



## Announcements

### PRC Faculty Receive \$20M Grant to Promote Health and Fitness, Fight Obesity

UCLA/RAND Prevention Research Center faculty, Dr. Antronette Yancey, Dr. Roshan Bastani, Dr. Beth Glenn, Dr. Annette Maxwell, and Dr. William McCarthy, were recently awarded a federal \$20 million grant to further their work in combating obesity. The five year grant will address health disparities among racial and ethnic groups across the country as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) initiative. Their work will be carried out through national networks of community-based organizations and will target settings including schools, churches, worksites, and clinical settings to reach people across the lifespan where they live, learn, work, play, and worship.

### UCLA/RAND PRC, in Partnership with LA Trust and LAUSD, Awarded Grant to Implement and Evaluate a Scalable Oral Health Pilot Program for LAUSD Children

The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health and the Los Angeles Unified School District have been awarded a DentaQuest grant to increase community awareness of preventive oral health practices and implement and evaluate a universal dental screening and preventive fluoride varnish pilot program in a number of LAUSD elementary schools. The UCLA/RAND PRC will lead the evaluation of the program.

### Screening and discussion of *Children in Crisis*, from the HBO *Weight of the Nation* Documentary Series on Tuesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 4:30-7:30pm at San Pedro Hospital, co-hosted by Providence Little Company of Mary and the UCLA/RAND PRC.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in an evaluation of this film. For more information or to register, visit <http://woucla.eventbrite.com>.

## Center News



### Spotlight: *Cancer Screening in Families*

*Cancer Screening in Families* is a recently funded Special Interest Project (SIP). Universities with a funded Prevention Research Center, such as the UCLA/RAND Prevention Research Center, are eligible to compete for SIP funding from the CDC.

Beth Glenn, Ph.D., is the principal investigator for *Cancer Screening in Families*, an innovative study aimed at reducing risk for cancer and other chronic diseases among families where one or more members have been diagnosed with cancer. Dr. Glenn is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

and a research scientist in the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research. She works closely with other PRC investigators on a wide variety of research projects aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities in cancer and other chronic diseases.

Dr. Glenn was delighted to receive SIP funding to conduct the project, which builds on her previous work aimed at reducing risk for cancer and other chronic diseases among ethnically-diverse high risk populations. For example, Dr. Glenn recently completed a study assessing sun protection behaviors among children of melanoma survivors who are at increased risk for the disease. Study findings revealed less than optimal use of sun protection among high risk children, with poorer use of some strategies, such as sunscreen, among Latino children in comparison to non-Latino white peers. Other recent studies include interventions to reduce risk for liver cancer among Korean immigrants recruited through churches and improve use of the HPV vaccine among ethnic minority adolescents.

The *Cancer Screening in Families* project is a joint effort between UCLA and the Los Angeles County Cancer Surveillance Program (CSP), based at USC. Dr. Glenn is leading the research team that includes Drs. Roshan Bastani, Annette Maxwell, and Kate Crespi from UCLA and Drs. Ann Hamilton and Dennis Deapen from the CSP. The CSP, created in 1971 to track cancer cases diagnosed in the county, will be used to identify cancer survivors eligible for study participation.

In the first phase of the project, the research team will invite colorectal and breast cancer survivors and their close family members to participate in a survey to understand current use of cancer screening tests and adherence to other preventive behaviors such as eating a healthy diet, engaging in regular physical activity and abstaining from tobacco. In the second phase, the team will use survey findings to develop an intervention to improve use of cancer screening tests and adherence to other preventive health behaviors among high risk families. Given the demographic profile of Los Angeles, the team seeks to recruit African American, Latino, Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean families into the study. Though cancer registries are typically passive systems that track cancer rates over time, registries, such as the CSP, have the power to substantially reduce the cancer burden of the population if they are used to deliver life-saving cancer prevention interventions to high risk populations. The team hopes that their research can inform future efforts in this area.

**For more information, contact Dr. Beth Glenn at [bg Glenn@ucla.edu](mailto:bg Glenn@ucla.edu).**

*The mission of the UCLA/RAND Prevention Research Center is to conduct prevention research that: (1) address the needs of children, adolescents, young adults, and their families; (2) builds empowering relationships with community partners in Los Angeles and beyond; and (3) directly benefits communities and/or transforms local, state, and national policies. For more information about the UCLA/RAND Prevention Research Center, please visit [www.ph.ucla.edu/prc](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/prc).*