



Models FOR THE Nation

IN THIS ISSUE

FDA's Office of Women's Health Awards 5-Year Research Contracts 5

CoE/CCOE Joint Project Evaluation 6

CoEs Offer Rich Array of Programs 7

Funded Fiscal Year 2003 Evaluation Set Aside Projects 12

Hats Off to You 13

CoE Staff News 14

Resources 15

CoE Staffing Team 16

December 2003

CoEs/CCOEs Team Up With NHLBI's Heart Truth Campaign

The Office on Women's Health (OWH) has awarded contracts to several National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) and National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CCOEs) to develop professional education materials for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's (NHLBI) *The Heart Truth Campaign/The Red Dress Project*. The campaign aims to make women more aware of the danger of heart disease, and to give women a personal and urgent wake-up call about their risk of heart disease. Under three different projects, the CoEs and

continued on page 4

New CoEs to Replicate Successful Model

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the creation of six new National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs). The new Centers are located at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Mississippi, Brown University in Rhode Island, University of Minnesota, University of Arizona, and Oregon Health and Science University. The announcement ushers in the fourth generation of CoEs, and deepens the roots of a formidable concept—to provide an integrated, multi-disciplinary "one-stop shopping" model for delivery of health services to women across the country, and in particular, to minority women. The new CoEs join an exemplary group of 13, and will help consolidate and duplicate an innovative approach to providing health care services to women.

continued on page 2

Second National CoE Forum a Great Success

The Office on Women's Health (OWH) hosted the Second National Forum of the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, held May 13-14, 2003. The Forum was a tremendous success and brought together almost 400 representatives from the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs), other academic health centers, the philanthropy and business sectors, as well as state, regional, and national government representatives.



CoE Center Directors and CoE OWH leadership

continued on page 5



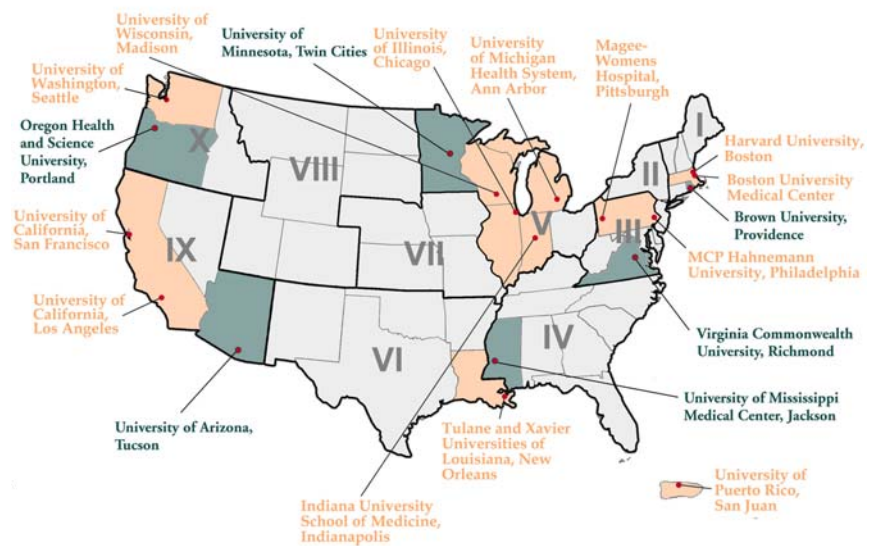
“These new National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health provide innovative solutions for women seeking the best comprehensive care,” Secretary Thompson said. “They are part of our continuing commitment to bring quality health care to women, including minority and underserved women across the nation. These new CoEs will help to develop effective approaches for improving women’s health that can be adopted in communities throughout America.”

The National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health program, which was established in 1996 to serve as national demonstration projects for improving health care services to women, was selected in 2001 as semi-finalists in the Innovations in American Government Awards, intended to draw attention to exemplary achievements in government problem-solving. “This recognition, along with the tremendous success of each National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health, facilitates the expansion of a truly innovative model,” says Susan Clark, Project Officer of the National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health program. “We have learned a lot since 1996, and this latest expansion of the CoE program speaks volumes of our commitment to improving the health care experience of every woman in the country. We welcome the new CoEs to this family of highly committed health services providers.”

The Centers will bring the following services to their communities:

- An integrated “one-stop shopping” model for the delivery of clinical health care services to women with an emphasis on prevention and early detection.
- Coordination and linkage between clinical services in academic centers and surrounding communities.
- A multi-disciplinary research agenda on women’s health issues, fostering collaboration across academic departments and promoting strategies to encourage women to participate in clinical research trials.

■ National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health
 ■ New Centers of Excellence



- Educational programs and materials for the general public and health care professionals on women’s health, using cutting edge technologies and tele-medicine approaches.
- The integration of a women’s health focus into medical school curriculum.
- A “Women in Academic Medicine Leadership Plan,” to foster the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women in academic careers.
- Networking within the community to form alliances with business groups, consumer groups, scientific organizations, and public policy leaders.
- An evaluation plan to assess project outcomes and effectiveness.

New National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health include:

Brown University/Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island

Dr. Maureen Phipps, Center Director

Brown University/Women & Infants Hospital (WIH) of Rhode Island collaborates across diverse medical school departments, hospitals throughout the state, including Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Memorial Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital and Butler Hospital, health care institutions, community-based health centers, faith-based and non-profit organizations, disease-specific

continued on the next page

New CoEs

continued from the previous page

associations, and local, regional and national alliances throughout Rhode Island. The WIH Women's Primary Care Center (WPCC) focuses on disease prevention and health promotion and will serve as the main CoE clinical care center. It handles more than 34,000 patient visits a year with more than 70 percent of women eligible for state assistance. Twenty-nine percent of its patients are Hispanic, 23 percent are African American, and 3 percent are Pacific Islanders.

