



SAN DIEGO EXPORT CENTER Boiler Plate 2002-2007

In 2002, The National Center for Minority Health and Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) awarded funding to the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine (UCSD SOM) Center for Community Health and its university and community partners, the San Diego State University (SDSU) Graduate School of Public Health, in collaboration with the County of San Diego Department of Public Health, and the San Diego Council of Community Clinics, to establish the San Diego Center of Excellence in Partnership for Community Outreach, Research on Disparities in Health and Training (San Diego EXPORT Center). The goal of the San Diego EXPORT Center (Center) is to promote research and enhance education and training to reduce health disparities by aligning the research, education, training, and outreach activities of the University with the resources and needs in the community.



Significance of the SAN DIEGO EXPORT Center.

The San Diego EXPORT Center provides leadership, infrastructure and resources needed to promote the participation of the academic and lay communities in biomedical and behavioral research, disease prevention, intervention, and dissemination in the areas of HIV and cardiovascular disease (CVD). There are 45 research studies (23 population based and 22 community based studies) that are currently associated with the Center. The San Diego EXPORT Center's Administrative, Training, Pilot, Community Outreach and Research Cores link basic science, behavioral and community researchers at two major public universities in San Diego (UCSD and SDSU) and coordinate and enrich their work through community/university partnerships. San Diego EXPORT Center programs are designed to achieve the Department of Health and Human Services *Healthy People 2010* goals for the nation in HIV and CVD.

Awards. The San Diego EXPORT Center awards include: 1) The 2004 UCSD Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action and Diversity Award; 2) Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by Susan Davis, Member of Congress; 3) Administrative Core Director and researcher, Dr. Shelia Broyles, received the 2006 UCSD Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action and Diversity Award; and 4) The San Diego Business Journal 2007 Multi-cultural Heritage Award for the outstanding work performed by the

staff and faculty of UCSD Division of Community Pediatrics, which is home to the San Diego EXPORT Center.

The Specific Aims of the San Diego EXPORT Center are to:

1. Strengthen the infrastructure for minority health and health disparities research and training at UCSD and SDSU by promoting HIV and cardiovascular disease research aimed at reducing disparities in health status.
2. Establish the San Diego EXPORT Center as a health and science education resource on minority health and health disparities and conduct research training and mentoring programs for high school students, undergraduate students, graduate students, and junior faculty.
3. Promote the participation of health disparity groups in biomedical and behavioral research, prevention, intervention, and dissemination activities.
4. Develop and implement a jointly designed minority health disparities curriculum for UCSD SOM medical students and SDSU graduate students in public health and epidemiology.

Progress in: Strengthening Research Infrastructure and Establishing Education Resources. Since the start of the grant period, NCMHD San Diego EXPORT Center has: 1) increased the number of minority researchers with expertise in minority health and other health disparities research by 127% from a baseline of 11 to a total of 25 minority researchers; 2) increased the number of NIH grant applications submitted by minority scientists as PI/Co-PI from 4 at baseline to a total of 41 NIH grant applications (Y01-Y05) and 24% (10/41) of the Research Project Grant applications submitted by EXPORT affiliated minority scientists received NIH funding. This 24% success rate compares favorably to the 2005 average success rate of reviewed Research Project Grant applications that receive funding across all Institutes at the NIH of 22.3%; 3) increased the number of San Diego EXPORT Center affiliated Researchers/Scientists engaged in health disparities research by 81% from a baseline of 22 to 40 Researchers/Scientists; 4) increased the number of minority scientists who participated in the UCSD faculty development program from four to 19 and main-

tained a 100% rate of retention and successful progression to senior faculty rank for these minority scientists; 5) increase in the number of minority faculty and scientists engaged in culturally relevant health disparities research by 127%; 6) provided 40 Scientists/researchers with support to work in 22 community-based research and 23 population-based research projects.




The EXPORT Training Core has increased the capacity of UCSD and SDSU to train students from minority and Disadvantaged backgrounds in biomedical and behavioral sciences research careers that focus on health disparities. EXPORT evaluation staff annually tracks all students participating in EXPORT supported programs. The number of students who progress to the next milestone in the pipeline as compared to their peers and the number of students who enter health, biomedical, and/or behavioral science careers serve as two indicators of program success. At the present time, there are 340 EXPORT students in the tracking database.

EXPORT training activities include: The UCSD Research Methodology Training Laboratory (RMTL), which provides training in basic bench research for highly-motivated disadvantaged high school juniors and seniors, community college, and first year university students. Rigorous summer programs include both hands-on laboratory experience working on an original project in biochemistry, and a daily seminar. The seminar exposes students to health disparities research, undergraduate and graduate school admissions, manuscript development, presentation style, and goal setting. The summer 2007 program for high school students features new mandatory participation in the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair. This summer the lab has spaces for 9 high school students, 12 university undergraduates, and 4 community college students. Twenty-four former lab students are currently continuing their laboratory experience either at the UCSD RMTL or at other



labs that match the student's interest. Dr. Lawrence Alfred also works closely with UCSD researchers in obtaining Minority Supplements that ensure research training support until graduation for many of our students. To date in FY 05, eight of the San Diego EXPORT Center-assisted minority supplements have been funded, and one is pending. Additionally, eight students have published their work in peer reviewed journals. Toward the end of FY04 and the beginning of FY05, 11 students presented their work at local and regional conferences. Six of these students also presented at national conferences.


