



Office of Research
and Grant Support

Program and Abstract Book



SHP 2nd Annual Research Day
Wednesday, April 16, 2008

**Special Thanks to
Dean Laurie Sherwen**
For her dedication to supporting
research in the health sciences

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Presenter(s) will also have an oral presentation in the East Lounge.

Program

- 1:00-5:00pm Poster Exhibit (Lobby)
- 3:30pm Oral Presentations (East Lounge)
Donna Nickitas – Poster # 26
Dan Fiedler – Poster # 10
Beatrice Krauss – Poster # 18
Erica Sullivan – Poster # 16
- 5:15pm Opening Remarks (Auditorium)
Arlene Spark, EdD, RD – Coordinator of Nutrition
Laurie Sherwen, PhD, RN – Dean, Schools of the Health Professions
Marilyn Auerbach, Dr.PH – Director, School of Health Sciences
- 5:30-6:30pm 5th Annual Dorothy F. Epstein Lecture in Nutrition (Auditorium)
Cardiometabolic Benefits of Lifestyle Interventions: What is Achievable in the Real World?
Judith Wylie-Rossett, EdD, RD
Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- 6:30-6:45pm Award Ceremony for Best Student Posters (Auditorium)
- 6:45-7:45pm Reception (Auditorium, Atrium)

Epstein Lecture Keynote Bio

Judith Wylie-Rossett, EdD, RD

Dr. Wylie-Rossett is Professor and Head of the Behavioral & Nutritional Research in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She earned her BS from the University of Arkansas, and her MEd and EdD from Teacher's College, Columbia University.

An expert on the role of nutrition in chronic disease prevention and control, Dr. Wylie-Rossett has collaborated in multi-center clinical trials and other studies that address translation of care recommendations into health care for people with diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and obesity. She has found it particularly rewarding to be an investigator in the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial, the Diabetes Prevention Program, and the Women's Health Initiative.

Currently, Dr. Wylie-Rossett's investigator-initiated research includes 1) a cross sectional study of acculturation and cardiovascular risk in Chinese immigrants, 2) clinical trial to compare low fat and low carbohydrate diets in diabetes management, 3) a clinical trial to evaluate a comprehensive approach to family weight management with counseling support from community health worker and 4) environmental approaches to address obesity. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and has authored and co-authored many books.

Abstracts of Poster Presentations

Poster Number 01

The Effects of Counseling in Therapy on Elementary School Children Who Stutter
Jennifer Bachner (Graduate, COMSC)
Faculty Sponsor: Paul Cascella, PhD, CCC

Issue: This literature review examines the efficacy of counseling on children's stuttering and their attitudes towards communication.

Description: Many children who stutter develop negative feelings towards speech as well as toward themselves. These negative attitudes often perpetuate stuttering. Lower self-confidence is often seen in children who stutter, and they may feel embarrassed and reluctant to participate in social or academic events that require verbal speech. They experience increased difficulties in school, and as a result, may feel a great deal of stress. This stress is correlated with an increase in stuttering.

Results: There is a considerable amount of research on counseling among adults who stutter, but fewer reports specific to children. Counseling for children may include acknowledging that the child stutters, helping the child to understand stuttering, and exploring the child's negative feelings towards stuttering. If initiated at an early age and an early stage of stuttering, effective treatment may be successful in promoting fewer negative feelings and attitudes among some children who stutter.

Conclusions and recommendations: Further research is necessary on the efficacy of counseling treatment for children who stutter, and the role of the speech-language pathologist who incorporates counseling into stuttering therapy.

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Poster Number 02

The Picture Exchange Communication System and Children with Autism
Lauren Genshaft (Graduate, Communication Sciences & Disorders)
Faculty Sponsor: Paul W. Cascella, PhD, CCC

Issue: This literature review examines how the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) impacts initiated interactions and decreased problem behaviors of four-year-old children with autism spectrum disorder.

Description: Communication is a significant difficulty for children with autism. These children rarely initiate communication, and thus lack functional communication which affects relationship development and participation in daily routines. Communication treatment often focuses on teaching children with autism to initiate verbal and nonverbal communication. PECS may be a useful tool for teaching initiation.

Results: PECS is easily acquired among children with autism learning initiation skills. PECS successfully teaches children to approach a listener to initiate an interaction in order to receive a tangible outcome. PECS is driven by a child's motivators, ensuring that communication has value and is gratifying. Additionally, PECS has been shown decrease children's problem behaviors.

Conclusions and recommendations: While PECS has strengths, further research should determine how to integrate PECS with Applied Behavior Analysis and Functional Behavior Analysis techniques. Additionally, further research is needed to identify how speech-language pathologists can determine if PECS is an appropriate therapy approach and the variations of PECS for children. Lastly, research is needed to identify the degree to which PECS may incidentally foster speech development among children with autism who are nonverbal.

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Poster Number 03

Using Volunteers as Communication Partners for People with Aphasia
Jenny Gunderman (Graduate, Communication Sciences)
Sponsoring Faculty Member: Paul Cascella, PhD, CCC

Issue: Aphasia is a prevalent language disorder, usually resulting from a stroke. The therapy for receptive and expressive language deficits is demanding for the person with aphasia and her/his family. The deficits and treatment create stress on the family.