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Dr. Annette K. Low, Center Director

The University of Mississippi Medical Center serves the needs of all Mississippians. Mississippi ranks 50th among the states falling short of its Healthy People 2010 goals. A large percentage of its patients live in the Jackson area where 45.6 percent of its population is African American. Almost one-half of African American women in the State live below the poverty level. The Women's Health Program represents a multidisciplinary partnership spanning five schools (medicine, nursing, dentistry, health related professions, and pharmacy). The CoE clinical care center is housed in the Jackson Medical Mall. In addition, the Women Wellness Clinic will serve as the CoE's satellite clinic, and will focus on preventive care through delivery of a comprehensive wellness package.

University of Minnesota

Dr. Nancy Raymond, Center Director

The University of Minnesota CoE clinical care center is housed on campus in the building where the University physicians practice. The Medical School is housed nearby, in a separate building. The University of Minnesota derives resources and support for its Women's Health Program from multiple schools of the Academic Health Center, including the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Pharmacy; affiliate hospitals, including Hennepin County Medical Center and the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center; community partners, and special programs, such as the Rural Physician Association Program, and the Center of Excellence in American Indian and Minority Health. Longstanding community partnerships are based in urban, multicultural, underserved clinical sites devoted to Native American health as well as rural sites.

University of Arizona Women's Health Program

Dr. Marietta Anthony, Center Director

The University of Arizona Women's Health Program serves the health and wellness of women throughout the State, especially Hispanic and American Indian women and their families. The clinical care center is located in the Health Sciences Center/Medical Center. It collaborates with the Departments of OB/GYN, Family and Community Medicine, and Psychiatry. Its clinical care center and satellite clinics handled over 45,000 patient encounters in the last year, offering a range of primary care and specialty services in Tucson and two rural counties.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. Susan G. Kornstein, Center Director

The Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health collaborates with the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Allied Health Professions, Social Work, and the Humanities and Sciences. Its main clinical care center at Stony Point and the affiliated McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center provide comprehensive preventive, primary, and specialty care. The clinic has 1,420 patient visits per month and educational services are provided to 75-100 women per month, 20 percent African Americans and 4 percent other minorities.

Oregon Health and Science University Center for Women's Health

Dr. Michelle Berlin, Center Director

The Oregon Health and Science University Center for Women's Health serves women throughout the state with a wide range of services and research efforts. The clinical care center, located at the main Physician Pavilion, provides services including primary care, subspecialties, psychiatry, physical therapy, nutrition, acupuncture, complementary and alternative medicine, mind-body medicine, and unique programs for adolescents. The Center has close ties with the Oregon Office of Rural Health, which established the Oregon Rural Practice-Based Research Network. The Network links Oregon Health and Science University Center researchers to clinics around the State to investigate health care questions specific to rural, community-based medicine practices.

*CoEs/CCOEs Team Up With Heart Truth Campaign
continued from page 1*

CCOEs will collaborate on the development of professional education materials for the national campaign.

In addition, the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) CoE received a contract to serve as the Program Coordinating Center (PCC) for the Heart Truth Professional Education Campaign, under the direction of Janet Pregler, who will serve as the principal investigator. The UCLA CoE will coordinate the materials development activities of all selected CoEs and CCOEs and will direct a pilot testing phase for them. In the future, the OWH also plans to fund dissemination of these materials.

The professional education materials will be developed under the following three projects:

Project 1: Multiple-Unit Learning Modules

Boston University CoE, Margaret Seaver, PI
Northeast Missouri CCOE, Gina Gilliland, PI
Santa Fe, New Mexico CCOE, Justina Trott, PI
Griffin Hospital, Derby, Connecticut, CCOE, Susan Nappi, PI

Project 1 will develop 4-8 progressive case-based modules as lectures/slides for use in on-site practitioner training, heart health women's case studies, curriculum, and other educational material resources. The group will also help develop and implement plans for evaluation and dissemination of the deliverables. The materials will be used as the basis for CME or CEU credits and to supplement in-class curriculum in medical, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner training.

Project 2: Grand Rounds Lectures

Ohio CCOE, Walter Clark, PI
University of Michigan CoE, Claire S. Duvernoy, PI
University of Wisconsin CoE, Gloria Sarto, PI

Project 2 will develop a culturally competent Web-based educational module for all health care providers, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. A series of grand rounds lectures and pocket cards for cardiologists, primary care physicians, nurse midwives, nurse



practitioners, and physician assistants will also be developed.

Project 3: Training/Curriculum

University of California at San Francisco CoE, Nancy Milliken, PI
TUXCOE, Jeannette Magnus, PI
Magee Womens Hospital CoE, Mary Dortenzo, PI
MCP Hahnemann CoE (doing business as Drexel University), Ana Nunez, PI
St. Barnabas CCOE, Milta Vega Cardona, PI

Project 3 will integrate women's heart health into ongoing medical, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and RN training. This group will develop, pilot test, and disseminate problem-based learning and standardized patient cases for first and second year medical students, and third and fourth year medical students, in a clinic setting. Prior to publication, these materials will be assessed in focus groups for cultural competency with Latinas and African Americans, and a specific Latina standardized patient case will be developed.



The Office on Women's Health goes overboard on Check-Up Day (May 10, 2004) activities!

FDA's Office of Women's Health Awards 5-Year Research Contracts

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office of Women's Health (OWH) announced it has awarded contracts to seven academic institutions to conduct clinical research on women's health issues. The projects were built upon previous positive collaborations with the FDA/OWH and the CoEs. The research conducted under these contracts is designed to provide data needed to help the FDA make decisions on issues involving women's health.

In June 2003, the FDA's OWH solicited proposals from women's health research networks capable of conducting clinical studies. The FDA reviewed the proposals it received and awarded contracts to several CoEs including, Boston University, Indiana University, Tulane University, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Wisconsin, University of Arizona, and University of Washington. These institutions will conduct research studies to address specific questions in women's health over the next five years.

