

Research Team

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The Collaborative HIV Prevention Research in Minority Communities project is designed to assist investigators already conducting HIV prevention research with ethnic minority communities to improve *their programs of research* and obtain additional funding for their work. The goals of the program are to:

- Increase the quantity and quality of HIV prevention research targeting vulnerable ethnic minority populations
- Develop culture-specific theoretical models and methods for effective HIV prevention research and intervention
- Increase the number of minority group members among principal investigators funded by the NIH, CDC, and other agencies.



1997 visiting professors and CAPS faculty and staff

Background

HIV has spread dramatically in minority communities, with African Americans currently being five times as likely as whites to contract HIV, and the disproportion continues to increase. Historically, few minority investigators have been funded by the NIH. Culturally appropriate measurements and methods are needed to successfully involve respondents and accurately measure their beliefs, values, and behaviors. Investigators who are members of minority groups often have more access to the minority community and more credibility within that community. In addition, they may have a greater understanding of the cultural issues that could influence behavior, and they often have language fluency.

Why this project?

CAPS scientists have designed a program that addresses the serious gap between established research paradigms and the needs of the communities that are most affected by the epidemic by recruiting, assisting, and collaborating with promising scientists working with minority communities. This project was specifically designed to provide the type of long-term support for research that individuals with multiple university responsibilities require. We provide ongoing mentoring from experienced researchers, pilot funding for research activities, and credibility with university administrators. We assist investigators in developing culturally appropriate measures and theory-based, culture-specific interventions for their populations. The end result of these efforts is long-term funding of cutting-edge research projects that inform theory and expand our knowledge of appropriate intervention for minority populations.

Program Activities

What the program provides

1. Small Grant Funding

Participants use a \$25,000 small grant to collect additional data needed to develop their research proposal. Generally, the funds are used to obtain in-depth interviews with the planned study population. These interviews serve to clarify the conceptual model and identify key variables. Funds have also been used to assist in secondary data analysis of relevant data sets, including those of CAPS mentors.

2. A Structured Summer Program

During each of three consecutive summers, scholars work at CAPS for six weeks at a time.

First Year Seminar

This six hours per week seminar is designed to develop visiting professors' preliminary studies and consider their long-term program of research. Four participants work with one or two CAPS faculty to develop the specific aims, rationale, and theoretical model of their large research proposal, as well as the aims, questionnaire, budget, and human subjects proposal for the preliminary study.

Second and Third Year Seminars

A variety of seminars are available for second and third year visiting professors, who attend as appropriate, depending on their progress.

The Research Planning Seminar (two hours per week) allows those preparing a research project to receive feedback from program faculty and other participants on various sections of their proposal. These seminars often focus on refining the theoretical model, but may cover any aspect.

The Qualitative Research Seminar (two hours per week) allows participants to reflect on and work with qualitative data. A CAPS anthropologist with extensive experience with qualitative data sets runs this seminar.

In the Recruitment/Retention Workshop (two hours per week), project staff from CAPS having hands-on experience with recruitment and retention of hard-to-reach participants in longitudinal studies, share their experiences and answer questions.

In the Grant Management Workshop, project directors from CAPS discuss grant management issues with visiting professors and answer their questions.

Other Seminars

Special Topics seminars (2 hours each) offered by CAPS specialists, provide additional background on topics such as: budget justification, human subjects, and community collaborations. Additional seminars are provided by invited speakers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, who discuss funding opportunities and mechanisms.

Weekly Forum

Each week, all visiting professors and faculty meet. We begin with a lunch that provides time to socialize, check in, and touch base. Afterward, the forum allows two second- or third-year visiting professors one hour each to present their work, including recently submitted large grant applications. They receive feedback from program participants and faculty.

