

NYU CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ASIAN AMERICAN HEALTH

SPRING / SUMMER 2009

CSAAH Receives OMH Award



From L to R: Mariano Rey, Chau Trinh-Shevrin, Nadia Islam, Simona Kwon, Rhodora Ursua, Krittika Ghosh, Henrietta Ho-Asjoe and Douglas Nam Le

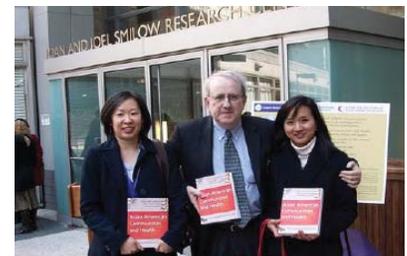
On February 26th, 2009, the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health received the "National Leadership Award" from the Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services (OMH). The award was presented to CSAAH at the Third National Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Awards Gala held in National Harbor, MD. It was the only such award bestowed to an academic institution.

The Summit brought together leaders from all levels of government, academia, public health, mental health, minority serving institutions and minority communities to advance key issues and opportunities for improving minority health and closing the health gap. The Summit marks the 21st year since the establishment of OMH and is intended to promote best practices and collaborative actions vital to improving minority health in the U.S.

The OMH conferred six categories of awards at the Summit to recognize and honor contributions that have made a difference to the health of racial/ethnic minorities. The award recognizes demonstrated vision, innovation, creativity, and leadership in developing opportunities or investing in successful models for improving the health of racial and ethnic communities. Dr. Garth Graham, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health at OMH, emphasized that NYU received this award due to the organization's "demonstrated commitment to minority health through a 'hands on' approach and their performance as a role model who has inspired others at all levels to take on initiatives that further the work towards eliminating health disparities."

ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND HEALTH Book Released

Investigators at the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH) edited a groundbreaking textbook entitled *Asian American Communities and Health: Context, Research, Policy, and Action* that was published by Jossey-Bass Publishers on March 17th, 2009. This significant effort was led by NYU School of Medicine faculty members and Center leadership: Drs. Chau Trinh Shevrin, Nadia Shilpi Islam, and Mariano Jose Rey.



Simona Kwon, Mariano Rey and Jinny Park

On April 9, 2009, Asian American Communities and Health was officially launched at a book release party held at the NYU Langone Medical Center.

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CSAAH Receives NYU Team Achievement Award

On January 14, 2009, the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health received the NYU Team Achievement Award at the NYU Langone Medical Center. The award was conferred to the Center for demonstrating excellence in health promotion, health education, community outreach, and community-based research. In particular, the Center was commended for their work in fostering strong academic and community relationships. For the last five years, the Center has actively engaged NYU faculty and departments from Medicine, Nursing and Dentistry, Steinhardt, Social Work, and Wagner to develop interdisciplinary education, training, and research programs.

The presenters of the Team Achievement Ceremony acknowledged the value of the Center's programs to the

Medical Center and the New York City community. The Center has developed programs that make a tremendous difference in helping communities at risk for hepatitis B, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. For example, the Center's Asian American Hepatitis B Program has provided important and culturally-sensitive access to screening, vaccination, and treatment for close to 10,000 individuals at risk for hepatitis B.

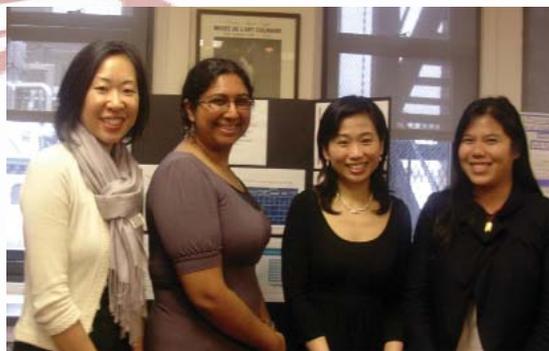


Front row: Krittika Ghosh, Nadia Islam, Henrietta Ho-Asjoe, Chau Trinh-Shevrin, Chintana Chhetri, Lauren Hom, Rhodora Ursua. Back row: Robert Press, Douglas Nam Le, Eduardo Betancourt, Jay Duller, Simona Kwon, Romerico Foz, David Aguilar, Henry Soliveres, Mariano Rey