Description: This literature review investigated the efficacy of training volunteer communication partners who met with participants with aphasia. This approach may support functional communication and decrease family stress levels.

Results: Caregiver intervention to support caregivers of people with aphasia is modestly effective. Studies incorporating a trained, volunteer partner revealed that functional communication, level of communication comfort, and daily participation modestly increased. Control groups with untrained volunteers did not make comparable gains. This literature review argues for training volunteer communication partners; it is cost effective, provides relief for the caregiver, encourages communication with novel partners, and increases socialization in daily activities.

Conclusions and recommendations: Overall, participants with aphasia made modest improvements in receptive or expressive language after caregiver and volunteer treatment formats. In addition, descriptive reports suggest enhanced communication opportunities with volunteers. Future research should consider the efficacy of volunteer communication partners on the socialization, and family stress levels of persons with post-stroke aphasia

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Poster Number 04

A Comparison of Brain Plasticity in Bilingual Speakers and Recovering Survivors of Stroke
Beth-Anne Fidrych (Graduate, Communication Sciences)
Faculty sponsor: Paul Cascella, PhD, CCC

Issue: This literature review compares brain plasticity in bilingual speakers and monolingual survivors of stroke.

Description: This question is appropriate considering population demographics indicate a likely increase in survivors of stroke who are non-native English speakers. Separate neuroimaging studies have revealed two populations that exhibit brain plasticity in language processing: bilinguals and survivors of stroke. The author examined similarities in language processing in these two populations. The author surveyed literature published between 1997 and 2007, and is available in the following databases: ERIC,

MedLine-EBSCO, PubMed, ScienceDirect and SpringerLink. Search criteria included, but were not limited to: “post-stroke cortical reorganization” and “bilingual language processing.” The search yielded over 100 results.

Results: Results from this literature search reveal that these populations display similar functional and structural language organization, including the mediation of language processing beyond the peri-Sylvian region.

Conclusion and recommendations: Recommended next steps should focus on the comparison of post-stroke language recovery between bilingual and monolingual speakers to determine if bilingual speakers are more likely to recover post-stroke language skills than monolingual speakers.

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Poster Number 05

Language Development in Internationally Adopted Children

Nicole Loperena (Graduate, Communication Sciences)

Faculty sponsor: Paul Cascella, PhD, CCC

Issue: This literature review investigates the language development of internationally adopted children from China and Eastern Europe.

Description: Over the past ten years there has been a significant increase in international adoptees from China and Eastern Europe. Information on long-term language development in this population is crucial as these children may be vulnerable to language deficits that could adversely affect their social and academic performance, and left untreated could negatively impact quality of life.

Results: Studies examining language abilities in international adoptees from birth through 5 years of age have found mixed results. Some indicate that international adoptees rapidly ‘catch up’ in the first one to two years post-adoption, while others report continuing delays in syntax and grammatical development. Studies examining international adoptees later in life, at ages 5 through 9, found this population more likely to be diagnosed with speech-language impairments than the general population, particularly for subtle deficits in pragmatic language.

Conclusions and Recommendations: Research has not yet addressed residual effects on language in international adoptees from China and Eastern Europe during the adolescent years. Longer-term follow up on older populations of international adoptees is needed to determine if short-term delays are eradicated with continued exposure to English.

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Poster Number 06

Caregiver Training in Joint Attention Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Karina Towers (Graduate, Communication Sciences)

Sponsoring faculty member: Paul W. Cascella, PhD, CCC

Issue: This literature review analyzes the extant literature on caregiver involvement in joint attention intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Specifically, should caregivers be trained as part of joint attention intervention?

Description: Joint attention, the behaviors that involve sharing attention between objects and individuals, is a hallmark deficit in children with ASD. Normally emerging in infants as early as 6 months, these nonverbal

exchanges provide a foundation for verbal communication. Mastering joint attention may therefore, be the first step to bridging communication gaps in children with ASD.

Results: Studies excluding caregiver training have demonstrated the acquisition of joint attention in preschool children with ASD, however the existing literature fails to show long-term mastery. Other studies that have either included caregiver training in joint attention intervention or advocated for it show some efficacy, but are primarily descriptive.

Conclusions and Recommendations: Although much of the literature has stated the necessity for caregiver training or support in the mastery of joint attention, it is both timely and costly to invest in interventions, without further understanding of its efficacy. Therefore, in order to determine the type and amount of caregiver involvement needed in interventions, future literature should evaluate typical joint attention interactions between children with ASD and their caregivers.

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Poster Number 07

Efficacy of the bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA) in adults with single-sided deafness

Carol Silverman (Faculty, COMSC); Christopher Linstrom (Otolaryngology, New York Eye & Ear Infirmary).

Background: As few studies have examined the long-term efficacy of the surgically implanted bone-anchored hearing-aid (BAHA) in patients with deafness in one ear (single sided deafness), the goal was to prospectively examine long-term efficacy of the BAHA in adults with single sided deafness.

Methods: Participants were five adults with single-sided deafness. At 1 and 6 months post fitting of the BAHA sound processor, the following tests were administered: (a) a test of sound localization; (b) the Hearing-in-Noise (HINT) test; and (c) a subjective measure of satisfaction [Abbreviated Profile of Hearing Aid Benefit (APHAB)].