3. Individualized Long-Term Mentoring

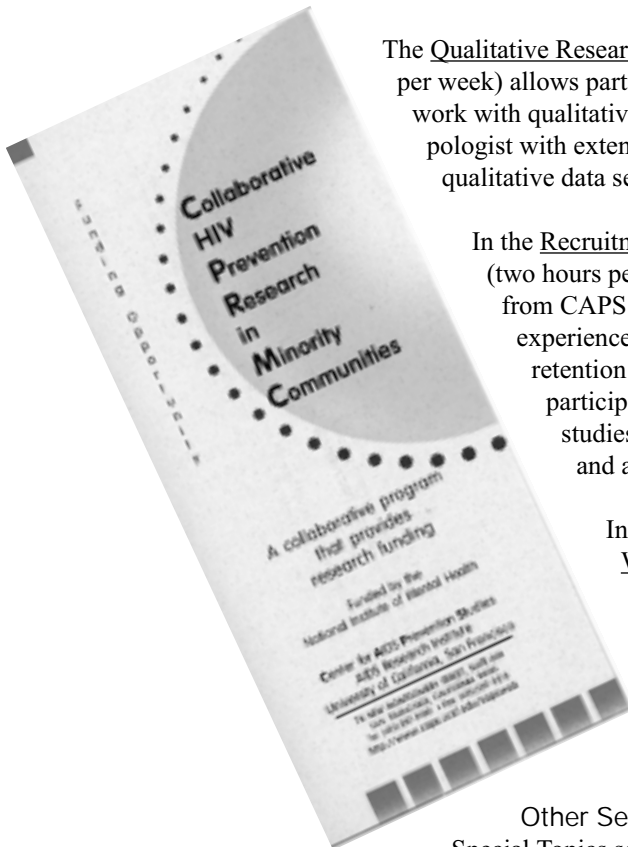
Each visiting professor is assigned to one of the program faculty, who provides mentoring throughout the course of their participation in the program. This mentoring includes weekly meetings during the summer, review of all written work, and weekly contact throughout the year. Mentors provide guidance on all aspects of proposal development, and often refer the visiting professor to other CAPS resources as needed. These include administrative staff for budget-related issues; Susan Rubin, co-director of the CAPS Ethics Core, for ethical issues and human subjects concerns; CAPS scientists or staff for recruitment or measurement issues; and Ellen Goldstein, co-director of the CAPS Technology & Information Exchange Core, for community collaboration issues.

A critical aspect of the mentoring is the ethnic minority expertise of CAPS program faculty. All faculty who serve as mentors have been selected because of their particular sensitivity to and interest in ethnic minority populations. These faculty each have a long track record of publications and grants focusing on ethnic minority populations. (Note: Although Susan Folkman does not serve as a mentor, her research expertise and long experience with NIH review panels are invaluable to the program.)

4. Peer Review

A crucial aspect of the program is peer review of all products. CAPS has a well-developed system of peer review in place, and all scientists are expected to collaborate. Thus, at the end of each summer, every visiting professor's product is reviewed in detail by a CAPS scientist and statistician unfamiliar with the project and by a visiting professor. Additional comments are provided by CAPS program faculty and other visiting professors. In addition, during the year, visiting professors return to CAPS for one or two peer reviews of their RO1 or other grants before submission.

It is very helpful for visiting professors to be reviewed by scientists unfamiliar with their work and often unfamiliar with the cultural issues of ethnic minorities, because these reviews show participants how some NIH reviewers might react to their ideas.



Selection Procedures

All applicants must complete and submit by the deadline: 1) the application form, 2) a three-page description of their past research and proposed research plan, 3) their vitae, 4) letters of recommendation, and 5) a letter from their chair or dean. The three-page description is reviewed blind by program faculty. In deciding who will be admitted to this program, a number of selection criteria are considered:

- Quality of the three-page research proposal they submit
- Research/writing productivity
- Prior HIV prevention research with underrepresented minority communities
- Quality of letters of recommendation
- Commitment of Chair/Dean for time off from duties to do research

Accomplishments

The following list of grants and manuscripts represents the accomplishments of the visiting professors since 1997. Names of professors submitting grants are in italics. This list is continually being updated.

Grants Awarded

- NIMH 1-99 (RO1). *Zea*. "Disclosure of HIV status among Latino gay men." \$1.6 million: 4 years.
- NIMH (RO1). *Ramirez-Valles*. "Latino MSM community involvement: HIV protective effects." \$2,258,000: 5 years.
- NIMH Minority Supplement. *Zea*. "HIV status disclosure among Brazilian gay men." \$163,363: 3 years.
- CSAP grant. *Belgrave*. "Drug prevention intervention for African American females." \$1.2 million: 3 years.
- Detroit Health Dept. *Gant*. "NJIDEKA II: A secondary risk reduction program for African American women living with HIV/AIDS." \$80,000: 05/01/00 - 01/01/01.
- Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA). *Yoshikawa*. "Community risk assessment in Asian/Pacific Islanders." \$5,400.
- New York City Department of Health. *Yoshikawa*. "HIV prevention needs assessment of Asian/Pacific Islander men who have sex with men." \$15,000.

- CA Office of AIDS 9/99. *Organista*. "HIV prevention with Mexican migrant laborers." \$15,000.
- University of Massachusetts, Boston. *Brome*. "Sexual styles among urban African American adolescents." \$3,600.

Grants Being Resubmitted

- NIDA (RO1). *Gant*. "A risk reduction intervention for Black men." Requested: \$1,443,381.
- NIMH (RO1). *Belgrave*. "A relational intervention for delaying sexual initiation." Requested: \$2,089,945.

