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Funders

The Center for Immigrant Health would like to thank our past and present supporters:

- *Aaron Diamond Foundation
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- *City of New York, Dept. of Health, Bureau of TB control
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- *United States Public Health Service, Office of Minority Health
- *United States Public Health Service, Office of Women's Health

CENTER FOR IMMIGRANT HEALTH



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History and Purpose

The Center for Immigrant Health (CIH) was established in 1990, as the New York Task Force on Immigrant Health (NYTFIH). CIH is a partnership of community members, practitioners, researchers, social scientists, policy-makers, and advocates.

The Center's mission is to facilitate the delivery of linguistically, culturally, and epidemiologically sensitive health care services to newcomer populations. We bridge immigrant and refugee populations and the health care system, and strive for the elimination of ethnic and racial disparities in health care.

We accomplish our mission through:

- ♦ research
- ♦ outreach and education
- ♦ information dissemination
- ♦ program and policy development

Programs in 2005-2006

Community Tuberculosis Prevention Program (CTPP)

This program furthers the reach of tuberculosis control efforts among the foreign-born. CTPP conducts education, screening, referrals, and case management of TB in immigrant communities with high TB infection rates. CIH offers TB services in partnership with community based organizations in schools, English as Second Language classes, faith-based programs, job-training programs, and other community sites.

Language Initiatives

The Language Initiatives Program at CIH develops new options for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) patients and their providers by:

- ♦ establishing and disseminating models of linguistically and culturally competent health care
- ♦ providing quality training in medical interpreting and cultural competency
- ♦ conducting research to enhance the knowledge base around issues concerning communication between patient and provider

Remote Simultaneous Medical Interpretation (RSMI)

The RSMI system is a new method of delivering medical interpretation. It uses innovative technology to link off-site medical interpreters with health care sites. RSMI improves the efficiency and quality of medical care for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) patients. CIH is conducting a multi-year study to document differences in medical outcomes experienced by LEP patients who use the RSMI system as compared with those who use "usual and customary" interpreting practices.

Cultural Competence Training

The Cultural Competence Training program trains clinical and administrative personnel to improve communication in cross-cultural health care settings through:

- ♦ assessment of site-specific needs of health care providers
- ♦ enhancement of the cultural knowledge base and sensitivity of the staff
- ♦ development of effective cross-cultural interaction skills.

Over the last five years, we have trained over 2000 physicians, residents, administrative staff, and managed care staff in urban and suburban areas.

Cancer Awareness Network for Immigrant Minority Populations (CANIMP)

CANIMP builds bridges between immigrant communities and the cancer care and research communities. CANIMP increases cancer control activities and access to clinical trials in New York's foreign-born minority communities. CANIMP informs and updates immigrant communities on cancer screening and treatment programs, and addresses barriers to participation in cancer services and research.

Virtual Community for Immigrants with Cancer (VCIC)

VCIC advances immigrants' ability to cope with cancer and increases their confidence in accessing treatment options. Through online support groups (OSGs), VCIC provides specific informational, emotional, and social network support in Spanish to Latina women with breast cancer. VCIC is the first Spanish-language on-line support group for Latina women with breast cancer in the U.S. Participants are provided with computers and Internet access if needed, as well as instruction on computer and Internet use.

Volunteer/Internships

The Center offers a variety of exciting opportunities for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. Many of our interns go on to develop and co-ordinate their own projects based upon the skills they acquired at the Center.