

Center and Institute Self-Study/Program Review

1. Cover Sheet

Official Name: Health Promotion Research Institute

Director: Sora Park Tanjasiri

College: College of Health and Human Development

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Year Established: 2007

Last review: 2013

Date: December 12, 2017

2. Mission and Goals

The Health Promotion Research Institute was established in 2009 as a university-wide institute at California State University, Fullerton in order to promote increased health-related research among faculty and collaborations with community. The Health Promotion Research Institute (HPRI) serves as a catalyst and focal point for research, training, and community interchange to develop and disseminate health-related evidence-based information and programs. The HPRI goals are to:

- A. Health-Related Research - coordinate and advance interdisciplinary health research efforts at CSUF and to increase the number of health promotion-related research grants and research publications at CSUF.
- B. Faculty Development - to develop faculty skills to conduct research and to support long-term development of faculty researchers to advance investigations aimed at health promotion and the reduction and elimination of health disparities. Facilitate pre-award and post-award activities by members to increase external support for health-related research, particularly through use of multi-disciplinary/multi-agency writing teams.
- C. Student Training – to increase the number of students who can understand and address community-based and other health promotion research needs. Provide enriched opportunities for student learning and student involvement in health research, thus better preparing the next generation of public health professionals.
- D. Community Collaboration - to increase collaborative efforts with community-based organizations and other entities that address health promotion priorities and needs in the County. Collaborate with community leaders in understanding and addressing the critical public health needs and issues in Southern California.
- E. Infrastructure Development - to build upon the framework of the HPRI in order to effectively support faculty members, students and its four core areas

3. Activities: 2014-2017

Between fall 2017 and spring 2017, HPRI conducted activities in three main areas: administration, research, and community engagement.

A. Administration

- i. New HPRI faculty members were recruited and approved each year. In the past three years, the following faculty became members: Kiran George (Computer Engineering), Veronica Jimenez (Biological Science), Dennis Kao (Social Work), Niroshika Monerawila Keppetipola (Chemistry/Biochemistry), Maria Soledad Ramirez (Biological Science), Madeline Rasche (Chemistry / Biochemistry), Nina Robson (Mechanical Engineering), Sawssan Ahmed (Psychology), Kris Brock (Human Communication Studies), Koren Fisher (Kinesiology), Jessica Jaynes (Mathematics), Tricia Kasamatsu (Kinesiology), Maria Koleilat (Health Science), Jennifer Trevitt (Psychology), Shana Charles (Health Science), Wura Jacobs (Health Science), Alice Lee (Health Science), and Pimbuca Rusmevichientong (Health Science).
- ii. Faculty member meetings: meetings were held every semester with faculty members to update on pre/post award processes and train on research readiness/submissions. Meetings occurred on the following dates: Nov. 20, 2014; Feb. 24/25, 2015; Oct. 13/14, 2015; Feb. 23/March 2, 2016; Oct. 18/24, 2016; and Sept 29/Oct 3, 2017.
- iii. HPRI open houses: HPRI held two open houses to welcome back faculty members and provide information to potential new members. These open houses occurred on: Sept 5, 2014 and Sept 4, 2015.
- iv. Semi Annual Newsletters: HPRI publishes two e-newsletters every academic year to highlight faculty, student and community research activities of its members. These newsletters use

Constant Contact, and are distributed to all faculty members, chairs, deans, AVPs, VPs and community partners.

- v. TITANium Communities: HPRI created and launched the faculty member TITANium community on Aug. 21, 2015 to house important information regarding grant preparation, templates, and sample proposals.
- vi. HPRI’s website underwent a redesign on June 2017, and contains current information regarding faculty member information and contacts, and past activities of the institute. Please see <http://hpri.fullerton.edu>.

B. Health-Related Research (see more information in the Resources and Sustainability section)

- i. **HPRI Mini-Grants Funded:** With support from the College of Health and Human Development and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, HPRI provided course release or summer overload for the following faculty to write grant proposals:
 - Spring 2015: Kiran George (Computer Engineering) and Yuying Tsong (Human Services)
 - Spring 2016: Maria Koleilat (Health Science), Yuying Tsong (Human Services), Michele Wood (Health Science)
 - Spring 2017: Niroshika Keppetipola (Biology), Alice Lee (Health Science), Nina Robson (Mechanical Engineering), Maria Soledad Ramirez (Biology)
- ii. In 2105-16 and 2016-17, HPRI conducted two rounds of funding for the **Biomedical/Behavioral Mentorship Program**. In the first cohort (2015-16), HPRI funded the following pairs of faculty to engage in collaborative grant proposal development: Dr. Maria Linder (mentor) and Dr. Niroshika Keppetipola; Dr. Dana Rutledge (mentor) and Dr. Jennifer Piazza, Dr. Marcelo Tolmasky (mentor) and Dr. Maria Ramirez, and Dr. Jie Weiss (mentor) and Dr. Janna Kim. In AY 2016-17, HPRI funded a second cohort of faculty: Dr. Denise Chavira (mentor at UCLA) and Dr. Sawssan Ahmed; Dr. Madeline Rasche (mentor) and Dr. Nina Robson; and Dr. Daniela Rubin (mentor) and Dr. Koren Fisher. The one-year outcomes from these mentored pairs included the following:

Cohort 1	Cohort 2
• Poster Presentations: 1	• Poster Presentations: 5
• Symposium Abstract Submissions: 4	• Symposium Abstract Submissions: 2
• Manuscripts in Progress: 3	• Manuscripts in Progress: 4
• Manuscript Submissions: 3	• Manuscript Submissions: 2
• Grant Proposals in Progress: 1	• Grant Proposals in Progress: 4
• Grant Proposal Submissions: 2	• Grant Proposal Submissions: 3

- iii. HPRI held three annual **Spring Writing Retreats** on: March 14, 2015; Feb. 27, 2016; Mar 4, 2017.

