

NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVES

WHITE PAPER

The National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) strive to examine diversity at all levels within their service and organizational system, including: diversity of the core people involved in the Centers, diversity of the staff at the Centers, diversity of the community impacted by the Centers, diversity in outreach activities. This paper outlines the efforts the CoEs are conducting with respect to clinical services, research, outreach, professional education and leadership and the diverse communities that are impacted.

Clinical Service

Boston University Medical Center CoE

- Women cared for at the CoE clinical care center are comprised of 58% Caucasian, 33% African American, 5% Latino, 3% Asian, and 1% Native American.

University of California at Los Angeles CoE

- Physicians at the National Model Center include seven internal physicians (including one Latina and one Asian Pacific Islander physician) and two community physicians (both Asian-Pacific Islanders). Based primarily on campus providing comprehensive primary care, there are two geriatricians providing comprehensive geriatric care, as well as four physicians from the Division of Geriatrics and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology who provide consultative subspecialty services.

Harvard University CoE

- The CoE's one-stop comprehensive care addresses the needs of women, and in particular, women of American Indian descent. This model of care includes "one-stop shopping" where women can receive primary care, gynecologic care, radiologic imaging including mammography, ultrasound, and bone density, nutrition counseling, and mental health services.

University of Washington, Seattle CoE

- The CoE serves 76.1% Caucasian, 5.9% Asian American patients, .4.6% African American, Native American (0.4%), and Hispanic (1.8%). Over the course of the year 2001, the Women's Clinic saw approximately 40% African and African-American, 36% Caucasian, 10% Asian, 8% Latina and 1% Native American women for a total of 12,768 visits. Of the 2,768 visits, over 4,030 women were served.

- The Pioneer Square Clinic is a community outpatient clinic closely associated with the CoE (Harborview Medical Center), which provides primary care and acute care to low-

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income and homeless patients in the downtown Seattle area. Of the patients seen over the course of a year, approximately 30% are female, 53% are Caucasian, 30% are African American, 11% are Hispanic and 5% are Native American.

Research

Boston University CoE

- The Women's Health Group has evaluated, through its collaboration on the REACH Boston 2010 project, the needs of African American women in terms of screening and follow-up for breast and cervical cancer.
- The Boston University CoE is conducting a new study to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of Avandia in combination with glyburide in African American and Hispanic men and women with Type II diabetes.

Indiana University CoE

- The CoE has been involved in breast cancer research since its inception. The CoE Research Director has a long-standing, continuously funded (by NIH and ACS) research program to increase breast screening with special emphasis on minority and underserved women. She collaborates with other faculty in the Schools of Nursing and Medicine, including members of the IU Cancer Center, and faculty from other medical centers around the country in these efforts. Her work is multidisciplinary, including behavioral, informatics, and medical aspects. The CoE's Bilingual Outreach Coordinator, adapted the Research Director's CD-ROM promoting mammography and breast screening for African American women into a video presentation in Spanish for their growing Hispanic population, after determining that a video format was considered more user-friendly for this group.

Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana CoE (TUXCOE)

- In the fall of 2001, a special Cultural Competency Taskforce was established at TUXCOE to explore the health needs of several New Orleans' subpopulations, including Asian Americans, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Arab-Americans. The initial project of this taskforce was to create specialized population portfolios for each of the communities, featuring demographics, health issues and unique practices and needs of the women of these different cultures. The specialized portfolios are used to plan research and future health education programs that are culturally appropriate. Additionally, this information will be used to provide clinical practitioners with tools necessary to provide culturally competent health services.
- In September of 2002 TUXCOE received a 2.3 million-dollar grant from NIH to conduct a program entitled *Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health* (BIRCWH). In order to improve the quality and increase the quantity of women's health research, Tulane BIRCWH proposed to bridge the period between advanced training and research independence, as well as to link professions, scientific disciplines,

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and areas of interest for selected scholars. The common theme running throughout the various research areas is *patient-oriented research on cardiovascular disease (CVD) and hypertension among women*, particularly among African American women. The need to address women's cardiovascular health in Louisiana is dire, particularly in Orleans parish where the population is predominantly African American, an extremely high-risk sub-population according to local and national data. Tulane BIRCWH foci includes research that is basic, translational, clinical, and health behavioral and health services that pertain to CVD and hypertension in women.