"The research conducted at these leading institutions will provide valuable insight into how the FDA can advance its current regulatory approaches to improve women's health," said FDA Commissioner Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.

For example, the FDA's contract with the University of Arizona will fund research to help determine if pregnancy changes the activity of the antidepressant medication sertraline. A second study, at Boston University, will look at factors influencing blood glucose monitoring for diabetes via fingertip versus drawing blood samples from other locations on the body in both women and men.

"These contracts demonstrate how FDA is leveraging its resources by forming partnerships with academic institutions to identify and address important women's health issues," said Susan F. Wood, Ph.D., assistant commissioner for women's health.

Under the terms of the contracts, over the next five years, the FDA will be able to award competitive, women's health related projects to one or more of the seven institutions.

CoE Forum continued from page 1

The Forum showcased the thirteen CoE programs, highlighted the quantitative and qualitative evaluation outcomes, and presented lessons learned since the program's inception in 1996. Opening remarks were offered by Susan M. Clark, M.A., Director, Division of Program Management of the Office on Women's Health and Project Officer for the CoE program; Wanda K. Jones, Dr.P.H., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and Cristina V. Beato, M.D., Acting Assistant Secretary for Health.

The Forum demonstrated the significant progress made in women's health and facilitated the sharing of innovative strategies for adapting to the dramatic changes in health care policy and financing, and explored ways in which women's health—and the CoE model in particular—can serve as a catalyst for changing the knowledge, practice, and teaching of health care in our nation.

Four plenary sessions, two panel discussions, a special satellite session, poster presentations, and a series of 22 concurrent workshops, representing various aspects of the CoE program were featured during the Forum. Themes and core concepts related to understanding health differences and disparities among women were addressed throughout each session. For a detailed report of the plenary sessions and a summary of each of the workshops, please visit <http://www.4woman.gov/COE/forums.htm> for the Forum's Executive Summary.

OWH is very appreciative for those who helped make the Forum a success and looks forward to a continued partnership to improve the health of all women.

In a world where there is so much to be done, I felt strongly impressed that there must be something for me to do.

— Dorothea Dix

CoE/CCOE Joint Project Evaluation Finds a Thriving Set of Programs

The National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoE) and the National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CCOE) received funding from the Office on Women's Health (OWH) to develop joint community outreach projects to provide integrated health services to women in their respective communities. A recent evaluation of the joint projects found a thriving set of diverse initiatives that fill a service gap for culturally appropriate programs.

The OWH commissioned the evaluation of the seven joint programs to determine the feasibility of working across states and regions; to determine the feasibility of community-based and academic-based programs working together; and to suggest new and improved ways for the CoEs and CCOEs to work together and for the OWH to facilitate model collaboration.

The evaluation's findings profile a diverse set of programs, each working through a unique set of circumstances, and collaborating in effective ways to refine the joint projects and the processes for implementing these projects.

Key Findings and Recommendations

Establishing effective linkages and coordination among partners is crucial to developing satisfying and successful joint projects. These linkages are established through face-to-face meetings, when possible; regular e-mail and telephone communication; and collaborative work with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Overall, it appears that the closer groups worked together, the more they were satisfied with their linkages as compared to groups who worked more independently.

The two main benefits that respondents cited resulting from the collaborations were: (1) the CCOEs gained access to the resources and expertise of the CoEs; and (2) the CoEs gained additional expertise on and access to diverse community populations. Working across different geographic regions and intervening in more than one population provided new cross-cultural experience and knowledge, and more replicable study results. In addition, the joint projects injected new enthusiasm and energy into the CoE and CCOE staff working on the

project. Many respondents also thought that linking academic and community-based clinics and centers enabled them to test and use research and evidence-based interventions in realistic settings.

About one-fifth of respondents did not think the distance between the partners was a significant challenge. Many of them stated that modern technology enabled them to effectively communicate with their partners in a timely manner. Others, however, thought distance was a challenge that made the scheduling of meetings, coordination of events, and communication more difficult.

Two-thirds of respondents did not think the differences in the two types of organizations (academic institutions and community health centers or clinics) affected their joint projects. One-third of respondents, however, cited regulatory issues such as IRB delays at academic institutions, and differences in resources as being barriers to their collaborations.

Recommendations to improve collaboration include additional funding, adequate time to complete the projects, and face-to-face meetings among the joint projects. CoE and CCOE leaders and staff stated that the OWH could better support the projects by funding and planning more face-to-face meetings among partners, offering more health topic choices, making participation voluntary, expanding the timeframe, offering renewable contracts, and facilitating continued relationship-building beyond the life of the contract. Respondents appreciated the OWH's "hands off" approach, and willingness to respond if a project member requested help.

The feedback the joint projects have received from health care consumers about the new programs has been overwhelmingly positive. Health care consumers are enthusiastic about the programs, and are motivated to change behaviors. This excitement and motivation make the projects even more worthwhile and provide a solid start as joint projects seek to develop future outreach activities.

To view the full report, visit www.4woman.gov/coe.

CoEs Offer Rich Array of Programs in Their Communities

The National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) continue to develop outreach programs to serve the health needs of women. These programs advance the caliber of health care services offered to women at the CoEs, and help foster the careers of women in the medical professions.

In this issue, CoEs report that successful programs include increased attendance of patients at follow-up diagnostic appointments, a record number of women accessing health care services, and outreach interventions to women of diverse ethnic backgrounds, among many others. A number of CoEs also report continuing to host or develop women in medicine leadership seminars and symposia. The following CoE submissions offer a glimpse of the variety of programs being implemented by the CoEs in their communities.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY (BU) CoE

BU CoE Off to a Great Start Awarding BIRCWH Funds

The Boston University CoE's *Building Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health* (BIRCWH) program has successfully recruited excellent candidates to apply for scholar positions during its first year. The program is meeting its goal of developing a cadre of researchers with expertise in addressing the needs of women who are underserved based upon age, race, ethnicity and culture, and economic or health status. The study populations include women of African descent, including African American, Somali, and Haitian women; women with disabilities including fibromyalgia, Alzheimer's, and physical disabilities; and women whose children are reported for suspected neglect and abuse. Proposals have focused on both disease prevention strategies, and chronic disease management. The program has also been successful in attracting highly qualified candidates who are racially and ethnically diverse, and from various disciplines. Candidates have begun to take full advantage of the resources of the Core Lab, which answers specific questions, critiques proposed study design, and offers guidance in future direction and alternative research methodologies. The BU CoE is encouraged that this

process will lead to success for all the scholars in future funding, academic productivity, and advancing the field of women's health research.