C. Community Engagement

- i. Community Advisory Board Meetings were held on: Aug. 1, 2014, July 31, 2015, and July 29, 2016
- ii. HPRI participated on the planning committee for the following Community Alliances Forums: June 6, Sept. 10 and Dec. 10, 2014; March 11, and Dec. 9, 2015; and March 9, 2016
- iii. HPRI served as a co-sponsor of the following Orange County Women’s Health Policy Summits: Oct. 21, 2016 (hosted at CSUF), and Oct 20, 2017.
- iv. In-Service Training, “Supporting Pediatric Oncology Patients with Autism Spectrum Disorders,” for CHOC Hospital medical professionals, two 3-hour sessions on 4/20/15

4. Organizational Structure and Governance

HPRI is structured as an institute directed by a faculty member, with oversight by a Faculty Steering Committee and supported by an external Community Advisory Board. Faculty members can come from any academic unit on campus; currently there are 76 members representing 7 colleges and 20 departments.

Faculty Steering Committee members include: Mary Becerra, Daniela Rubin, Kristin Stang, Marcelo Tolmasky. In addition, two administrators have also served on the steering committee: dean of the College of Health and Human Development, and the AVP for Research, who together provide support to HPRI in the form of reassigned time that support the HPRI minigrant recipients. Steering committee members usually meet once per year and also via email to approve new faculty members and review/score minigrant applications. Community Advisory Board members: Christopher Corliss, Gloria Giraldo, Donna Fleming, Liza Frias, Mary Anne Foo, Laura Gil-Trejo, Nahla Kayali, Di Patterson, Gabriela Robles, Barry Ross, Irene Salazar, Frank Hernandez, and Lisa Wolter. CAB members meeting once per year to guide the strategic direction and activities of the institute.

During the past three years, HPRI experienced a considerable number of major changes that impacted the yearly activities and overall capacities to reach the institute's goals. First, changes occurred in the two administrative representatives to the steering committee resulting in relative inactivity with regards to their participation. Second, changes to the federal guidelines regarding use of indirect cost (IDC) funds resulted in the loss of HPRI's post-award specialist (Ms. Grace Amaya), first to the college of Health and Human Development where she took on pre-award support outside of HPRI, then to the CSUF Office of Sponsored Programs where her role changes from post-award support to IRB compliance. Second, IDC resources could no longer be used for HPRI's program manager, Ms. Sandy Bennett, resulting in part on her departure in 2016. Lastly, for one year HPRI benefited from support from the AVP for Research to provide reassigned time for the HPRI Director of Research (Dr. Chandra Srinivasan) who has since left the campus as well. All of these changes and departures have significantly reduced HPRI's capacities to facilitate faculty training, mentoring, grant proposal development, student training oversight, and post award monitoring.

5. Resources and Sustainability

The HPRI does not receive any direct funding from any sources, only indirectly through reassigned time allocations, and through grant support to faculty. On a yearly basis, the Dean of CHHD and the AVP for Research contribute two (2) 3-unit reassigned times each for a total of four (4) 3-unit reassigned time allocations per year. These reassigned times are used by the HPRI director to provide support to HPRI faculty members via one or more of the following programs:

- HPRI minigrant program
- HPRI Biomedical/Behavioral Mentorship program

In 2014-15, these HPRI resources were supplemented by the provost's office for OE&E (\$4,500) that supported the HPRI Program Manager, and by the AVP for Research (reassigned time) to support the work of the HPRI Research Director (Dr. Chandra Srinivasan). Each year, HPRI faculty members submit approximately \$3 million in grant proposal requests, and over the past three years HPRI faculty have succeeded in obtaining approximately \$1 million in grant funding.

Lastly, HPRI receives in-kind support from the Department of Health Science (through which HPRI accesses the department's Constant Contact account to provide the twice-yearly e-newsletters), and many community partners who have partners with HPRI and its faculty members on research-related projects and grants including: California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), California Department of

Public Health / American Lung Association of Orange County, California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), Health Resources Services Administration, Kaiser Permanente, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Justice, and The California Endowment.

6. Highlights and Achievements

Despite recent staff departures, HPRI through its community partnerships and faculty members has experienced considerable success in promoting collaborative health-related research. Selected successes over the past three years include:

- Hosted two successful Biomedical/Behavioral Mentorship Program cohorts, showing that such partnered activities can yield impactful research successes after only one year of work together.
- Host and co-present the 4th annual OC Women's Health Summit on Oct. 21, 2016, and co-sponsored the 5th annual OC Women's Health Summit on Oct 20, 2017.
- Spearheaded the Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP) funded student-training program to increase economically and educationally disadvantaged students from high school through CSUF to graduate programs in allied health.

7. Planning and Strategic Outlook

This academic year marks the end of HPRI's five year 2013-2017 strategic plan, and the director will undertake a new strategic plan development in spring/summer 2017. While the overarching goals will probably remain the same as in the past, this new strategic plan will also be informed by CSUF and CHHD's strategic plan developments, and well as input from the CAB and community partners regarding continuing and emerging health-related research needs in Orange County. However, in the absence of any opportunities to increase HPRI's internal capacities to support pre- and post-award training for HPRI faculty, it is possible that HPRI may have to realign its mission and goals to promote more realistic/decreased extramural grant proposal development activities in the future.