Annual Report
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Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director
Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D., Associate Director

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# Executive Summary

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• **Expanded Research Enterprise:** During FY08, CHIP researchers launched new U.S. and international interdisciplinary research initiatives in many domains. In the context of HIV, newly funded initiatives involved antiretroviral (ARV) adherence, antiretroviral resistance, alcohol use and HIV risk among women, HIV risk disinhibition among newly circumcised men, and HIV risk reduction among newly released HIV-infected prisoners in Malaysia. Other funded HIV prevention initiatives focused on HIV prevention among people living with HIV in Uganda, Mozambique, and Ethiopia, as well as family planning and preconception HIV testing, and health promotion among injection drug users. In other health domains, newly funded initiatives involved work on quality of life among young cancer survivors, motivational interventions for exercise in heavy drinking college students, phymometric exercise, and whey protein supplementation, among others. Two of the new grants were especially significant. Blair Johnson, Ph.D. (Psychology) was awarded NIH funding to continue his long-term “Syntheses of HIV Risk Reduction” project for another 5 years. Phase III of his project will consist of performing meta-analyses to determine which HIV risk reduction interventions work best, which components of interventions have the largest impact, and when HIV risk reduction interventions produce the longest lasting change. Finally, Seth Kalichman (Psychology) received an important new award to explore alcohol-related risks among South African women. These new grants complement CHIP’s considerable existing, broad-based, health behavior change initiatives (see pages 11-12).

• **Expanded Multidisciplinary Network:** During FY09, CHIP expanded its multidisciplinary network of investigators to include over 127 research affiliates representing a broad range of disciplines related to health behavior change (see pages 36-45). The resulting community of expertise, spanning several University of Connecticut campuses and representing nearly all Schools and Colleges within the UConn system, as well as affiliates from 32 other institutions, enables CHIP to assemble teams of investigators able to respond within short timeframes to large-scale research funding opportunities. In addition to the growth in size of the CHIP research network, more network members are submitting research grants. In FY09, several affiliates from the Departments of Kinesiology, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Political Science, Psychology, and Statistics submitted their first CHIP research grants.

• **International Research:** CHIP research continues to become more international in scope, with ongoing, newly funded, and proposed projects in China, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nigeria, Thailand, Russia, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine, and Vietnam. CHIP's research portfolio in Africa is especially large, comprising approximately $18.5 million in total costs across all years.

• **Growth in Externally Funded Research:** Again in FY09, CHIP has had extraordinary success in attracting external funding for its research. Current year total costs awarded to CHIP PIs for expenditures during FY09 are approximately $7.9M. Total costs per year associated with CHIP grants have increased 5.6 times since FY02 (from $1.4M to $7.9M in just seven years), as have direct costs and F&A. For FY09, CHIP’s $7.9M in total costs in active grants are associated with $6.3M in direct costs, and $1.6M in indirect costs (see pages 16-21). Moreover, total costs awarded to CHIP PIs since 1999 equal $60.9M, direct costs equal $47.5M, and F&A returned to the University during this interval equal $13.4M. In FY09 alone, CHIP PIs received new multiple-year grant awards in excess of $8.5M in total costs. At present, CHIP has $49.7M in current, active grants.

• **Grants Submitted:** In FY09, CHIP PIs submitted an unprecedented 62 external grant applications comprising more than $37.4M in total costs, $27.3M in direct costs, and $10.1M in F&As (see pages 21-25 and Appendix H on page 102). This is a 59% increase in the number of grant proposals (62 vs. 39) that were submitted this year relative to last year. In terms of funding requested, total costs requested were $14.6M higher in FY09, which equates to a 64% increase over FY08.

• **Grants Applied for by CHIP-Affiliated Graduate Students:** Importantly, CHIP PIs’ funding successes also apply to their graduate students. CHIP-affiliated graduate students applied for, and received, substantial external funding for research in recent years, including 9 prestigious NIH/NRSA graduate fellowship awards and 2 NSF doctoral dissertation awards (see page 30). In FY09, 3 graduate students had an NRSA award, and one graduate student had both an NRSA award and an NSF; the extramural funding received by these graduate students across all years totaled $322,213. Note that these awards are managed by the Psychology Department since all of these students have faculty advisors in Psychology.

• **CHIP Funding of Graduate Students:** Moreover, grants received by CHIP PIs fund a very substantial number of graduate students. During academic year FY09, CHIP external grants funded 36 graduate students (most full-time) across multiple departments. Total academic year CHIP funding for graduate students in FY09 was $393,045. When adding summer payroll and student labor, CHIP’s total FY09 support for graduate students from its grants was fully $535,645. Across the academic year and the summer, CHIP funded a total of 53 graduate students. This represents a very substantial increase in graduate students funded and in total amount of funding for them over FY08.

• **CHIP Research Investment Awards:** Each year, CHIP organizes internal research funding competitions to stimulate new grant development and pilot work leading to future external grant applications submitted through CHIP. CHIP research investment funds are awarded through a rigorous NIH-style panel review process that includes both a grant-writing mentoring component for applicants, and a reviewer mentoring process for junior reviewers who serve on the review panel. Using this process in FY09, CHIP awarded seed grants to Kimberly McClure and Laramie Smith. In addition, this is the second year that CHIP has sponsored a summer stipend for junior faculty who are writing grants to help them succeed in winning external grant funding. Ofer Harel, Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics, received a summer stipend last summer which allowed him to write a grant proposal for a K-Award that was submitted to NIH on 1/7/09, and which is currently being reviewed. In FY09, Amy Gorin,
Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, was the winner of the CHIP Grant Development Stipend Competition, and she was awarded a summer stipend for her grant proposal entitled, "Medical, Community, and Family Partnerships to Prevent Obesity in Latino Children." She plans to submit her proposal to NIDDK in the fall as an R34 planning grant. (See pages 14-16.)

**Obesity Interest Group:** Started in 2008, the Obesity Interest Group (headed by Amy Gorin, Ph.D.) currently consists of CHIP investigators, affiliates, and graduate students from the Departments of Psychology, Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutrition, Public Health, and Pediatrics with a common interest in understanding, preventing, and treating obesity and related co-morbidities. Group activities this year included two presentations by experts in obesity research as part of the CHIP Lecture Series, and the submission of 4 new CHIP external grant applications on obesity prevention to NIH, the Donaghue Foundation, and the Aetna Foundation.

**Development of CICATS Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core:** A major current focus of the University is the development and funding of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS). In FY09, CHIP collaborated with several UConn/UCHC-affiliated researchers to develop the Practice Oriented Research Translation Core (PORT) as part of the CICATS application. The PORT Core is designed to advance both the science and the practice of dissemination and implementation of UConn-developed, evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention innovations and interventions. It brings together 4 previously unaffiliated UConn entities, including CHIP, the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy, the Center for Public Health and Health Policy, and the Department of Community Medicine. As a critical partner in the PORT Core, CHIP will be responsible for the creation of a new Dissemination and Implementation (D & I) Research Unit, which will serve as the overarching organizational structure charged with overseeing the creation, development, and actualization of specific strategies to enhance the amount of dissemination and implementation research underway at UConn. The D & I Unit will also spearhead the actual widespread dissemination and implementation of UConn-developed health promotion interventions and innovations. The PORT core was highly rated by the NIH review committee.

**CHIP Virtual Reality Lab:** CHIP Principal Investigator Kerry Marsh, Ph.D. (Psychology) received a large five-year grant from NIH to use Virtual Reality (VR) technology to assess attitudes towards condoms, safer sex, and risky sex in different sexual contexts. Virtual reality is an emerging technology with strong research and funding potential. The CHIP Virtual Reality (VR) lab has been created with the necessary hardware, software, and personnel capabilities to produce and support VR research. These capabilities are currently being brought to the CHIP community of researchers to support ongoing research in health-related fields. Under the direction of a PI, the CHIP VR Lab can create content that the PI and his/her team can use to run experiments in which participants are exposed to virtual environments. Four PIs (Carolyn Lin of Communication Sciences, Amy Gorin of Psychology, Kerry Marsh of Psychology, and Deborah McDonald of Nursing) have submitted grants that will use VR technology to assist with various health concerns such as alcohol use among college students, compliance in diabetes, and osteoarthritis pain management. The CHIP VR Lab is currently in the process of applying to be a fee-for-service center within CHIP that provides VR services (i.e., VR content production and access to VR equipment) to the University at large, as well as to other entities outside of the University.

**CHIP Ongoing Technology Initiatives:** In FY09, to effectively meet the ever-increasing IT needs of the PIs, graduate students, and staff at CHIP, and to ensure the safety and security of many millions of dollars of research data, numerous changes were made to the IT infrastructure at CHIP. Specifically, CHIP implemented server-based virtualization technology to accommodate growth and meet the data collection and storage needs of CHIP researchers. All services running on outdated hardware were moved into the virtualization infrastructure, and the server room was reorganized to increase reliability, redundancy, and overall efficiency. In addition, because many systems experienced unexpected power losses due to lack of adequate battery backup and generator support, CHIP purchased two large battery backups and had critical circuits connected to a central University-maintained generator to ensure that the server room has continuous power and no data is at risk of being lost during a power outage. During FY09, it was also discovered that the original unit used to cool the server room was inadequate and unreliable during the cold winter months so an additional cooling unit was installed to maintain the servers at an optimal temperature. And because some of the physical equipment supporting CHIP’s data network was located in the wet and environmentally unsafe basement of the Ryan Refectory, this equipment was relocated to a second floor data closet.

**Searching for Grant Funding Opportunities for Affiliates:** To help CHIP affiliates find new funding opportunities, CHIP assigned a staff member to spend a couple of hours per week performing regular searches of grant announcements on health behavior change from major government agencies and foundations. These are circulated to the membership on a regular basis through one of CHIP’s listservs. Frequently, this information precipitates new CHIP grant applications. If someone requests, custom searches can be done as well.

**CHIP Reviews to Help with Grant Development:** Since FY05, CHIP has provided a support mechanism to aid CHIP PIs and Affiliates preparing grant proposals for external funding (see Appendix F on page 95). Affiliates planning to submit external grants through CHIP may apply for funds to pay experts in their field to review their research proposals before the proposals are submitted to external agencies. CHIP not only facilitates reviews of grants for their scientific content, but also supports internal or external statistical and methodological reviews of grants before submission.

**CHIP Lecture Series:** CHIP continues to sponsor an impressive series of lectures and events that brought 14 nationally and internationally recognized leaders in health behavior research from 13 different institutions to the University of Connecticut campus in FY09. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including HIV prevention, weight loss and obesity, carbohydrates and the metabolic syndrome, virtual reality research and its clinical applications, effects of media on adolescents, and translation and dissemination of effective interventions. These visits and talks inform and strengthen CHIP research endeavors (see Appendix K on page 112).
The CHIP Executive Committee revised the CHIP mission statement and long-range goals in FY08, and then reviewed them again in FY09 and decided that no additional changes were needed. They are presented below and on the CHIP website.

1. MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Connecticut’s Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) creates new scientific knowledge and theoretical frameworks in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention. It disseminates theory-based knowledge and new cutting edge interventions through research, capacity-building, teaching, mentoring, and collaboration at the university, local, state, national, and international levels.

2. LONG-TERM GOALS FOR CENTER FOR HEALTH, INTERVENTION, AND PREVENTION (CHIP)

**Goal 1:** CHIP will provide an interdisciplinary nexus for investigators across the University of Connecticut to stimulate multidisciplinary collaborations and major new funded research initiatives in health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, prevention, and other areas involving health behavior change theory and methods.

**Goal 2:** CHIP will undertake research to create new scientific knowledge, new theoretical frameworks, and new methodological advances in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention. This work will focus on understanding the dynamics of health behavior, the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing and disseminating effective interventions to the institutions charged with delivering them.

**Goal 3:** CHIP will provide health behavior and health behavior change expertise, capacity building, and technology transfer to local, state, national, and international agencies and organizations performing health behavior change interventions.

**Goal 4:** CHIP researchers will educate and mentor undergraduate students, graduate students, researchers, and faculty in health behavior change theory, the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing and disseminating effective interventions, in order to develop them into skilled researchers and scholars.

3. INTRODUCTION

In November of 2001, the Chancellor and Provost and the Interim Vice Provost for Research of the University of Connecticut identified the existing Center for HIV Intervention and Prevention as a potential center of excellence at the University of Connecticut. At that time, the University invested startup funds in the Center to begin to position it as a national and international leader in health behavior change research. Since then, with continued University support, CHIP has achieved impressive growth and structural change as a multidisciplinary research center. In November 2007, the University Board of Trustees designated CHIP as one of very few Major University Research Centers. This report summarizes the actions taken by CHIP, now the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention, during the eighth year of its operation (FY09: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009), to realize its goals for growth, continued scholarly excellence, and international recognition.