Progress in: Promoting Participation of Health Disparity Groups in Biomedical and Behavioral Research and Community Outreach. The San Diego EXPORT Center's Community Outreach Workers, Shared Resource Core Director, Administrative staff and Principal Investigators have enhanced communication between the university and the community by: 1) improving the research infrastructure by increasing the number of community/university collaborations from a baseline of 18 to 136 community partnerships; 2) establishing relationships that are directly responsible for increasing the number of individuals from health disparity groups who participate in affiliated biomedical and behavioral research projects and clinical



trials by 178% from a baseline of 50 to 139 individuals in the partial FY 05 alone. The total number of minority participants in EXPORT affiliated research projects is close to 1000 since inception of the grant. In addition, over 3000 individuals have expressed interest in participating in research studies as a result of Center activities; 3) improving media coverage of health-related information and increasing the amount of culturally sensitive health science information disseminated in the target communities by conducting a Public Information Internship for journalism students who produced a total of 57 minority health-related articles that were printed in local newspapers and magazines; 4) improving the ability to conduct research that is relevant to the community's health by organizing training programs for university faculty and research project coordinators, facilitating community focus groups, participating on advisory and governing boards of community agencies, disseminating health information to community groups and providing information on research projects and clinical trials to individuals throughout the community network.

5) Using funding from EXPORT, the HRSA funded Healthy Community Access Program, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and the California Primary Care Association, the Council of Community Clinics has established a data warehouse. The data warehouse is a disease registry that is one component of a project designed to increase access to diabetic care for culturally diverse, uninsured and underinsured community clinic patients, and to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of care. Today, disease registries to track patient level data on diabetes are in place in 10 San Diego community clinics and 15 clinics have the licenses to access existing data. Some clinics also include cardiovascular disease, asthma, obesity, prenatal care and depression in their registries. The registries capture encounter, referral, and results-based patient data. The clinics can now collect, analyze and report accurate patient information; assess progress in meeting patient care objectives; aggregate relevant data from the participating clinics; and, provide integrated reporting. With the data warehouse in place, clinics can look for best practices and learn more about disease treatment and outcomes through the analysis of aggregated data.

Progress in: Developing Minority Health Disparities Curriculum. The San Diego EXPORT Center served as a catalyst for increasing institutional investment in and faculty commitment to training in health disparities. Since the start of the EXPORT, 1) UCSD School of Medicine established a five year dual degree MD/Masters Program in Medical Education–Health Disparities (PRIME-HD) and will increase the class size from 122 to 134 students by adding 12 students enrolled in the PRIME-HD program. EXPORT faculty designed, teach and participate in the selection of students in the PRIME–HD program; 2) the SDSU/UCSD joint epidemiology doctoral program incorporated Health Disparities education into the year-long required introductory seminar for new doctoral students; and, 3) in the Masters program in Public Health SDSU added a health disparities elective course that is designed and taught in collaboration with UCSD EXPORT faculty.



San Diego EXPORT Center Product Adoption and Evidence of Institutional Commitment. (*Value added, unexpected outcomes*). When a product or program is of such high quality that it is adopted or modified for use by other departments, agencies, institutions or groups, the product has received an objective ‘validation’ that indicates significant impact. 1) PRIME-HD and the faculty development program are institutionalized in the UCSD office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences; 2) the faculty development program has been adapted for regional and international use and presented at the University of California’s Office of the President’s Faculty Diversity Forum as a model of “best practices” in faculty development; 3) the San Diego Border Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and the San Diego Community College in cooperation with EXPORT are designing a Community Health Worker Certificate Program that incorporates some of the elements of the EXPORT Community Health Worker Training program. 4) the Council of Community Clinics (CCC) is working on a Diabetes Care Management Pilot Project with the Los Angeles Department of Health Services to establish a data warehouse that aggregates diabetes data from disease registries at 20 clinics in Los Angeles. CCC is working with the clinics to design project specific data fields in their registries, set up data extracts processes, and develop load programs into the data warehouse. They expect to have their first look at patient outcomes in August, 2007. CCC is also collaborating on a statewide project on quality improvement. They are providing technical assistance to the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) and the California Primary Care Association to establish their data warehouses.

Impact of San Diego EXPORT Center activities and Pilot Grant Awards on Faculty and Staff Careers (*Value added, expected and unexpected outcomes*).