University of Washington, Seattle CoE

- In 1999, the CoE Clinical Care Director studied all minority women seen at the Harborview Medical Center (HMC) primary care clinics in order to ascertain the needs for a service providing menopause education and resources to minority populations. This information was presented at the North American Menopause Society Meetings in New York City in September 1999. In summary, that survey assessed the use of hormone replacement therapy among different ethnic groups at HMC. The study found that: 1) Native American women were least likely to ever use hormone replacement therapy; 2) Asian women were most likely to continue with hormone replacement therapy over age 65.

- A CoE affiliated researcher completed a study: Suicide Prevention Among Pacific Northwest Indian Youth in which she developed her understanding of prevention research and conducted cross-cultural translation of protocols for American Indian communities, including evaluation of the individual and community levels of analysis. She is planning to extend her studies of factors to reduce health disparities for Native American women.

- A CoE affiliated researcher completed a study of the experiences of miscarriage in a Native American Community. The purpose of this participatory action study was to work with one Native American community as they made sense of their tribe's history of increased rates of miscarriage, determine how they wished to care for themselves, and attempt to restore their well being.

- A CoE affiliated Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Cooperative Research Center focuses her work on two health conditions that affect primarily women – fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome. She has been actively involved in many efforts related to Native American health and training of Native American Investigators. She is an investigator for the Resource Center for Minority Aging, Native American Investigator Development Core, and a co-PI of HIV and STD Risk Factors in two American Indian Tribes.

- During a community clinic site visit to the Yakima Valley Farmworker Clinic, a project was planned partnering the UW CoE with the clinic in an evaluation project. It has been recognized that the Latino farmworker population has a very high risk of gestational diabetes. In addition, a pilot survey had demonstrated a high rate of conversion among these women who had had gestational diabetes in pregnancy to adult

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onset diabetes. A chart review was completed, analyzing the number of women diagnosed with gestational diabetes and rate of conversion to adult onset diabetes with an analysis of risk factors. Latinas with two or more pregnancies associated with gestational diabetes were at highest risk of Type 2 diabetes. Other providers who care for Latinas with a pregnancy complicated by gestational diabetes have reported an increased risk of Type 2 diabetes in women who subsequently used progestin contraceptives.

- Focus groups with key community informants from three populations were held in December of 2000. The goals of the focus groups were to better understand primary health concerns of non-English speaking female patient populations seen in primary care clinics at a safety net health care facility. In particular, patient knowledge, experiences and intentions concerning health prevention strategies, including screening and patient education, were explored in three separate focus groups with Somali, Latina, and Vietnamese women (the three dominant cultural groups of women served by the CoE). Specifically, they sought to assess:

- a. Women's knowledge of health screening and prevention strategies.
- b. The value placed on various screening and prevention strategies by the women.
- c. Barriers to health care screening and prevention.
- d. Preferred format for education and information exchange.

Community Outreach

Boston University Medical Center CoE

- The STAR Community Outreach Program for Education (SCOPE). Outreach activities will focus on Asian women, as well as Caucasian, African American, and Latina women in the Boston area.
- The BU CoE has worked collaboratively with a number of agencies in Boston on the successful Phase I and Phase II applications to the CDC for the REACH Boston 2010 Program. The Coalition of organizations involved in this endeavor include the Boston Public Health Commission, the American Cancer Society, the Boston Chapter of the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer (NBLIC), the Boston Conference of Community Health Centers, the Harvard Medical School Center of Excellence in Women's Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Division of Family and Community Health, the Somali Development Center, Churches Organized to Save Tomorrow (COST), and many affiliated community health centers. The Coalition of organizations involved in this endeavor include the Boston Public Health Commission, the American Cancer Society, the Boston Chapter of the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer (NBLIC), the Boston Conference of Community Health Centers, the Harvard Medical School Center of Excellence in Women's Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Division of Family and Community Health, the Somali Development Center, Churches Organized to Save Tomorrow (COST), and many affiliated community health centers.