Results: Improved performance in the BAHA aided than unaided (BAHA off) condition in the majority of the 4 HINT conditions was obtained for only 1 of the 5 participants at 6 months post fitting. None obtained improved localization performance in the BAHA aided than unaided condition. Nevertheless, on the APHAB, 4 of the 5 participants rated their communicative performance better with the BAHA on than off.

Conclusions: Objective BAHA benefit was limited except in the HINT condition whereby the sentences were presented on the bad ear side and the noise was presented on the good ear side, a very difficult listening situation for persons with single sided deafness.

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Poster Number 08

A Case Example of Differential Diagnosis of Co-existing Stuttering-Cluttering

Paul W. Cascella (Faculty, Communication Sciences)

Issue: Although the speech-language pathology literature includes considerable information about stuttering among adults, there is limited information that helps evaluate cluttering as separate or co-existing with stuttering.

Description: This case example highlights potentially salient assessment parameters (i.e., case history; monologue, dialogue, and oral reading samples; stuttering and cluttering rating scales; discourse analysis; fluency inducing conditions) in the differential diagnosis of a 21-year old man suspected to have both conditions.

Lessons Learned: Co-existing stuttering-cluttering evidence was found via: 1) details in the case history analysis, 2) the client's irregular (but not accelerated) speech rate in monologue and dialogue, and 3) the relative frequency of nonfluent speech compared to actual stuttering.

Next Steps: Several diagnostic tasks proved particularly useful to the diagnostic process, including measurement of the client's speech awareness (i.e., disfluencies, speech rate, and slurred speech), communication attitude, self-perceived severity, and 6 items (#'s 1, 5, 7, 10, 24, 28) from Daly's Checklist for Possible Cluttering.

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Poster Number 09

The Influence of Phonotactic Probability on Late Talkers' Ability to Produce New Words

Michelle MacRoy-Higgins (Faculty, COMSC); Richard Schwartz (Faculty, Graduate Center, Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences Dept.); Valerie Shafter (Faculty, Graduate Center, Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences Dept.); Klara Marton (Faculty, Brooklyn College, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences Dept.)

Background: The purpose was to examine the influence of phonotactic probability on late-talkers' (LT) and typically developing (TD) toddlers' speech production skills. Phonotactic probability influences children's accuracy in word production. Less is known about the influence of phonotactic probability on word production in TD and LT toddlers.

Methods: TD and LT toddlers (24 months) were taught novel words, consisting of high or low phonotactic probability sequences. Toddlers were exposed to the novel words over ten trainings sessions. After the final session, the toddlers were asked to name the novel items. The speech sound accuracies of the toddlers' productions were calculated.

Results: TD toddlers demonstrated sensitivity to the phonotactic composition of the novel words. They produced high probability forms with greater frequency and accuracy than low probability forms. LT did not show this preference. They produced both high and low probability forms with equal frequency and accuracy.

Conclusions: TD toddlers are sensitive to the phonological regularities in English and use these regularities to produce new words. LT did not take advantage of phonological regularities when learning new words. This may contribute to their difficulty producing new words.

Acknowledgements: This research was supported by the Doctoral Student's Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center.

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Poster Number 10

Latino Health Fellowship Initiative: A Program to Address Health Disparities

Dan Fiedler (MPH graduate student, UPH); Maggie Ornstein (DPH graduate student, Graduate Center); Diana Romero (Faculty, UPH)
Faculty sponsor: Diana Romero, PhD, MA

Issue: Latinos are disproportionately affected by many of the major causes of death and disability in New York City and are underrepresented among public health professionals.

Description: The Latino Health Fellowship Initiative (LHFI), based at Hunter College's Urban Public Health Program, seeks to address health disparities affecting the Latino community. LHFI will: engage the public and academic community through events/workshops advocating for improved Latino health; connect graduate

public health students to Latino health-focused research, fieldwork, and employment opportunities; and, provide fellowships to graduate students in public health interested in working on issues related to Latino health.

Lessons Learned: Key informant interviews have revealed much interest among NYC community-based organizations for collaboration. Our research of existing organizations focusing on Latino issues indicates that LHFI fills an important gap in organizations that specifically address health problems confronting Latino communities.

Next Steps: LHFI is seeking funding to provide annual fellowships to early career public health professionals. LHFI will host events to inform Hunter students and the broader CUNY community about the current health and social issues affecting Latino populations. LHFI will continue to build its database of internships and organizations to connect students to research, fieldwork, and employment opportunities.

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Poster Number 11

Phone Counseling based on Chinese Culture for NYC Chinese Restaurant Workers Who Smoke

Dee Burton, Xin X. Zeng, Junmian Sun, Yilin Chen, Cynthia H. Chiu,
Nga L. Sze, Margaret S. Chin

Background. Chinese men who immigrate to New York City to work in restaurants end up working long hours for low pay and living in isolation from the greater society. Most do not have the time, money or language skills to prepare for better jobs. Cigarette smoking is the most practical expressive outlet for many restaurant workers.

Purpose. This collaboration of an academic research center with a community organization aimed to develop and assess an innovative phone-counseling smoking-cessation program based on Chinese values.

