

HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

Call for Applicants 2007 - 2008

Asian Americans are not well represented in community-based participatory research on Asian American health disparities. Many Asian Americans, after obtaining their advanced professional degrees, do not pursue careers that focus on reducing health disparities in Asian American populations such as working as community providers and/or conducting research with community members on issues relevant to Asian American health.

While there are no data that states the level of Asian representation in research development, it is implicit through the lack of available data on Asian American health disparities. For instance, only 0.01% of all published research in the MEDLINE database from 1966 – 2000 directly involved Asian American/Pacific Islander health.¹ Lack of Asian American representation in research has consequentially promoted the inaccurate “model minority” myth, where Asian American populations are deemed to have excellent health status. The paucity of Asian American specific research studies shows the significant need for cultivating and promoting Asian American health professionals to conduct new research projects that can reduce health disparities in Asian American populations.

The Health Disparities Research Training Program (HDRTP) serves as a means to bridge those who have an interest in developing Asian American research projects with leading experts and specialists to address the need for more culturally competent research on Asian American health.

Center for the Study of Asian American Health

In 2003, the NYU School of Medicine's Centers for Health Disparities Research received a grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities to create the nation's first Center for the Study of Asian American Health.

The Center for the Study of Asian American Health is a unique campus-community partnership of the NYU School of Medicine, New York City hospital and clinics, and more than 40 community-based organizations serving the Asian American community in New York City.

Together the partners of Center for the Study of Asian American Health are developing initiatives in four key areas: research, education and training, community assessment, and community outreach/partnerships.

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center

The HDRTP is administered by the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, a leader in providing high-quality, affordable, culturally competent health care to New York City's Asian American community. The Health Center's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Thomas Tsang, serves as Training Director of the program.

Objectives

As a core area of the Center for the Study of Asian American Health, the HDRTP is designed to address training and research gaps within Asian American health. The program offers a research training opportunity to qualified graduate students and health professionals, and intends to (1) increase competence and commitment among trainees to work in community-based research using participatory approaches addressing Asian American health disparities, (2) increase the number of potential investigators, and (3) increase the number of research projects addressing health disparities among Asian American populations. The HDRTP provides a unique opportunity for students and health professionals to develop and implement a community-based research project, as well learn strategies to analyze, compile, and disseminate results for academic and policy communities.

Training Program Components

The HDRTP seeks to train 6-8 health professionals and/or graduate students each year. This free, one-year program begins with an intensive 3-day course followed by monthly seminars, and covers topics ranging from Asian American health disparities, research methods, and funding mechanism to cultural competency, community access and advocacy. The course and seminars are led by NYU faculty members as well as other area experts. Additionally, each participant will be individually matched with a mentor and who will provide technical support and facilitate collaboration with community members, organization representatives, and senior researchers. During the program, trainees will be required to submit several written assignments throughout the year: research problem statement, protocol and IRB application (if necessary), measurement instrument, data analysis plan, and finally an abstract and a poster, which will be presented at the CSAAH annual Asian American Health Conference. All seminars and field placements will be located in New York City.

¹ Ghosh, C. (2003). Healthy People 2010 and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders: Defining a Baseline of Information. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(12):2093-2098.

Eligibility

The HDRTP is open to any health professional or graduate student who is interested in gaining skills in conducting community-based research with Asian American communities using participatory approaches. Graduate students in medicine, public health, social work, nursing, or other health-related fields are encouraged to apply.

The program also considers physicians and other allied professionals at various levels of their careers who desire to explore opportunities in research.

At least two slots in the 2007-2008 program will be reserved for applicants whose proposed studies focus on hepatitis B or cardiovascular health.

To be eligible for the training program, a prospective candidate must:

- Demonstrate commitment to addressing disparities in Asian American health
- Have taken or is currently enrolled in graduate level health sciences course
- Have a willingness to work and learn from colleagues at varying levels of health expertise

HDRTP Faculty & Mentors, 2006-2007

Noilyn Abesamis, MPH
Deputy Director, Outreach & Program Development
Center for the Study of Asian American Health

John Billings
Associate Professor, Health Policy and Public Service
Director, Center for Health and Public Service Research
New York University

Elizabeth Carroll
IRB Administrator
New York Academy of Medicine

Jyotsna Changrani, MD, MPH
Assistant Director, Center for Immigrant Health
New York University School of Medicine

