



# NYU CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ASIAN AMERICAN HEALTH

SPRING / SUMMER 2010

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## World Hepatitis Day Marks a New Partnership and Focus on Advocacy Efforts

On May 19th 2010, diverse voices from the New York City Hepatitis B Coalition and New York City Hepatitis C Task Force met at City Hall in recognition of World Hepatitis Day and to emphasize the need to increase public knowledge of viral hepatitis B and C, diseases that affect nearly a quarter of a million New Yorkers. B Free CEED members and partners played an integral role in making this day a success. Speeches were made by Dr. Henry Pollack, Scientific Principal Investigator for B Free CEED, Dr. Simona Kwon, Project Manager of B Free CEED, and Dr. Su Wang, Assistant Director of Medical Affairs of the B Free CEED partner Charles B. Wang Community Center.



Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Linda Gibbs displaying Mayor Bloomberg's proclamation of May 2010 as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month

*continued on Page 3*

## The NYU Prevention Research Center Officially Launched

February 12, 2010 marked the beginning of a new chapter in NYU's history of public health leadership, as the deans of the university's various health-related schools gathered at the Torch Club to celebrate the official launch of the NYU Health Promotion and Prevention Research Center (NYU PRC). Drs. Robert Grossman, Dean of the NYU School of Medicine, and Robert Berne, Executive Vice President for Health addressed the audience consisting of academic and community partners, and described the important role and contributions of the NYU PRC.



Robert Bern, Executive Vice President for Health, NYU; Mariano Rey, Principal Investigator, NYU PRC; Robert Grossman, Dean and CEO, NYU Langone Medical Center; Nadia Islam, Research Director, NYU PRC

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATION

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Nadia Islam, PhD  
Research Director, NYU PRC

Simona Kwon, DrPH, MPH  
Director, B Free CEED

Rhodora Ursua, MPH  
Director, AsPIRE

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

## B Free CEED: CDC REACH US Grantees Host The New York Health Disparities Summit

The Communities Acting to Eliminate Health Disparities Summit was held on June 3 – 4, 2010. The first ever summit was collectively hosted by the four New York-based CDC REACH US grantees, the B Free CEED, Communities IMPACT Diabetes Center based at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Bronx Health REACH, and the Brooklyn Perinatal Network. The objective was to bring the respective Legacy pilot grantees together to provide research capacity training, build policy advocacy, and to provide an opportunity for networking and collaboration across health priority areas and target populations of the different CDC REACH US funded programs. Over one hundred representatives from community organizations, faith-based groups, social service agencies, local departments of health, and community health centers attended. Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Thomas Tsang, Medical Officer for Health Information Technology in the Department of Health and Human Services and former Executive Medical Director of B Free CEED partner the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Dr. Leandris Liburd, CDC Branch Chief of Community Health and Program Services, and Ms. Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Executive Director of Community Health Councils, Inc.. Years 1-3 B Free CEED Legacy pilot grantees attended from across the U.S.

The gathering provided an opportunity to formally welcome the Legacy pilot grantees to the national REACH community and to the movement to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. Workshops on grant writing, data collection and analysis and understanding the principles of community based participatory research were conducted.

Any questions about the application process can be directed to Isha Weerasinghe at [isha.weerasinghe@nyumc.org](mailto:isha.weerasinghe@nyumc.org).



## Project AsPIRE Hosts Fair with New Partner, OBCCI

On April 17th, NYU CSAAH, Kalusugan Coalition, Inc. and Philippine Forum held a health fair for Project AsPIRE with a new faith-based partner, Open Bible Christian Church International (OBCCI) in Woodside, Queens. Faith-based organizations have been valuable partners for Project AsPIRE for several years now since they are often the cornerstone of the community and have congregants who are new immigrants, are not connected to the healthcare system, or encounter various challenges in maintaining their health. Leadership from groups such as OBCCI have welcomed Project AsPIRE with open arms as they find health screenings and community health workers as an important means of bridging community members to the proper healthcare they need. The Project AsPIRE team looks forward to continued partnerships with OBCCI and the many other faith-based partners who share a common goal of improving health access and heart health status for Filipinos living in New York and New Jersey.



Above: OBCCI leaders, Project AsPIRE team, and community members join forces for a successful health screening.

Right: Kalusugan Coalition's CHW, Leonida Gamboa, lead organizer of OBCCI health fair, explains Project AsPIRE to community member.