Joint Project Tackles Evidence-Based Exercise Program

The Boston University CoE is working on a joint project with the Northeast Missouri Health Council CCOE to develop and evaluate an evidence-based exercise program for low-income women in an effort to reduce cardiovascular risk. The program, *Reducing Cardiovascular Risk Through Exercise*, developed, implemented, and evaluated primary care exercise interventions for low-income women. The program at BU enrolled low-income, racially diverse, minority and urban women for a one-year longitudinal follow-up program, with the goal of developing an individual exercise program, and then provided follow-up to continue to encourage women to incorporate the program into lifelong behavioral change. The program also linked with community and institutional organizations that support nutrition, weight management, and exercise opportunities.

BU CoE Hosts National Check-Up Day Event

The Boston University CoE participated in National Check-Up Day on Monday, May 12, 2003, by providing women with information about preventive screenings available at the Women's Health Group—the clinical site of the CoE—and distributing supplies from the Office on Women's Health including buttons, stickers, and a new pull-down health check-up card to help kick off national screening day.

BU CoE Seeks to Identify Effective Services for Immigrants with Cancer

The Boston University CoE, with funding from the Gillette Corporation, has taken a lead role in a collaboration across the medical campus and community agencies to identify the best means to provide support services to minority and immigrant populations with cancer.

continued on the next page

CoEs Offer Variety of Programs
continued from the previous page

Attendance Increased at Follow-Up Diagnostic Appointments

Since 2000, the Boston University CoE partnered with the Avon Foundation to increase attendance at follow-up diagnostic appointments at the Breast Health Center. During this time, attendance rose from 64 percent to an average of 78 percent.

BU and Harvard CoE Train Providers in Culturally Competent Care

The Boston University CoE collaborated with the Harvard CoE on the Women's Health Demonstration Project for the REACH 2010 Training II: *Addressing Health Disparities in Women*. This project involved providing train-the-trainer educational opportunities for healthcare providers to learn how to provide culturally competent care.

BU CoE Develops Monthly Women's Health Lecture Series

The Boston University CoE developed a Women's Health Lecture Series, which is presented monthly by the Women's Health Group staff to medical residents at their Ambulatory Morning Report meeting. This lecture series is designed to increase all medical residents' knowledge of women's health issues.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY (IU) CoE

IU CoE Clinic Sees Record Number of Patients

In 2002, a record number of women received health care services at the Indiana University CoE clinic, Wishard Health Services. The specialty care services such as testing for menopause and osteoporosis saw more than 10,000 unduplicated visits, up from 7,636 in 2001. This was the direct result of having more services available such as ob/gyn, alternative therapies such as massage and acupuncture, and dietary/nutrition counseling with a registered dietician. The greatest growth occurred in the primary care practice of the medical director, Dr. Ann Zerr. There were 1,958 primary care patients seen by Dr. Zerr in 2003, up from 285 in 2002. Other programs posting significant growth include bariatric (weight loss) surgery, osteoporosis screening, and gynecologic endocrinology.

IU CoE Conducts HIV/AIDS Outreach to Hispanic Women

The Indiana University CoE received funds from the Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group (AACTG) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop methods to recruit Hispanic women into HIV/AIDS clinical trials. While clinical trials recruitment is the primary goal of the project, it is closely intertwined with educational outreach, a secondary goal and the project's starting point.

As is true in virtually all types of clinical trials, women are underrepresented in studies conducted by the AACTG. While it is estimated that more than 30 percent of adolescents and adults infected with HIV and 25 percent of all people with AIDS in the United States are female, women represent only 18 percent or fewer of participants in AACTG clinical trials, and this percentage has been stable for a number of years.

HIV/AIDS is prevalent among African-American women, and growing more so among Hispanic women. According to CoE Center Director Dr. Rose S. Fife, "African Americans and Hispanic Americans have a historic and justifiable reluctance to participation in trials because of past abuses." Dr. Fife notes the way to change this perspective is "to educate, to let these groups know that there are critical, life-saving advantages to clinical trials that they should not miss out on."

IU CoE Holds *Women in Medicine Leadership Seminar*

The Indiana University CoE hosted a daylong seminar for women in academic medicine, under the direction of Dr. Lynda Means, CoE Leadership Director. The seminar addressed the unique challenges faced by women in academic medicine—from full professors to fellows to junior faculty. The *Women in Medicine Leadership Seminar* explored communication issues, and facilitated interaction between presenters and the audience.

According to Dr. Means, the program was designed "to be both educational and entertaining. We wanted to provide an environment to constructively consider and discuss many of the common issues facing women in medicine, such as communication, personal interactions, career planning, etc." In addition, it allowed participants to address their own unique issues by using the Open Space Technology® technique, and the Myers-Briggs Type

continued on the next page

CoEs Offer Variety of Programs

continued from the previous page

Indicator® (MBTI). Dr. Molly Carnes, Center Director of the University of Wisconsin CoE, served as the guest speaker.

A total of 61 women from various health/medical disciplines registered for the conference, and 57 received CME credit. Feedback received indicates a definite interest in having this program repeated annually.