B Free CEED: National Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Hepatitis B Disparities

The B Free National Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Hepatitis B Disparities (B Free CEED) is one of 18 Centers of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities (CEEDs) established throughout the country in 2007 under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s REACH U.S. initiative. The mission of B Free CEED is to serve as a national resource and expert center on the elimination of hepatitis B health disparities among Asian American & Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). A partnership of NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health, community organizations, local and national agencies, provider groups and community health centers, B Free CEED develops, evaluates, and disseminates innovative approaches aimed at reducing hepatitis B-related disparities among AAPIs across the U.S.

In the New York metropolitan area, B Free CEED outreaches to the Korean and Chinese communities in partnership with Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc., American Cancer Society – Eastern Division, Asian Initiatives, and the Asian American Hepatitis B Program/B Free NYC. B Free CEED collaborates with additional local and national



Simona Kwon (B Free CEED Program Manager), Spring NYU MPH student interns Rekha Rajagopal and Tze-Jen Chien, and Lauren Hom (B Free CEED Project Coordinator)

agencies, community organizations, provider groups and community health centers across the U.S., to disseminate locally developed, evidence-based activities to other AAPI communities.

B Free CEED Social Marketing Campaign

B Free CEED is currently collecting information from the Korean and Chinese communities in the New York metropolitan area on their basic knowledge of hepatitis B and preferred sources and methods for receiving health information. The information will contribute to the formative data needed to develop the B Free CEED social marketing campaign to raise awareness and encourage screening and vaccination for hepatitis B in these communities. To date close to 600 surveys and 7 focus groups have been completed. Surveying will continue through June 2009 with an additional target of 400 completed surveys. The social marketing campaign is one evidence-based approach that B Free CEED has developed with the goal of replicating these activities to develop similar social marketing campaigns to AAPI communities across the U.S.

B Free CEED Year 3 Legacy Pilot Projects

Each year, B Free CEED funds 3 to 5 organizations across the U.S. that are interested in developing community-based participatory approaches to eliminating hepatitis B-related disparities. Legacy pilot projects are awarded for a one-year period and receive technical assistance from the B Free CEED coalition during this funding period. Past and current projects include infrastructure and capacity building, PSA development, evaluations, and adapting B Free CEED social marketing activities.

The call for proposals for Year 3 Legacy pilot projects has been released. We are currently accepting applications until **August 14, 2009**. Please visit the B Free CEED website for more information on how to apply: <http://bfree.med.nyu.edu>.

Visit Our B Free CEED Web-based Resource Library!

<http://bfree.med.nyu.edu/resource-library>

The library catalogs and houses hepatitis B resources targeting AAPIs from our partners and organizations across the U.S. Resources include materials for health professionals and researchers, community organizations and clinics, and the general public, from multilingual patient brochures and videos to CME modules for physicians.

The resource library is updated frequently to include the latest hepatitis B resources and will soon include more advanced searches and feedback tools.

5th Annual Asian American Health Conference: "Reinvesting in Our Communities for Health Equity"

The NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health will host its 5th Annual Asian American Health Conference in New York City from October 8-9, 2009.

The theme of this year's conference highlights the importance of making continuous investments in our communities that address issues of inequity and provide linkages to resources for healthier communities.

During the conference, 2009 Leadership Awards will recognize individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to improving Asian American health locally or nationally. Award selection criteria can be found on http://www.med.nyu.edu/csaa/events/conf2009_nomination.html.

Abstracts to be presented at this year's conference by students, educators, advocates, health and social services professionals, and researchers will reflect innovative programs, initiatives, or recently completed/ongoing research and advocacy efforts pertaining to the following areas in the field of Asian American and Pacific Islander (API) health:

- Leveraging resources through partnership building
 - Translating research to action
- Organizing and advocating for policy changes
- Fostering opportunities in research, training, and leadership

Please visit our website at www.med.nyu.edu/csaa for complete conference information and updates, or email nyucsaa@gmail.com.