## NYU Honors the National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

On May 19, 2010, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (NYU CSAAH), The Chinese American Planning Council, Family Health Project, APICHA and Project CHARGE hosted a Symposium at NYU School of Medicine, as part of a national awareness campaign around HIV/AIDS among Asian and Pacific Islanders. Speakers included John J. Chin, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Hunter College and Sumon Chin, MPH, Director of HIV/AIDS Services, the Chinese American Planning Council.

## Asian American Health Panel Convenes

On May 21, 2010, NYU CSAAH, The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, and Family Health Project sponsored the Asian American Health Panel at the Asian and Asian American Research Institute at CUNY. The event was to highlight the two-volume Praeger Handbook of Asian American Health: Taking Notice and Taking Action (2009)—illuminating the biological, historical and cultural issues impacting the health of America's fastest-growing racial group, and offers insights into best practices that those in the healthcare field can apply in their own work.

Chapter authors were among the speakers— Daniel Chen, MD, John Chin, PhD, Waiwah Chung, RN, MS, Ira Frankel, PhD, Wayne Ho, MPP, Douglas Nam Le, Suki Terada Ports, Rhodora Ursua, MPH,

and Sally Wong, PhD. Presentations and lively discussions included on some of the less visible factors faced by immigrants, as well as Americans born of Asian descent, that often contribute to disparities in their diagnosis and care. They also highlighted models, most notably several healthcare practices located around the country that have been successful in identifying, advocating for and, ultimately, meeting the healthcare needs of America's pan-Asian community.

The book co-editors are William Bateman, MD, Noilyn F. Abesamis-Mendoza, MPH and Henrietta Ho-Asjoe, MPS.

## DREAM Project Completes Pilot Intervention and Motivates Diabetic Bangladeshis to Control their Diabetes

The DREAM Project is completing its six session pilot intervention phase with 36 participants who have been attending group education sessions on diabetes management held by DREAM Community Health Workers Gulnaha Alam and Mamnunul Haq. The DREAM Project has created a culturally specific curriculum

on diabetes management in the Bangladeshi community that includes both educational information and interactive exercises.

Some of the topics covered in the DREAM sessions included diet and nutrition, physical activity, complications of diabetes, stress management, family support and access to services.

In addition to the group sessions, which were sex-segregated, the CHWs also completed three home visits with each participant to fill in clinical information on their A1C levels, weight loss, cholesterol and blood pressure measurements and offer emotional support to the participants. The participants range in age from their early thirties to early seventies and are from Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan and Queens. In addition to the intervention sessions, the DREAM CHWs have been speaking at various venues such as community events and educational seminars about the work of the DREAM Project.

As a result of the pilot intervention, we are already seeing changes in the knowledge levels of participants and their clinical markers. Several participants have reduced the A1C levels, lost weight and have reported that they have more confidence in navigating the health care system.

The DREAM Project will be holding a large scale community event in September to celebrate the completion of the pilot intervention and the beginning of the full intervention in the fall.



To the Left: CHW Mamnunul Haq gives presentation on diabetes to participants .



To the Right: CHW Gulnaha Alam leads participants in an exercise.

## NYU PRC's CHW Training Program Begins

On May 25, 2010, the NYU Prevention and Research Center's (NYU PRC) Community Health Worker (CHW) training program began with 15 participants, including 5 Project RICE CHWs. The training program is housed at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, and was developed and is being led by a group of experts in the field of training. The training will give all participants a strong foundation in communication, counseling, service coordination, capacity-building, advocacy, research, and disease and illness skills.

### Five New CHW's Introduced Into Project RICE

The NYU PRC also welcomed the addition of five new community health workers (CHWs) to the Project RICE team, who will be participating in the PRC's CHW Training Program this summer.