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- The CoE Research Director received an award for \$60,000 for STAR Community Outreach Program for Education (SCOPE). Community outreach activities target African American, Caucasian, Latina and Asian women in the Boston area. The objective is to educate women in the community about research and to increase participation in clinical trials. Collaborative efforts with the Women's Health Network involve coordination at community health centers, participating in health fairs and presence at mammogram.
- The CoE has been involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of a cardiovascular risk reduction outreach program, "*Reducing Cardiovascular Risk Through Exercise.*" This is a joint Northeast Missouri Health Council (CCOE) and Boston University (CoE) Community Outreach and Education Project. The program at BU will enroll African American women for a 2 year longitudinal follow up program, with the goal of developing an individual exercise program, and then providing follow up to continue to encourage women to incorporate the program into a lifelong behavioral change. This program will link with community and institutional organizations that support nutrition, weight management, and exercise opportunities. The start of this program will begin in Fall 2002.
- The Boston University CoE has continued to conduct outreach and in-reach through the Women's Health Network (WHN). The WHN is a state-funded outreach program to provide breast and cervical cancer screening to qualified low-income women. The goal of the WHN is to increase awareness of the program in hopes of lowering the rates of breast and cervical cancer in the urban Boston community. The WHN targets the underserved Haitian, Hispanic, African-American, and lesbian populations.

University of California at Los Angeles CoE

- Black Women for Wellness, Los Angeles offers a variety of health education and advocacy programs that serve as resources for more than 10,000 black women in the Central Los Angeles area. The organization received a grant from the CoE to create *Sisters in Motion* -a physical fitness and nutrition program. *Sisters in Motion* is designed to enhance the quality of life of black women in the Central Los Angeles area by offering an outlet for physical activity to reduce obesity and prevent cardiovascular disease.
- A Center for Disease Control and Prevention funded project has allowed the CoE Research Director to work with community-based organizations focusing on eliminating health disparities among African Americans with regard to Diabetes Mellitus and Cardiovascular Disease.

University of California, San Francisco CoE

- The UCSF CoE has strong ties with the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO), whose mission is to empower Asian women and girls and ensures equal and adequate access to health care and life advancement opportunities. In its innovative programs, NAWHO is committed to achieving the institutional goals of advocacy, policy, research, education and leadership.

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- The UCSF CoE has developed a partnership with Asian and Pacific Islanders for Reproductive Health (APIRH) to address issues of reproductive health among Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) women and girls. APIRH works in collaboration with clinics, organizations and individuals to promote safe and viable options for the reproductive health of APIA women and girls. They conduct outreach and education projects, promote community-based research, and conduct advocacy for low-income immigrant and refugee communities in California.
- Latino Health Access of Santa Ana helps uninsured and under-served people by offering quality health prevention services and educational programs. The organization plans to use a grant from the UCSF CoE to expand its domestic violence intervention program, *Proyecto HONOR: Community Health Worker Approach to Helping Latinas Affected by Domestic Violence*. The program seeks to reshape public opinions about alcohol-abuse and domestic violence in the Latino community, provide social and educational resources to help families stay together, and create safe havens for women who are victims of domestic abuse.
- The UCSF CoE has developed a partnership with APIRH to address issues of reproductive health among Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) women and girls. APIRH works in collaboration with clinics, organizations and individuals to promote safe and viable options for the reproductive health of APIA women and girls. They conduct outreach and education projects, promote community-based research, and conduct advocacy for low-income immigrant and refugee communities in California.

Harvard University CoE

- An accurate determination of the racial/ethnic identity of the patient population is difficult to accurately quantify. This is due to a large group of patients whose race is captured as “not specified” in the patient database, representing up to 35% of the patients. Of the patients who reported race or ethnicity, Caucasian women made up 65% of patients, black women 24%, and Latina, Asian and other populations less than 1% each. English is the first language of 94% of patients.
- The Harvard Medical School National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health is a founding member of the REACH Boston 2010 Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition. The CoE Center Director is working with the Coalition, and the community co-chairs to develop principles for community-based research and to educate the community of black women about participating in research trials
- The CoE Center Director collaborated with the Boston Health Department to develop a series of 12 cable television shows to deliver cardiac risk reduction education. The series builds on the previous research efforts that demonstrated that a cable television series devoted to healthy eating and exercise for black women was effective in reducing weight or maintaining weight and changing exercise patterns.
- The CoE collaborated with the St. Barnabus National Community Center of Excellence, Tulane/Xavier National Center of Excellence, and the University of Puerto

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Rico National Center of Excellence to develop a curriculum to train health educators to train community women to deliver cardiac risk reduction messages, targeting black and Latina women. The program also provided training on assessing a woman's readiness for change and how to use the stage of behavioral change to tailor health messages.