Methods. Field staff went door to door to Chinese restaurants to recruit 100 male restaurant workers to participate in nine proactive counseling calls in Chinese dialects. The counseling protocol was developed in an iterative manner using information discussed by counselors in case conferences, emphasizing Chinese culture.

Results. A 27-module protocol integrating Chinese and Western concepts was developed. Among the first 43 participants who completed the program, 21 (48.8%) quit smoking; another 17 (39.5%) reduced consumption by at least 50%, and the remaining 5 (11.6%) reduced by less than 50%. The cessation process differed from that reported for other populations (e.g., withdrawal symptoms were rare).

Conclusion. Smoking cessation was facilitated by (1) holistic counseling, and (2) calls accommodating participants' difficult work schedules.

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Poster Number 12

The impact of HIV/AIDS on young girls living in rural Thailand

Christina Ann Poopatana (MPH graduate student, Urban Public Health)
Faculty sponsor: Beatrice J. Krauss, PhD

Issue: The incidence of HIV/AIDS cases in Thailand has dramatically increased over the last 20 years especially among young girls engaging in prostitution largely to provide for their families.

Description: Although data suggests that the majority of Thailand's population is aware of HIV/AIDS, Thai women are increasingly becoming infected. The epidemic has moved to young rural girls, who are considered

very valuable in the sex trade because of the perception that they are clean and uninfected with sexually transmitted infections. Incidence is further promoted since, in some rural areas, prostitution is socially acceptable; families who do not sell their daughters may be seen as foolish by other members of the community. A literature review was done to investigate how the country has responded to the financial pressures partially responsible for leading young women into prostitution.

Results: UN/AIDS, non-profit organizations and other research studies describe the Thai government's approach. The approach includes equal education programs that, for young women, include HIV education, comprehensive health services especially in the area of reproductive and sexual health and alternative approaches for the disease such as antiretroviral therapy.

Conclusions: A structural, alternate career path approach has been taken as an HIV prevention intervention in Thailand. However, more work is needed to expand existing efforts, provide education, and create feasible economic alternatives for families with children at risk of becoming sex workers.

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Poster Number 13

Protecting Reproductive Health Needs and Choices: An Analysis of National Public Health Policy

Jessica Silk (Graduate, UPH); Diana Romero (Faculty, UPH)

Faculty sponsor: Diana Romero, PhD, MA

Issue: Analysis of abortion-related policies to inform advocacy efforts for reproductive choice.

Description: The purpose of this project is to analyze American Public Health Association (APHA) policies pertaining to abortion. Working with a policy summary document (prepared by the Abortion Task Force [AFT]), we have analyzed 35 abortion-related policies currently in effect, in order to (1) identify gaps, and (2) propose policies to address such gaps, which will be submitted to APHA for consideration at the annual conference in 2008.

Lessons learned: Due to the controversial nature of abortion, APHA has issued numerous reproductive health policies with the purpose of protecting women's health - locally, nationally, and globally. By understanding the complexities of reproductive health-related policies, especially as state-level actions often challenge reproductive choice, it is essential for stakeholders in women's health to effectively use existing policies in the ever-changing political climate.

Next steps: This health policy analysis will be useful in two ways moving forward: (1) results from this analysis will be used to make recommendations for public health advocacy intended to protect reproductive choice, and (2) it will provide a framework for analysis of APHA policies in other areas of public health.

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Poster Number 14

The Role of Hip-Hop in HIV/AIDS Prevention

Nadine McLaughlin (Graduate, UPH)

Faculty sponsor: Beatrice J. Krauss, PhD

Background: We hypothesized that playing and discussing popular music, e.g., rap, hip-hop, as it was relevant to HIV would create an environment allowing 7th to 8th students to explore their understanding of a stigmatized condition, HIV. This research aimed to deepen the conceptualization of HIV/AIDS among 26 7th and 8th grade students at a middle school in East Harlem.

Methods: Popular music discussions augmented a 5-week standard HIV curriculum. Elicitation techniques were used to gather the participants' conceptualization of HIV. Students provided short answers to open-ended queries: What is AIDS? What is HIV? What are choices that protect one from being infected with HIV? What are choices that increase risk of being infected with HIV? Common elements were extracted from answers (e.g., HIV is a virus, HIV is sexually transmitted) and scored as present or absent. Analysis looked at the number, accuracy, and grouping of elements to assess cognitive complexity of responses.

Results: The intervention slightly changed student conceptualization of HIV and AIDS. A higher proportion of students (39% pretest and 50% posttest) mentioned accurate elements. For protection, condoms were more frequently mentioned posttest (75% vs. 38%). Satisfaction surveys suggested a popular music approach was acceptable to students.

Conclusions: The RHAP project represents an innovative approach to using hip-hop music lyrics into the areas of prevention and health maintenance.

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Poster Number 15

Web 2.0 and Information Literacy: The Importance of Critical Thinking in the Health Sciences

Laura Cobus, MLIS, MPA

Objective: A librarian developed and delivered a three-credit graduate course in public health in an urban public health program. The course provided the opportunity for students to pursue the theoretical and practical principles of information research in public health. The course examined the nature, production, and uses of information including web 2.0 technologies and its impact on the public's health.