There is evidence that participation in San Diego EXPORT Center activities contributes to the success of EXPORT affiliated faculty and staff. The Pilot Core has successfully identified and supported innovative research that address health disparities and health issues that affect ethnic minorities in the San Diego area. In addition, the Pilot Core continues to produce a return on money invested. Documentation of career milestones as value added unexpected outcomes provides additional evidence that NCMHD funding influences the attitudes, perceptions and behaviors of faculty and administrators at our institutions. For example:

100% of minority junior faculty (15), who participated in the EXPORT supported UCSD NCLAM Faculty Development program, remain on the UCSD faculty and are successfully progressing to senior rank.



Dr. Mariana Cherner (Hispanic Female), an UCSD HIV researcher partially funded by the San Diego EXPORT Center for five years, and an NCLAM alumnus, received NIH funding for an RO1 for \$1,515,542.00 to develop, norm and validate tests to assess everyday functioning in Spanish Speakers with HIV infection and received a promotion to Assistant Adjunct Professor

of Psychiatry at UCSD.



Dr. Maria Luisa Zuñiga (Hispanic Female), a Year 01 San Diego EXPORT Center Pilot grant award recipient, a UCSD Assistant Project Scientist, and NCLAM alumnus, received a promotion to Assistant Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics at UCSD; obtained an NIH five-year Scientist Development Award for New Minority Faculty (K01) of \$613,094 from NIMH in March 2005 (“Behavior & Clinical Trials Participation in HIV + Latinos,” Application Number: 1 K01 MH072353-01A1); and in January 2006 received a new \$423,654, 3-year State of California Office of AIDS Evaluation contract to explore barriers to treatment for HIV-infected individuals who are not receiving treatment.



Dr. Shelia Broyles (African American Female), a Year 01 San Diego EXPORT Center Pilot grant award recipient and EXPORT Center Administrative Core Director, received a 3 year, 1.4 million dollar “First 5” contract from the State of California, County of San Diego, First 5 Commission to adapt and provide two evidence-based nutrition and physical activity curricula (NEAT and Animal Trackers, respectively) to San Diego South Bay, predominantly Latino families with 2 – 4 year old children. Dr. Broyles preliminary work with related curricula was based on her EXPORT funded pilot feasibility study.



Dr. Hayden-Wade (European American Female), a Year 02 San Diego EXPORT Center Pilot grant award recipient a community physician on staff at Rady Children’s Hospital - a community agency, continues to work with the Children’s Care Connection (C3) program and acts as the Outcomes Coordinator & primary supervisor for the C3 evaluation team. She coordinates & oversees reporting requirements for the First 5 Commission of San Diego. She is part of the First 5 Commission’s Evaluation Leadership Team, the Rady Children’s Hospital Regional Initiative Cabinet, & the Child & Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC) Council of Investigators

Dr. Poast (Hispanic Female), a Year 02 San Diego EXPORT Center Pilot grant award recipient and a community physician on staff at the San Ysidro Community Clinic, conducted a randomized, blinded assignment, intervention-control study. This pilot project showed that the community clinic’s telephone case management for heart failure patients decreased resource utilization, improved quality of life and improved patients’ knowledge of their disease. In aggregate, it shows a 38% decrease in hospitalizations, a 20-30% improvement in health knowledge. While some of the outcomes did not show statistical significance due small sample size, there were definite trends toward the achievement of expected goals.



Dr. Araneta (Filipino Female), a Year 03 San Diego EXPORT Center Pilot Grant award recipient, a UCSD Assistant Adjunct Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine, and an NCLAM alumnus, conducted a study that analyzed previously collected data to determine whether eth-

nic differences in subclinical atherosclerosis are explained by differences in adipocytokine levels, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, or other cardiovascular risk factors among African-American, Caucasian and Filipino women. Findings suggest that high adiponectin:leptin ratio in African-American women predicts subclinical atherosclerosis. The study's findings that ethnic differences in adiponectin concentration explained ethnic differences in metabolic syndrome prevalence have not been previously reported. Using her Pilot research, Dr. Araneta applied for and received a \$227,000 award from Amgen, Inc; a leading human therapeutics company in the biotechnology industry. One of Dr. Araneta's minority graduate students, Oralia Loza, applied for and received a \$3,000 fellowship through NIH/NIDA.



Dr. Sciolla (Hispanic Male), a Year 03 San Diego EXPORT Center Pilot Grant award recipient, a UCSD Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, and an NCLAM alumnus, tested the feasibility and acceptability of a trauma-based behavioral intervention to reduce HIV risk behaviors. This pilot study provided preliminary evidence of feasibility and acceptability of a trauma-based behavioral intervention to reduce HIV risk behaviors among Latino Men having Sex with Men (MSM). The recruitment target was achieved and the drop-out rate, which is comparable to the drop-out rate of psychotherapy studies with adult survivors of childhood trauma, was within the anticipated range. Dr. Sciolla mentored one doctoral and four undergraduate minority students. He has applied for a grant using his Pilot research and is waiting on the status of the award.



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