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CSAAH is a National Institutes of Health funded National Research Center of Excellence and consists of a broad network of community organizations, community leaders, academic medical centers, and health care institutions that are committed to identifying health priorities and reducing health disparities in the Asian American community.

About Us

The New York School of Medicine received funding in 2003 from the National Institutes of Health, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities to establish the Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH). The multi-year grant is devoted to the particular health care needs of Asian American communities in New York City and nationwide, providing a central location for the comprehensive evaluation and treatment of health problems affecting these communities. CSAAH is the only Center of its kind dedicated to Asian American health.

CSAAH integrates the work of researchers and over 55 Asian American community, government, business and academic/medical partners.

CSAAH aims to:

- Develop and conduct research to understand, address, and eliminate health disparities in Asian American communities
- Build new and strengthen existing private and public partnerships in order to increase outreach, advocacy, and research capacity to address Asian American health disparities and social inequalities
- Train a cadre of health professionals about community-based approaches of addressing health disparities in Asian American communities.



In the fall of 2007, CSAAH received designations as National Centers of Excellence from two prestigious federal funding mechanisms. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities has awarded a five-year center grant as a Research Center of Excellence. The new Research Center of Excellence builds upon the successful four-year track record of the Center for the Study of Asian American Health, established in 2003. The NIH grant supports research, research training, and community outreach initiatives that are aimed at reducing disparities in health in Asian American communities.

In addition, CSAAH has also received a designation as a National Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Health Disparities (CEED) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The five-year CEED grant supports training and dissemination of evidence-based strategies to reduce hepatitis B disparities, not only in New York City but also the United States.

PROGRAMS**Asian American Hepatitis B Program**

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NYU is one of the few academic medical centers in the United States to hold both NIH and CDC designations as Centers of Excellence. The success of CSAAH has been largely due to the dedication and commitment of community and university partners to work together to reduce health disparities. Over the years, CSAAH partners have been critical to ensuring that the Center's work is guided by a pan-Asian, collaborative spirit.

As a Research Center of Excellence, CSAAH will engage in studies that 1) examine the social, cultural, biological, and environmental context of community and the interactions

among these factors in influencing health; 2) ensures access to culturally-competent and linguistically-appropriate health care services; and 3) eliminates disparities in health status and access to services. New and continued CSAAH studies include ongoing intervention research to address cardiovascular disease in Asian American communities; data collection and dissemination of evidence-based strategies to reduce hepatitis B disparities; research to examine the impact of mental health in Asian American families; and myriad studies to understand social and cultural determinants of health in Asian American communities.

Research Programs:

Project AsPIRE (Asian American Partnerships in Research & Empowerment) is a health initiative that brings together community members and academic researchers to improve cardiovascular health, particularly hypertension, for Filipino Americans living in New York and New Jersey. Project AsPIRE has developed a culturally and linguistically appropriate community health worker intervention; a community health needs and resource assessment on cardiovascular health; and an infrastructure to facilitate partnership building between academic institutions, concerned individuals, community based organizations, and healthcare agencies. This collaborative health initiative is made possible by an innovative 11-year R24 grant mechanism from the National Institutes of Health, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD). NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health, with the Kalusugan Coalition and colleagues John Hopkins University, has completed the first 3-year phase of the study. The five-year study phase will begin in August of 2008.

www.kalusugancoalition.org/aspire.htm

The Asian American Hepatitis B Program (AAHBP) is a coalition of New York City institutions and residents dedicated to reducing the disproportionate burden of the hepatitis B infection on the Asian American community through outreach, education, screening, vaccinations, and follow-up care. Comprising a network of over 15 clinical and community-based partners, the AAHBP is centrally administered through CSAAH. Established in 2004 with funding from the New York City Council, the AAHBP also supports collaborative research in the epidemiology of hepatitis B infection in the Asian American community in NYC, outcomes evaluation, and policy development.

<http://www.bfreenyc.org>



Press Conference at New York City Hall to introduce Hepatitis B Prevention Resolution

The Hepatitis B Infection and Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Asian Americans study is a continuation and expansion of the hepatitis B and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) project that was funded under the Project EXPORT grant mechanism. The current study aims to 1) provide more detailed and complete epidemiologic data on HBV-infection in Asian Americans in New York City; and 2) To provide more comprehensive data on the clinical characteristics and outcome of Asian Americans infected with chronic HBV and the virologic, host, and environmental factors that are associated with the development of HCC through prospective longitudinal studies in this population.