Methodology: Blogs and wikis are examples of web 2.0 technology that facilitate collaboration and participation in the online world. In the health sciences, the emergence of these interactive and social tools potentially increases the risk of generating harmful or biased information. It is the health professional's responsibility to have the skills to critically appraise web content that has not undergone traditional peer-review, as well as to understand the various types of information consumers use to make health decisions. To address these issues and to enhance and assess student learning, students were required to use a course blog as mode of course communication; create weekly individual blogs describing a current event in public health; and to create a public health wiki all within the course management tool, Blackboard. Grading rubrics were developed and used to evaluate the individual and group assignments.

Results: The participative component of the blog and wiki created an online community where students were able to continually reflect upon their research and technological skills as individuals and as a group. In addition, the assignment fostered a student community, and comprehension of the issues surrounding 2.0 as it relates to public health.

Conclusions: Instructing graduate students about traditional and authoritative information retrieval tools along with non-peer reviewed tools made for an interesting and exciting course. The librarian is working with faculty from the school of public health to ensure that this elective is incorporated into the curriculum for future semesters. In sum, the course has provided the librarian and students with a rich understanding of the complex issues related to public health information literacy and the world of 2.0.

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Poster Number 16

Corporations and Health Watch: A Resource for Changing Health Harming Corporate Practices
Erica Sullivan (Graduate, UPH); Nicholas Freudenberg (Faculty, UPH)
Faculty sponsor: Nicholas Freudenberg, DrPH

Issue: Corporate practices that harm health are increasingly leading to negative health outcomes and widening health disparities. While advocacy groups have endeavored to expose these corporate practices and reduce the public health impact of the promotion, retailing, design and pricing of products contributing to negative health outcomes, little has been done to document and analyze this work.

Description: Tracking corporate practices that influence health in six major industries—alcohol, automobile, firearm, food and beverage, pharmaceutical, and tobacco—the Corporations and Health Watch (CHW) project documents and analyzes advocacy campaigns that have successfully changed corporate practices and health policies. The CHW website serves as a forum for public health researchers, advocates, students and others to exchange information, identify resources, and establish partnerships. Our poster will summarize our activities and lessons over the last two years.

Lessons Learned: The CWH website provides a simple and effective vehicle for individuals across disciplines to communicate and collaborate in order to advance research and practice in this emerging field.

Next Steps: The CHW project prepares case studies, campaign profiles, industry reviews, and campaign building resources as a tool to improve health outcomes. Future plans for research studies, scientific meetings and courses are described.

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Poster Number 17

Vida Activa (Active Life): Using Health Literacy to Promote Physical Activity among Latinas
Jill Raufman (Graduate, UPH); Nancy Bruning (Research Associate, IAHI, UPH); Ming-Chin Yeh (Faculty, UPH); and Anahí Viladrich (Faculty, UPH)
Faculty sponsor: Anahi Viladrich, PhD

Issue: Health literacy (HL), one of the major predictors of health status, refers to the ability to understand and communicate important health information. Only 12 % of adults in the US are proficient in HL with Latinos scoring lowest. Latinas experience the highest rates of obesity and diabetes, among other risk factors for cardiovascular disease that can be improved with physical activity (PA).

Description: Based on a literature review and focus groups conducted with Latinas, a program was developed using health literacy tools to more effectively teach the association between PA and health. Cultural competent messages were developed to convey the importance of PA and of exercising with others (buddy systems). Tools developed are consistent with HL curricula based upon visuals, plain language, active voice and teach-back.

Lessons learned: This project applied health literacy principles in an innovative and productive way, by teaching Latinas the importance of physical activity using messages that are consistent with their cultural background. Future interventions that incorporate these tools can serve to improve health literacy and boost physical activity levels.

Next steps: These findings will help design health promotion programs with populations having low levels of health literacy and at risk for obesity-related conditions.

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Poster Number 18

Early Intervention and Delay of Intercourse: Strengthening Parents' Roles as HIV Educators
Beatrice Krauss (Faculty, UPH; Staff, ORGS, CCUH); Shawn McGinniss (Staff, ORGS, CCUH); Sylwia Hodorek (Staff, CCUH, COEH); Joanne O'Day (Staff, ORGS, CCUH); & Makram Talih (Faculty, Mathematics & Statistics)

Background: Parents are the first health educators of their children. The Parent/Preadolescent Training for HIV Prevention (PATH) tested whether or not strengthening parents' skills in carrying out their health education role would affect their preadolescents' delay to first intercourse. In interactive group sessions, PATH enhances parent-child communication, HIV/STI/unplanned pregnancy/substance use knowledge and prevention skills, and addresses HIV stigma and gender issues.

Methods: 166 parent-child dyads (mother-son, mother-daughter, father-son, father-daughter) were recruited through random dwelling unit sampling from a high HIV- seroprevalence neighborhood and followed 40-months post-baseline. After baseline, 2/3rds of parents were randomly offered an invitation to training. Three groups resulted: offered-accepted, offered-declined, and no offer-control (controls are made up of parents who would have declined or accepted). Cox regression methods tested predictors of delay of intercourse for youth.

Results: By age 15, 22.3% of youth (originally aged 10-13) were sexually active (M=22.8 months delay).

