Upcoming Events

November 29, 2017  
Funding Presentation  
Benny Kottiri, PhD

November 30, 2017  
Methods Presentation  
Charles Cleland, PhD

December 7, 2017  
Social Networks Symposium

December 12, 2017  
AIDS Seminar  
Arthur Caplan, PhD

January 9, 2018  
AIDS Seminar  
Dita Broz, PhD

March 21, 2018  
CDUHR 20th Anniversary Celebration

Center Highlights

Holly Hagan has been named Chair of the Executive Steering Committee for the NIH-CDC Rural Opioid Initiative. Eight UG3/UH3 sites were funded this year by NIDA, CDC, SAMHSA, and the Appalachian Regional Commission, in response to RFA DA-17-023, HIV, HCV and Related Comorbidities in Rural Communities Affected by Opioid Injection Drug Epidemics in the United States: Building Systems for Prevention, Treatment and Control. The projects will develop comprehensive approaches to prevent and treat consequences of the opioid crisis, including substance use disorders, overdose, HIV, HBV, HCV, and STIs. Four sites are located in Appalachia (Ohio, West Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky), and the remainder are in Oregon, Vermont/New Hampshire, Illinois and Wisconsin. The two-phase studies will spend the first two years addressing gaps in knowledge about local epidemiology, service access and public policies related to the overall problem of opioid misuse and dependence, and in the second phase will implement and evaluate multi-component interventions. In addition, an award was made to investigators in Massachusetts to act as the Global Hepatitis Outbreak and Surveillance Technology (HOST) laboratory (NIH RFA DA-17-014), which will perform next generation sequencing of HCV-positive specimens to establish transmission links, facilitate outbreak investigation, and molecular surveillance of HCV. Dr. Hagan was asked to lead the Steering Committee because of her broad experience studying HIV and HCV in people who use drugs, which has included leading large cohort studies of PWID, surveillance surveys to monitor HIV, HCV infections and her earlier work as an epidemiologist in local health departments.

We welcomed Dr. Victoria Vaughan Dickson as our newest Associate Director of the Transdisciplinary Research Methods Core. Dr. Dickson brings a wealth of experience in qualitative and mixed methods research. Her work has led to an improved understanding of the sociocultural influences of self-care among vulnerable populations including older workers, women, and ethnic minority groups; and the development of innovative theory-based interventions.

New CDUHR Pilot Projects Awarded

**Mobile Intervention Kit to Increase HIV/HCV Testing and Overdose Prevention Training, Pre-Phase II Pilot**

Dr. Ian David Aronson will examine barriers to HIV/HCV testing and opioid overdose prevention training among PWID in community-based settings and how the Mobile Intervention Kit (MIK), developed through a Phase I STTR grant, can address these barriers and integrate into existing provider workflows. He will also examine potential costs and reimbursements available to community-based organizations addressing HIV/HCV and overdose prevention, and how the MIK can be made financially self-sustaining.

**Understanding Co-Morbidities: A Pilot Study (Wellness Wise)**

As the population of persons living with HIV ages, the prevalence of serious co-morbidities increases. Yet little is known about the experience of managing co-morbidities in the context of a complex and stigmatized chronic condition such as HIV. To inform future intervention efforts, Dr. Marya Gwadz will use qualitative methods to explore the perspectives of persons living with HIV who also evidence metabolic syndrome, Type 2 diabetes, and/or cardiovascular disease on multi-level factors that promote or impede successful management of this constellation of conditions, and the acceptability of various intervention approaches such as physical activity and healthy diet.

CDUHR Dissemination Activities

Our most recent Fact Sheet, Detecting Undiagnosed HIV Infection Among High-Risk Heterosexuals: Comparing Seek and Test Strategies, provides results from Marya Gwadz’s work, determining the best way to detect undiagnosed infections in high-risk areas.

Recent Accomplishments by CDUHR-Affiliated Investigators

Kelly Doran was awarded a second year of support from the NYU Langone Medical Center-Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists for her current research efforts.

Dustin Duncan was promoted to Associate Professor.

Joseph Palamar was promoted to Associate Professor of Population Health and accepted as a reviewer for the Early Career Reviewer Program at the Center for Scientific Review (NIH).

Victoria Raveis was awarded Fellow status in the Gerontological Society of America, through the Social Policy and Research Section, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology.