Indiana University CoE

- The Indiana University CoE has employed a Bilingual Outreach Coordinator in the CoE for about 18 months, and she has become a critical part of all of the activities as the Hispanic population of Indiana has continued to grow faster than any other segment of the population. The Outreach Coordinator helps Hispanic women get into the health care system and obtain appropriate social services, and she facilitates their interactions through both translation and moral support. She also plays a key educational role in outreach activities on breast health and disease, cervical disease, and HIV/AIDS. She visits Hispanic community centers, churches, and other venues, and provides critical information to women concerning health-related issues. More recently she collaborated with a health educator for the Marion County Department of Health (also based in the CoE) to provide similar outreach to African American women, especially regarding breast health, HIV/AIDS, and smoking prevention and cessation.
- The CoE staff are preparing a CD-ROM on HIV/STDs targeting African American and Hispanic women, especially adolescents and young adults, in a stylish, eye-catching, animated format that is being professionally designed by students at the IU School of New Media and Informatics. This will be presented to community and church groups and community health clinics in inner-city neighborhoods, including Hispanic areas. The Bilingual Outreach Coordinator gives presentations to community and church groups in Hispanic neighborhoods, highlighting a variety of issues of importance to these women, including breast health, HIV/STDs, and domestic violence.
- Indiana University School of Medicine publishes an on-line and hard copy newsletter three to four times a year. The newsletter includes articles of interest to women, as well as information on the activities of the CoE, information about community activities and organizations, new programs, outreach opportunities, and a variety of resources. They have created several educational CD-ROMs on topics including domestic violence, bleeding disorders in women (a CME program developed in collaboration with the Indiana Hemophilia Center, and a CD-ROM is in production on HIV/STDs). One CoE staff member has created a CD-ROM on breast screening for African American women, which has been adapted as a video format in Spanish for Hispanic women. Another CoE staff member has created a computer game on smoking prevention and cessation for girls.
- The CoE also is collaborating with the IU Cancer Center and the IU AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (NIH-funded) to inform Hispanic women in their community about the benefits of clinical trials. The CoE Center Director has received unrestricted educational grants to create a CD-ROM on HIV/STDs targeting underserved women, which will be translated into Spanish.

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Magee Womens Hospital CoE

- The Magee Womens Hospital's African American Womancare Program expanded its community board in 2002 and redefined its mission to include Hispanic representation. The bi-annual newsletter highlighted menopause issues for African-American women in its fall issue. The African American Womancare Program supported the Sister-to-Sister Take Wellness to Heart Conference in 2002 where health information and cholesterol screening was available for 508 registered participants. CoE and other Magee staff also serve on the steering committee. The African American Womancare Steering Committee met at Magee Womens Hospital on March 6, 2002. New members were encouraged to join the committee in order to bring the voices of their family, neighbors and colleagues to a program whose focus is to improve the health and quality of life for minorities in the community.

- The CoE collaborates with Black Women and Health Outreach for Longer Life and Empowerment (BWHOLE), a network of adult black women from various professional and nonprofessional backgrounds, to connect black women to international health resource support, advocacy and sisterhood. Through this collaboration, a women's health conference was convened focusing on prevention and how-to behavioral changes. BWHOLE also collaborates on a "Pick Your Path" project funded by the Office on Women's Health. In addition, Magee's Neighborhood Center Services has developed a project targeting specific communities to encourage physical fitness through a family walking program utilizing the neighborhood in which they live.

- Magee Womens Hospital, represented by the CoE Administrative Director, is participating in the advisory board of a new organization to advance a heart health agenda. "Working Hearts" is a coalition of women working to activate their natural networks to strengthen women's heart health. Recognizing that heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States, women are learning about their risks too late for prevention. Increasing the public awareness of women's heart health risks and prevention opportunities is the mission of the coalition. The vision of this coalition is to be recognized as a political, economic, and communications network and force of women taking care of their health. The "Working Hearts" advisory committee first met in May 2001. Magee continues to act as its healthcare advisor and has requested support from Working Hearts on a number of projects from the African American Womancare program development to advise on recruitment for a preeclampsia study investigating increased risk of early onset cardiovascular disease.