Grants Being Developed

- Ayala. Race, class, and HIV risk among Latino gay men.
- Bowleg. Power, gender, and sociocultural context: HIV risk and protective factors in African-American heterosexual relationships.
- Brome. Sexual self perception among urban African American adolescents.
- Carrillo. Sexual behavior and HIV risk associated with Mexican homosexual male relocation.
- Wheeler. Improving HIV/AIDS treatment outcomes for seropositive Black gay men.
- Yoshikawa. Social networks and HIV prevention models for Asian/Pacific Islander gay men.
- Gant. Evaluating an HIV risk reduction program for Black men.
- Brown. Prevention of HIV/STD among Southeastern rural Black women.
- Jacob-Arriola. Oppression, social context, and sexual risk behaviors.
- Roberts. Intimate and structural determinants of HIV risk in urban African American and Latina adolescent females: an intervention to prevent dating violence.

Manuscripts Accepted/Published

- Ayala, G. & Díaz, R.M. (In press). Race, class, and HIV risk among Latino gay men in New York City, Los Angeles, and Miami. *Journal of Homosexuality*.
- Belgrave, F., Marin, B., & Chambers, D. (2000). Cultural, contextual, and interpersonal predictors of risky sexual attitudes among urban African American females in early adolescence. *The Journal of Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*. 6(3):309-322.

- Belgrave, F.Z., Brome, D.R., & Hampton, C. (In press). The contribution of Africentric values and racial identity to the prediction of drug knowledge, attitudes, and use among African American youth. *Journal of Black Psychology*, Special issue on Drug Prevention within the African American Community.
- Bowleg, L., Belgrave, F.Z., & Reisen, C. (2000). Gender roles, relationship power strategies, and precautionary sexual self-efficacy: implications for Black and Latina women's HIV/AIDS protective behaviors. *Sex Roles*, Special issue on Gender, Power, and Women's Relationships: Implications for HIV, 42(7/8):613-636.
- Brome, D. R., Owens, M.D., Allen, K., & Vevaina, T. (In press). An examination of spirituality as a protective factor among African American women in recovery from substance abuse. *Journal of Black Psychology*, Special issue on Drug Prevention within the African American Community.
- Carrillo, H. (1999). Cultural change, hybridity, and contemporary male homosexuality in Mexico. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 1(3):223-238.
- Díaz, R. & Ayala, G. (1999). Love, passion, and rebellion: ideologies of HIV risk among Latino gay men in the USA. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 1(3):277-293.
- Gant, L.M. (In press). Prevention interventions and macro-level concerns: the macro aspects. *Social Work*.
- Gant, L.M. (In press). HIV and substance abuse connections and challenges II: exploring harm reduction strategies. *Social Work*.
- Gant, L.M., Stewart, P.A., and Lynch, V.J. (Eds.) (1998). *Social workers speak out on the HIV/AIDS crisis: voices from and to African-American communities*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publications.
- Gant, L.M. (1998). HIV/AIDS: Essential facts every social worker needs to know. In Aronstein and Thompson (Eds.) *HIV/AIDS and social work: a practitioner's guide*. New York: Harrington Park Press. 3-25.
- Organista, K.C. (In press). HIV prevention and AIDS treatment in Mexican migrant farmworkers. In R. Mascoske (Ed.) *Practice models in HIV services*. New York: Haworth Press.
- Wheeler, D. & Miller, D. (1999). HIV/AIDS mental health services to Black men. In M. Shernoff. *AIDS and Social Work Practice in the United States: Clinical and Policy Issues*. New York: Haworth Press. 125-143.
- Wheeler, D. & Shernoff, M. (1999). The translational role of social workers in medical decision making. In M. Shernoff. *AIDS and Social Work Practice in the United States: Clinical and Policy Issues*. New York: Haworth Press. 3-18.

Manuscripts Under Review

- Owens, M. and Brome, D. Perceptions of emotional autonomy, teenage pregnancy, and the mother-daughter relationship among African American mothers and daughters.
- Townsend, T., and Belgrave, F.Z. The impact of personal identity and racial identity on drug outcomes among African American children.
- Zea, M.C., Díaz, R.M., Reisen, C.A. It is not just what you do but how you do it: methodological issues in research with Latino gay and bisexual men.

Recommendations

Given the success of this program, it would be helpful if additional programs of this type could be funded, to provide quality, long-term mentoring to ethnic minority investigators in all health fields.

Acknowledgements

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Materials Available

More information about the program, including application forms, sample activities and investigator profiles can be found at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies website: www.caps.ucsf.edu/projects/minorityindex.html.