4. CHIP OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR EIGHT (FY09)

In the eighth year since its formation, CHIP continued to perform extraordinarily well in meeting the long-term goals that comprise its mission (see above), as well as the short-term objectives that it established for the period. These objectives, and the progress made toward them, are summarized below:
Research Objectives:

1) Through our CHIP internal grants programs, mentoring, and technical support to PIs, we will continue to support development of new, high quality, innovative, and timely proposals for externally funded research through CHIP by individual researchers and teams.

Again this year, CHIP developed and received external funding for a substantial number of new grant proposals in diverse areas of health behavior change (for a list of new CHIP grants, see page 11 and Appendix G on page 96). The grant application and grant award process was facilitated in each case by high quality pre-award services and post-award grants management technical support provided by the Center. This was augmented by help in searching for possible sources of grant support, assistance with creating research teams to write and submit grants, sending prospective grant applications out for internal or external review to major experts in the field for presubmission feedback, and sending them to statistical and methodological experts for feedback. The CHIP internal grants program, which funds the pilot work frequently necessary for successful applications has often been a critical part of CHIP PIs’ success in winning external grants. According to PI Kerry Marsh, the large virtual reality HIV prevention grant that she was awarded in 2008 by NIMH, would not have occurred without the seed grant support awarded competitively through the CHIP internal grant competition. There have been many other cases of internal seed grants playing an important part in the success of CHIP external grant applications. In fact, over the years, for each dollar invested by CHIP in it’s seed grant program, about $47 dollars in external grant funds have come back to UConn and over $10 in IDCS have been recovered by the University. In addition to CHIP’s internal grants program, this is the second year that CHIP has sponsored a competitive program which provides mentoring, internal and external presubmission grant reviews, and a summer stipend to junior faculty who are writing grants to help them succeed in winning funding. Another relatively new feature of CHIP services to PIs is an FTP site in which they can access previously submitted, successful CHIP grants to use as models for new submissions.

2) CHIP will continue to be a worldwide leader and to foster new multidisciplinary work in the core problem area of HIV/AIDS.

CHIP received several new grants in the area of HIV/AIDS in FY09 and continues to be a world leader in this domain. CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Psychology) received a very large grant from NIMH to continue his long-term program of work on research synthesis. The project involves a multidisciplinary collaboration comprising Johnson, a Social Psychologist, and CHIP affiliates Leslie Snyder, a Communications Scientist, Charles Abraham, a Health Psychologist, and Syracuse University Clinical Psychologist Mike Carey. CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Psychology) received a very substantial grant for a project on alcohol-related HIV risk among South African women, which involves collaboration with U.S. and South African colleagues, to add to his large portfolio of grant-funded research. CHIP Psychologist Deborah Cormman received four new grants during the year, three involving multidisciplinary collaborations with military leadership in African countries, the U.S. Department of Defense, and physicians, nurses, and community-based organizations. One of the projects is being implemented in Uganda, and it initially focused on antiretroviral adherence among soldiers with HIV but has recently been expanded to HIV prevention with positives. A second project focuses on prevention with positives in Mozambique, and the third project combines antiretroviral adherence and HIV prevention for HIV-infected soldiers in Ethiopia. Cormman received a fourth grant for family planning and preconception HIV testing, involving a collaboration with family planning doctors, nurses, psychologists, and counselors. CHIP PI Rivet Amico (Psychology) obtained two new grants during the year, one for a multilevel HIV treatment adherence intervention, involving a collaborator from the field of Nursing, and a second with a focus on antiretroviral adherence and HIV drug resistance in clinical care, with two collaborators who are physicians. CHIP PI Michael Copenhaver (Allied Health) received funding for a project to prevent HIV transmission and improve health among individuals newly released from prison in Malaysia with a collaborator who is a physician, and CHIP Affiliate Leickness Simbayi (Psychology) received a new grant with a focus on disinhibition of risk behavior among recently circumcised men in South Africa. Many of these are groundbreaking studies. In addition to these newly funded efforts, a significant share of the $37 million in CHIP grants which were submitted during the year involved multidisciplinary work in the HIV/AIDS domain.

3) CHIP will expand its focus on health behavior change in an increasing array of critical health domains.

In the past year, CHIP expanded its focus into several new health domains. For example, William Kraemer (Kinesiology) received funding to examine how to maximize the effects of plyometric exercise on bone and
muscle adaptations, Jeffrey Volek (Kinesiology) received a Dairy Management grant to study the differential impact of whey protein supplements versus soy protein supplements on lean body mass and fat loss, Linda Pescatello (Kinesiology) is conducting a study to determine if drug users who engage in exercise to earn reinforcement have improved outcomes relative to those who do not engage in exercise during contingency management treatments, and Crystal Park (Psychology) has a newly funded grant that involves developing a quality of life measure for young cancer survivors. There are numerous other grants that were submitted this year and are awaiting review that involve new areas of research such as autism, hypertension, exercise, obesity, osteoarthritis, passive smoking, reproductive health, and sickle cell disease. In addition, CHIP expanded the work that it is doing in the areas of cancer, diabetes, and drug use.

4) CHIP will continue to bring local and national researchers together on an ongoing basis from a wide range of health and social science disciplines for lectures, events, and meetings at CHIP to promote cutting-edge, multidisciplinary exchange.

CHIP continued to sponsor the CHIP Lecture Series, which consisted of presentations by 14 nationally and internationally recognized leaders in health behavior research from 13 different institutions. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including weight loss and obesity, carbohydrates and the metabolic syndrome, virtual reality research and its clinical applications, effects of media on adolescents, translation and dissemination of effective interventions, and HIV prevention. An additional presentation was made by Colin Poitras and David Bauman from University Communications, in which they talked about how to work effectively with the media to publicize and disseminate one’s research findings. In addition to attending the actual presentations, PI’s, students, and other affiliates were given the opportunity to meet with each presenter one-on-one to discuss research interests and possible collaborations.

5) CHIP will expand its technology capacity, and capitalize on new technology innovations, to efficiently link CHIP affiliates with resources at CHIP and to connect CHIP investigators with colleagues across the State of Connecticut and throughout the world for research collaboration in health behavior change.

CHIP uses many different mechanisms to link CHIP researchers with their colleagues and with needed resources locally, nationally, and worldwide. For example, in FY09, CHIP begun to use its website more effectively as one means of informing affiliates and interested individuals of the research activities that are being undertaken by CHIP members. Intervention and assessment materials are now being posted on CHIP’s website as well as stories about CHIP researchers and their work. In some cases, videos of media interviews of CHIP researchers are also posted on the website. The rollout in the summer of 2009 of CHIP’s new website design will augment these capabilities substantially. A second way in which CHIP has been linking affiliates with one another and with other organizations, is through the use of the Tandberg system to video broadcast meetings in real time. This has been beneficial for conducting meetings with UCHC to work on the University’s CTSA/CTSI objectives. By using this system, participants can interact with one another almost as if they are in the same room. The Tandberg system was also used in FY09 to broadcast the CHIP Lecture Series (14 presentations at CHIP by international experts with a health focus) to the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University as well as to UCHC and the State of Connecticut Health Department. These broadcasts allow colleagues at each site to see the speaker and the PowerPoint slides, and to ask questions in real time. A video library of all CHIP lectures is maintained on the CHIP website, which allows people to view the lectures at their convenience. Because a great deal of research is now being conducted internationally, it has been critical to find cost-effective ways to maintain communication among research team members. Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technologies are one of the ways that this has been accomplished at CHIP. Skype is the VOIP technology predominantly used because of its popularity, free Skype-to-Skype calls, and low rates for calls to local, national, and international landline and mobile telephones. In addition, CHIP has invested in several Polycom Communicators, which are hands-free speakerphones that are ideal for national and international conference calls. To ensure that communications with CHIP’s central file servers are secure, CHIP invested in a Virtual Private Network (VPN) Gateway to encrypt all communications that occur from offsite locations. This new innovation introduces a secure method for exchanging information between CHIP investigators and affiliates throughout the world and thus enhances our multidisciplinary collaboration initiatives.
CHIP will expand its work to improve translation and dissemination of behavior change research into clinical and community practice in the U.S. and internationally.

In the past year, CHIP has continued to achieve tremendous success in disseminating cutting-edge, theory-based interventions developed by CHIP investigators to health organizations nationally and globally working in communities with high rates of HIV and other health concerns. The Options/Opciones Project (PI: Jeffrey Fisher, Psychology), which is a healthcare provider-delivered HIV prevention intervention for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who are in clinical care, is an example of an intervention that has been disseminated broadly throughout the United States and Africa since it was first developed in 2000. In FY09 alone, this intervention was funded to be implemented and evaluated in military hospitals in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Uganda (PEPFAR grants), and in public healthcare clinics in South Africa (NIH grant). In addition, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provided funding to CHIP to develop a package of training and implementation materials that could be distributed broadly throughout the U.S. and the world, and they added Options to CDC’s Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions. Seth Kalichman (Psychology) has developed two HIV prevention interventions that are listed in CDC’s Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions: Healthy Relationships, a multi-session, group-level HIV risk reduction intervention for PLWHA; and NIA: A Program of Purpose, a video-based, motivational skills-building, small-group HIV prevention intervention for heterosexual African American men living in urban areas. Healthy Relationships is one of the most widely disseminated HIV prevention interventions in the world, with hundreds of agencies in the U.S. and other countries having been trained in and implementing this evidence-based intervention.

Robert Broadhead (Sociology) developed an HIV prevention intervention for intravenous drug users over the past several years. Entitled the Peer-Driven Intervention (PDI), it seeks to reduce HIV transmission among injection drug users (IDUs) by using active IDUs to educate their IDU-peers in HIV prevention and to recruit their peers to attend enhanced HIV prevention services, for which they earn nominal rewards. The model was demonstrated to be effective, and Dr. Broadhead has received extensive funding to disseminate the model globally, including in the Ukraine, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, China, New Zealand, and the U.S. Another grant that has involved research in the HIV domain is LifeWindows, (Jeffrey Fisher, Psychology). However, rather than focusing on HIV prevention, this project has involved developing and evaluating a computer-delivered ART adherence support program for PLWHA in clinical care. This grant will soon be ending, but members of CHIP have already begun to take steps to disseminate LifeWindows further. Rivet Amico (Psychology) submitted a grant proposal this year to NIH to modify and evaluate LifeWindows for use by case managers with their HIV+ clients, and Jeffrey Fisher is working on an R01 grant submission for a second version of LifeWindows that is Internet-based and can be used by patients without assistance from clinic staff. In an entirely different health arena, is the computer-based intervention program entitled, Personal Education Program-Next Generation [PEP-NG], which is aimed at improving medication adherence and blood pressure readings among older adults. This intervention, which was developed by Patricia Neafsey (School of Nursing), is based on a previously developed computer intervention to reduce adverse self-medication practices in older adults with hypertension. During FY09, Dr. Neafsey submitted a new grant proposal to disseminate this intervention widely throughout the U.S.

In addition to the funded grants that are in the process of being disseminated, new federal grant proposals have been submitted this fiscal year by CHIP Principal Investigators for work that would include substantial dissemination components. Among those submissions are a grant proposal by Dr. Deborah Fein (Psychology) and a second grant proposal by Dr. Anjana Bhat (Physical Therapy) to develop and disseminate interventions for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and a grant proposal by Dr. Amy Gorin (Psychology) to develop and disseminate an intervention targeting early childhood obesity in Hartford’s Latino population. Disseminating evidence-based health behavior change interventions is very consistent with the mission of the Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core. In FY09, CHIP researchers, affiliates, and graduate students collaborated with several UCONN/UUCH-affiliated researchers to develop the PORT Core (PORT) as part of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award (CICATS) application. The PORT Core is designed to advance both the science and the practice of dissemination and implementation of UConn-developed, evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention innovations and interventions. CHIP will be responsible for the creation of a new Dissemination and Implementation Research Unit within the PORT Core that will oversee the development and implementation of specific strategies to (1) strengthen the amount of dissemination and implementation research underway, (2) facilitate more and better dissemination and implementation activity, and (3) contribute to the science of dissemination and implementation.
CHIP will publicize its activities and its research.

In recognition of the emphasis the University’s new academic plan places on public engagement, specifically its strategy of increasing the visibility and accessibility of faculty expertise, CHIP has expanded its outreach to local, state, national, and international print and broadcast media in the past year. For example, several PIs and their research were featured this year in print and broadcast media, including Amy Gorin (Psychology) and her obesity research, Kerry Marsh (Psychology) and her virtual reality research into sexual risk behaviors, Seth Kalichman, (Psychology) and his new book on AIDS denialism, and Jeffrey Fisher and the Options Project, a risk reduction intervention for people with HIV/AIDS. For additional information, see Section 25 (“Media Outreach”) on page 84.

Administrative Objectives:

8) By September of 2008, CHIP will have completed the Administrative Support Services portion of the CHIP website so that it is fully operational. Once all of the content has been added and this portion of the website functions properly, the website will then be updated and maintained on an ongoing basis.