- Magee Women's Hospital CoE collaborated with the Minneapolis, Hennepin County National Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health and with the National Center of Excellence in Women's Health at the University of Wisconsin in an adolescent project related to domestic violence. The objectives of the project were 1) to reduce domestic violence against women and girls in North Minneapolis and 2) to increase culturally relevant training, education and advocacy that promotes healthy self-identity, individual and communal peace, and healthy relationships. The target population was African American teens age 13-18. One of the events that took place in this project was a

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conference similar to one Magee CoE sponsored this year “Dating Violence, Crossing the Line: My Body, My Choices”.

MCP Hahnemann University (doing business as Drexel University) CoE

- The OWH Regional Women’s Health Coordinator has provided the Center of Excellence with a small grant in order to address Cardiovascular Disease in the African American Community. A Conversation on Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease was developed with and for a network of churches in the African American community.

University of Puerto Rico CoE

- As a joint project involving other CoEs and the National Community Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health, the UPR CoE engaged in a collaborative project on cardiovascular disease with the New York CCOE, the Harvard CoE, and the Tulane/Xavier CoE. The project, To the Heart of Minority Women, included curriculum development and peer education training. The training curriculum is geared towards the development of a cadre of community women trained in the area of cardiovascular disease, risk factors, prevention, intervention, and early detection. These trained community women offer education sessions and seminars in the communities represented by the coalition of this project, specifically targeting African American and Latina/Hispanic women. The training curriculum was developed in English and Spanish, addressing the diversity and linguistic needs of the target population. The Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change provided the model for assessment and appropriate interventions planning. The peers are fully trained in the model and its use within the context of cardiovascular disease education and behavior change. By developing and providing community educators which are legitimate members of their communities by virtue of their life experiences and ties, the trained community women act as liaisons or partners for health, lessening the cultural, linguistic, and ethnic barriers which may be encountered by “outside” providers.

Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana CoE

- In January 2002, a TUXCOE Cultural Competency Taskforce was formed to increase awareness of the health needs and health status of African-American, Asian American, and Hispanic women in the Greater New Orleans area. This initiative was accomplished through the development of culturally competent health portfolios that reflect each ethnic group’s history, demographics, health status and issues, cultural practices, customs and beliefs, and community resources.

- Since January 2002, TUXCOE staff members attended several community meetings to begin establishing cultural competency within the Greater New Orleans area. The meetings continue with community groups such as the Louisiana Asian American Women’s Caucus. Through these meetings, TUXCOE is establishing community partnerships and developing guidelines that will enhance minority patients’ healthcare experiences. The Asian Taskforce commenced with an invitation from the Louisiana Asian American Women’s Caucus to present TUXCOE and its Cultural Competence

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Taskforce. This opportunity was followed by a series of meetings with various key leaders in the Asian community, namely the Headstart Director at Versailles Project in New Orleans East, the Honorary Consul General of the Philippines, Representative of the Korean Association of New Orleans, and President of the Japan Club. In addition, several meetings were held with members of the Asian Women's workgroup, and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has approved the focus group protocol.

- Osteoporosis screening, prevention and treatment are an integral service of the TWHCC, and in 2002, the TWHCC acquired the hospital's DEXA bone scanner and incorporated the actual bone density testing into its array of services. TUXCOE now coordinates the scheduling, patient reception, hospital billing and marketing responsibilities, in addition to delivery of the service. A CoE-affiliated physician from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and another from the Department of Medicine, Section of Endocrinology, both provide weekly bone health sessions with counseling in the TWHCC. Additionally, the bone density testing service is available throughout the week and can be readily scheduled by TUXCOE staff. Osteoporosis preventive education is delivered primarily by Gynecology and Primary Care clinicians as well as nurse educators and nutritionists. The evaluation and treatment of women with osteopenia or osteoporosis is largely provided by Endocrinologists and Rheumatologists.

- TUXCOE continues to develop and pilot test and evaluate the *Healthy Tales* concept which uses the art of storytelling to convey information about disease, risk factors and healthy practices as a response to the high illiteracy rate in the New Orleans area, particularly within the African American community. Piloting of *Healthy Tales* has proven the program to be extremely promising in health education efficacy of the target populations.

- Patients are eligible for free care at two CoE satellite clinics if they have income less than 200% of the poverty level. Patients with incomes over this amount receive bills based on a sliding scale of payment. Translator services are available through the Social Services department with advance notification for Hispanic, Korean, Vietnamese, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Arabic, Dutch, German, Indonesian, Filipino, French, Portuguese, Hindi and Indian patients.