John Chin, PhD
Senior Research Associate
Division of Health Policy
New York Academy of Medicine

Heidi Park Emerson, PhD
Director of Planning
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center

George Friedman-Jiménez, MD
Assistant Professor of Environmental Medicine
New York University School of Medicine

Francesca Gany, MD, MS
Founder and Director, Center for Immigrant Health
New York University School of Medicine

Danielle Green, DrPH
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Wayne Ho, MPP
Executive Director
Coalition for Asian Children & Families

Henrietta Ho-Asjoe, MPS
Administrator and Director, Community Development
Center for the Study of Asian American Health

Nadia Islam, PhD
Deputy Director of Research
Center for the Study of Asian American Health

Kenny Kwong, PhD
Director of Research and Evaluation
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center

Regina Lee, JD
Chief Development Officer
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center

Runi Mukherji-Ratnam, PhD
Chair and Professor of Psychology
SUNY College at Old Westbury

Helen Panageas
Assistant Director, Institutional Review Board
New York University School of Medicine

Henry Pollack, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
New York University School of Medicine

Mariano Jose Rey, MD
Director, Institute for Community Health and Research
Director, Centers for Health Disparities Research
New York University School of Medicine

Mutya San Agustin, MD
Professor of Pediatrics, Clinical Epidemiology & Social Medicine
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Darius Tandon, PhD
Research Associate, Department of Pediatrics
Johns Hopkins University

Chau Trinh-Shevrin, DrPH
Director, Center for the Study of Asian American Health
New York University School of Medicine

Thomas Tsang, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center

Patrick Wilson, PhD
Assistant Professor of Sociomedical Sciences
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University

HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

General Application Guidelines and Deadline

All applications must be submitted to our offices in one package. A completed application consists of:

- Training Application
- Statement (on separate piece of paper)
- One letter of recommendation
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume

It is the applicant's responsibility that all required materials (including letter of recommendation) are submitted to our office.

Applicants will be selected based on their commitment to Asian American health, previous work and research experience, and the feasibility of their proposed research project.

Completed applications must be postmarked by **Friday, July 6, 2007**.

For further information about the Health Disparities Research Training Program, please call or write:

Thomas Tsang, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer/Training Director
ttsang@cbwchc.org

Jolene Chou, MPH
Research Administrator
jchou@cbwchc.org

Health Disparities Research Training Program
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
268 Canal Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10013
(212) 379-6986, ext 521

HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

Application

1. Basic information:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Daytime Phone: () _____ - _____

Ethnic Background/Identity: _____ Gender: M F

2. Current occupation: _____ **Employer:** _____

3. Schools attended: List in chronological order, college, university, and professional schools you have attended.

| School name | Location | Attendance (MM/YY) | | Degree(s) | Major/Specialization |
|-------------|----------|--------------------|----|-----------|----------------------|
| | | From | To | | |
| | | | | | |
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4. Professional licenses (include dates and states): _____

5. Do you speak another language other than English?

No

Yes → Please specify: _____

Please check your level of fluency:

Verbal: Basic Intermediate Advanced

Reading: Basic Intermediate Advanced

Writing: Basic Intermediate Advanced

6. Please describe your previous research experience and/or coursework: _____

7. Please describe your experience and commitment to working with Asian American communities:

8. How will your participation in the Health Disparities Research Training Program support your career goals?

9. Please attach a typed (double-spaced) 1-2 page statement describing your proposed research project and personal motivations for pursuing research in Asian American health. Also, please mention the community partner(s) you would like to work with and the nature of your relationship with them.

10. Where did you learn of the Health Disparities Research Training Program? Check all that apply.

Internet Employer/Colleague School Listserv: _____ Other: _____

By signing below, I acknowledge that participation in the entirety of the program is expected and required of all health disparities training fellows. If my application is selected, I will accept the fellowship offer if I am able to 1) complete a 3-day intensive curriculum in October 2007; 2) participate in monthly training seminars; 3) complete all written assignments including a research problem statement and research protocol; and 4) complete a research project in 12-18 months.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

All application materials (training application, statement, recommendation letter, and curriculum vitae or resume) must be mailed in one package to:

Jolene Chou, MPH
Research Administrator
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
268 Canal Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10013.

Completed applications must be postmarked by **Friday, July 6, 2007**.