In FY09, information in the Administrative Support Services section of the website was updated including CHIP Business Office Functions and Assignments, photographs of the administrative staff, new and revised policies and procedures, position vacancies, pre- and post-award guidelines, and graduate student information. Further modifications to this portion of the website were postponed because the website is in the process of being redesigned. CHIP is working with UConn’s Web Development Lab to redesign the website and make it easier to update regularly through the use of content management systems. The Administrative Support Services section will undergo many improvements with this redesign.

9) By December of 2008, the CHIP business unit will have completed and disseminated all of its remaining administrative procedures and guidelines. These procedures and guidelines will be in accordance with UConn policies and will be posted on the CHIP website. They will include but not be limited to (a) an orientation package and set of procedures for new CHIP employees, and (b) a standardized set of exit procedures for staff and graduate students ending their work at CHIP. Once all procedures and guidelines have been developed, they will be reviewed and updated annually and as needed.

In FY09, various procedures and guidelines were established, implemented, distributed to CHIP affiliates, and posted on CHIP’s website. Among those procedures/guidelines were a New Employee Information Packet that is given to all new employees and an electronic routing slip that ensures that all relevant administrative staff members perform the necessary functions to transition a new employee to CHIP. A standardized set of procedures for exiting staff was also created. Additional procedures/guidelines that were created include the Key Access Authorization, CHIP/VPRGE Travel Procedures, CHIP Graduate Student Copier Use Procedure, and CHIP Emergency Contact Information. There were numerous IT procedures and guidelines that were also established during FY09 (see “Technology Objectives” for more detail). Lastly, the CHIP Business Office Functions and Assignments were updated and posted on the website; this included a description of the reorganization of CHIP administrative staff roles.

10) The CHIP Security Committee will review all procedures for maintaining the security of the physical facility, its occupants, and its data semi-annually and as needed.

The CHIP Security Committee reviewed all procedures related to the maintenance of the security of the physical facility, its occupants, and its data security, and they ensured that any issues that were identified were appropriately addressed. This included auditing CHIP’s building access system semi-annually to remove the names of those individuals from the system that no longer required access to the building. In addition, CHIP had the UConn Police Department conduct a building survey to identify possible security weaknesses and discuss initiatives to increase physical security and awareness. And then in January of 2009, after renovations to the Ryan Building were completed and Public Health and Health Policy (PHHP) moved into their new space, the CHIP Security Committee worked closely with PHHP’s department head to implement measures to minimize egress into sensitive areas within CHIP. Their combined efforts resulted in modifications to the newly renovated area to provide handicap access and appropriate signage that identifies the primary entrance for CHIP and for PHHP. Another concern in FY09 was the parking lot by the Ryan Building loading dock, which was full of potholes and a risk for those employees and students who walked across it to enter the building. Consequently, repaving of the
parking lot was negotiated and is scheduled to occur in the summer of 2009. The Security Committee also reviewed the precautions taken to maintain the security of the servers and the records room, both of which store millions of dollars of data. In response to their recommendations, both rooms were rekeyed to remove master key access, and new procedures were instituted to audit access to these sensitive areas. In addition to implementing these security and safety measures, the CHIP Security Committee also invited the Office of Environmental Policy to conduct a Sustainable Office audit at CHIP. This consisted of CHIP’s office practices being evaluated and rated with respect to reducing, reusing, and recycling materials as well as their energy efficiency. On June 3 of 2009, the Office of Environmental Policy will present their findings and a draft action plan to CHIP staff. CHIP, which is one of a few departments on campus selected to pilot this program, will be modifying some of their business practices based on the findings, in order to function in a more environmentally-friendly manner.

Technology Objectives:

11) CHIP will begin to implement server-based virtualization technology. Purchasing two appropriate new servers and VMware’s virtualization software will allow us to reduce costs and provide our PIs, as well as researchers, who do not have the funds for server equipment, with the capability of running their projects. Such virtualization technology will allow us to not only provide these services at low cost to various projects, but will also help alleviate certain administration tasks, save on server room space that would be required if we had installed individual physical servers for each of these projects, and also save on the electricity and cooling required to support all of these servers if they were actual physical machines.

In FY09, CHIP IT Director, Jonathan Gill, focused on developing a highly scalable infrastructure consistent with industry standards, to accommodate CHIP’s rapid growth and meet the needs of CHIP researchers who require highly-available systems to collect and analyze data in a secure environment. This was accomplished by implementing server-based virtualization technology to reduce the physical server count and maximize utilization, while reducing cooling and energy costs. All services running on outdated and/or non-server grade hardware were moved into the virtualization infrastructure, which reduced all server hardware into a single equipment rack that can be locked as an additional layer of defense and deterrence against physical theft. One advantage of using VMware's virtualization infrastructure is that CHIP researchers who may not have the funds in their grant for a physical server can now leverage a highly reliable infrastructure with a centralized network storage backend. In addition, VMware's High-Availability (HA) component automatically restarts a virtual server should the physical host experience hardware failure or unexpected shutdown, thus providing a level of reliability comparable to redundant physical servers and a central network storage backend. Because many systems experienced unexpected power losses in FY09 due to lack of adequate battery backup and generator support, CHIP purchased two large battery backups to support the entire server and network infrastructure, a 42-unit equipment rack to consolidate server hardware, and an automatic transfer switch to roll critical circuits onto the central University-maintained generator within 10 seconds of power interruption. This ensures that the server room has continuous power, and no data is at risk of being lost during a power outage. In addition to having issues with power outages in FY09, we also discovered that the original cooling unit was inadequate and unreliable during the cold winter months, and unable to handle the increased heat output in the server room. Consequently, an additional cooling unit was installed in the server room, and the original cooling unit now serves as a back-up to the newly installed unit. This ensures that the servers are maintained at an acceptable temperature and provides for additional capacity as more resources are deployed and overall utilization increases.

Another issue that was identified as problematic was the fact that some of the physical equipment supporting CHIP’s data network was located in the wet basement of the Ryan Refectory. This problem was addressed by centralizing all physical equipment into a dry, climate-controlled environment. With the assistance of UITS Network Engineering, all active equipment in the basement of CHIP was relocated to a second floor data closet, and two redundant fiber-optic links were directly routed from the University backbone to the server room, supporting future expansion and an increase in the number of data jacks for the virtualization infrastructure. Because much of CHIP’s technology infrastructure formerly relied on antiquated Novell eDirectory services that are not supported by UConn, CHIP implemented an Active Directory (a centralized database of accounts for use by designated personnel) for centralized accounting, authorization, and policy-based management. This infrastructure alleviates the need for independent workstation administration with a top-down policy-based management approach. It streamlines system administration tasks and secures sensitive data on CHIP servers and workstations. And to protect the security of data transferred to CHIP servers from offsite locations, CHIP implemented a VPN Gateway. This technology leverages SSL (the same technology used to secure credit card
transactions over the Internet) to encrypt data between the client (typically offsite) and server network. The CHIP Active Directory has been extended to the VPN Gateway to provide single sign-on capabilities. Thus, the same username/password can be used to access a variety of IT services within CHIP. The FortiGate hardware firewall, implemented in FY08, is used to define access policies on our server network. Access to sensitive servers can be restricted to VPN traffic only, which ensures a secure channel of communication between the client and server.

The remainder of this report consists of more detailed discussions of selected new initiatives at CHIP.

5. NEW EXTERNALLY-FUNDED RESEARCH INITIATIVES BY CHIP PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

In FY09, CHIP Principal Investigators were awarded $8.5M of funding to direct new multidisciplinary research activities that are highlighted below:

K. Rivet Amico received a $99,872 subcontract from NIH/NIMH/University of Mississippi entitled, “Multidimensional HIV Treatment Adherence Intervention.” This study expands the concept of adherence to include adherence to clinical care, and focuses on an understudied population, that of HIV-infected individuals residing in the Deep South. The project will develop and pilot an MI/IMB model-based, individually-tailored and culturally-grounded intervention to promote adherence among HIV-infected patients to both HIV medication requirements and to current recommendations for consistent use of clinical care services.

K. Rivet Amico received a $31,308 subcontract from Abott/Yale entitled, “Antiretroviral Adherence and HIV Drug Resistance Outcomes in Clinical Care.” The purpose of this study is to determine the prevalence and longitudinal patterns of HIV drug resistance in a sample of HIV-positive clinic patients involved in a multi-clinic RCT of an intervention to enhance antiretroviral medication adherence.

Michael Copenhaver received a $125,736 subcontract from the NIH/NIDA/Yale entitled, “Adapting HHRP for Positive Transitions (PT) in Malaysia.” The major goal of this project is to adapt an evidence-based HIV risk reduction and relapse prevention intervention for use among newly released prisoners in Malaysia and to examine the optimal content of this intervention.

Deborah H. Cornman received a $425,000 grant from the DOD/DHAPP entitled, “ARV Adherence and Prevention with Positives in Military Settings in Ethiopia.” The major goal of this project is to design, implement, and evaluate a theory-based intervention that supports ARV adherence and reduces risky sexual behavior among HIV-infected individuals who attend military clinical care settings in Ethiopia.

Deborah H. Cornman received a $150,000 grant from the DOD/DHAPP entitled, “Prevention with Positives in Mozambique 2008-2009.” The primary goal of this project is to expand the prevention-with-positives program to other military sites in Mozambique and to evaluate its effectiveness at reducing risky behavior among HIV-infected military personnel.

Deborah H. Cornman received a $100,000 grant from the DOD/DHAPP entitled, “Expanded ARV Adherence Program and Prevention-with-Positives Program in UGANDA 2008-2009.” The major goal of this project is to expand the theory-based ARV adherence intervention to other military sites in Uganda and to develop an HIV risk reduction intervention for HIV-infected military personnel.

Deborah H. Cornman received a $115,509 grant from the CDC/Family Planning Council entitled, “Family Planning & Preconception HIV Testing.” The major goal of this project is to develop, implement, and evaluate a theory-based intervention that is delivered by family planning providers and increases HIV testing among their patients.

Blair Johnson received a $2,829,419 grant from the NIH/NIMH entitled, “Syntheses of HIV Risk Reduction, Phase III.” This project represents a continuation of SHARP II grant R01-MH58563. The project will center on issues central to factors that underlie the efficacy of HIV risk-reduction interventions, with a series of studies conducted for each of three interrelated specific aims related to intervention content, maintenance of risk behavior change, and structural interventions for HIV prevention. Meta-analyses will be performed that will inform public health officials, community-based interventionists, and scientists about which interventions work best, which components of interventions have the largest impact, and the circumstances under which HIV risk reduction interventions are most likely to produce lasting change.

Seth Kalichman received a $2,977,426 grant from the NIH/NIAAA entitled, “Alcohol-Related HIV Risks among South African Women.” This project will conduct a multilevel prospective analysis of alcohol-related HIV/AIDS risks among women who drink in alcohol-serving establishments (shebeens, taverns, and bottle stores) in Cape Town,
South Africa. Multilevel modeling will be used to test whether contextual factors, including socioeconomic conditions and drinking setting characteristics, directly predict social interactions and social dynamics of women’s risk for HIV/AIDS. In addition, a series of intervention development activities will be informed by the multilevel study, providing a new intervention model as the study end-product available for subsequent testing.

William Kraemer brought to CHIP a $162,600 grant from the U.S. Army entitled, “Maximizing the Osteogenic Properties of Plyometric Exercise to Induce Optimal Structural Adaptations in Bone and Muscle: Effects on Endocrine and Cellular Controls.”

Carl Maresh brought to CHIP a $166,088 grant from Danisco USA Inc. entitled, “Betaine Study II: Study of Mechanisms in Skeletal Muscle.”

Crystal Park received a $247,500 grant from the Lance Armstrong Foundation entitled, “Advances in Assessment of Late Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors’ QOL.” This project will develop a new measure of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) specifically targeted to late adolescent and young adult cancer survivors and designed to overcome the limitations of existing HRQOL measures.

Linda Pescatello received a $178,160 subcontract grant from the NIH/UHC entitled, “Healthy Activities for Prize Incentives (HAPI).” The purpose of this study is to develop and pilot a contingency management (CM) intervention that focuses on improving health, especially as related to increasing low intensity physical activities, such as walking, resistance training, and stretching. The Healthy Activities for Prize Incentives (HAPI) intervention will be targeted toward and tested with HIV-positive substance abusers who attend HIV drop-in centers to determine if drug users who engage in exercise to earn reinforcement have improved outcomes relative to those who do not engage in exercise during CM treatments.

Linda Pescatello received a $24,317 subcontract from the NIH/UHC entitled, “Etiology and Treatment of Alcohol Dependence (ARC Pilot study).”

Leickness Simbayi received a $152,000 grant from the NIH/NIMH entitled, “HIV Behavioral Disinhibition Risk Reduction for Recently Circumcised South African Men.” This project will perform rapid intervention development activities in response to the urgent need for behavioral disinhibition prevention interventions for men who undergo male circumcision (MC) in South Africa. Formative interviews with circumcised men and circumcision providers will inform an intervention development workshop through which the researchers will formulate an adapted brief risk reduction intervention. The adapted risk reduction counseling intervention will be pilot tested for feasibility, acceptance, and potential efficacy.