Ted Ryo and Amy Lee will coordinate Project RICE activities in the Korean community through Korean Community Services (KCS). Mr. Ryo is a recent MA graduate, who has been working part-time with KCS on immunization and other health promotion programs. Ms. Lee is a registered nurse who most recently worked for a public school immunization program in the Bronx. Asim Akhtar, Birmohan Singh, and Rucha Kavathe will be working to coordinate Project RICE activities in the South Asian community. Mr. Akhtar will work closely with New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA) as a CHW for the



From L to R:  
Romelia Corvacho  
April Hicks  
Rucha Kavathe  
Ted Ryo  
Leonida Gamboa  
Sherina Davis  
Vivian Garcia  
Tori Velez  
Trena Goico  
Seated: Sergio Matos

Urdu speaking community. He has been an active organizer and a taxi driver for 4 years and has been working with NTYWA on several of their outreach campaigns. Mr. Singh and Ms. Kavathe will work closely with United Sikhs as CHWs for the Punjabi speaking community. Mr. Singh has been working with United Sikhs on several outreach and social service campaigns and has a strong relationship with the local gurdwaras. Ms. Kavathe has been working with United Sikhs on their media and communication campaigns.

Project RICE CHWs will be actively coordinating health screenings, administering needs assessment surveys, and facilitating focus groups in the Korean and South Asian communities this summer and fall. They will also assist in the development of a CHW Intervention to promote diabetes prevention in these communities, which is scheduled to begin in Spring 2011.

## World Hepatitis Day Marks a New Partnership, Focus on Advocacy Efforts

*continued from Page 1*

Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Linda Gibbs displayed a proclamation by Mayor Bloomberg that designated the month of May as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month. Governor Paterson issued a similar proclamation for the State of New York. NYC Health Commissioner Thomas Farley's office pledged commitment to viral hepatitis awareness efforts.

The City Hall event brought together health care providers and patient advocates, who spoke of the need for greater dialogue and education about the disease that disproportionately affect immigrants from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, as well as intravenous drug users and people living with HIV.

As part of the NYC Hepatitis B Coalition, B Free CEED has focused recent efforts on greater advocacy and legislative awareness. By engaging the Mayor's office and partnering with hepatitis C advocates, B Free CEED presents a stronger, more unified front to educate policymakers and show the broad community support for measures to fight this disease.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THE NYU PRC: Descriptive Study Launched in Queens Community Health Fair

On May 8th 2010, the Health Promotion and Prevention Research Center (NYU PRC) worked in partnership with Korean Community Services (KCS) to launch the first phase of its core research study, Project RICE, at KCS's Parents Day Festival and Health Fair in Flushing. A total of 80 health screenings and 78 diabetes resources and needs assessment surveys were conducted to gather descriptive information on access to care, health behaviors, and beliefs as related to diabetes prevention within the Korean community.



To the Left:  
Volunteers provide various  
health screenings.



To the Right:  
NYU PRC intern Rebecca Park  
interviews an attendee.

*We are pleased to announce the launch of the NYU Health Promotion and Prevention Research Center's (NYU PRC) website!* The website will play an important role in achieving NYU PRC's mission of building community capacity and leadership for cardiovascular health promotion and disease prevention. It will serve as a multi-media resource for information about health disparities, the community health worker (CHW) model, and community-based participatory research (CBPR). The website also includes information about NYU PRC, its goals, research agenda, and training programs.

Please visit <http://prevention-research.med.nyu.edu/> today!

## NYU PRC Hosts First Learning Exchange

On Thursday, April 1, 2010, the NYU PRC hosted its first learning exchange, "Building Bridges: Community Health Workers as Agents of Change" at the NYU Langone Medical Center. Over seventy individuals representing academic, healthcare, advocacy/policy, governmental, and community-based organizations were in attendance.

*The event was recorded and is available on iTunesU for download. To access the file, go to the iTunes Store and enter "NYU School of Medicine" into the search box. Next, click on Community Engagement, and then click on get tracks.*



Nadia Islam, Simona Kwon, Padmini Balagopal, Rebecca Park, Frances Silva, Ranjita Misra, Mariano Rey, Smiti Kapadia, Miyong Kim, Mammunul Haq, Jennifer Zanowiak, Sergio Matos, Rico Foz, Henry Soliveres

## Collaborating for New Yorkers - Project CHARGE

Project CHARGE (Coalition for Health Access to Reach Greater Equity) is a 14-member collaborative of Asian-led and Asian-serving organizations working to increase health access for Asian Americans in NYC. It is one of 12 coalitions funded as a Health Through Action grantee by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF). Project CHARGE is part of a 4-year national campaign to address health disparities among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities, an initiative in which key stakeholders will drive changes in the API community in New York City and nation-wide.

