

Moving the Research Agenda Forward for Nursing Partnerships Centers on Health Disparities

**Meeting Summary
Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Bethesda, MD
October 7, 2003**

The National Institute on Nursing Research (NINR) and the National Center on Minority and Health Disparities (NCHMD) convened the meeting “Moving the Research Agenda Forward for Nursing Partnership Centers on Health Disparities,” on Tuesday October 7, 2003, in Bethesda Maryland. Dr. Janice Phillips chaired the meeting.

Background

NINR and NCMHD established a five-year program, in Fall 2002, which created seventeen Centers, in eight partnerships, to address health disparities research. Each Center is a partnership between a school of nursing with an established research program that focus on health disparities, and a school that is developing a research programs. The goals of the Centers focus on 1) expanding the cadre of nurse researchers involved in minority health or health disparities research; 2) increasing the number of research projects aimed at eliminating health disparities; and 3) enhancing the career development of minority nurse investigators.

The NINR strategic plan to reduce health disparities is located at:

<http://www.nih.gov/ninr/research/diversity/mission.html>

Introductions

On October 7, 2003, 31 invited participants and NINR scientific staff attended the one-day meeting “Moving the Research Agenda Forward for Nursing Partnership Centers on Health Disparities.” The purposes of the meeting were to:

- discuss challenges and opportunities related to the first year partnership activities
- identify markers of success in meeting center goals
- identify opportunities and strategies to enhance collaboration across health disparities Centers

Drs. Grady and Ruffin gave introductory remarks. Dr Ruffin reminded the group of the number of funding opportunities, sponsored by the Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, which can be used to move the health disparities agenda forward.

Each partner Center provided a brief overview of year one activities, including opportunities and challenges, related to building and sustaining a research partnership. Discussion from the group included the following summary points:

Challenges Related to Year One Partnerships

- Difficulty getting faculty to know each other
- Limited funding and having to shift resources across sites
- Difficulties obtaining human subjects clearance for studies using both sites
- Negotiations and communication across Centers

- Long distance relationships
- Advancing pilot work to the next level
- Establishing infrastructure
- Limited number of doctorally prepared faculty
- Different communication styles and organizational structures
- Different cultures in the partner Centers
- Competing demands for time
- More proposals for pilots than funds allow

Opportunities/Accomplishments Related to Year One Partnerships

- Established rich collaborative relationships
- Increased recognition and involvement with other disciplines across campus
- Increased offers to collaborate on and off campus
- Enhanced credibility across campus
- Increased involvement in Export grant activities
- Increased number of pilot studies
- Established web based research modules
- Created synchronous virtual learning experiences
- Implemented “WRITING to WIN” workshops
- Enhanced dissemination efforts via newsletter, websites, media
- Facilitated PhD application process for three faculty to attend Center partner doctoral programs
- Instituted new courses a with health disparities focus
- Facilitated community participation in research through the community advisory council
- Increased number of students and faculty pursuing PhD studies
- Increased sharing of talents and resources across Centers
- Received supportive funds from Chancellor’s office

Markers of Success

- Implemented Summer Workshops for research development
- Increased minority student enrollment in PhD programs
- Strengthened existing relationships
- Facilitated early socialization into research careers for students
- Created instrument data base
- Increased number of faculty pursuing PhD studies
- Stronger relationships with the community to plan and implement research
- Experienced a change in organizational culture “everybody’s talking research”

Evaluation

Dr. Carole Hudgings lead a discussion on evaluation of the Center’s progress and identification of the markers of success. The following questions served as a framework to facilitate discussion:

1. Why evaluate
2. What markers or domains are needed for evaluation
3. How to collect evaluation data
4. Who analyzes evaluation data and makes recommendations
5. When/What to evaluate

6. What are the next steps

1. Why Evaluate

- Need more funding; show good stewardship of funding; helps to identify impact of actions/outcomes; identify the need to develop new programs; keep activities on track; create a baseline for future evaluation; aid in replication; generate buy in from clients, to identify changes over time; evaluate RFA requirements; check Center progress: manage expectations; identify if the cause is worthy, and examine what works well and the possibility for sustainability of efforts.

2. Possible Domains for Evaluation: 1) Increasing the capacity of investigators; 2) Advancing the science; 3) Infrastructure; and 4) Outreach

Specific areas of emphasis and markers of success have been identified for a number of topics however, this is not meant to be an exhaustive listing but rather examples to date. Some areas of emphasis are lacking a corresponding marker of success and that will be developed at a later date.

Increasing the Capacity of Investigators

Area	Markers of Success
Developing/mentoring	Increase number of funded proposals
Faculty growth in research	Increase number of faculty doing research Increase number of conferences and participants Increase number of publications, presentations, and funded pilot studies
Community partnered research	Increase in the number of new research Collaborations/partnerships

Advancing the Science

Area	Markers of Success
Pilots funded	Increased number of related publications, citations
New courses	Enhanced impact on practice
New methodologies	More presentations at conferences, local, regional, national interdisciplinary collaborations

Other possible areas include the number of forums to share science and the development of new models and research tools for use in practice.

What are good outcomes for the domain “ Advancing the Science? It may take a while to have evidence of scientific progress.

Infrastructure

Area	Markers of Success
Tools	More instruments on Minority Health Disparities
Resources	
Communication	
University support	
Collaboration	
Institutional/Dean support	Increase funding for research
Leveraging Internal/external	Increase in T 32 applications Increased access to university resources Better positioning at university
External/Internal awareness	Number of web site hits Increased Number of sustainable courses/programs Change in institutional values Adoption of Health disparity initiatives

Outreach

Area	Markers of success
Dissemination to target communities	Increased faculty/student involvement in research activities

Recommendations for Future Evaluation Approaches

Future evaluation to include standardized reporting formats, qualitative comments, realistic markers of success and cross-center collaborations.

Looking to the Future

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to discussing directions for the future with an emphasis on strengthening cross-Center collaborations. Dr. Claudette Varricchio facilitated the discussion.

Suggestions included:

- Sharing website development expertise
- Establishing linkages among existing web sites (and NINR linking with the other Centers)

- Collaborating to develop and implement research programs across Centers
- Planning collaborative Research Conferences
- Seizing opportunities for all Centers to participate in the upcoming Howard Conference
- Establishing more communication networks. (Laura Mason of the University of Washington Center volunteered to establish linkages with all of the Centers on the existing partnership website for Washington and Hawaii).
- Increasing integration of students into research (e.g., the Yale Howard Scholars Program, and the U Michigan Scholars Program)
- Offer more scholarships for students to attend conferences
- Develop exchange programs for PhD students to enhance immersion in health disparities research
- Identifying additional ways to highlight Center activities and facilitate cross Center collaborations

Additional Points for Consideration:

How will Centers know it is time to move forward toward P30 applications? What is the added value of P20 status?

Next meeting?

- The needs of the group will determine when the next meeting will be announced. The latter part of year 3 or beginning Year 4 would be good timing for the next meeting.

Compiled by Janice Phillips
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