



NIH NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

National Institute of Nursing
Research

November 19, 2002

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Contact:
Linda Cook, National Institute
of Nursing Research, 301-496-
0209 lc59t@nih.gov

NEW INITIATIVE TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES ANNOUNCED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NURSING RESEARCH

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) is establishing a five-year program that creates seventeen Centers in eight partnerships to address health disparities research. Each Center involves a partnership between schools of nursing with established research programs that focus on health disparities and schools of nursing that are developing research programs in this area and have a significant number of minority students.

The initiative is jointly supported by NINR and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD), both part of NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services. A total of approximately \$15 million will be committed for the program.

“These Partnership Centers represent an aggressive approach to address the health imbalances in our society,” said Dr. Patricia A. Grady, Director of the NINR. “Although nursing has long incorporated ethnic and cultural factors in research, the partnership mechanism emphasizes a new way of sharing expertise to increase both the number of health disparities studies and the number of minority nurse researchers. The fact that disparities in minorities’ health and healthcare exist in our country is something that must change,” she said.

According to Dr. John Ruffin, Director of NCMHD, “These Centers are a crucial step in the NIH effort to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities. Nurses are the healthcare professionals in the forefront of interacting with the public, particularly with our more vulnerable members, on matters pertaining to health.” He also indicated that “Our nation needs scientifically-based interventions that work against health disparities throughout our entire society. That’s why it is so important that

(more)

nursing research, including research stimulated by these new Centers, receive strong support from both the Federal government and the private sector.”

There is compelling evidence that minority populations have shorter life expectancies and higher rates of birth defects, infant mortality, cancer, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. What is needed is more information about why this is happening and what can be done about it.

The Centers will focus on influential factors that reduce health disparities, such as ways to promote healthy behaviors, reduce risks that contribute to chronic illnesses, stimulate personal, family and community resources to help manage disease, and develop ethnically and culturally sensitive healthcare interventions.

The eight Partnership Centers involve schools of nursing at the institutions listed below:

1. The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro
2. University of California, San Francisco
University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences, San Juan
3. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio
4. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
North Carolina Central University, Durham
Winston-Salem State University
5. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Hampton University, Hampton, VA
6. University of Texas, Austin
New Mexico State University, Las Cruces
7. University of Washington, Seattle
University of Hawaii, Manoa

8. Yale University, New Haven, CT
Howard University, Washington, D.C.

More information about nursing research is available at the NINR website at <http://www.nih.gov/ninr>

####