Merrill Singer received a $45,050 subcontract from NIH/Yale University entitled, “Providing Expertise on Law, Policy, and Ethics Core, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA).”

Jeffrey Volek brought to CHIP a $851,649 Dairy Management grant entitled, “Investigation of Whey Protein Supplementation for Physiologic Enhancement to Resistance Training and Dietary Regimes in Young Adults.” The main objective is to demonstrate that daily intake of whey protein promotes greater gains in lean body mass and fat loss in response to 9 months of progressive heavy resistance training compared to supplementation with soy protein and carbohydrates.

6. CHIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In 2008-09, the CHIP Executive Committee consisted of nine members: the Director (Jeff Fisher) and Associate Director (Debbie Cornman) of CHIP, five senior Affiliates (Pam Erickson, Blair Johnson, Pat Neafsey, Linda Pescatello, and Leslie Snyder), and two junior Affiliates (Mike Copenhaver and Amy Gorin). The Committee was co-chaired by CHIP’s Associate Director (Cornman) and by Blair Johnson, who was elected by Executive Committee members.

The CHIP Executive Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Center Director and Associate Director, making recommendations to them on matters pertaining to enhancing the scientific vision of the Center, defining Center goals and monitoring progress toward attaining stated goals, and allocation of Center resources. Furthermore, the Executive Committee monitors and provides feedback on different aspects of CHIP operations including grants management, administrative services, CHIP budget expenditures, areas of research, funding of pilot research, and fostering collaborations with other departments, institutions, and the community. Their feedback plays a critical role in the decisions that are made about CHIP, its goals, and its functioning.
The Executive Committee held three meetings in FY09. At each meeting, the Committee was provided with updates on CHIP’s operating budget, grant submissions and acquisitions, grants management services, IT services, statistical support services, physical facility issues, and CHIP internal grant competitions. All areas were discussed in detail, and actions were taken based on feedback provided by the Committee. For example, based on the Committee’s input, we are arranging with Human Resources to provide additional training to all of the CHIP administrative team on how to best maintain the confidentiality and security of personnel records, grant budgets, e-mails, and telephone conversations. In addition to the above tasks, the Committee also reviewed CHIP’s research objectives for FY10 and made recommendations for changes; all of their changes were incorporated into the objectives.

7. SELECTED OTHER NEW CHIP FOCI

Note that additional new CHIP foci are described throughout this report.

Development of the Practice-Oriented Research Translation Core

In FY09, CHIP researchers, affiliates, and graduate students collaborated with several UConn/UCHC-affiliated researchers to develop the Practice-Oriented Research Translation Core (PORT) as part of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award (CICATS) application. The PORT Core was initiated in recognition of the increasing and unacceptable gap between research and practice with respect to health promotion and disease prevention innovations and interventions, and is designed to advance both the science and the practice of dissemination and implementation of UConn-developed, evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention innovations and interventions. The PORT Core brings together four previously unaffiliated UConn entities, including CHIP (Director: Jeffrey Fisher), the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP; Director: Judith Fifield), the Center for Public Health and Health Policy (CPHHP; Co-Director: Ann Ferris), and the Department of Community Medicine (DCM; Chair: Dr. Thomas Babor). Each entity will work collaboratively to meet the specific aims of the PORT Core, and will also take the lead on particular PORT research and practice areas.

As a critical partner in the PORT Core, CHIP will be responsible for the creation of a new Dissemination and Implementation Research Unit (D&I Research Unit). Under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Fisher, the D&I Research Unit will serve as the overarching organizational structure charged with overseeing the creation, implementation, and development of specific strategies to (1) strengthen and enhance the amount of dissemination and implementation research underway at UConn, (2) facilitate more and better dissemination and implementation activity, and (3) contribute to the science of dissemination and implementation. A D&I Advisory Board will be created to assist the Director in achieving the objectives of the D&I Research Unit, as well as the hiring of a part-time liaison position. The liaison will work closely with UConn/UCHC/CICATS entities (e.g., Office for Sponsored Programs, Institutional Review Board, Schools, and Academic Departments) to help identify UConn-designed, health-focused innovations and interventions that may be relevant and available for D&I research and/or practice-based activities. Additional activities within the D&I Research Unit include ongoing dialogue with UConn/UCHC/CICATS investigators to encourage incorporating a D&I focus into existing and ongoing intervention and innovation-development projects; identification of a core group of D&I researchers; provision of technical assistance support; creation of protocols and trouble-shooting manuals to overcome D&I barriers; identifying D&I relevant external funding opportunities; seed grant competition for investigators interested in pursuing D&I research; creation of a database of successful D&I grant applications; a state-of-the-science D&I conference held every other year for five years; a D&I lecture series; a D&I post-doctoral position; a D&I faculty scholar; and D&I educational courses for interested affiliates.

Summary statements of the CICATS application suggest that it is likely to be funded following a resubmission scheduled for October of 2009. The specific PORT Core section from the initial submission was rated as “Very Good,” with only minor suggestions for improvement. Once the CICATS application is funded, the scope and depth of CHIP’s responsibilities, research, and funding will experience a sizable increase.

CHIP/CIRA Collaboration

CHIP and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University have developed a collaborative plan to enhance cooperation between the two Centers. Components of this plan include: (1) creating a shared speaker program that involves coordinated schedules and shared video broadcasting, (2) involvement of CHIP as a co-sponsor of CIRA’s annual AIDS Science Day conference, (3) participation of CHIP scientists in CIRA’s Law, Policy and Ethics mini-conferences, (4) development of a joint directory describing CHIP and CIRA scientists/faculty and their HIV/AIDS-related research, (5) scheduling of an annual conference call between CHIP and CIRA’s respective directors to assess their existing collaboration and identify potential new areas of shared work, (6) inclusion
of scientists from the two Centers in each other’s annual planning meetings, (7) seeking opportunities for graduate students from each Center to participate in each other’s training activities, and (8) inclusion of a CHIP faculty member on CIRA’s Executive Committee. These activities were all described in the CIRA Center grant proposal which was funded this year by NIMH and in which CHIP was a partner. Since the funding of this major grant, activities 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 have occurred, and the others are in process. In fact, broadcasted speakers from the CHIP Lecture Series (objective 1) comprised a substantial number of the HIV prevention talks which occurred as part of the CIRA lecture series this year. Further, the Director of CIRA and the Director of CHIP met in person and over the phone to discuss and plan other activities of mutual interest and of mutual benefit to both Centers. One element that has emerged from these conversations is an NIMH stimulus grant to CIRA to create multicomponent HIV prevention interventions in urban areas of Connecticut, for which CIRA has been awarded a planning grant and in which CHIP researchers will likely play an important role. Another activity which came to fruition was a major training grant submission to NIMH in which CIRA, CHIP, and Institute for Community Research in Hartford are major partners. The training grant, if funded upon resubmission, will bring minority researchers to CHIP for training in the summers in HIV prevention research.

8. CHIP RESEARCH INVESTMENT CAPITAL COMPETITIONS

Generally, CHIP conducts five competitions for CHIP Research Investment Capital funds. The purpose of these competitions is to provide pilot and seed grant resources to investigators to stimulate new research in health behavior change at UConn of the type and quality that is likely to lead to external funding. Historically, some of CHIP’s largest, most successful, external grants were made possible because they were able to include critical pilot data that was paid for by one of the capital competitions described below;

1) Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators

Provides funds to established CHIP investigators to support new research development initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications in the areas of health behavior change and health risk prevention.

2) CHIP “Seed Grant” Opportunities for New Investigators

Provides funds to investigators who are more junior and have not previously received significant external funding in health behavior change, to support new research development initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications in the area of health behavior change.

3) Pilot Projects in Health Intervention and Prevention Research for Graduate Students

Provides graduate students with the opportunity to prepare independent research proposals for original pilot work while in graduate school and to have their proposals reviewed by an NIH-style panel. Priority is given to promising research likely to develop into a larger study and garner external funding (e.g., an NRSA proposal through NIMH). The best proposals are funded so that the pilot work can be performed.

4) CHIP Grant Development Stipend Competition for Junior Faculty

CHIP offers summer stipends to junior faculty who are CHIP affiliates to assist them with writing successful grant applications to obtain external funding for research in health behavior change. Specifically, CHIP provides $5,000 stipends to be paid during the summer months, to support junior faculty financially for the time they devote to writing a grant proposal for external submission before the end of the summer. Winners of the competition receive mentoring from CHIP affiliates, statistical and methodological consultation (if needed), and help with the grant submission process from the CHIP business team. In the application for the stipend, prospective awardees are asked to describe the focus of the grant application to be written, how it contributes to the literature, the type of grant (R21, R03) to be applied for, and to show evidence that the funding agency has interest in supporting this type of work. The proposals are reviewed by an internal review committee within CHIP.

5) CHIP Conference Development Grant

CHIP provides funding on occasion to CHIP investigators for conferences that stimulate innovative, multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaboration in health behavior change research. Funds are provided to invite key national and international researchers to CHIP and University of Connecticut to share recent work in new, underexplored areas, or at the intersection of disciplines. Conference topics and/or themes should lead to new, multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional project development as well as to new scholarship in the area of health behavior change.
**Grant Review Process for CHIP Research Investment Capital Competitions**

Calls for proposals for these competitions are sent to all CHIP affiliates and prospective affiliates in December of each year. Reviews are performed in the spring of the following year, and funds are awarded before the end of each fiscal year. Please see Appendices A through F on pages 87-95 for this year’s announcement for each of these competitions.

An important component of the CHIP internal research funding competitions is mentoring. All proposals submitted receive mentoring reviews from a rigorous NIH-style review panel that provides guidance on how to improve the proposal for subsequent external review, whether the project is ultimately funded by CHIP or not. The competition process also includes a “reviewer mentoring” component that involves senior reviewers coaching selected junior reviewers on the review process.

The review meetings for all CHIP grant competitions are structured and conducted as typical NIH study section meetings at which primary and secondary reviewers give their initial scores, then their reviews, followed by discussion and final scoring. The committees are charged with making funding recommendations, so reviews are scored by open polling, followed by the group deriving consensus scores. The committees also have the power to revise the budgets in the grants, in the way that NIH committees can make budget recommendations.

Stacey Leeds of CHIP provides communication and logistical assistance for the faculty and graduate student review process.

**Results of CHIP Research Investment Capital Competitions**

Knowing the difficult financial situation of the University and the possibility of sustaining cuts in the CHIP budget, and also the fact that CHIP had serious problems with its central IT hardware infrastructure last summer which caused significant unexpected spending for IT this year, the announcements for the research competitions included a statement to the effect that awards of funding would be contingent on the availability of funds in the CHIP budget. We also indicated that if any funds were available, we would prioritize graduate student pilot research, since graduate students are only at UConn for a limited period. This had the intended effect of limiting proposals for the current fiscal year. However, since these proposals constitute the “seed corn” from which future CHIP research grant proposals emerge, it is absolutely critical that CHIP have sufficient funds to fully support these competitions next fiscal year, or it may well have serious impact on the success of future CHIP external grant submissions, the breadth of the scientific work emerging from CHIP research, as well as the IDCs CHIP can return to the University.

In FY09, CHIP affiliate Michael Copenhaver, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Allied Health Sciences, chaired the review committee for the CHIP Graduate Student Pilot Project proposals and for the CHIP Grant Development Stipend Competition. Kinesiology Professor Linda Pescatello, Ph.D. and Psychology graduate student Stephennie Chaudoir served with him on the review committee. In March, 2009, after careful review of the grant proposals, CHIP awarded a grant of $1,500 to each of two CHIP graduate students: Kimberly McClure for a proposal entitled, *Stigma as a Barrier to Health: The Deleterious Effects of Weight Stigma on Health*, and Laramie Smith for a proposal entitled, *Engagement in HIV Care: Identifying the Core Factors Underlying Adherence to Care*. In addition, Assistant Professor Amy Gorin of Psychology was awarded a Grant Development Stipend of $5,000 for her proposal entitled, *Medical, Community, and Family Partnerships to Prevent Obesity in Latino Children*. She plans to write the proposal over the summer and then submit it as an R34 planning grant to NIDDK in the fall.

**Christine N. Witzel Award**

The Christine N. Witzel Award is a research award offered through CHIP to support an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled full-time in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who wishes to do research in women’s health. Eligibility is based on academic promise; a recommendation by a faculty member associated with CHIP; and the submission of a three-to-five page proposal, including a budget and a description of an innovative research project in women’s health issues. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, specific health issues for women and gender differences in the experience of health issues. Priority consideration is given to students whose proposals show particular promise for future funding from a federal agency or private foundation. The annual amount is $1,000. This award was offered for the first time through CHIP in the academic year of FY08. The winner of the award for the current academic year (FY09) was Eileen Pitpitan, a graduate student in the Department of Psychology.
Pre-Reviews of Grant Proposals prior to Submission

In order to help CHIP PIs compete successfully for externally-funded grants, they can apply for a CHIP pre-review of their proposal at any time with prior notice before the planned submission date to the external agency. Once a review is requested and the proposal is prescreened, CHIP identifies an experienced grant reviewer, either from within CHIP or from another institution, with appropriate expertise in the area of the grant application. CHIP internal reviewers review the grant in the context of their affiliation with CHIP; external reviewers are compensated by CHIP for their time to review and provide a mentoring critique of the proposal to the PI prior to its finalization and submission. When needed for critical projects, CHIP commissions some of the major international figures in the relevant field to provide external, presubmission reviews of grant applications.