NYU Hosts an Event to Honor National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

On May 19, 2009, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health, The Chinese American Planning Council, The Family Health Project and Project CHARGE hosted a Symposium at NYU School of Medicine, Schwartz Lecture Hall as part of a national awareness campaign around HIV/AIDS among Asian and Pacific Islanders.

The 6th Annual Women's Health Symposium

On June 12, 2009, The Cancer Information Service of New York, CSAAH and Charles B. Wang Community Health Center sponsor this event, held at the School of Social Work, Hunter College, in New York City. Please refer all inquiries to Rebecca Sze at rsze@cbwchc.org or 212-966-0228.

ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND HEALTH BOOK Released (continued from page 1)

At the event, opening remarks and speeches were given by Dr. Robert I. Grossman (Dean of the NYU School of Medicine) and Dr. Vivian Lee (Vice-Dean of Science at the NYU School of Medicine), Dr. Tung-tien Sun (Professor of Cell Biology at the NYU School of Medicine and one of the original founders of the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health), Dr. Chandak Ghosh (Medical Consultant of the Health Resources and Service Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services), and Dr. Tazuko Shibusawa (Associate Professor of Social Work at the NYU Silver School of Social Work).

Asian American Communities and Health provides an overview of the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that influence the distribution of disease and illness in Asian American communities. The book explores the diversity within the Asian community with respect to health seeking behavior and knowledge, socioeconomic status, educational level, cultural traditions, and specific health care needs and issues. In doing so, it facilitates a meaningful dialogue to help identify creative solutions for health disparities faced by racial and ethnic minority communities.

The development of *Asian American Communities and Health* exemplifies the collaborative spirit of the Center in bridging



Dr. Mariano Rey speaks at the Asian American Communities and Health book release event on April 9, 2009.

academic and community partners to address health disparities. Through active community and faculty engagement initiatives, the Center secured support from approximately 45 leading academic researchers and 20 community partners across the U.S.

Dr. Ichiro Kawachi, Chair of the Department of Society, Human Development and Health, Harvard School of Public Health, states, "Unlike other books on the health of immigrant and minority populations, this textbook illustrates the critical role of factors ranging from social capital, migration patterns, culture, acculturation histories, racism and discrimination, and policies on health and health disparities. Trinh-Shevrin, Islam, and Rey have made an important contribution to the minority health and health disparities literature."

DREAM Project: The First Large Scale Public Health Project in the Bangladeshi Immigrant Community in North America



The DREAM Project (Diabetes Research, Education, and Action for Minorities) is a five-year National Institute of Health (NIH) sponsored community-based participatory research study at CSAAH. The goal of this project is to develop, implement, and test a community health worker program designed to improve control of diabetes and prevent diabetes-related health complications in the Bangladeshi community in New York City.

In 2007, CSAAH conducted a Community Health and Resource Needs Assessment with more than 150 Bangladeshis living in New York City. Data from the study show that 1 out of 4 Bangladeshis have diabetes. CSAAH and its DREAM Project community partners address this growing epidemic and health disparity among South Asian Americans, by identifying multi-level and community-based health promotion and diabetes prevention strategies.

The DREAM Project is guided by a coalition of over 10 community-based Bangladeshi-serving-organizations, health care professionals, and academic researchers, who meet regularly to discuss the progress and logistics of the project.

Currently, the DREAM Project is completing its descriptive study of diabetes in the Bangladeshi community. DREAM recently completed six focus groups on perceptions of diabetes and health among members of the Bangladeshi community. The focus groups were stratified by gender and conducted in community centers in Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens and Bellevue Hospital and included both diabetic and non-diabetic participants. Additionally, the DREAM Project has been administering a diabetes-specific needs assessment survey at various venues in the Bangladeshi community including health fairs, cultural events, and through one-on-one Street outreach.

On May 10th, 2009, the DREAM Project organized an event, "Voices from the Community: Diabetes among Bangladeshis in New York City" which was held in Jackson Heights, Queens.