MAGEE WOMENS HOSPITAL CoE

Leadership Series Begins at Magee Womens Hospital CoE

The Magee Womens Hospital CoE sponsored the first leadership discussion of 2003 on March 5. Lynn Singer, Ph.D., deputy-provost and professor of pediatrics at Case Western University and University Hospitals of Cleveland, presented *Academic Advancement for Women: Secrets, Myths, and Reality*. Forty participants attended the discussion and reception.

CoE Holds Symposium on Mentoring

The Magee Womens Hospital CoE sponsored a highly rated symposium on mentorship titled *The Keys to Success for Mentor and Mentee*. Dr. Sharon Hillier, CoE Center Director, and Dr. Melissa McNeil, CoE Medical Education Director, served as course directors for this event, which was co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences and the Office for Academic Career Development. The invited speaker was Dr. Elias Abrutyn from Drexel University's Center for Leadership. Panel discussions ranged from successful strategies in academic medicine to how to be an effective mentor.

Families in Motion for National Women's Health Week

The Magee Womens Hospital CoE and its African American Womancare committee sponsored *Families in Motion* in conjunction with National Women's Health Week and Women's Check-Up Day. *Families in Motion* is an intergenerational project that includes health and fitness assessments before an eight-week series of walks in at-risk communities. Twenty families signed up at the Boys and Girls Club of Wilkinsburg, PA, where the series is hosted.

CoE Celebrates National Minority Health Month

Pam Dodge, CoE Outreach Director; Michele Ondeck, CoE Assistant Director; and Ebony Hughes, CoE Minority Work Group member and chair of the Infant Mortality Work Group for the Center for Minority Health at the University of Pittsburgh; served on an infant mortality reduction event marking National Minority Health Month. Topics centered around promotion of healthy moms and babies in Wilkinsburg, a community with the highest infant mortality rate in Allegheny County, PA. Over 100 community members attended the event.

A Focus on Teen Health

The Magee Womens Hospital CoE collaborated with the Home Visiting Network, Healthy Start, and the Allegheny County Health Department to present *Teen Pregnancy: Treatment, Interventions, Pregnancy-Prevention Services* (TIPPS), a seminar for care providers and individuals interested in adolescent health.

TULANE XAVIER CoE (TUXCOE)

TUXCOE Center Accomplishments

Dr. Myra A. Kleinpeter, CoE Education Core Director, participated in the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems' Physician's Leadership Institute.

Nationally renowned Dr. Tierona Low Dog, head of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine and Winner of *Time* magazine's Innovator in Complementary and Alternative Medicine Award, spoke at TUXCOE's annual *Jane Wilson Smith Lecture* this summer. The topic of her presentation was *Mood Disorders: Is There a Role for Dietary Supplements?*

Accomplishments of TUXCOE Faculty Affiliates

Dr. Chi Dola, CoE Faculty Affiliate, presented *The Single Use Diagnostic Test in a Population of no Prenatal Care Patients in Labor* at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District VII Meeting.

Susan G. Willard, CoE Faculty Affiliate, published *When Dieting Becomes Dangerous: A Guide to Understanding and Treating Anorexia and Bulimia*, co-authored by Deborah Michel, Ph.D., Yale University Press.

continued on the next page

CoEs Offer Variety of Programs
continued from the previous page

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO (UCSF) CoE

UCSF CoE Partners with Johnson & Johnson on Program for Underserved Women

The University of California, San Francisco CoE teamed up with Johnson & Johnson to offer a unique small grants program titled the *Women's Community Health Leadership Program (WCHLP)*. The goal of the two-year program is to assist community-based organizations address the unmet health needs among underserved women in California. Small grants were awarded to five agencies located throughout California to address a variety of health issues and to serve diverse groups of women.

Through another joint venture, UCSF CoE and Johnson & Johnson presented *Advancing Women's Health by Building Healthy Academic-Community Partnerships* at UCSF. All CoEs were invited, along with one of their community partners, to participate. The program was designed to explore the challenges, opportunities, and power of effective academic-community partnerships.

Fourth Annual Young Women's Health Conference

The Fourth Annual Young Women's Health Conference (YWHC) will take place March 10, 2004, at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco. The UCSF CoE is pleased to once again co-host this extraordinary educational and inspiring day with State Senator Jackie Speier. The Youth Steering Committee, comprised of young women from Bay Area high schools and organizations, is already hard at work planning the upcoming program. Today's young women continue to deal with a host of serious health-related issues. The YWHC is a tremendous opportunity for young women to hear from experts and role models, and to talk in a comfortable environment about the issues of concern to them. The conference features inspiring keynote sessions, a wide range of interactive workshops, exhibit booths, and an open microphone session. It introduces young women to organizations that they may contact regarding free services and resources. For more information, visit the conference Web site at www.ywhconline.org.

UCSF CoE Women's Continence Center Hosts Debbie Reynolds

Actress Debbie Reynolds joined Sharon Knight, M.D., and Janis Luft, N.P., from the UCSF Women's Continence Center, and providers in the CoE Clinical Care Program, to discuss successful treatment options for incontinence, a silent epidemic affecting millions of women. Ms. Reynolds is the spokesperson for *Standing Ovations*, a consumer education campaign sponsored by Pfizer Inc., to raise awareness of overactive bladder. The event received widespread media attention.

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO CoE

Puerto Rico CoE Provides Services to Victims of Domestic Violence

The Puerto Rico CoE Women's Health Clinic offers health services to women of all ages who are survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Dr. Linda Laras, CoE Assistant Director, provides forensic medical exams, medico-legal consultations, and interdisciplinary service coordination (police, district attorneys, shelters, victim advocates, others). A nurse and a social worker assist Dr. Laras on this project.

CoE Co-Director of Education Participates in Environmental Projects

Dr. Lourdes Soto de Laurido, Education Co-Director, directs the Research, Promotion and Education Institute for Global Health, which seeks to develop research that contributes to the establishment of collaboration between countries to share non-traditional ways of working in health-related areas. Dr. Soto de Laurido also serves as the principal investigator of the project AIR ASTHMA (Proyecto Aire), sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency.