In addition to reviews of the scientific content of grants, CHIP also funds statistical and methodological reviews of grants that are going to be submitted by CHIP PIs. To facilitate this process, CHIP hired a statistical and methodological consultant to be available periodically throughout the year. This process, along with the internal and external reviews of grant scientific content described above, help CHIP external grant proposals to be highly successful. (In the past, a very high proportion of grants submitted by CHIP PIs have ultimately been funded.) In addition to reviewing grants, the statistical consultant provides statistical and methodological assistance to PIs and graduate students who have smaller funded projects which do not have funds for statistical consultation. Cyr M’lan, an Assistant Professor in the Statistics Department, has been serving as the consultant. CHIP paid for Dr. M’lan to receive a teaching release in his home department so that he could provide the needed support to CHIP researchers. As a function of his scholarly contributions on projects, he is co-author on two manuscripts that will soon be submitted for publication.

9. ACTIVE CHIP RESEARCH GRANTS (AS OF MAY 24, 2009)

For research expenditures in FY09 alone, CHIP has $7.9M in total costs in active grants, $6.1M in direct costs, and $1.6M in indirect costs. Total costs per year have increased 5.6 times from FY02 (from $1.4M to $7.9M in just seven years), as have direct costs and F&A. (For financial summaries of CHIP grant activity, see the 3 figures immediately below and in Appendices G and H.)

Total Costs Per Year Awarded to CHIP Investigators

(FY09 includes all active grants plus anticipated funding in the next month)
Direct Costs Per Year Awarded to CHIP Investigators

Indirect Costs Per Year Awarded to CHIP Investigators

(FY09 includes all active grants plus anticipated funding in the next month)
As can be seen in the pie charts immediately below, CHIP grants span many departments at UConn. Note the differences between the pie charts for percentage of overall CHP grant dollars by department, and for percentage of overall number of CHIP grants by department.

Distribution of Current CHIP Grant Dollars by Department
(Total Costs across All Years of Grants as of May 24, 2009)

Number of Current CHIP Grants by Department as of May 24, 2009
During FY09, CHIP Principal Investigators directed an impressive array of externally-sponsored research, representing $49.7M in total costs for currently active grants across all years, $38.5M in direct costs across all years, and $11.2M in indirect costs across all years. (Total costs awarded to CHIP PIs since 1999 equal $60.8M, direct costs equal $47.4M, and F&A in this interval exceeds $13.4M.)

**CHIP Active Grants during FY09.** (These total $49.7M and include grants that are newly awarded or approved for funding.)

Please see Appendix G on page 96 for financial summaries of active grant applications.


• “Reducing Adverse Self-Medication Behaviors in Older Adults.” NIH, R01 HL084208. September 15, 2005 - June 30, 2010. Total costs $1,011,292. Principal Investigator: Patricia Neafsey, Ph.D. (Nursing/Pharmacology).


10. SUBMITTED CHIP GRANT APPLICATIONS (AS OF MAY 24, 2009)

CHIP PIs submitted 62 external grant proposals during FY09 totaling $37.4M in total costs, $27.3M in direct costs, and $10.1M in F&As. Those submissions that were submitted in FY09 that have already been funded are listed both here and in the “Active Research Grants” section of this report. Please see Appendix H on page 102 for financial summaries of submitted grant applications.

New Grant Applications Submitted in FY09:


• “Randomized Controlled Trial to Enhance Reproductive Health of PLHIV in India.” Submitted to the NIH as subcontract from Yale on August 11, 2008. April 1, 2009-March 31, 2013. Total costs $636,356. Principal Investigator: Deborah Cornman, Ph.D. (CHIP).


11. CHIP POST-DOCTORAL INVESTIGATORS

During FY09, Brian R. Kupchak, Tania B. Huedo-Medina, Mark Macauda, Nnenna Ohalete, and Claudia Santelices served as postdoctoral investigators at CHIP. CHIP post-docs collaborate with CHIP PIs on funded research while typically pursuing their own independent research. Note that former post-doctorates such as Angela Bryan, Kerry Marsh, Deborah Cornman, Michael Copenhaver, William Barta, and K. Rivet Amico, among others, have gone on to have their own significant independently-funded research portfolios. Furthermore, CHIP post-docs have also gone on to procure tenure track positions at major research institutions. Michael Copenhaver and Paul Shuper are the two most recent examples of CHIP researchers obtaining tenure track positions.

• Brian R. Kupchak, Ph.D., M.T. (ASCP), joined the research team of Dr. Jeff Volek to contribute work on the grant, “Investigation of Whey Protein Supplementation for Physiologic Enhancement to Resistance Training and Dietary Regimes in Young adults.” Dr. Kupchak is a post-doctoral fellow in the Kinesiology Department at the University of Connecticut. He holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, focusing on Adiponectin and Progesterone receptors and their effects on zinc and iron transport in yeast. He is currently studying how resistance exercise may improve coagulation parameters to prevent strokes and deep vein thromboses.

• Tania B. Huedo-Medina, Ph.D., joined the research team of Dr. Blair T. Johnson in 2006, to contribute work on the grant “Syntheses of HIV/AIDS Research Project II.” Dr. Huedo-Medina is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Connecticut. She holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of National Long Distance Education (UNED) in Madrid, Spain, focusing on practical and theoretical methodological issues for meta-analysis in Social and Clinical Psychology. Dr. Huedo-Medina has expertise in developing mathematical assumptions for methods in meta-analysis and studying their performances using simulated Monte Carlo data. She is currently working on meta-analyses for HIV prevention and improving methods for research synthesis.
methods. Dr. Huedo-Medina also collaborates with Dr. Snyder on the efficacy of tailoring health promotion communications and recently was co-author on a meta-analysis of the efficacy of antidepressant medications.

- **Mark Macauda, M.P.H., Ph.D.,** joined Dr. Pamela Erickson and Dr. Merrill Singer’s PHRESH.comm project in 2007 as a postdoctoral fellow and remained in that role until December 31, 2008. Dr. Macauda was primarily responsible for data management and analysis for the quantitative methods associated with the project. He also participated in the coding and analysis of qualitative data. Dr. Macauda received his M.P.H. from the University of Connecticut in 2005 and his Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology from the University of Connecticut in 2007.

- **Nnenna Ohalete, Ph.D.,** joined the research team of Dr. Pamela Erickson in Spring of 2009 to contribute work on the PHRESH grant. Dr. Ohalete is a post-doctoral fellow from the School of Nursing at the University of Connecticut in Storrs and holds a Ph.D. from the University of San Diego in San Diego, California. Her current work focuses broadly on reproductive health and African American fathering issues. She is currently working on a female condom study in collaboration with Dr. Margaret Weeks at the Institute for Community Research in Hartford.

- **Claudia Santelices, Ph.D.,** joined the research team of Dr. Pamela Erickson in 2004 in the role of project director for PHRESH.comm (Philadelphia and Hartford Research and Education on Sexual Health and Communication), and then joined CHIP in the fall of 2008 and worked at CHIP until September 29, 2008. PHRESH.comm is a CDC-funded study designed to gain insight into how inner city, minority young adults make decisions about sexual and reproductive behavior and health, and how they communicate and/or negotiate with their partners to effect their sexual desires. Prior to joining CHIP, Dr. Santelices worked at the Center for Community Health Research at the Hispanic Health Council on several ethno-epidemiological studies led by Dr. Merrill Singer. Dr. Santelices is now an Associate Research Scientist at the Institute on Urban Health Research at Northeastern University in Boston, where she works on evaluation studies on Latina and African American women in residential and non-residential substance abuse treatment programs. Dr. Santelices is currently working on several publications with Dr. Erickson and Dr. Singer, and collaborating with the latter on a grant proposal on binge drinking and substance abuse among college students.

**12. CHIP Graduate Student Research Achievement and Grant Awards**

Graduate students working with CHIP faculty members or Principal Investigators benefit tremendously from the unique research, collaborative, professional, and mentorship opportunities available through CHIP. CHIP graduate students consistently publish in many of the most prestigious peer-reviewed journals in their field, present at professional conferences around the world, and secure internal and external funding for research projects. Moreover, they provide an invaluable asset to CHIP faculty members and Principal Investigators as substantial contributors to collaborative research projects and grants. CHIP graduate students consistently obtain exceptional postdoctorate or faculty positions after they obtain their Ph.D. Below is a select list of CHIP graduate students’ research interests and accomplishments during the past year.

**Selected Graduate Students’ Research Projects**

- **Marcella Boynton’s** research focuses primarily on the application of basic Social Psychology theory to health behavior modeling and change. Ms. Boynton is currently developing her dissertation project under the supervision of Professor Blair T. Johnson, which is a daily diary study examining the influence of acculturation on HIV risk and health behaviors in a Latino population. In addition, Ms. Boynton is currently collaborating on a meta-analysis examining the efficacy of HIV interventions in Latin America as well as on a project assessing the relation between psychosocial variables and race on the trajectory of blood pressure across pregnancy. Ms. Boynton co-authored a paper that was recently published, explicating the process of meta-analysis. In addition, she serves as a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Social Issues*. Ms. Boynton is also actively involved in professional service activities; currently, she is an affiliate representative for the APA Membership Board. She will obtain her Ph.D this summer and has secured a Postdoctorate position at Duke University.

- **Stephanie Chaudoir** has been working to develop conceptual frameworks for studying concealable stigmatized identities with Drs. Jeffrey Fisher and Diane Quinn. This work includes the Disclosure Processes Model—a framework for understanding how people make decisions to disclose a concealable stigmatized identity and how these decisions, in turn, affect psychological, behavioral, and health outcomes. Her dissertation examined a testable model derived from this framework in the context of HIV disclosure. She has also been involved in the
creation of a framework for understanding the intra-individual and external processes that lead people with concealable stigmatized identities to experience psychological distress and lowered health well-being. Several of her additional projects develop frameworks to facilitate the study of HIV stigma (with Valerie Earnshaw), examine the impact of stigma and other psychosocial factors among caregivers of PLWHA in South Africa (with Dinesh Singh and Seth Kalichman), and examine how identity- and disclosure-related factors as well as processes involved in worldview maintenance operate in the context of trauma and PTSD (with Crystal Park and Donald Edmondson). In May of 2009, she successfully defended her dissertation and was awarded her Ph.D, and she has obtained a faculty position at Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, beginning this fall.

- **Ann Cheney** is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology, and has been working with Drs. Pamela Erickson and Merrill Singer on the College PHRESH project as the project director. This project is a pilot study that replicates a larger project that explored the social context of sexual and intimate relationships among inner-city African American and Puerto Rican emergent adults age 18-25. Specifically, her work focuses on the discourses surrounding sexual and intimate relationships, normative behaviors related to condom use, contraceptive use, and emotional and physical risk reduction behaviors, as well as explores ideas surrounding cheating and infidelity with respect to different kinds of relationships. Her research has focused on qualitative data collection techniques that have sought to bring forth an in-depth contextualization of sexual and intimate relationships among White emergent adults attending the University of Connecticut. Furthermore, under the supervision of Dr. Erickson, she has been writing-up her dissertation research, which focuses on eating disorders among women living in Calabria, Italy.

- **Lisa Eaton** is an NIH-funded graduate fellow whose research has two main foci: (1) behavioral risk compensation in relation to biological and behavioral HIV prevention technologies, and (2) HIV prevention strategies used among MSM. Moreover, she has designed and implemented an intervention for at-risk MSM that addresses how MSM make decisions about being safe or taking risks for HIV/STI. Internationally, she is involved in studying the relationship between male circumcision and risk compensation among men attending STI clinics in South Africa. Furthermore, she has begun working with HIV/STI bridge populations in Russia. Most recently, Lisa has accepted a Post-Doctoral position at Yale University in the School of Public Health.

- **Grant Johnson** has been developing his research interests in the area of LGBT health disparities with Drs. Johnson and Blank, specifically focusing on how HIV/AIDS impacts the way gay men view non-HIV related health conditions. In addition, he is developing a Master’s thesis study proposal with Dr. Johnson concerning the effect of pornography exposure on social norms regarding safer sex behavior. He is actively involved with the Synthesis of HIV and AIDS Research Project (SHARP) headed by Dr. Johnson, and is continuing his collaboration with Dr. Leet of the Saint Louis University School of Public Health, where he is using GIS technology to develop sampling schema for several of the National Children’s Study sites in Missouri and Illinois.