The event was attended by over 75 community members, focus group participants, members of South Asian community-based organizations and DREAM's academic partners. One highlight of the event was that the project shared the data gathered from the 6 recently completed focus groups. Participants of the focus group spoke about the need for the project in providing support to community members with diabetes and applauded the project's efforts and progress. The Consul General of Bangladesh, Mr. Shamsul Haque spoke about the need for community members to get more physically active and take charge of their health, and also unveiled the DREAM Project's participant recruitment brochure at the event. There was also a cultural program with music and a dance performance, following the presentation.

The DREAM Project is planning to launch its pilot intervention study later this summer. For more information, please contact Krittika Ghosh, Project coordinator of the DREAM Project at (212) 263-7944 or at krittika.ghosh@nyumc.org.



Audience members at the "Voices from the Community: Diabetes among Bangladeshis in New York City" event on May 10th, 2009



DREAM Staff at the "Voices from the Community" event in Jackson Heights Queens: Gulnahr Alam, Nadia Islam, Krittika Ghosh and Mammunul Haq

DREAM CHW's Help the Bangladeshi Community's Dream To Be Free of Diabetes Come True

With input and guidance from the DREAM Coalition, Ms. Gulnahr Alam and Mr. Mammunul Haq were hired as community health workers (CHW) for the DREAM Project in August 2008. Both Ms. Alam and Mr. Haq have over twenty years of grassroots organizing experiences on workers rights issues in the South Asian community with organizations such as Andolan and the New York Taxi Workers Alliance. They come to DREAM with an extensive knowledge of the community's resources and challenges. They are currently undergoing an intensive 125 hour training to supplement their community knowledge. Their training include sessions on research, clinical skills, advocacy, disease management, immigration and language rights, access to health care and teaching and communication skills.



DREAM Community Health Workers Gulnahr Alam (far left) and Mammunul Haq at the New York Taxi Workers Alliance Health Fair in La Guardia Airport, October 2008.

The DREAM CHW's have been instrumental in outreaching to the Bangladeshi community on the project, creating materials in Bengali, developing key relationships with media partners, and facilitating focus groups. Their dedication and extensive community networking will help expand the DREAM Project to reach out to community members to control their diabetes through training, education and community empowerment.

Project AsPIRE Continues to Expand with Recent 5-year NIH Award

Project AsPIRE, a joint initiative of the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health and Kalusugan Coalition, Inc. received funding for another 5 years from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH, beginning July 2008. Building upon the work from the previous 3-year planning grant, the overall goal of this R24 grant is to implement and test a community health worker (CHW) program designed to improve hypertension control among Filipino Americans living in New York and New Jersey.

Findings from the previous grant phase revealed that among 1148 Filipinos screened in New York and New Jersey, 3 out of 5 Filipinos had high blood pressure and 2 out of 5 did not have health insurance. Kalusugan Coalition as the lead community partner will continue to regularly sponsor community health fairs throughout Queens and Jersey City in collaboration with community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and other key stakeholders. This will enable

community members to connect to health providers, receive preventive screenings, and learn how to improve their health.

Kalusugan Coalition has hired three additional community health workers to follow up with hypertensive participants, bridge them to the healthcare system, and educate them on leading healthier lifestyles. In addition, trainings will be offered to further build the capacity of community partners to implement and sustain this health initiative for the long term in order to continue improving the health of the Filipino community.

For more information, please contact Rhodora Ursua, Director of Project AsPIRE at 212-263-3776 or rhodora.ursua@nyumc.org or visit www.kalusugancoalition.org.



AsPIRE CHWs in the Community ...



Left: Henry Soliveres and Romerico Foz.
Above: Yves Nibungco, Leonida Gamboa, Hanalei Ramos

Project AsPIRE's community partner, Kalusugan Coalition, hired three additional Community Health Workers (CHW) this past year: Leonida Gamboa, Hanalei Ramos, and Yves Nibungco. Ms. Gamboa was hired as the CHW assigned to the Queens area where she will work with CHW, Henry Soliveres. Ms. Ramos and Mr. Nibungco were hired to cover the Jersey City area along with CHW, Romerico Foz. These CHWs come with community organizing experience from the Philippines and the U.S. where they worked with various communities including youth and domestic workers. With their deep connections to the community, they will help expand the current network so they can assist Filipino Americans to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease by connecting them to the health care system and helping them control their blood pressure.