Youth age at baseline, the youth's baseline prediction of their age at first intercourse, age of first sexual partner and parent offer of training together significantly predicted months of delay from baseline to first intercourse. Neither parent nor youth gender was significant. Delays were longer (5.4 months longer), with boys experiencing delays as long as girls, in the parent offer conditions.

Conclusions: Early parent intervention contributes to the delay of intercourse among youth who are sexually active before 15. The value of early intervention is further supported by the fact that predicted age of intercourse at 10-13 is significantly related to actual months of delay ($r=.34$, $p=.04$).

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Poster Number 19

School-Based Economic Interventions to Prevent Childhood Obesity: A Literature Review
Michael Vagnetti (Graduate, UPH)
Faculty sponsor: Arlene Spark, EdD, RD, CSP, FADA, FACN

Issue: The review investigates economic strategies intended to prevent childhood obesity in the school food environment.

Description: In a public health approach to preventing childhood obesity, the school food environment is a critical arena. Interventions that raise the price of less nutritious foods, lower the price of more nutritious foods, or apply taxes in order to alter consumer behavior regarding food have been the focus of significant public health research. Such "economic strategies" are also connected to larger discussions regarding food marketing in schools and the contribution of competitive foods to school budgets. The literature review discusses the positive impact that such strategies could have on the obesity epidemic, evaluates their complexities and limitations, and discusses the viability of future interventions as they apply specifically to the New York City school food environment.

The following types of studies are reviewed:

- Assessments of past and current prevention programs

- Economic analyses of obesity, food choices, and diet costs
- Government guidelines and committee reports
- Attitudinal surveys about obesity prevention

Results/Conclusions: The review recommends ways that schools can implement economic interventions while maintaining (or increasing) existing revenues. It also presents priorities for future research in this critical area.

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Poster Number 20

Comparison of Total Body Fat and Trunk Fat in Prepubertal Children from Urban Mainland China with Three Ethnic Groups (Caucasians, African Americans and Asians) from New York City

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Background: Obesity has emerged as a worldwide epidemic and has become a serious public health problem in the United States and in developing countries undergoing fast economic transition.

Methods: The study investigated sex and race differences in body fat distribution patterns in 605 prepubertal children (275 girls and 330 boys), of which 247 were from urban Mainland China and 358 from three ethnic groups of New York (NY) City (121 Caucasians, 94 African Americans and 143 Asians). Total body fat was estimated by dual energy x-ray absorptiometry.

Results: Analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) for total fat mass (adjusted for age, sex, race, weight, height) showed that boys had lower total fat mass than girls in all races (P<0.0001), with African Americans having the lowest, followed by Caucasians, NY Asians and Chinese, respectively (P<0.05). Among girls, no significant differences were seen between Caucasians and African Americans, but both groups had lower total fat mass than NY Asians (P<0.01) and Chinese (P<0.0001). ANCOVA for trunk fat (adjusted for total fat, age, sex, race, weight, height) showed a significant effect of race--while no difference was found between Caucasians and African Americans, both groups had lower trunk fat than NY Asians and NY Asians in turn were lower than Chinese (P<0.0001). In Caucasians and African Americans, boys had higher trunk fat than girls (P<0.05), but there was no difference between sexes in NY Asians and Chinese.

Conclusions: This pattern of excess total and trunk fat may increase cardiovascular risk in these Asian children.

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Poster Number 21

Effect of a high soluble fiber containing food dextrin on the physical and textural attributes of muffins

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Faculty sponsor: Lalitha Samuel, PhD

Background: Epidemiological studies have shown that low fiber diets contribute to higher risks for gastrointestinal disease, hypercholesterolemia and colorectal cancer. Resistant starches have been shown to have a beneficial effect on energy intake, digestive physiology, and mineral absorption.

Methods: This study was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Nutriose® (Roquette), a high soluble fiber containing food dextrin on the physical and textural attributes of muffins. Granulated sugar in the muffin recipe was replaced by Nutriose® at levels of 30% and 60%. Texture analysis of the cakes was done using the TA.XT Plus Texture Analyzer (Texture Technologies Corp., Scarsdale, NY). Uniaxial compression was performed with a 25 mm cylindrical probe and the resulting force-deformation curve was analyzed to quantify stiffness and tenderness.

Results: Batter viscosity and post-baking increase in muffin volume decreased with increasing levels of Nutriose. There was no significant effect of the sugar replacement on the pH and specific gravity of the batter, total moisture content and water activity of the muffins. The 60 percent sugar substitution resulted in muffins with 12.5% less calories, 50% less sugar and 300% increased fiber content. Preliminary in-house sensory analyses of the products revealed that the 60% sugar substitution resulted in a muffin product with an overall acceptability score that was comparable to that of the control. Tenderness of the muffins decreased while stiffness increased with increasing levels of sugar substitution.

Conclusions: This study revealed that a high soluble fiber containing food dextrin such as Nutriose® can be used to replace up to 60% sugar in muffins without compromising the sensory acceptability.

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Poster Number 22

Heat shock protein 90 co-localizes with rab-GDI on the membrane and participates in regulated amylase secretion in AR42J cells.

Robert Raffaniello (Faculty, MLS); Dawn Ip (MLS); Daria Fedorova (Undergraduate, MLS)

Background: Rab is a family of GTP-binding proteins that regulate cellular exocytosis and endocytosis. Rab-GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) regulates the activity of Rab proteins by keeping them bound to GDP. Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90) forms a complex with GDI-1 and regulates its ability to interact with Rab proteins.