- **Rebecca Ferrer** is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in the Social Psychology division. She is currently working with Dr. Jeff. Fisher (UConn), and others at CHIP, as well as Dr. William Fisher of the University of Western Ontario, and Dr. Kate Morrow (Brown University) to develop an Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills model of microbicide adherence. Working with Dr. Amico (UConn), Dr. Cormnan (UConn), Dr. Shuper (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health/University of Toronto), Dr. Quarraisha Abdool-Karim (University of KwaZulu-Natal/Columbia University), Dr. Salim Karim (University of KwaZulu-Natal/Columbia University), Dr. Mansoor (University of KwaZulu-Natal), as well as Drs. Fisher and Fisher, Rebecca is preparing to test the model in a sample of participants in an ongoing South African microbicide clinical trial, CAPRISA-004. Rebecca is also examining the efficacy of physical activity interventions for improving quality of life in cancer survivors with Drs. Johnson, Pescatello, and Huedo-Medina. The project involves a meta-analysis of the relevant literature, and the team includes experts in Social Psychology, Exercise Physiology, and Statistics.

- **Andrea Fuhrel-Forbis** has been working extensively with an interdisciplinary team of researchers and faculty to examine interprofessional training and service learning experiences of students in healthcare professions. Team members include Dr. Ann O’Connell (Ohio State University), Dr. Bruce Gould (UCHC School of Medicine), Dr. K. Devra Dang (UConn School of Pharmacy), Dr. Phil Hritcko (UConn School of Pharmacy), Carol E. Polifroni (UConn School of Nursing), Terry O'Donnell (Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Program), Petra Clark-Dufner (UCHC Urban Service Track and Connecticut Area Health Education Center), and Catherine Russell (Connecticut Area Health Education Center). This work includes a 3-year longitudinal evaluation of students in Medicine, Dental Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Physician Assistant training programs, and examines the students' intentions to work with medically-underserved populations. Andrea's dissertation includes an analysis of
this work with propensity score adjustment to help control for participant self-selection, and an implicit measure of attitudes toward medically-underserved populations and towards members of other health professions. Andrea also worked on developing a nutritional and health baseline study for a sustainable agricultural intervention in Cavaillon, Haiti, and is currently developing a study examining various forms of power and its effect on health in Haiti and the United States.

- **Matt Kostek** is working with Dr. Pescatello and has been coordinating the study entitled, “Effects of Statins on Muscle Performance” (or STOMP study). STOMP is a multicenter clinical trial designed to examine the effects of Lipitor on measures of muscle strength and aerobic performance as well as describe individuals who experience and elucidate mechanisms of statin-induced muscle symptoms. STOMP is being conducted in collaboration with Hartford Hospital and the University of Massachusetts. As part of his dissertation work, Matt has also been coordinating the study entitled, “Genetic Determinants of Habitual Physical Activity.” Matt is examining the associations between pre-selected gene variants and habitual physical activity levels in young, healthy adult men and women. Findings will provide insight into genetic explanations for the propensity to be physically active with the long-term goal of developing strategies to increase the physical activity levels of sedentary people.

- **Kimberly McClure** has been actively involved in several projects that examine the effects of weight stigma. In her work with Dr. Quinn and graduate student Eileen Pitpitan, she is examining how weight stigma may shape social interactions. With Dr. Gorin, she is examining the effects of weight stigma in several weight loss interventions that are geared toward adults and adolescents. Most recently, she has received a graduate student grant from CHIP to do field research with Drs. Gorin and Quinn that will examine whether weight stigma poses a barrier to successful health behavior change in overweight and obese adults. She is also collaborating with Dr. Puhl at Yale University's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, currently examining whether portrayals of obesity in the media shape public attitudes about obesity and support for anti-discrimination legislation.

- **Wynne Norton** is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in Social Psychology, working primarily with Dr. Jeffrey Fisher in the area of HIV prevention and intervention. Her dissertation focuses on comparing the relative efficacy of a pregnancy, STD, or HIV prevention intervention on condom use among young adults over time, and is funded by a National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Mental Health. Recently, she has become more involved and interested in advancing the state-of-the-science of dissemination and implementation of evidence-based health promotion/disease prevention interventions. To this end, she has co-chaired a session on the national scale-up of effective health programs at the NIH Dissemination and Implementation Conference in January, 2009, with representatives from CDC, RWJF, VA, Kaiser Permanente, AHRQ, and NIMH. Along with CHIP investigators Jeff Fisher, Bill Fisher, Amico, and Cormman, she has also published several peer-reviewed articles on how to advance dissemination and implementation science within the area of HIV prevention interventions. Her future research projects are focused on developing and testing theory-based strategies for effectively implementing evidence-based HIV prevention and ARV adherence interventions in routine clinical care settings, and she will continue to pursue these research endeavors after completing her graduate studies this year at UConn.

- **Nicole Overstreet** is a second-year Ph.D. student in Social Psychology currently working on research with Drs. Kalichman and Quinn involving the role of stigma in the relationship between intimate partner violence (IPV) and HIV risk. More specifically, she is examining how the stigma associated with IPV is an important, but often neglected, social factor that can increase women’s susceptibility to HIV infection. She is currently working on a model that examines the relationship between IPV stigmatization and women’s susceptibility to HIV in two ways: 1) IPV stigmatization heightens psychological outcomes (e.g., depression, low self-esteem) that have been associated with HIV risk behavior (e.g., substance abuse and risky sexual behavior) and 2) IPV stigmatization acts as a barrier to help-seeking and social support networks that can be critical in IPV and HIV prevention for abused women. Nicole is also working on research with Dr. Marsh, focusing on implicit and explicit attitudes that encourage and hinder condom use in both a community and college sample. This work uses new research methods that explore condom use and risky sexual behavior in a virtual reality environment.

- **Jessica Planas** is a second-year Ph.D. student in the School of Nursing. She has been actively working with Dr. Neafsey on the “Personal Education Program-Next Generation [PEP-NG]” research study, which is a grant-funded project to develop and evaluate a computer-based intervention aimed at improving medication adherence and blood pressure readings among older adults. Specifically, Jessica’s work on this project has focused on the formative research. She has been interviewing, transcribing, and analyzing the data gathered from both participants and nurse practitioners involved in the study. She is actively learning about community research within primary care settings, which is where she plans on doing her dissertation work.
• Erin Quann is a doctoral fellow in the Human Performance Lab in the Kinesiology Department, working with Dr. Jeff Volek. Erin has been actively involved in the study entitled, “The Effects of Whey Protein Supplementation for Physiologic Enhancement to 9 Months of Resistance Training and a Dietary Regimen in 100 Young Adults.” This project is funded by the National Dairy Council and led by Co-PI’s Drs. Jeff Volek and William Kraemer. Specifically, Erin has been a team leader and involved with the low-fat diet intervention and monitoring, supplementation (whey, soy, or carbohydrate) compliance measurement, and body composition assessment. Erin Quann also independently designed and implemented her dissertation project entitled, “The Cardiometabolic Effects of Adding Carbohydrate Restriction and Increased Physical Activity to Stable Statin Treatment.” It investigated the interaction of lifestyle changes and drug treatment on risk factors for cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

• Laramie Smith is a second-year Social Psychology Ph.D. student. She has been actively working in the fields of HIV prevention and care with HIV-positive populations. She has worked extensively with Dr. Jeffrey Fisher, reviewing the current research and developments in the area of prevention for positives. They have recently written a review for Current Opinion in AIDS on the current state of the science in its understanding of risk dynamics among persons living with HIV (PLWH) and the effectiveness and future directions of interventions aimed at reducing risk behaviors in this population. She also is involved with the South Africa Options Project, working with Drs. Fisher, Fisher, Cormann, and Shuper. Recently, her work on the project has focused on the prevalence of depression and suicide among PLWH in South Africa and a review of suicide screening measures for their cultural acceptability and feasibility. In developing her own research interests in the area of HIV care initiation and maintenance, she has been working with Drs. Amico and Fisher to implement her Master's thesis study examining factors related to engagement in HIV care and adherence to regular medical monitoring protocols among inner-city PLWH living in the Bronx, NY. For this study, she has also worked in collaboration with Dr. Chinazo Cunningham and the Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY. Furthermore, she is involved in a similar engagement in HIV care project located in the state of Connecticut working with Drs. Amico and Dieckhaus.

• Judy Y. Tan is third-year Ph.D. student in Social Psychology, as well as an NIMH institutional research fellow. Her main research interests include power dynamics, prejudice and discrimination, and health disparities. With Dr. Felicia Pratto, she is working on several research studies, including her Master’s thesis, examining the experiences of social invisibility among low-status group members (e.g., people living with HIV/AIDS; women of color; people with disabilities). With Dr. Blair T. Johnson, she has completed a meta-analysis on the efficacy of HIV/AIDS interventions in the Asia and Pacific region. She is currently working on a comprehensive review of HIV/AIDS interventions for Asian Pacific Islander men who have sex with men (API MSM) and male-to-female transgender individuals. Having cultivated a working relationship with one of the largest healthcare providers of HIV/AIDS-related services for APIs in the country, she is working on evaluating their individual and group-level intervention programs for gay API men. Judy is interested in examining HIV/AIDS risks and other health outcomes among API MSM in relation to ethnic identity, social dominance orientation, and other individual and group process variables.

• Brittanie Volk is a first-year Ph.D. student in the Kinesiology Department working with Dr. Jeff Volek. She completed her thesis work in the area of oxidative stress, looking at the effects of pre-exercise whey and soy protein supplementation on resistance exercise-induced antioxidant capacity. The objective of this study was to compare the effects of whey and soy supplementation on markers of oxidative stress and the antioxidant capacity of plasma to an acute bout of resistance exercise. She is also involved in a large study examining the effects of protein supplementation on adaptations to a 9-month resistance training program with Jeff Volek, Principal Investigator.

Former CHIP Graduate Students

CHIP graduate students who have recently received their PhDs enjoy significant success after leaving the University of Connecticut, taking prestigious faculty, research, and post-doctoral positions around the country while continuing to collaborate with CHIP faculty members and Principal Investigators. Recent CHIP graduates include Jennifer Harman, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; Michelle Kaufman, Research Psychologist at RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC; Susan M. Kiene, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Community Health, Brown University, Providence, RI; Josephine Korchmaros, Research Specialist, University of Arizona’s Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), Tucson, AZ; Anthony Lemieux, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Purchase College, SUNY, Westchester, NY; Chandra Osborn, Assistant
CHIP Graduate Students Graduating this Year

The placement of CHIP graduate students in prominent faculty, research, and postdoctoral positions after completing their tenure at the University of Connecticut reflects the myriad of exceptional collaborative research opportunities with CHIP faculty members and Principal Investigators during their graduate studies. During the 2008-2009 academic year, CHIP graduate students Marcella Boynton, Stephenie Chaudoir, Jennifer Daniels, Lisa Eaton, Rebecca Ferrer, Andrea Fuhrel-Forbis, and Wynne Norton will have completed their Ph.D.s. Several of these students have already accepted faculty, research, or postdoctoral positions where they plan on continuing health-related research endeavors with new colleagues as well as continuing ongoing collaborations with CHIP faculty members and Principal Investigators. For example, Stephenie Chaudoir has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Psychology Department at Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois; Lisa Eaton has accepted a Postdoctoral position at Yale University in the School of Public Health; Rebecca Ferrer has accepted a Postdoctoral position in the area of health behavior theory at the National Cancer Institute in Rockville, MD; and Wynne Norton has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Department of Health Behavior in the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

CHIP Graduate Student Grant Awards

CHIP graduate students have had an exceptional track record at winning outside funding from funding agencies, such as the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

A. National Institute of Mental Health Awards

Since 2000, nine CHIP graduate students have successfully competed for individual National Research Service Award (NRSA) Predoctoral Fellowship Awards from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). These grants are very competitive and one of the most sought after awards for doctoral support in the social sciences. Moreover, they provide an exceptional opportunity for CHIP graduate students to work collaboratively with their CHIP faculty mentor on their own research project, providing them with the necessary skills to successfully pursue additional grant activities after their graduate studies. The following CHIP graduate students (completed and ongoing) have received NRSA:


B. National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Awards

Aside from the prestigious NRSA awards, CHIP graduate students also compete successfully for additional government-funded awards, including the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Award. Currently, Marcella Boynton has received this award to support her dissertation research. David Portnoy, a previous CHIP graduate student who is now a postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute, was also a recipient of the NSF award during his doctoral studies at UConn.

Marcella Boynton [mentor: Blair T. Johnson] received a Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation's Social Behavioral & Economic Directorate's Decision Risk and Management Sciences program for her dissertation "Daily Diary Study of Hispanic Culture, Identity, and Health." The grant, in the amount of $7,993, is for participant incentives. This dissertation study examines HIV risk and acculturation with Hispanic young adults living in Connecticut via implementation of a three-week long daily measures study utilizing Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology hosted by CHIP. This research clarifies how a Hispanic individual's degree of acculturation relates to risky decision-making, and it has the potential to inform how behavioral interventions aimed at reducing HIV risk may be more appropriately designed for ethnic minorities.