CoE Director Elected Coalition President

Dr. Delia Camacho, CoE Center Director, now serves as the President of the Puerto Rico Alliance for the Promotion of Mamographies and the Puerto Rico University CoE will serve as the host of this coalition, whose primary objective is to promote cancer prevention and early detection.

CoE Member Serves on HIV Vaccine Trial Unit

Dr. Carmen Zorrilla, CoE research team member, is the principal investigator of the HIV Vaccine Trial Unit (PR-

continued on the next page

CoEs Offer Variety of Programs *continued from the previous page*

HVTU) and the Puerto Rico Comprehensive Center for the Study of HIV Disparities (PR-CCHD).

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON CoE

CoE Embarks on Initiative to Study Non-Traditional Career Tracks

The Center for Women's Health Research has embarked on the *Alternative Tracks to Leadership in Academic Science* (ATLAS) initiative to increase diversity in academic medicine. Begun in September 2002, the program has two separate models: (1) to identify clinical faculty who wish to transition from a clinically-based to a research-based career in academic medicine, and (2) to identify proven leaders in underrepresented minority communities who desire a career in academic medicine for graduate training and research mentorship. Both differ from other training grants in that they incorporate principles of adult learning and provide a larger stipend to make them a tenable option for adults with established careers who may be supporting families.

The impetus for this program came from the following observations:

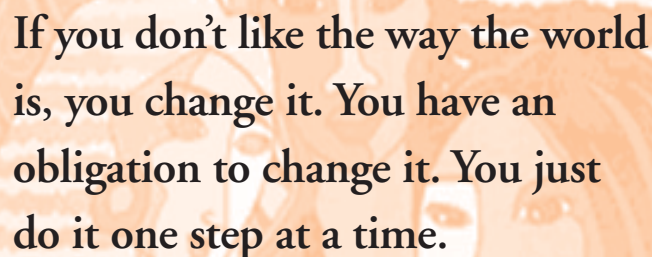
1. Efforts to achieve faculty status and tenure in a research domain coincide with childbearing years so that a linear career path in academic medicine does not accommodate a women's reproductive biology.
2. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds may not have the financial means to undertake a full-time course of academic training in their early years.
3. The current stipends available for pre-doctoral trainees are insufficient to support older or re-entering students who may have more substantial financial obligations than younger students.

With funds from the National Institute on Aging and funds from the Center for Women's Health Research, the University of Wisconsin-Madison CoE is piloting a five-year training program that will allow selected clinical faculty an opportunity to return to intensive research training in an area of interest, and function as a post-doctoral fellow while being supported at a level more compatible with a faculty position. This program is done

in collaboration with the Clinical Investigator Preparatory Program funded through the National Institutes of Health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is a competency-based curriculum that develops a customized learning plan for each trainee. The learning plan is developed to ensure that the trainee achieve competency in five core areas needed to be a successful clinical investigator in addition to a specific area of research. These competencies are to (1) apply appropriate biostatistics and study design to one's own research, (2) perform research in a responsible and ethical manner, (3) demonstrate leadership skills in managing a research program, (4) write for a scientific audience, and (5) present and teach one's research to a variety of learners.

The second alternative pathway to leadership in academic medicine was designed particularly for underrepresented minority trainees. Here, the plan is to identify community leaders who may wish to enter an academic career development pathway. The trainee may enter at several levels, but may begin with graduate school. Again, this training is done in combination with the Clinical Investigator Preparatory Pathway and an individualized learning plan is developed and monitored by faculty at the Center for Women's Health Research and the Clinical Investigator Preparatory Program.

If the ATLAS initiative is successful, the CoE will demonstrate an effective intervention to help achieve gender equity and diversity in academic medicine and this model can be replicated at other institutions committed to improving the health and health care of all people in the country.



If you don't like the way the world is, you change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time.

— **Marian Wright Edelman**

Funded Fiscal Year 2003 Evaluation Set Aside Projects

Through the use of Fiscal Year 2003 Evaluation Set Aside Funds, the Office on Women's Health (OWH) and Office of Minority Health (OMH) have joined together on several projects to be implemented through the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health and National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health.

Six projects will develop and/or evaluate an e-health database to increase minority recruitment into clinical trials/research studies. The OWH and OMH intend to assess if utilizing these e-health databases makes a difference in the numbers of appropriate minority patients who can be recruited. Projects include:

The **Griffin Hospital CCOE** (Derby, CT) will evaluate an IT database designed by the Valley Women's Health Access Program, a local Community Access Program. The analysis of this database will provide information that will then be used to increase recruitment of minority women into a study designed to evaluate the relationship between various health and social factors and medical outcomes, particularly those related to cardiovascular disease, among low-income women in the Valley.

The **Boston University CoE** (Boston, MA) will develop and evaluate the effectiveness of an electronic database to increase the recruitment of minority and non-minority women into clinical trials. The project will be conducted as part of an effort to assess the feasibility of using an e-mail database to enhance the involvement of women in clinical trials at academic medical centers.

The **University of Illinois at Chicago CoE (UIC)** (Chicago, Illinois) will collaborate with the UIC Call Center and research community in order to improve recruitment of women and minorities into human subject research protocols at UIC by (1) Promoting the participation of women and minorities in clinical trials/human subject research by improving public trust and public awareness of UIC clinical trials; (2) Expanding recruitment tools both via phone call center and the Internet to improve the recruitment of women and minorities into clinical trials/human subject research at UIC; and (3) Increasing the percentage of women and minorities participating in UIC clinical trials by at least

25 percent in the year following implementation compared to the previous year.

The **MCP Hahnemann CoE (doing business as Drexel University) CoE** (Philadelphia, PA) will collaborate with St. Christopher's Hospital for Children's HIV Immunology Family Program and Drexel University College of Medicine Women's Center to utilize the CAREWare (database) as a template for the development of a new clinical trials recruitment database, entitled *Her Match*. The CAREWare database will communicate with *Her Match* to identify patients eligible for ongoing clinical trials. Matches identified will generate an identification form to inform physicians of a match. The database system will be piloted in clinical settings and evaluated for efficacy in identifying eligible clinical trials patients.

