



Announcements

PRC YCAB Hosts Health Career Panel

In March 2012, the PRC YCAB (Youth Community Advisory Board) hosted a health careers panel at UCLA designed to expose youth to several health career options. The panel included Peter Bergman PhD, Health Economist at the RAND Corporation; Kari Dinello RN, pediatric nurse at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles; Gladys Aguilar LCSW, social worker at Saint John's Child and Family Development Center; Erin O'Leary, Genetic Counselor for the UCLA Jonson Comprehensive Cancer Center; and Arquimides Pacheco, Education Manager West for the Trevor Project.

Wilmington Air Quality Project

Funded by the Community-Academic-Policy-Partnership grant (PI: Dr. Paul Chung), the UCLA/RAND PRC has partnered with Jesse Marquez and the Coalition for a Safe Environment (CFASE) in Wilmington, CA to investigate air quality and its relationship to community health. Air quality measurement has already begun and a community health survey will be administered this summer. PRC member Dr. Annette Maxwell is also working in Wilmington on a related project. In partnership with Jesse Marquez and CFASE, Dr. Maxwell received funding to complete a Community-Based Research Infrastructure to Better Science (CRIBS) Intensive Training Program, offered by the California Breast Cancer Research Program of the University of California, and Commonweal, a non-profit organization. This led them to collaboratively submit a grant application to the California Breast Cancer Foundation to collect local data on benzene exposure and build community capacity to promote environmental justice in Wilmington. This application is currently under review.

ULCA/RAND PRC Intern, Blair Berger, will be leaving the PRC to attend Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for her MPH in Fall 2013.

Center News



Spotlight: Developmental Screening for Children

Dr. Bergen Nelson MD MSHS is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of General Pediatrics at UCLA. She works closely with Center Co-PI, Dr. Paul Chung MD MS, on topics related to child health and health disparities. She is interested in developing community-based collaborations to improve the health of at-risk children related to developmental and educational outcomes, such as a child's ability to communicate with adults and peers; the use of socially appropriate behavior, such as helping and sharing; recognizing emotions; following simple rules, routines, and directions; and asking questions and seeking new information.

She brought these interests to UCLA as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar where she partnered with Head Start to evaluate their method for developmental screening of preschool-aged children. As a part of her work, she identified a very large group (25%) of preschoolers who, despite passing usual developmental screens, are still at risk for developmental problems and school failure. This group does not typically receive interventions, but it's possible that if targeted services were provided, they may not need more intense services later. Her next step is to establish a definition for these "intermediate-risk" children that will allow service providers to identify them. Later, she hopes to focus on linking these children and families to community- and school-based programs.

Dr. Nelson is continuing her work with developmental outcomes through a newly established partnership between the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity and 211 LA, a non-profit information and referral service that connects nearly 500,000 vulnerable individuals and families in LA County to a large array of services each year. As part of this process, 211 LA collects child developmental screening data, which Dr. Nelson will use to better understand the needs for screening and services in LA County. In addition 211 LA collects follow-up data from families and referral sites, which will allow Dr. Nelson to measure the impact of screening and care coordination that the program provides. This project is among the first of many collaborative activities between the two groups aimed to improve health among the most vulnerable residents of LA County.

For more information, contact Dr. Bergen Nelson at bnelson@mednet.ucla.edu.

Selected Publication

Nelson BB, Chung PJ, Forness SR, Pillado O, Savage S, DuPlessis HM, Hayslip W, Kataoka SH. Developmental and Health Services in Head Start Preschools: A Tiered Approach to Early Intervention. *Academic Pediatrics*. 2013; 13(2):145-151.

Welcome new Community Advisory Board (CAB) member, Elaine Ruggiero

Elaine Ruggiero, Community Outreach Administrator at the Harbor Community Clinic in San Pedro, CA joined the CAB in November 2012. Harbor Community Clinic has provided no cost and low cost medical care in the Harbor area to people who do not have access to any other medical care for over 40 years. The majority of their patients are the working poor: people who are employed but whose employment does not provide medical insurance. *For more details about Harbor Community Clinic, see <http://www.thehcc.net/>.*

The mission of the UCLA/RAND Prevention Research Center is to conduct prevention research that:(1) addresses 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.