The DREAM Project (Diabetes Research, Education, and Action for Minorities) is a five-year community based participatory research study at the Center for the Study of Asian American Health of the NYU School of Medicine (CSAAH) funded by National Institutes of Health, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD). The goal of this project is to develop, implement, and test a community health worker program designed to improve diabetes control and diabetes-related health complications in the Bangladeshi community in New York City. At present, the DREAM project is engaging in a descriptive study of diabetes in the Bangladeshi community that will include focus groups, a community survey, and data analysis of Bangladeshi diabetic patients; community health worker recruitment and training; and partnership expansion and development. This collaborative health initiative is guided by a coalition of over 10 community based organizations, health care professionals, and academic researchers, and is one of the first studies in the U.S. to address the health needs of this rapidly growing population.



DREAM staff and interns outreach at a community event in the Bronx

The B Free Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Hepatitis B Disparities (B Free CEED) is a five-year project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the goal to establish a national resource and expert center on the elimination of hepatitis B health disparities among Asian & Pacific Islanders (API). Using a community-based participatory approach in partnership with local and national agencies, community organizations, provider groups and community health centers, B Free CEED is building an infrastructure to develop, coordinate, evaluate, and disseminate evidence-based practices aimed to address and eliminate hepatitis B disparities in the API communities.

Pilot Projects are funded through CSAAH to support research on CVD, tumorigenesis, mental health, and other social and cultural determinants of health.

Education and Training Programs:

The Health Disparities Research Training Program (HDRTP) is designed to address training and research gaps within Asian American health. The program offers a research training opportunity to qualified students and health professionals, which intend (1) to increase competency and commitment for community-based participatory research and (2) to increase the number of potential investigators and research projects to address Asian American health disparities. Approximately 30 graduate and post-graduate students have successfully completed the HDRTP.

The Center Student Investigator Program (CSI) provides training, outreach, and research opportunities for students to gain knowledge and skills to address Asian American health disparities. Through their internship experience at CSAAH, students will receive trainings through seminars which aim to provide an understanding of culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches to research, outreach, community partnerships, and care delivery in Asian American populations. More than 75 high school, college, graduate, and post-graduate health professional students have successfully completed the CSI Program.

Seminars and Conferences

CSAAH hosts an annual conference on Asian American health together with community members, providers, students, researchers, and policy makers about key challenges and opportunities facing Asian American communities. In addition, ongoing seminars and speaker series aim to address health disparities in the Asian American community. These seminar series provide valuable resources and information for health care professionals, students and community members to learn and better understand the health concerns and challenges in the Asian American community.

Proclamation Ceremony introducing the B Free CEED Edison Project



Dr. Darius Tandon of Johns Hopkins University presents on overview of community based participatory research to HDRTP trainees

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.med.nyu.edu/csaah

Community Outreach Programs:

The outreach efforts of CSAAH are guided by two specific aims: (1) to partner with community-based organizations to conduct community health assessments to determine the health priorities and concerns perceived by various Asian ethnic groups and (2) to work collaboratively with ethnic-specific community-based organizations and other concerns individuals to initiate community-campus partnerships to address health disparities.

As part of the CSAAH's continued efforts to better understand and address health

disparities in New York City's Asian American communities, CSAAH has developed formative research projects through community specific Community Health Needs and Resources Assessments.

CSAAH has also worked closely with community leaders and community-based organizational partners to develop Kalusugan Coalition (www.kalusugancoalition.org), NYU South Asian Health Initiative (SAHI) (www.med.nyu.edu/sahi), and the Vietnamese Community Health Initiative (VCHI).



2008 Asian Women's Giving Circle Grantees' Reception

Community Projects:

Vietnamese Breast Health Awareness Project is the first breast cancer education and prevention program specialized to the cultural and linguistic needs of Vietnamese refugee and immigrant women in the greater NYC metropolitan area. CSAAH community partner Indochina Sino-American Community Center (ISACC) has received a grant from Komen for the Cure Greater NYC to establish this project, which is a collaboration among ISACC, the Vietnamese Community Health Initiative (VCHI) and the NYU CSAAH. The Project will operate a bilingual information hot-line on breast health, conduct educational workshops throughout the city, and assist uninsured women in accessing no-cost breast cancer screening.

Project SEAT is a community-based advocacy project that aims to promote tobacco-control for Southeast Asians in NYC. The project aims (1) to build capacity among Filipino, Vietnamese and Cambodian community based and faith based organizations to include tobacco awareness and anti-tobacco advocacy, (2) to conduct a tobacco-use assessment among Southeast

Asian communities in New York City, and (3) to participate in planning tobacco control and cessation activities that target API communities, particularly Southeast Asians, through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. APPEAL (Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership), through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is working in partnership with the Kalusugan Coalition and CSAAH's Vietnamese Community Health Initiative to establish Project SEAT.

The Heart Health Project, funded by the Asian Women Giving Circle, is an intergenerational project addressing cardiovascular health needs in the Chinese American. Chinese American senior women and young women will record their lived experiences regarding diet, exercising, and daily habits using photovoice, a photographic technique. The project will be used to develop health education programs as well as to engage policy makers regarding the community's needs.