of an interaction among behavioral, genetic, socioeconomic, and environmental factors.

In order to tackle disparities among Caribbean Latino Youth in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts, we employ a community-based participatory research (CBPR) framework to develop, implement, evaluate and disseminate an intervention targeted at Caribbean Latino youth in Jamaica Plain. The specific aims of this research are to:

1. Establish a community advisory board to guide the development, implementation and dissemination of an intervention that is culturally appropriate and community specific.
2. Collaboratively identify a specific disease/chronic condition that will serve as the basis for intervention and to additionally identify appropriate aspects of the built environment to be targeted by the intervention.
3. Design and pilot test a community-level, disease-specific intervention to mitigate the direct and/or indirect effects of the built environment on health. The aim of this intervention will be to address identified deficiencies and maximize any existing advantages and assets in the built environment.
4. Conduct both a process and outcome evaluation of the intervention, and to disseminate study findings in order to develop a full-scale intervention.

In keeping with the principles of community-based participatory research, the program rests on strong community-university collaboration. Community advisory board members help to shape any proposed intervention while the steering committee informs the process with their scientific and methodological expertise. The community-university partnership is composed of a diverse array of stakeholders with both practical experience in community based participatory research methods as well as a solid grounding in the Jamaica Plain community.

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Project PERIS – Partnering for Economic Recovery Impact through Service

Through Project PERIS, Tisch College will partner with Tufts faculty and Somerville organizations to develop and deliver a course-based economic crisis recovery program over three years.

Done in partnership with:

Somerville Homeless Coalition; Somerville Community Partnership for children; The Welcome Project; Somerville Community Corporation; Groundwork Somerville; City of Somerville/Housing Division; the working group of the Mystic Children’s Project

Funded by:

Learn and Serve America, Corporation for National and Community Service

Tufts faculty researchers:

Nancy Wilson, Tisch College; **Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg**, Tisch College; **Jonathan Zaff**, Tisch College

Project description:

Through Project PERIS, Tisch College will partner with Tufts faculty and Somerville organizations to develop and deliver a course-based economic crisis recovery program over three years. The main goals of Project PERIS are to create a new, dynamic service planning and delivery process that will:

1. Engage University and high school students, faculty and community partners in collaborative community planning
2. Deliver needed services for economic recovery based on the planning process
3. Establish an enduring crisis response capacity between Tufts and Somerville
4. Create a model that can be adapted by other institutions

The research design includes pre and post surveys for all students involved in Project PERIS courses, faculty and community partner surveys to understand keys to collaboration success, qualitative interviews to understand student development and select economic impact indicators.

For more information visit <http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/?pid=808>

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Research Grant Competition

Jumpstart, a national non-profit early education organization, provides three small grants up to a maximum of US\$5,000 for promising research that addresses significant questions on the processes and impact of Jumpstart for early reading development and social-emotional development. The intent of such grants is to provide researchers with the opportunity to develop important perspectives on the influence of Jumpstart in the lives of young children who live in low-income and high-stress communities.

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Funded by:

Jumpstart for Young Children

Faculty researchers:

The project is currently seeking faculty partners.

Project description:

Jumpstart's goals in supporting rigorous new research are to better understand the Jumpstart program's impact, find new ways to capture its effects, and add to the body of evidence to improve and replicate its program. Jumpstart has identified key research areas and questions for future investigation. Applicants should consider at least one of the following research questions:

1. In what ways does Jumpstart contribute to children's school readiness?
2. What factors appear to affect Jumpstart children's school readiness (e.g., Corps member characteristics, child demographics, number of children served, classroom/environmental quality, implementation fidelity)?
3. What impact does Jumpstart have on Corps members?
4. What impact does Jumpstart have on preschools?

In addition, studies that propose new measures or important new avenues for research are also welcome. Regardless of the research area selected, applicants must explain how their research design and methodology will address the question(s) chosen for investigation.

For more information, visit www.jstart.org.

Too much, too little

This study is exploring the mental and physical health impacts of adolescent girls' experience with dysmenorrhea and the barriers to treatment through the cultural lens of the Portuguese-speaking community

Done in partnership with:

Brazilian Women's Group

The Brazilian Women's Group promotes political and cultural awareness, aiming at Brazilian immigrants' development and self-sufficiency.

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Funded by:

Harvard Catalyst

Project description:

The Brazilian Women's Group (BWG) is currently convening an advisory group of researchers from academia and the public school system to partner with the Young Brazilian Women's Group to explore issues related to accessing evaluation and intervention for dysmenorrhea (endometriosis, PCOD, etc.), with a cultural emphasis on Portuguese-speakers and their experiences in Somerville.

This issue has arisen through the personal experience of members of the Young BWG. The project has a particular interest in the experience of young Brazilian girls and their parents' role in supporting or creating barriers to diagnosis and the full range of treatment options. For instance, refusing to let their daughter take the pill for treatment or not pursuing alternative treatment for painful periods if such hormonal therapies do not prove effective.

Project goals are:

- To foster partnerships to create an advisory group with shared interest in investigating this issue, towards eventually improving evaluation and intervention options for girls with painful periods in Somerville, with a cultural lens of working in collaboration with Portuguese-speaking girls and their peers
- To investigate existing literature on the topic
- As deemed appropriate, to begin to more clearly identify the extent and details of the issues of evaluation and intervention for dysmenorrhea in Somerville high school girls (demographic issues, cultural issues, systems issues)
- To investigate the quality of life and cultural issues specific to Portuguese-speaking girls

To learn more, visit: www.verdeamarelo.org

Youth from Immigrant Families Partnership

This partnership has done community-engaged research on a variety of projects since October 2007.

Done in partnership with:

Sophia Kim and Jennifer Taub, **Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Association (BCNC)**; Warren Goldstein-Gelb and Maria Landaverde, **The Welcome Project**; Alex Pirie, **Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health (ISPG/H)**; Sarah Davila, **Somerville Public Schools**

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Project descriptions:

Funded projects from this partnership include:

*Psychological Health and Resilience in Youth from Immigrant Families: Building a Partnership
Funding: Tisch Community Research Center Seed Grant (2007-08)*

This project originated from a request for assistance by a community partner concerned with negative mental health indicators that had been revealed in a school district wide health study. A series of discussions among the community partners and Tufts University researchers led to grant development funding from the Tufts Community Research Center (TCRC). This funding was used to support a nine month long series of grant development meetings between academic, community, and school district partners with the dual goals of producing a well thought out application and the establishment of strong working partnerships. We developed a partnership team and submitted a National Institute of Mental Health Community Based Participatory Research proposal in June 2008.

CBPR Approach in Assessing Programs for Youth from Immigrant Families

Funding: CTSI Catalyst Award (Sept. 2009-Aug. 2010)

This project is the first step in a long range project that will examine mental health issues among children and adolescents from immigrant backgrounds, and assess family and community based strengths and assets that can facilitate psychological health, resilience, and educational adaptation among children. The project team is implementing a set of pilot studies to examine the characteristics of youth programs designed to support youths' strengths and community affiliations to facilitate their resilience and mental health. Two youth programs at each of our two project sites (The Welcome Project and Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Association) are being examined. The pilot studies are designed to develop and pilot test measures and assessment procedures to examine innovative interventions. A second important aim is to document and delineate the parameters of the CBPR approach that we are using to implement the project.