Methods: In this study, we examined the significance of GDI-Hsp90 interaction in regulated exocytosis in the pancreatic cell line AR42J. Treatment of AR42J cells with dexamethasone (Dex) induces a secretory phenotype. The effect of Dex on expression of GDI isoforms and Hsp90 in AR42J cells was examined by immunoblotting.

Results: GDI-1 levels were increased 28% with Dex treatment, whereas GDI-2 levels were unaltered. Hsp90 was present in the cytosol and membrane fractions, and its levels decreased with Dex treatment. We examined the subcellular localization of GDI-1 and Hsp90 in AR42J cells by performing density gradient centrifugation. We found that Hsp90 co-localizes with GDI-1 in specific membrane fractions. The role Hsp90 in regulated amylase release was examined using a specific inhibitor of Hsp90, geldanamycin (GA). GA inhibited agonist-induced amylase release from AR42J cells by 58%.

Conclusions: The fact that GDI-1 and Hsp90 co-localize on the same AR42J membrane fractions, and Hsp90 activity is required for regulated secretion suggests that membrane-associated GDI-1:Hsp90 complexes may play an important role in regulated secretion.

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Poster Number 23

Health Problems Affecting Women in Darfur, Africa

Idongesit Sandy Udoh, (Undergraduate, Nursing); Aida Egues (Faculty, Nursing)

Faculty sponsor: Aida Egues, DNP(c), RN, CNS, APRN.BC, CNE

Issue: The literature review was conducted to provide a comprehensive picture of health issues affecting women in Darfur, Africa during the period of conflict (2003-2007).

Description: An initial search was conducted with keywords such as “Darfur, health, medical, women,” and narrowed to commonly identified health issues such as “abuse, infection,” and “rape.” The search included MEDLINE, CINAHL, PUBMED, Academic Search Premier, and articles published by the United Nations, UNICEF, and Medecins Sans Frontieres.

Results: Diarrhea, malnutrition, and respiratory infections were identified as major health issues affecting women in Darfur. Rape was commonly reported among large numbers of affected women. Other health problems such as fistulas, sexually transmitted diseases and infections, and poor pregnancy outcomes resulted from rape. Psychological distress such as excessive crying and persistent sadness, feelings of low self-esteem, and nightmares were also reported.

Conclusion: Women in Darfur have experienced several health issues exacerbated by the conflict. In particular, violence against women has led to compounded physical and psychosocial distress and poor health outcomes. Few studies have looked at these issues, suggesting a need for further investigation into health outcomes, creation and monitoring of interventions to alleviate crisis, and promotion of policy formulated to protect the women of Darfur.

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Poster Number 24

Urban Female Adolescents and Heterosexual Anal Intercourse: Does Relationship Power Play A Role?

Carol Roye (Faculty, Nursing); P. Silverman

Background: Receptive anal intercourse confers a very high risk of transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Data from the authors' previous randomized clinical trial (RCT) of HIV-prevention interventions for female adolescents revealed that over 1/3 of the young women in their sample had engaged in anal intercourse. The construct of relationship power, is gaining support as a factor which influences sexual risk behaviors. This study was undertaken to determine whether young women with low relationship power are more likely to engage in anal sex.

Methods: An RCT of HIV-prevention interventions for urban female Black and Latina adolescents was conducted at family planning and adolescent clinics in the New York City area. A behavioral questionnaire was administered at baseline and 3-month follow-up. The baseline questionnaire included the Sexual Relationship Power Scale.

Results: One hundred and one young women, aged 14 – 22 (mean = 17) participated in the study. Thirty percent of the sample self-identified as Black or African American, and 70% were Latina. Latina teens were significantly more likely to have had anal sex than Black teens (32 % vs. 7%) (p=.009). None of the young women reported using a condom during anal sex. There was no significant linear trend for relationship power and anal intercourse. However, there was a significant quadratic effect (R square = .122; p = .003).

Conclusions: The researchers hypothesize that young women with low RPS may be exploited by their partners which explains why they engage in anal intercourse; and that teens with high RPS may be in more loving relationships and are therefore willing to engage in this behavior to please their partners. This study suggests that HIV-prevention researchers who work with young people in heterosexual relationships should address anal sex as a risk behavior.

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Poster Number 25

The Lived Experience of Feeling Fear: A Study of Older Adults

Steven L. Baumann, RN, PhD (Faculty, Nursing).

Background: The purpose of this study is to enhance the understanding of feeling fear. Parse's phenomenological-hermeneutic method will be used to answer the research question: What is the structure of the lived experience of feeling fear?

Methods: Ten older adults living in or near the New York City participated in this study. Data was collected through dialogical engagement and, through extraction-synthesis processes, core concepts were identified and discussed.

Results: The structure, feeling fear is haunting possibilities amid apprehensive reflections arise with reassuring affiliations and defiant perseverance is central to the finding of this study.

Conclusions: This finding was connected to the human becoming theory and extant literature, contributing to nursing knowledge, expanding the theory, and enhancing of understanding about feeling fear and older adults.