*Partners include: Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE), Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV & AIDS (APICHA), NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH), Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (CBWCHC), Child Center of NY, Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), Coalition for Asian American Children & Families (CACF - Lead Agency), Family Health Project, Henry Street Settlement, Kalusugan Coalition, Inc. (KC), Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York (KCS), MAAWS for Global, NY Asian Women's Center (NYAWC), and the South Asian Health Initiative (SAHI).*

## Project CHARGE Co-Hosts Discussion: The Impact of Health Care Reform on Asian Americans

On April 19, 2010, Project CHARGE and CSAAH sponsored the talk, "Health Care Reform and Asian Americans: What's In Store for New York State." The event took place at the New York University School of Medicine. A presentation of key findings from the report, Healing Our Health Care System: Asian American Voices for Health Reform was presented by Noilyn Abesamis-Mendoza, Project Director of Project CHARGE.

Based on findings from the report, Project CHARGE analyzed how particular provisions from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590 as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (HR 4872) impacted the Asian American community. The guest speaker was Dr. John McDonough, a Joan H. Tisch Distinguished Fellow in Public Health at Hunter College.

## Tackling State Implementation of Health Care Reform on Inaugural Health Advocacy Day

Albany, NY – On Wednesday, May 12, 2010, Project CHARGE's health advocates, including social services providers, community health workers, researchers, health educators, health providers, and policy advocates convened at the state capitol to 1) educate legislators about the health challenges facing the diverse Asian American community and 2) urge that their needs are met in the new health system to be developed under federal health care reform. Project CHARGE's health advocates met with 24 members of the New York State Senate and Assembly health, insurance, and finance committees as well as from state legislative districts with a high population of Asian American constituents.



Rhodora Ursua and Henry Soliveres  
with Assemblyman Michael  
DenDekker



To the left (L to R):  
Eunjee Shin (KCS), Rhodora Ursua  
(CSAAH), Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry,  
Reshma Shah (Child Center of NY)

# CSAAH Welcomes New Staff!

**Catlin Rideout** is the Partnership Development and Research Training Coordinator for the NYU-HHC CTSI Community Engagement and Population Health Research Core and The Center for the Study of Asian American Health. She coordinates the community research training curriculum and fosters community engagement in clinical and translational research. Ms Rideout also guides the technical assistance and research training for the Legacy pilot grantees of the B Free CEED: National Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Hepatitis B Disparities. Ms. Rideout has extensive experience conducting qualitative and quantitative community-based research in underserved populations in New York City. She earned her Masters in Public Health from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health where her research focused on HIV/AIDS and its intersection with stigma and discrimination and the health and human rights of marginalized communities.



**Frances Silva** is the Project Coordinator for the new Latino Health Initiatives Division in the NYU PRC. She will coordinate evaluations through the Community Engagement Core of the CTSI as well as the PRC regarding health care access and research initiatives in Hispanic populations living in Northern Manhattan and the South Bronx. She will also assist

in the development of a diabetes prevention program through the PRC with these same populations.

Ms. Silva has evaluated many community based health programs both domestically and internationally, and both the public and private sectors. Her diverse portfolio also includes direct health education, medical case-working, statistical analysis and program planning, working with a range of health diseases from schizophrenia to breast cancer, with a focus on obesity, nutritional outcomes, and diabetes. As a recent graduate of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, she evaluated the restructure of a community health worker program within a free clinic in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Ms. Silva looks forward to the upcoming projects taking off in the PRC, and getting to know and work with the many community partners and dedicated professionals who are part of CSAAH and its extended network.



**Isha Weerasinghe** is the Program Coordinator for the B Free CEED. Prior to working at the B Free CEED, she worked for The Belaku Trust, a small NGO in Bangalore, India focusing on women's empowerment and health research. There she helped incorporate a health module into the general curriculum for preschool children living in

rural areas outside of Bangalore, and helped develop a cost-analysis

paper for a WHO-sponsored project centered on the quality of care of pregnant women living in rural Karnataka. Ms. Weerasinghe has also worked in comparative effectiveness and clinical trials for the corporate sector, and as a Research Associate for the AIDS Institute, researching facilities and collaborating on the development of best practices materials. She holds a masters from the London School of Economics and Political Science from the Department of Social Policy.



**Laura Wyatt** is the Research Data Manager for the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health. She manages and oversees the data sources across CSAAH, which include AsPIRE, B Free CEED, and the PRC, and performs analyses for these program activities. She also provides epidemiological and biostatistical support for grant development activities within the center. Ms. Wyatt

received her MPH in Epidemiology from Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health and also studied public health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She previously worked at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in New York City and at the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, where she managed surveillance data and performed analyses for grants and publications. Ms. Wyatt is excited to work with CSAAH and improve her community health research skills and focus on publications within the organization.



