

## **FY11 Seed Grant Winners and Project Summaries:**

### **Antecedents and Outcomes of Sterilization for Low-Income Married Women in Mumbai, India:**

Anthropology graduate student **Marie Brault**, working with CHIP Affiliate Stephen Schensul (Ph.D., Community Medicine and Health Care), and her advisor, CHIP Affiliate Pamela Erickson (Ph.D., Anthropology), will use her seed grant to examine the factors contributing to female surgical sterilization (tubal ligation). The results of her research may contribute to greater understanding of the meaning and impact of sterilization for low-income, married women in Mumbai, India. Her research also may help assess the needs of women for pre- and post-sterilization education and counseling. CHIP seed grant funding will allow Brault to conduct a portion of her research in low-income communities and sterilization camps in Mumbai during the summer of 2011.

**Psychosocial Predictors of Medication Adherence in Organ Transplant Patients:** Clinical Psychology graduate student **David Finitis**, working with his advisor and CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) Dean Cruess (Ph.D., Psychology), will assess measures of personality, psychopathology, social support and quality of life in roughly 100 patients who are listed renal transplant candidates, to identify potential psychosocial predictors of medication adherence or non-adherence. Existing research suggests as many as 60 percent of failed kidney transplants are a result of medication adherence issues. Through his pilot research, Finitis plans to lay the groundwork for the development of specific treatment interventions to help kidney transplant recipients experience optimal kidney function and quality of life.

### **The Influence of Ethnicity on Post Exercise Hypotension: A Meta-Analysis of Acute Exercise Trials:**

Public Health doctoral student **TaShauna Goldsby**, working with her advisors and CHIP PIs Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) and Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), will use her seed grant to meta-analyze the existing research literature to quantify the magnitude of blood pressure reductions that result from acute exercise and to meta-analyze the literature to determine the influence of ethnicity on post-exercise hypotension. Non-Hispanic blacks have the highest rate of hypertension and the greatest risk of death from hypertension of any ethnic group. Goldsby's findings will advance scientific knowledge about the effectiveness of exercise as anti-hypertensive therapy and provide insight into the ethnic/ racial disparities that exist for the prevention and control of hypertension.

### **Understanding for Whom and How Couples-Based Approaches to Weight Loss May Be Successful:**

Clinical Psychology doctoral student **Anna Schierberl Scherr**, working with her advisor and CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) will collect qualitative data in focus groups from couples in which one partner has successfully lost weight and reports that the other partner was supportive in the process. Schierberl-Scherr's research will reignite research on couples-based approaches to weight loss, largely unexplored since the 1980s, in light of increasing empirical support for the impact of social networks on weight. This study will serve as preliminary work for a couples-based behavioral weight loss intervention by identifying strategies and characteristics of couples who have successfully promoted weight loss.

**Optimal Intervention Content to Prevent Sexual Transmission of HIV:** This seed grant will provide additional support to **CHIP PI Blair Johnson's** successful Synthesis of HIV/AIDS Research Project (SHARP), which identifies factors that underlie the efficacy of HIV risk-reduction interventions through a series of

meta-analyses. SHARP's meta-analyses inform public health officials, community-based interventionists and scientists about which interventions work best, which components of the interventions have the largest impact, how these components operate through different mechanisms, and the circumstances under which HIV risk-reduction interventions are most likely to produce lasting change.