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Poster Number 26

Challenges of Teaching Electronic Medical Record Documentation

Donna Nickitas (Faculty, Nursing); Kathleen Nokes (Faculty, Nursing); Pamela Mahon (Faculty, Nursing)

Issue: Nursing students must learn about the strengths and limitations of electronic documentation systems in order to practice in today's health care environments. Most health care organizations are slowly adopting electronic healthcare recording systems and nursing students need to be taught how to use this technology.

Description: Recognizing this challenge, nursing faculty from a large urban public university received a grant to increase competency in the use of health-related technology-based information systems and increase multidisciplinary communication through technology. This implementation brief describes the first year of our attempts to make electronic health documentation skills part of the college laboratory educational experience and how the integration of the United States Veterans Administration electronic medical record systems (EHRS) was adapted into the nursing college laboratory experience.

Next steps: Enhance nurse educators and other health professionals in nursing education understanding of the challenges of teaching electronic medical record documentation in the college laboratory setting.

Discuss confidentiality issues, cost-related factors, connections to databases problems, and differing missions between the academic and clinical settings as they relate to technologic innovations.

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Poster Number 27

FIM Efficiency Lower in Patients with Stroke and Lateropulsion: A Case-Matched Controlled Study
Suzanne R. Babyar (Faculty, Physical Therapy); Michael Reding, Halina White, and Neelofer Shafi
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Background: Lateropulsion after stroke has not been tracked using a case-matched controlled study and a standardized lateropulsion scale. Matched pairs of patients with stroke, with and without lateropulsion, were compared for functional outcomes and discharge destination following inpatient rehabilitation.

Methods: A retrospective chart review of patients with ischemic stroke at an inpatient rehabilitation hospital matched 36 pairs of patients with versus without lateropulsion. Scores of "2" or greater on the Burke Lateropulsion Scale identified lateropulsion. Matching criteria were side of stroke; sex; age; admission motor Functional Independence Measure (FIM™); and, interval post-stroke. FIM™ Efficiency (change in total FIM™/length of stay) and discharge destination were analyzed with Wilcoxon Signed-Ranks Tests.

Results: FIM™ Efficiency and discharge FIM™ scores were lower in the lateropulsion group. Groups had similar mean lengths of stay. Post hoc analyses showed that only patients with lateropulsion and right brain damage had significantly different FIM™ Efficiency and Discharge FIM™ scores. Lower extremity weakness was greater in the lateropulsion group at discharge; patients with right brain damage accounted for this difference. Patients with lateropulsion required more dependent living situations at discharge, especially if they had right brain damage.

Conclusions: Patients with lateropulsion following stroke have a lower FIM™ Efficiency and more dependency at discharge when compared to matched controls with equal functional limitations. Secondary analyses show that worse outcomes for the subgroup of patients with right hemisphere stroke; lateropulsion and lowest leg strength scores may account for differences. These patients may require longer rehabilitation to reach outcome goals.

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Poster Number 28

The prerequisites, performance and perceptions of the academic coordinator / director of clinical education (ACCE/DCE) in emerging DPT programs

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Background and Purpose: The challenge of ACCE/DCE (hereafter expressed as DCE) for tenure and/or promotion is in meeting the criteria for faculty advancement in Academia. While the DCE role is to perform didactic, clinical and administrative duties, the academic fit is dependent on a faculty's ability to meet the requirements of teaching, scholarship and service. The purpose of this comprehensive descriptive survey is to describe the DCE in the new Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) environment; address the issue of academic fit and identify perceptions of the DCE position as a career goal and its value to the DPT program.

Methods: The ASSET survey software was used by investigators to create a national on-line 68 item questionnaire. A pilot survey testing content and face validity was distributed among twenty clinical education field experts with feedback incorporated into the final survey design.

Results: A total of 106 DCEs responded to the survey (50.7%). Data revealed 49% of the respondents have a current degree at the clinical or academic doctoral level. This demonstrates a major shift (>33%) from a

doctoral degree level at hire of 15.1%. Eighty-one percent of the subjects identified they had four or more years in the position of DCE with 95% licensed for more than 10 years. The majority of respondents (80%) noted they have been at their academic institution for four or more years with 70.8% of those institutions at a DPT level, and 80% of the response institutions now requiring a doctoral degree for the DCE position. Currently 61.3% of subjects hold faculty appointments with 35.2% being tenured or tenure eligible. Of those who identified themselves as administrative, 75% hold academic rank with 66% ranging from assistant to full professor. Promotional and/or salary ladder within academic rank was identified for 60.6% of all respondents. Fifty-eight percent of the subjects reported research expectation level for scholarly endeavors to be equivalent to that of other faculty. In addition, 78.2% perceived that they were equally valued within their programs. Perceptions regarding the change of title from ACCE to DCE were captured and reported.

Discussion and Conclusion: The 2006 CAPTE accreditation standards have identified that Clinical Education comprises up to 45% of most DPT curricula. The portfolio of the DCE is second only to the Program Director in its administrative responsibilities. Based on institutional and accreditation requirements, the DCE must be able to add the challenges of increased clinical and administrative responsibilities within a new academic environment demanding didactic skill, scholarship and service. The change in perceptions of the DCEs in DPT programs has been reported with respect to their career goals and their value in each faculty.

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