**Jennifer Zanowiak** serves as the Research Coordinator for the NYU PRC, responsible for coordinating NYU PRC's core research project, Project RICE (Reaching Immigrants through Community Empowerment). The goal of Project RICE is to develop, implement, and evaluate a CHW program to prevent diabetes among recently immigrated Korean and South Asian Americans in New York City. Ms. Zanowiak has extensive

experience with grants management, program development, and interventions involving community based participatory research among immigrant populations. She received a BA in Metropolitan Studies and Psychology from New York University, and an MA in International Affairs from The New School. While completing her graduate studies, she worked in New York City and Mumbai on several projects in the areas of public health, HIV/AIDs, violence against women, and gender equality, which established her interest in working to address health inequities and foster community involvement in health. She looks forward to working with the RICE Coalition and new RICE CHWs to implement a truly innovative prevention program for Korean and South Asian communities in NYC.

## AND ... Thanks to our intern, Rebecca Park



Rebecca Park is the Project RICE Intern for the NYU Prevention Research Center for NYU CSAAH. Project RICE is a specialized five-year-program created to improve diabetes prevention within the Korean American and South Asian American communities in New York City. From performing literature reviews on existing studies on minority health issues, working with Project RICE Coalition members at health fairs, to assisting the RICE staff in preparing memos and media kits, Rebecca is a versatile member of the CSAAH family. Through her involvement in serving as a member of the Korean American community in the Tri-State area, as a counselor and coordinator for Peacemaker Youth Ministries, and as a volunteer healthcare administrator for outreach activities in South America, Rebecca seeks to dedicate her efforts in a mission to better serve the needs of the population, especially of those who are vulnerable to a fragmented health care system. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Economic Policy with a minor in Health and Business at New York University's College of Arts & Sciences and will further her academic studies in a Masters of Public Health and Management program.

## CSI Spotlight: Diana Ho

Diana Ho attended Freehold Boro High School in New Jersey. During her high school career, she was an active volunteer with Centrastate, a local hospital, and was the vice president of her school's National Honor Society chapter. She has also attended Chinese school for eight years, and can read, write, and speak Mandarin and Cantonese. These skills helped her when she first joined NYU CSAAH in the spring of 2007 as a weekly intern during her last year of high school.



In the 3 1/2 years since she joined CSAAH, Diana has participated in various events, including health fairs, health symposiums, the annual Asian American Health Conferences held at NYU Medical Center. She has also been integral to carrying out several projects including the Chinese American Heart Health Photovoice project addressing cardiovascular health needs in the Chinese American. Recently, she has been working on a project to create a culturally- and linguistically-appropriate educational CD titled "Heart to Heart - What can I do to prevent heart disease?" a health educational tool for the NYC Chinese American community.

Diana has just finished her sophomore year at New York University. She is pursuing a major in biology and hopes to become a surgeon.

## NYU CSAAH Congratulates...

### Excellence in Global Public Health Student Awardee, Gregory Calip



Dr. Gregory Calip conducts pharmacology training for AsPIRE and DREAM CHWs.

Gregory Calip, Pharm.D has received the 2010 Excellence in Global Public Health Student Award from the NYU Master's Program in Global Public Health. This award is given to a graduating Global MPH student who demonstrates a high level of scholarship, demonstrable commitment to the global health community, and who has great potential for future contribution to the development of the field of global public health. Dr. Calip will be graduating with the Global MPH Class of 2010 with a concentration in Epidemiology. He was also a former trainee in the Health Disparities Research Training Program conducted by NYU CSAAH and Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. His HDRTP Project was

entitled: The Role of Sociocultural Factors on Medication Adherence and Control of Hypertension Among Filipino Americans in Metropolitan New York City: A Qualitative Study. Dr. Calip collected his data through key informant interviews with Project AsPIRE Community Health Workers and presented his findings at CSAAH's 2009 Asian American Health Conference as well as the Yale Global Health & Innovation Conference. Dr. Calip will be moving on to get his PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle this fall, and was awarded funding there through a post-doctoral fellowship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center on an NCI grant. We are excited for Dr. Calip as he continues his journey to further contribute to the field of public health

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