C. CHIP Graduate Student Pilot Project Awards

Every year, CHIP sponsors a Graduate Student Pilot Project grant competition to support graduate students’ research endeavors in health intervention and prevention research. In addition, the graduate student grant competition provides both graduate student applicants and graduate student reviewers the opportunity to become familiar with standard National Institutes of Health grant application and review procedures, to prepare them to become both grant applicants and reviewers in their research careers after their tenure at the University of Connecticut. This year, two $1500 awards were made to CHIP graduate students Kimberly McClure (mentors: Amy Gorin and Kerry Marsh) and Laramie Smith (mentor: Jeffrey Fisher). Several CHIP graduate students (e.g., Marcy Boynton, Stephanie Chaudoir, Rebecca Ferrer, and Wynne Norton) continued to use funds awarded from the CHIP Graduate Student Pilot Project awards made in previous years to support their ongoing research endeavors.


2) Laramie Smith, “Engagement in HIV Care: Identifying the Core Factors Underlying Adherence to Care,” CHIP Graduate Student Seed Grant, March 2009 – March 2011, total award $1500 [mentor: Jeffrey Fisher]

Other Honors & Awards

A number of CHIP graduate students working with CHIP-affiliated faculty and Principal Investigators received other awards and honors in the past year, a selected list of which is presented below.

1) Marcella Boynton. Member of the Journal of Social Issues Editorial Board. [mentor: Blair T. Johnson]

2) Stephanie Chaudoir. Teaching Development Fellowship, University of Connecticut, 2008. [mentors: Jeffrey Fisher & Diane Quinn]


Publications

In the past year, CHIP graduate students have continued to publish in prestigious peer-reviewed journals with CHIP- affiliated faculty and Principal Investigators. A selection of publications is listed below. Note that citations are listed by graduate student with his/her name in bold and the name of his/her primary CHIP faculty mentor in brackets.

Marcella H. Boynton’s Publications:

Johnson, B. T. & Boynton, M. H. (in press). Putting attitudes in their place: Behavioral prediction in the face of competing variables. In J. P. Forgas, J. Cooper, & B. Crano (Eds.), The psychology of attitude and attitude change. Sydney, Australia: 12th Sydney Symposium. [mentor: Blair T. Johnson]


Stephenie R. Chaudoir’s Publications:


Lisa A. Eaton’s Publications:


Rebecca A. Ferrar’s Publications:


Andrea A. Fuhrel-Forbis’ Publications:


Matt A. Kostek’s Publications:


Wynne E. Norton’s Publications:


Jessica Planas’ Publications:

Erin E. Quann’s Publications:


**Laramie R. Smith’s Publications:**


**Judy Y. Tan’s Publications:**


**Professional Presentations**

CHIP graduate students have had success submitting and presenting health-related research findings at various professional conferences around the world. A select list of both oral and poster presentations by various CHIP graduate students is provided below.

**A. Oral Presentations**


B. Poster Presentations

Marcella H. Boynton’s Poster Presentations:


Stephenie R. Chaudoir’s Poster Presentations:


Lisa A. Eaton’s Poster Presentations:


Rebecca A. Ferrar’s Poster Presentations:


Andrea A. Fuhrel-Forbis’ Poster Presentations:

Fuhrel-Forbis, A., & Snyder, L. B. (2008, October). Looking at the big picture: Which types of cancers have a greater presence in national public service announcements over time? Poster presented at 136th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, San Diego, CA. [mentor: Felicia Pratto]

Matt A. Kostek’s Poster Presentations:


Wynne E. Norton’s Poster Presentations:


Nicole M. Overstreet’s Poster Presentations:


Erin E. Quann’s Poster Presentations:


13. CHIP MULTIDISCIPLINARY AFFILIATES COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

In FY09, CHIP’s multidisciplinary collaborative network of PhDs and others with research interests in health behavior and health behavior change continued to experience sustained growth, increasing its total membership to 127 research affiliates. CHIP has also continued efforts to expand multidisciplinary collaborations with appropriate members of relevant UConn schools, departments, and Centers, considering new requests for affiliation from individuals and groups whose research interests are consistent with CHIP’s mission. In the past year there have been increasing involvements, which have led to new grant applications and/or funded grants, with members of the Department of Kinesiology and the Schools of Social Work and Nursing, as well as individuals and groups at the University of Connecticut Health Center, and others. As discussed above, CHIP has played a critical role in the emerging Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS), especially with respect to the Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT Core).

In sum, as in previous years, CHIP continues to add affiliates from throughout the University of Connecticut system and beyond who conduct research in the areas of health behavior, health risk dynamics, and health behavior change, with the long-term goal of continually enhancing its research network and promoting the University as a premier institution of health behavior and health intervention research.

CHIP Affiliation and Benefits

Potential CHIP affiliates are identified through new and existing research collaborations, through direct communications between CHIP and other UConn departments and Centers, and through the CHIP Lecture Series and other CHIP functions. Faculty with health-related research interests who express interest in CHIP are sent a formal invitation to affiliate. The benefits of being a CHIP affiliate are many, and as the Center continues to grow, CHIP services to its affiliates are reviewed and enhanced. Several services of note, discussed elsewhere, include providing CHIP affiliates with pre-submission funding for statistical, methodological, and content review of external grant proposals, the CHIP Lecture Series that recruits leading scholars from diverse fields of health research, internal grant
searching and application assistance, extensive pre-and post-award support, and pilot funding for developing research projects/interventions that will increase the likelihood of affiliates securing external grant funds in the future.

Selected New Multidisciplinary Research Collaborations

CHIP’s efforts to enhance multidisciplinary collaboration resulted in several new partnerships formed, or furthered, during FY09. Often, these new multidisciplinary collaborations involve other CHIP affiliates. The projects described below involve multidisciplinary collaborative projects newly submitted, and in some cases, recently funded.

A. Teaching Skills to Toddlers: A Program for Caregivers. CHIP Principal Investigator Deborah Fein, Psychology, submitted a new grant to NIMH which focuses on designing, implementing and evaluating a new, DVD-based intervention for parents of autistic children. Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) have improved health-related and other outcomes if they obtain early, intensive intervention of a behavioral nature, but unfortunately, in many parts of the US, such interventions are weak, and often not readily available. Fein and colleagues will create a set of eight video programs that deliver high quality instruction in basic behavioral therapy for parents, so that they can intervene more effectively with their children. This proposal will produce the DVD-based program, test its acceptability, perform a pilot test to assess whether parents have learned the strategies which are taught to them in the DVD, create an interactive, online version of the intervention, and, ultimately, conduct a pilot test of its efficacy in the context of child and parent functioning. The Co-Investigators for this project involve CHIP affiliates Jeffrey Fisher (Psychology) and Anjana Bhat (Physical Therapy), as well as physician Thyde Dumont-Matieu of UCHC, and Marianne Barton and Jim Green of the UConn Psychology Department. Other collaborators are Harriet Levin, OT, Lynn Brennan, psychologist, Nahit Motavalli, MD, and Naila Kahn, MD. CHIP’s expertise with large-scale intervention design, implementation, and evaluation in field settings will provide an added benefit to this extremely strong team of researchers.

B. Test of Formal Features of a Narrative-Based Health Game. While research has demonstrated that health-related video games can be effective in changing unhealthy behavior, it is not clear what aspects of video games add to or detract from their efficacy. In this grant application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Communication Sciences) and CHIP Affiliate Kirstie Cope-Fararar (Communication Sciences) begin to illuminate what aspects of narrative-based games contribute to their effectiveness, and to compare games with other health promotion intervention approaches.

C. Medical, Community, and Family Partnerships to Prevent Obesity in Latino Children. Obesity is a national problem, especially in Latino children. This proposal to NIMH, by CHIP PI Amy Gorin of the UConn Psychology Department, in collaboration with CHIP affiliates Raphael Perez-Éscamilla from the UConn Nutrition Department and Stephenie Milan of the UConn Psychology Department, as well as Physician Michelle Cloutier of UCHC, aims to develop and test a new, multilevel ecological obesity prevention intervention for young Latino children. The intervention will create partnerships between families, medical staff, and community in the context of preventing obesity.

D. Innovations in Assessing Late Adolescent/Young Adult Cancer Survivors’ Quality of Life. Advancements in treatments and outcomes for individuals diagnosed with cancer in late adolescence depend partially on the development of population-specific measurement techniques for assessing health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in these individuals. This project, in which CHIP PI Crystal Park, Psychology, teams up with CHIP affiliate Tom Blank, Family Studies, aims to develop a new measure of HRQOL. The proposal, which was submitted to the Lance Armstrong Foundation, has already been funded.

E. Robot-Child Interactions as an Intervention with Children with Autism. Typical interventions for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) require intensive involvement with another individual for a significant number of hours per week. This proposal to NIH/NIMH/NIAAA explores novel interventions for children using interactions with robots. The proposal was submitted by CHIP PI Anjana Bhat of the Physical Therapy Department, as well as CHIP Affiliates Kerry Marsh, Deborah Fein, and Timothy Gifford of the Psychology Department, and Psychologist Sarah Hodgson.

Note that the projects outlined above were selected for illustrative purposes, and there are many more examples of new multidisciplinary research collaborations within CHIP that could have been chosen.
List of CHIP Affiliates (Confirmed as of May 24, 2009)

CHIP Principal Investigators (PIs with active or submitted grants through CHIP): In FY09, there were 19 PIs with active grants, and an additional 12 PIs who submitted grants through CHIP during the year but did not currently have active CHIP grants.

K. Rivet Amico, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut
Associate Research Scientist, CHIP

William D. Barta, Ph.D.
Associate Research Scientist, CHIP, University of Connecticut

Anjana Bhat, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, Neag School of Education – University of Connecticut

Thomas Blank, Ph.D.
Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Connecticut

Robert S. Broadhead, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology, University of Connecticut, University of Connecticut

Michael M. Copenhaver, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Allied Health Sciences, University of Connecticut

Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, CHIP, University of Connecticut
Associate Research Scientist, CHIP

Dean G. Cruess, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut

Pamela I. Erickson, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology and Community Medicine, University of Connecticut

Deborah Fein, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut

Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D.
Director, CHIP, University of Connecticut
Professor of Psychology
Associate Director, Center for Health Communication & Marketing

Amy Gorin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut

Ofer Harel, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Statistics, University of Connecticut

Blair T. Johnson, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut

Seth C. Kalichman, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut

Kristin A. Kelly, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Connecticut

William Kraemer, Ph.D.
Professor of Kinesiology, University of Connecticut

Brenda Kurz, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.S.P.H.
Associate Professor of Casework, School of Social Work – University of Connecticut

Carolyn Lin, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication Sciences, University of Connecticut
Carl Maresh, Ph.D.  
*Professor & Department Head of Kinesiology, University of Connecticut*

Kerry L. Marsh, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut*

Deborah McDonald, R.N., Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Nursing, University of Connecticut*

Stephanie Milan, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut*

Patricia J. Neafsey, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Nursing (Pharmacology), University of Connecticut*

Crystal L. Park, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut*

Linda S. Pescatello, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Kinesiology*

Merrill Singer, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Anthropology, University of Connecticut*

Leickness Simbayi, Ph.D.  
*Senior Research Scientist, Department of Psychology, University of Connecticut*

Leslie B. Snyder, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Communication Sciences, University of Connecticut*

Jaci VanHeest, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Kinesiology, University of Connecticut*

Jeff Volek  
*Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, University of Connecticut*

**Additional CHIP Research Affiliates** *(CHIP affiliates who did not have an active grant or submit a new grant as PI through CHIP during FY09):*

**CHIP - University of Connecticut**

Sarah Christie, M.P.H.  
*Research Assistant*

Demetria Cain, M.P.H.  
*Research Assistant*

Mark Macauda, MPH, Ph.D.  
*Postdoctoral Fellow, Project PHRESH*

Caroline Redding, M.S.R.  
*Research Assistant*

**College of Agriculture & Natural Resources – University of Connecticut**

Donna Chapman, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor in Residence of Nutritional Sciences*

Pouran Faghri, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.M.  
*Professor of Health Promotion and Allied Health Sciences*

Ann M. Ferris, Ph.D.
Professor of Nutritional Sciences, Co-Director of Public Health and Health Policy, Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care
Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, Ph.D.
Professor of Nutritional Sciences, Director of the Center for Eliminating Disparities Among Latinos

*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – University of Connecticut*

V. Bede Agocha, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Psychology and African-American Studies, University of Connecticut*

David A. Atkin, Ph.D.
*Professor of Communication Sciences, University of Connecticut*

Keith M. Bellizzi, Ph.D., M.P.H.
*Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Connecticut*

Preston A. Britner, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor, Associate Department Head of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Connecticut*

Ross Buck, Ph.D.
*Professor of Communication Sciences and Psychology, University of Connecticut*