The **University of Michigan CoE** (Ann Arbor, MI) will promote minority enrollment in the Women's Health Registry and subsequent research participating through close collaboration with local African American communities and with an educational campaign that will focus on cardiovascular disease and cancer. This educational campaign will be followed by an evaluation of the Registry's effectiveness in fostering an interest in clinical research among African American women within the community and more importantly, their willingness to take the first step in participating by actually enrolling in the database.

The **University of Wisconsin CoE** (Madison, WI) will utilize the Research Coordinating Center for the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, and the National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health, to develop and evaluate an e-health database to recruit minorities into clinical trials and research studies by (1) Developing a database that contains the demographic characteristics including race and ethnicity, socio-economic status of the populations serviced by the CoEs and CCOEs; (2) Providing a resource library or registries and electronic databases on women interested in clinical trials and research studies; (3) Making information in the database readily accessible to researchers at the CoEs and CCOEs; and (4) Evaluating the effectiveness of the database in recruiting minority women into clinical trials.

continued on page 14



Awards, Awards, Awards—the National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health (CoEs) continue to receive recognition for their leadership. A few of the most recent awards and honors the CoEs have earned are listed below.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY CoE

Boston University CoE BIRCWH Program Awards Four Scholar Positions

Dr. Michele David, a junior faculty member in the Department of General Internal Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine, received a BIRCWH award for her proposal to conduct cross-cultural research to identify significant cultural factors in managing chronic disease among Caribbean immigrants. The specific objectives of her proposal are to identify gender specific factors, which may facilitate or hinder access to and utilization of health services among Haitian and English-speaking Caribbean immigrants as compared to other underserved populations in eastern Massachusetts, with particular attention to the management of chronic disease.

Dr. Irene Tien, a junior faculty member in the section of Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine, received a BIRCWH award for her proposal to conduct a prospective cross-sectional study involving one-on-one interviews with mothers referred to a hospital-based child protection team for suspicion of child abuse or neglect. The intent of the study is to identify the issues of importance to the well being of this population and to pilot a method for recruitment, interviews, and follow-up for this group of women. The goal of this qualitative research is to inform further quantitative and interventional research and to apply the understanding gained for this population of women who often fall between the cracks of categorical services.

Dr. Julie Keysor, a junior faculty member in the Boston University Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, has received a BIRCWH award for her proposal to conduct a collaborative investigation across the Sargent College and the Medical School to address gender differences in self-assessment of disability and functional assessment in two populations with disabilities.

Dr. Tracy Battaglia, a junior faculty member in the Department of General Internal Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine, received a BIRCWH award for her proposal entitled *Effect of Risk Perception on Breast and Colorectal Cancer Screening in a Multi-Ethnic Population*. The proposal will address the racial differences among women in cancer risk perception and its influence on health behavior. Dr. Battaglia, CoE Research Director, also received a grant from the American Cancer Society for a cancer risk perception study that will compare the racial/ethnic differences in risk perception and screening behavior.

Dr. Phyllis Carr, CoE Education Director, received an \$80,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to prepare a manuscript/handbook for faculty in academic medicine. The manuscript will cover mentoring, negotiation, and gender and racial discrimination. Dr. Carr will work with Dr. Tom Inui, CEO, Regenstrief Institute, and Janet Bickel, M.A.

Dr. Michele David, CoE outreach team member, received funding for *Haitian Consumers for Health*, a collaboration with HealthCare for All. The project will create an advocacy group to help the Haitian community receive care at Boston Medical Center, with a focus on consumers with diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Bobbi Philipp, CoE Clinical Director, received a \$95,700 award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to obtain breast-feeding data from 33 hospitals in the United States.

Dr. Marianne Prout, CoE Associate Director, will serve as co-principal investigator on a newly funded \$1.5 million National Cancer Institute grant to develop tobacco-focused curriculum at U.S. medical schools.

continued on the next page

Awards

continued from the previous page

TULANE XAVIER CoE (TUXCOE)

Dr. Kathleen Kennedy, CoE Deputy Director, delivered the keynote address on mentorship at the Association of Health-Systems Pharmacists mid-year clinical meeting in Atlanta, and received the Pharmacist-of-the-Year Award presented by the Association of Black Health-System Pharmacists.

Alethia Gauthier, R.N., TUXCOE Care Coordinator, was one of six Tulane Health Sciences Center women to be featured in the New Orleans *Business Women of the Year 2002*.

Dr. Sherri Longo, TUXCOE Faculty Affiliate, was listed among seven Tulane female doctors in the *New Orleans Magazine's* "Top Female Doctors."

Dr. Anne Foundas, CoE Faculty Affiliate, was the recipient of the 2003 Norman Geschwind Prize in Behavioral Neurology awarded by the American Academy of Neurology, in recognition of outstanding achievements in behavioral neurology.

Funded Fiscal Year 2003 Evaluation Set Aside Projects continued from page 12

In addition to these six projects, The MCP **Hahnemann (doing business as Drexel University)** CoE will be evaluating the efficacy (terminology/ language) of informed consent forms used by the CoEs and CCOEs, thereby decreasing one of the barriers to easy, quick, and appropriate recruitment of minority women into clinical trials and research studies. The goal of the project is to augment recruitment efforts while preserving participant safeguards.

Magee Womens Hospital CoE, under the direction of Pam Dodge, PI, will work to improve the quality of preventive health care and to increase recruitment of African American women into research studies and trials through the use of a computerized screening tool.

Wake Forest University, under the direction of Roger Anderson, PI, will provide information, knowledge, support, and survey expertise to researchers and health care administrators who request use of the Office on Women's Health survey on assessment of women's satisfaction with health care and care quality.