- The community lecture programs will be expanded to include a bimonthly Evening Public Lecture Series to address various health subjects during one-hour evening lectures, as well as a Mini-conference on Health for the Public, which will be half-day workshops that will provide an in-depth review of a single disease topic. TUXCOE will implement at least two joint programs with collaborating CoE's and/or CCOE's and that were proposed during the 2001/2002 reporting period. Beginning October 2002, the CVD Health Education Program for African-American and Hispanic Women will begin. TUXCOE will also be conducting breastfeeding focus groups as part of the national breastfeeding awareness campaign.

University of Washington, Seattle CoE

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- CoE patients are comprised of 76.1% Caucasian, 5.9% Asian American, 4.6% African American, 0.4% Native American, and 1.8% Hispanic.
- The Pioneer Square Clinic is a community outpatient clinic closely associated with the CoE, which provides primary care and acute care to low-income and homeless patients in the downtown Seattle area. Of the patients seen, approximately 30% are female; there are 11% Hispanic, 53% Caucasian; 30% African American, and 5% Native American patients seen over the course of the year.
- Local expertise and input from the UW CoE Advisory Council was used to determine by consensus which ten topics to target initially for development of patient education materials and a list of target groups in order of importance. The topics of cervical cancer and depression were specifically targeted for Native Americans.
- The Community House Calls program, which was developed by two doctors at the CoE, won the 1998 National Health Care Delivery Award. The program coordinates primary care for immigrant and refugee families through bicultural caseworkers. The program involves students and residents in community education and clinical care, training providers in cross-cultural communication. Additionally, the Women's Health Outreach Van is active in the community and headed up by the Director of Patient and Physician Education and Outreach for the UW Cancer Center. The van program targets Native American, Asian American, African American, Latina, elderly and low-income populations for education in healthy lifestyles and preventive screening.
- Local expertise and input from the CoE Advisory Council was used to determine by consensus which topics to target initially for development of patient education materials and a list of target groups in order of importance. The initial list of educational topics and the target groups included the following for Asian women: breast cancer, cervical cancer, depression, and osteoporosis; for all women: domestic violence, guide to healthy habits, and what is screening?
- Breast Cancer Screening is an important health issue for all women. The search and filter process found excellent materials for the general population of women and links directly to these sites were provided on the CoE web site. However, other groups were not represented. Because of a low rate of screening among South East Asian women, Vietnamese women were selected as the target group. This resulted in the production of a culturally appropriate patient education document for Vietnamese women, which was tested in a focus group setting and translated into Vietnamese.
- In order to stimulate networking within the region in the clinical services area, the CoE has established community forums. The first forum was held in fall 1999 and showcased teen healthcare. The 2002 Health Forum focused on health issues and needs of Asian women, with an emphasis on the Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese and Japanese populations.
- The Women's Health Outreach Van was a project funded through the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations and Avon, headed up by the Director of Patient and

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Physician Education and Outreach for the UW Cancer Center. The program targets Native American, Asian American, African American, Latina, elderly and low-income populations for education in healthy lifestyles and preventive screening.

- The UW CoE is one of five CoEs to participate in an OWH-sponsored intergenerational project. The UW CoE project promoted a healthy diet and exercise by involving intergenerational groups of women to meet on a monthly basis with a nutritionist or graduate nursing student to learn healthy eating and exercise habits and to coach each other. The CoE encouraged these women to inspire each other into taking action by participating in group-building activities focused on topics related to health issues and how to prevent them, such as diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis, etc. The format required that the women and girls be active participants by learning how they could bring these habits into their lives. The desired result was that these women would continue to meet once the CoE was no longer involved in the project.
- Local expertise and input from the UW CoE Advisory Council was used to determine by consensus which topics to target initially for development of patient education materials and a list of target groups in order of importance. The initial list of educational topics for Hispanic women included the following: cardiovascular, cervical cancer; for all women: domestic violence, guide to healthy habits, and what is screening?

University of Wisconsin-Madison CoE

- Consumer Outreach at the CoE includes participation in the Madison Witness project which meets in the CoE conference room at Meriter Hospital as well as a Madison African American Community funded project to reduce burden of tobacco, in conjunction with Tobacco Free Dane County Coalition. The CD-ROM HRT program for women veterans continues at the VA Hospital.