IN BRIEF: 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 New York City 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, Vietnamese Community Health Initiative (VCHI) and 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's aims are: (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.

View and download findings from CSAAH's completed **Community Health Needs and Resource Assessments** of Cambodians (living in the Bronx), Chinese, Filipino-Americans, Koreans, South Asians and Vietnamese living in New York City: <http://www.med.nyu.edu/csaaah/research/cultural.html>

CSAAH Education & Training Programs

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. More than 75 high school, college, graduate, and post-graduate health professional students have successfully completed the CSI Program.

CSI SPOTLIGHT

Tongtan Albert Chantarat has served as a Center Student Investigator for CSAAH since January 2009. Mr. Chantarat is the lead in conducting a community health needs and resource assessment (CHNRA) in the Thai community in New York City. The CHNRA aims to examine the degree to which the health issues exist in the Thai community; resources available for Thai community; and best approaches to meet the needs of this community. As a member of the Thai community, Mr. Chantarat, who is proficient in reading and writing Thai, adapted the Center's CHNRA survey to be linguistically and culturally appropriate for this community. He also established connections with leaders in the Thai community to obtain buy-in for this initiative. He developed collaborations with the Thai Consulate of New York, Thai Buddhist Sunday School, the Northern and Southern Thai Associations, the Thai Nursing Association of Northeastern America, the Thai Cultural Center of New York, the Thai Cultural Society of New York, the Thai Chamber of Commerce USA, Inc., and a large number of Thai healthcare providers practicing in the NYC vicinity. Through these collaborations and with the help of a few volunteers, Mr. Chantarat administered 200 surveys with Thai community members. He will conduct analysis of this data and complete the report of its findings this summer.



Tongtan Albert Chantarat collecting surveys at a SongKran Day event

Thanks to his initiative and vested interest in his community, the Thai community's health concerns and recommended solutions can be documented and potentially lead to the development of future initiatives to address such needs. Mr. Chantarat is a recent graduate from the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health where he received his MPH in Epidemiology. He currently awaits word of acceptance to medical school this fall. CSAAH is grateful to have bright and committed students like Mr. Chantarat to contribute to Asian American health disparities research.

The Health Disparities Research Training Program (HDRTP) is designed to address training and research gaps within Asian American health by offering a research training opportunity to qualified graduate students and health professionals that will allow them to develop and implement a community-based research project, as well as learn strategies to analyze, compile, and disseminate results for academic and policy communities.

HDRTP SPOTLIGHT

Carina Katigbak is a 3rd year PhD Student at New York University's College of Nursing with a research interest in cardiac health among immigrant populations. She has a clinical background as a Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit nurse and an advanced practice degree as an Adult Nurse Practitioner. She notes that her family experiences with cardiac disease highlighted the need to shift focus from tertiary to community-based primary care approaches. As a health professional, student, and first-generation Filipino-Canadian, she finds that the study of the health experiences of Asian ethnic groups remains largely under-developed, leaving future practitioners under-prepared to care for a diverse patient population.



Carina Katigbak
MS, ANP-BC

After attending a CSAAH conference in 2005, Ms. Katigbak was energized by the variety and scope of research projects presented by HDRTP. She felt that the research activities at CSAAH focused on people with whom she had a shared connection. Ms. Katigbak applied for the program aiming to supplement her education, train in research among Asian ethnic minorities and contribute to the growing body of knowledge in this area.

Ms. Katigbak's HDRTP project, entitled Factors Associated with Dietary Behaviors Among Filipino-Americans, is a secondary data analysis that will complement Project AsPIRE's on-going hypertension study. Baseline data will be analyzed to identify associations among dietary behaviors and factors such as demographics, social support, and acculturation. She notes that in exploring these relationships, "I believe that this project has the potential to improve cardiovascular care for Filipino-Americans by providing information that may aid in identifying those who would best benefit from heart-healthy dietary interventions."

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