CoE Staff News

Boston University CoE Center Director on Sabbatical

Karen M. Freund, CoE Center Director, is on sabbatical and involved in the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. She will continue as Chair of the CoE Evaluation Working Group, and will provide ongoing assistance in planning for the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health Program.

Boston University CoE Names Deputy Director

Margaret Seaver, M.D., M.P.H., has been named Deputy Director of the Boston University CoE program from August 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

University of Puerto Rico CoE Center Director

Dr. Delia Camacho, was confirmed Dean of Academic Affairs of the Medical Sciences Campus of the University of Puerto Rico on April 26, 2003.

University of California, San Francisco CoE Center Director

Dr. Nancy Milliken has been appointed Vice Dean in the School of Medicine, effective January 1, 2004.

Farewell to Sarah Scholle

Magee-Womens CoE congratulates Sarah Scholle, CoE Evaluation Director, who has taken the position of Vice President for the National Committee for Quality Assurance in Washington, D.C. CoE staff members say, "We will miss her friendship and expertise."



NATIONAL CENTERS OF
EXCELLENCE
IN WOMEN'S HEALTH



CoE Contact Information:

University of Arizona
1501 N. Campbell Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85724
(520) 626-0218
(520) 626-7382 (fax)

Boston University Medical Center
720 Harrison Avenue, Suite 1108
Boston, MA 02118
(617) 638-8035
(617) 638-8026 (fax)
<http://www.bmc.org/coewh/>

Brown University/Women & Infants Hospital
101 Dudley Street
Providence, RI 02905
(401) 274-1122
(401) 276-7863 (fax)

University of California, Los Angeles
Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health
Education and Resource Center
100 UCLA Medical Plaza Drive, Suite 290
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7075
(800) 825-2631
(310) 794-9039
(310) 267-1585 (fax)
<http://womenshealth.med.ucla.edu/>

University of California, San Francisco
2356 Sutter - Box 1694
San Francisco, CA 94143-1694
(415) 353-7481
(415) 353-9580 (fax)
<http://itsa.ucsf.edu/~ucsfcoe/>

Harvard Medical School
Division of Women's Health
Neville House
75 Francis Street
Neville House, Room 116
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 732-5759
(617) 264-6309 (fax)
<http://www.hmcnet.harvard.edu/coe/>

University of Illinois at Chicago
820 South Wood Street
Chicago, Illinois 60612
(312) 355-0467
(312) 996-4238 (fax)
<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/womenshealth/>

Indiana University School of Medicine
Indiana Cancer Pavilion

535 Barnhill Drive, RT-150
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 274-2754
(317) 274-2785 (fax)
<http://www.iupui.edu/~womenhlt/>

Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC
University of Pittsburgh
300 Halket Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3180
(412) 641-1141
(412) 641-1133 (fax)
<http://www.magee.edu/cewh2.htm>

**MCP Hahnemann University (doing business as
Drexel University)**
Institute for Women's Health
The Gatehouse
MCP Hospital
3300 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19129
(215) 842-7041
(215) 843-7946 (fax)
<http://www.auhs.edu/institutes/iwh/coe.html>

University of Michigan Health System
Women's Health Program
1342 Taubman Center
(Level One)
1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Room L-4000
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0276
(734) 764-8123
(734) 647-9727 (fax)
<http://www.med.umich.edu/whrc/ctr.excel.html>

University of Minnesota
420 Delaware Street, SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 626-1125
(612) 626-4911 (fax)

University of Mississippi
2500 N. State Street
Jackson, MS 39216
(601) 984-5660
(601) 815-3282 (fax)

Oregon Health & Sciences University
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road, UHN 50
Portland, OR 97239
(503) 494-4480
(503) 494-3111 (fax)

University of Puerto Rico
Medical Sciences Campus
P.O. Box 365067

San Juan, PR 00936-5067
(787) 758-2525 ext. 1368/1360
(787) 753-0090 (fax)
<http://www.rcm.upr.edu/2k1whc/>

**Tulane and Xavier Universities
of Louisiana**
Tulane University School of Public Health
and Tropical Medicine
1440 Canal Street, Suite 2300
New Orleans, LA 70112
(877) 588-5100
(504) 988-4657 (fax)
<http://www.tuxcoe.tulane.edu>

University of Washington, Seattle
4245 Roosevelt Way NE
Campus Box 354765
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 598-8991
(206) 598-8957 (fax)
<http://depts.washington.edu/~uw98coe/>

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Meriter Hospital-Park/6 West
202 South Park Street
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 267-5566
(608) 267-5577 (fax)
<http://www.womenshealth.wisc.edu/>

Virginia Commonwealth University
9000 Stony Point Parkway
Richmond, VA 23235
(804) 327-8843
(804) 327-8844 (fax)

**Additional Women's Health
Information and Resources:**

**National Women's Health
Information Center**
Office on Women's Health
Department of Health and
Human Services
Washington, D.C.
800-994-WOMAN
888-220-5446 (TDD)
<http://www.4woman.gov/>

CoE Home Page:
<http://www.4woman.gov/coe>

OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH
NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE STAFFING TEAM

Susan M. Clark, M.A.
Director, Division of Program Management
CoE Project Officer

Barbara F. James, M.P.H.
Health Science Analyst
CCOE Program Director

Anita Broadus
Staff Assistant

Anna Kindermann, J.D.
Public Health Analyst

Saralyn Mark, M.D.
Senior Medical Advisor

Eileen P. Newman, M.S., R.D.
Public Health Analyst

Jonelle Rowe, M.D.
Senior Medical Advisor on Adolescent Health

Valerie Scardino, M.P.A.
Project Director, National Women's Health
Information Center

Calvin Teel
Staff Assistant

We'd Like to Hear from You

We welcome your input. If you have suggestions or comments on *Models for the Nation*, please contact Ying Ge at 301-984-7191 or ying.ge@matthewsgroup.com.