Professional Education

Harvard University CoE

- The Harvard Medical School Center of Excellence collaborated with the BU Center of Excellence to develop a train-the-trainer program for primary care providers as part of the REACH Boston 2010 Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative. The 1.5-day program focuses on cultural competence as it relates to black women and also explores issues related to breast and cervical cancer disparities. The training is learner-centered and uses a variety of pedagogical methods. Participants received a full curriculum to use at their

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home institutions. Twenty-six Boston based primary care providers (physicians and nurses) attended the training.

Indiana University CoE

- The CoE has created a very successful monthly noon conference, which is well attended by medical and nursing school faculty, students, trainees, and staff. Each year they present 9-12 lectures on various issues related to women's health, including presentations by lay speakers when appropriate. The 2001-2002 series included the topics of HIV/AIDS, weight management and eating disorders for adolescent and adult women; sleep disorders, women's financial health, legal and ethical issues in women's health, health concerns of Hispanic women, breast cancer, and asthma and lung disease.
- Many members of the CoE and other faculty and health care professionals associated with the CoE give lectures throughout the year, on and off campus, to medical students, nursing students, residents, fellows, faculty, other health care professionals, and lay audiences, around the city and state. As part of the "Pick Your Path to Health" campaign, conceived by DHHS OWH, they have organized women's health forums for various community groups, including inner-city churches, a seniors shut-in companion network, deaf women, and Hispanic women. The CoE Clinical Care Director writes the women's health articles for the bimonthly Bridal Coordinator newsletter, and she also has been featured on the local NBC affiliate, Channel 13, with their health reporter, discussing various health issues affecting women. The Center Director and Clinical Care Director have participated in the joint IUSM-WFYI (the local PBS radio affiliate) program, called "Sound Medicine," aired on PBS in 2002. The Clinical Care Director also has discussed obesity and the recent issues arising from the termination of the NIH-sponsored hormone trial, and the Center Director has discussed arthritis.

University of Washington, Seattle CoE

- A CoE affiliated Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine has been a medical educator for the past 12 years working with the Native American population. She has received multiple teaching awards from medical students, residents and faculty. Prior to coming to the UW CoE she served on both the Medical School and Internal Medicine Residency Curriculum Committee at Creighton University and was a member of the Program Governance Committee Primary Care Rotation at the Pine Ridge, South Dakota Indian Health Service. She co-authored a video on cervical cancer screening for Native American Women for the Nebraska Cancer Control Project. In 1993 she was awarded a National Service Research Award (NRSA) Fellowship and earned a Masters Degree in Public Health at the University of Washington. Dr. Laya staffs and teaches primary care and consultative practices in breast care and menopause.

Leadership

Boston University Medical Center CoE

- The staff at Boston University of Medicine is 2.9% Asian.

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- The female faculty at Boston University of Medicine are 28% white, 1.5% black, 2.9% Asian, and 1.5% Hispanic.

University of California at Los Angeles CoE

- The CoE Research Director obtained a Junior Faculty Award from the American Cancer Society (ACS) to study disparities in colorectal outcomes. This Junior Faculty Award is a three-year study with a goal of assessing whether process of care contributes to the disparities between African Americans and Caucasians in outcomes for colorectal cancer. Focus groups included African Americans, Latinos and Caucasians.
- The CoE continues an internship program for students studying for their Masters of Social Work. Five students participated during the extension year, including two African-Americans, and one Asian Pacific Islander.

Harvard University CoE

- The CoE Center Director presented a session “The Importance of Family Communication: Addressing Mental Health in the Black Community” at the Codman Square Health Center’s Diversity Celebration in May 2002. She also presented a session on “Disparities in Women at the City of Boston community forum “Confronting Health Disparities” in June 2002. More than 600 people attended this session.

MCP Hahnemann University (doing business as Drexel University) CoE

- Named by Women’s Way of Philadelphia, its January 2002 Agent of Change, as part of its 25th anniversary celebration. The CoE Clinical Care Director was selected for her determination in working to combat diabetes and cardiovascular disease, particularly among African American women.
- A Second Challenge Grant has been awarded to the Institute for Women’s Health and the Institute for the Humanities for FY02. The award supports the CoE Clinical Care Director and her research on heart disease in African American women.
- CoE staff worked on a committee with the PA Breast Cancer Coalition on bringing a photographic display to the Latino community in summer 2003, capturing women who have had breast cancer from across the state, and providing resource information.