Mary Crawford, Ph.D.
*Professor of Psychology, University of Connecticut*

Dipak K. Dey, Ph.D.
*Professor and Head of Statistics, University of Connecticut*

Kirstie M. Farrar, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences, University of Connecticut*

Cyr E. M’Lan, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Statistics, University of Connecticut*

James M. O’Neil, Ph.D.
*Professor of Family Studies and Educational Psychology, University of Connecticut*

Melissa A. Tafoya
*Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences, University of Connecticut*

*Neag School of Education – University of Connecticut*

Ronnie L. Leavitt, Ph.D.
*Clinical Associate Professor of Allied Health Sciences*

Ana Lourdes Volek
*Research Associate of Kinesiology*

*School of Business – University of Connecticut*

Narasimhan Srinivasan, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Marketing*

*School of Nursing – University of Connecticut*

Elizabeth H. Anderson, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Nursing*

Colleen Delaney Ph.D., AHN-BC, RN
*Associate Professor, Coordinator Graduate Community Health Track*

Ismat Mikky, Ph.D., R.N.
*Assistant Professor of Nursing*
Deborah A. Shelton, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.A., B.C.  
Associate Professor of Nursing, Associate Dean of Research of Nursing

**School of Social Work – University of Connecticut**

Karen Bullock, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Social Work

Barbara A. Dicks, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Social Work

Michie N. Hesselbrock, Ph.D.  
Professor of Social Work

Cheryl A. Parks, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Social Work

Ellen R. Smith, Ph.D.  
Assistant Extension Professor

**UConn Health Center, School of Dental Medicine**

Mark D. Litt, M.D.  
Professor of Behavior Sciences and Community Health

Marie Latortue, Ph.D.  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical Research, Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences

Julie A. Wagner, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Behavior Sciences and Community Health

**UConn Health Center, School of Medicine**

Lance O. Bauer, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

Jeanne J. Chadwick, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
University Affiliate

Kevin D. Dieckhaus, M.D.  
Director, AIDS Program, Department of Medicine

Richard H. Fortinsky, Ph.D.  
Professor of Medicine, Center on Aging

Bruce E. Gould, M.D.  
Associate Dean for Primary Care

David I. Gregorio, Ph.D., M.S.  
Professor, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, Director, Graduate Program in Public Health

Victor M. Hesselbrock, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry, Associate Chair for Research, & Director of the Alcohol Research Center

Ronald M. Kadden, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry, Alcohol Research Center

Yifrah Kaminer, M.D., M.B.A.  
Professor of Psychiatry, Alcohol Research Center

Zita Lazzarini, J.D., M.P.H.  
Associate Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

Nancy M. Petry, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry
T. V. Rajan, M.D.
Professor of Pathology

Juan C. Salazar, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Head of Pediatric HIV/AIDS Program, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Hartford

Stephen L. Schensul, Ph.D.
Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

John D. Shanley, M.D.
Professor of Medicine, Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, Connecticut State Chair in Infectious Diseases

Howard Tennen, Ph.D.
Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

Keith A. vom Eigen, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Brown University - Providence, RI

Susan M. Kiene, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor of Medicine

Cynthia Rosengard, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor of Medicine, Biomedicine

Michael D. Stein, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and Community Health, School of Medicine

Colorado State University – Fort Collins, CO

Jennifer J. Harman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Columbia University – New York, NY

Carlos T. Jackson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Hartford, CT

Nancy H. Covell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Dartmouth College – Hanover, NH

Eugene Santos, Jr., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering

Eastern Connecticut State University – Willimantic, CT

Carlos A. Escoto, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Geeta Pfau, Ph.D.
Assistant Director of Health Services

Excelsior College – Albany, NY

Usha Palaniswamy, Ph.D.
Chair, Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Hispanic Health Council – Hartford, CT
Hassan Salaheen, M.B.B.S., M.P.H.
*Associate Research Scientist, Center for Community Health Research*

*Illinois Wesleyan University – Bloomington, IL*

Natalie Smoak, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

*Institute for Community Research – Hartford, CT*

Marlene J. Berg, M.U.P
*Associate Director of Training*

Mark R. Convey, M.A.
*Research Associate*

Sarah Diamond, Ph.D.
*Research Associate*

Stephen C. Pavey, Ph.D.
*Research Associate*

Jean J. Schensul, Ph.D.
*Senior Scientist and Founding Director*

Margaret R. Weeks, Ph.D.
*Executive Director*

*Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge, LA*

Carol J. Lammi-Keefe, Ph.D.
*Professor of Human Ecology*

*Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI*

Douglas K. Hartman, Ph.D.
*Professor of Literacy and Technology*

*National Cancer Institute - Bethesda, MD*

David B. Portnoy, Ph.D.
*Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program Fellow*

*Northeastern University - Boston, MA*

Claudia Santelices, Ph.D.
*Associate Research Scientist, Urban Health Research*

*Northern Rivers University Department of Rural Health – New South Wales, Australia*

Hudson Birden, MPH
*Senior Lecturer in Public Health and Clinical Leadership*

*Ohio State University – Columbus, OH*

Ann A. O’Connell, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Educational Policy & Leadership*

*Planned Parenthood of Connecticut*

Lisa Marella, CHES
*Organizational Effectiveness Consultant*

*RTI International – Research Triangle Park, NC*
Michele R. Kaufman, Ph.D.
Research Public Health Analyst

Southern Connecticut State University – New Haven, CT

Gregory A. Adams, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Jean M. Breny Bontempi, Ph.D., MPH
Associate Professor of Public Health

State University of New York (SUNY), Purchase, NY

Anthony Lemieux, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Syracuse University – Syracuse, NY

Lori A.J. Scott-Sheldon, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Health and Behavior

Texas A & M - College Station, TX

Hart Blanton, Ph.D.
Professor of Social Psychology

University of Arizona - Tucson, AZ

Josephine D. Korchmaros, Ph.D.
Research Specialist Principal, Southwest Institute for Research on Women

University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY

Thomas W. Miller, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry, College of Medicine

University of New Mexico – Albuquerque, NM

Angela Bryan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

University of Pennsylvania – Philadelphia, PA

Aaron Smith-McLallen, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Center of Excellence in Cancer Communications Research

University of Sussex – United Kingdom

Charles Abraham, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

University of Toronto

Paul A. Shuper, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Independent Scientist, Social, Prevention & Health Policy Research Department, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

University of Western Ontario – London, Ontario, Canada

William A. Fisher, Ph.D.
Over the years, CHIP has invested in several “interest groups” in order to build capacity in new areas that it has wanted to nourish and develop. One, the Health Communication Interest Group, ultimately spawned the Center for Health Communication and Marketing, a Center-within-a-Center within CHIP (see below). Started in early 2008, the Obesity Interest Group is a multidisciplinary network of CHIP investigators, affiliates, and graduate students who share a common interest in understanding, preventing, and treating obesity and related co-morbidities. In the United States, obesity and being overweight now affect over 66% of adults and almost 20% of children. The physical and psychological costs associated with excessive weight are staggering, creating an urgent need for research to understand the causes, consequences, and treatment options for this national epidemic. The goal of the Obesity Interest Group is to bring together researchers within the University of Connecticut system (Storrs, Regional Campuses, and the UCHC) who have expertise in obesity, nutrition, and physical activity to identify opportunities for collaboration. To date, the group has members from the Departments of Psychology, Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutrition, Public Health, and Pediatrics. Group activities this year included two talks within the ongoing CHIP Lecture Series, one by Dr. Chris Economos from Tufts University on a community-based weight gain prevention program and the other by Dr. Rebecca Puhl from the Rudd Center at Yale University on weight stigmatization. Collaborations among UConn researchers in this interest group have already resulted in four grant applications on childhood obesity prevention submitted to funding agencies such as NIH and the Donaghue Foundation during the past year. Interest group members are also playing an important role in the Hartford Childhood Obesity Coalition, a partnership between researchers, health care providers, government agencies, and community leaders charged with reducing obesity in inner city youth. In 2009-2010, the Obesity Interest Group will focus on increasing scholarly research in the Obesity area at CHIP and at UConn, on identifying other individuals with similar research interests, and on obtaining external funding for childhood obesity initiatives through CHIP. The Obesity Interest Group will also continue to invite established researchers from other institutions to visit campus as part of the CHIP Lecture Series, as one way to catalyze research interest in obesity at CHIP.
15. CENTER FOR HEALTH COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING (CHCM)

The Center for Health Communication and Marketing (CHCM) is a Center within the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at the University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs. Established in September 2005, CHCM is funded by a $3.8 million federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control. The grant was one of the first two in the nation to be awarded to establish a Center of Excellence in Health Communication and Health Marketing; a third was funded in 2006.

History

CHCM is an example of how CHIP is able to foster and catalyze new research. On May 2, 2005 the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a request for proposals for a one-time initiative entitled “Centers of Excellence in Health Marketing and Health Communication.” The call was for center grant proposals, up to three of which could potentially be funded initially for three years each, at approximately $1 million per center per year. The deadline for proposal submissions was set for June 17, 2005, just seven weeks from release of the program announcement.

On May 10, 2005, CHIP was put in touch with William Gerrish, Director of Communications for the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, by way of the School of Business at the University of Connecticut. The CT DoPH was interested in seeing UConn respond to the RFP to jumpstart a health communication and marketing initiative in the State and was looking for partners. CHIP sent out an announcement to its affiliates to identify individuals interested in pursuing the grant. Over 25 affiliates and researchers responded to the announcement. A meeting was set for the following Thursday, May 19th to review R01 grant proposals in preparation, two of which would need to be completed and submitted as full R01 proposals along with the proposal for a scientific core, mission, and administrative structure for the new proposed center. Leslie B. Snyder, Professor of Communication Sciences at UConn, stepped forward to head the project as Principal Investigator for the Center proposal. At the meeting, three R01 proposals were selected to go forward with the grant, and teams were formed to produce each of the proposals.

In the remaining four weeks, two of the three R01 proposals were completed, as well as the core proposal for the proposed new Health Communication and Social Marketing Center (conceived as a “Center-within-a-Center”) at CHIP. The proposals were submitted on May 16, 2005. The response by CHIP affiliates to this time-limited and very complex funding opportunity was tremendous. Ultimately, over 40 individuals from the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, community-based organizations (CBOs) in Connecticut, and investigators from nearby universities stepped forward to express interest in and contribute to the development of the grant proposals. This proposal for a Center grant was the first of its kind at CHIP and serves as a model for future multidisciplinary CHIP collaborations. It was ultimately successful in securing funding to create a CDC-funded Center for Health Communication and Marketing (CHCM).

Mission

CHCM’s mission is to conduct cutting edge research for informing the design and dissemination of health communication and marketing interventions and practices. The Center focuses on the relationships between at-risk populations and their contexts, communication strategies, messages, and behavior change. An overarching goal is to understand what types of interventions work best in which situations. CHCM builds on expertise in health, communication, persuasion, diffusion, behavior change theory, psychology, research methods, and evaluation. CHCM projects include the design, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of successful health interventions for at-risk populations across a range of health issues, systematic research synthesis of the effectiveness of prior health communication approaches, and monitoring of health communication practices. In addition, the Center meets one of the “Healthy People 2010” goals of increasing the quality and years of healthy life. (Note: “Healthy People 2010” is a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services initiative that “comprises a set of health objectives for the Nation to achieve over the first decade of the new century.”)

Aims of the Center

- Advance basic theoretical understanding of health communication and marketing and its role in health behavior change, decision-making, and reactions to emergencies among people in diverse cultures, organizations, and policy contexts.
• Develop new understanding about the interrelationships between at-risk populations, communication strategies, messages, and behavior that can directly inform the design of health communication and marketing interventions.
• Build a knowledge base of comparative intervention approaches.
• Monitor existing health communication and marketing practices that may impede or improve health.
• Produce innovative, theoretically-driven, evidence-based health communication and social marketing interventions.
• Improve theory and practice of dissemination and translation of theory- and evidence-based interventions for different types of health-promoting organizations and diverse communities.
• Actively disseminate successful evidence-based interventions and public health practices.
• Support interdisciplinary collaborations resulting in new research proposals, innovative interventions, and significant advances in theory and methods.
• Host a website featuring a database of successful interventions, research on monitoring of existing health communication and marketing practices, notices of conferences and lecture series, and grant opportunities.
• Forge relationships with a wide range of organizations including the State Public Health Department, health and communication-related businesses, health delivery organizations, community-based organizations, and health-oriented foundations.

**CHCM Organizational Structure**

CHCM’s formal organizational structure consists of the Principal Investigator, Executive Committee, Scientific Advisory Board, External Advisory Board of Professionals, and a Research Affiliate Committee. Administratively, CHCM is managed by the Administrative Core Director, the Associate Director, and the Executive Committee.

The Administrative Core is responsible for program coordination, administration, monitoring and evaluation of CHCM. The management style and organizational structure focus attention on the role of health communication and marketing theories and methods, and enhance existing intervention research at UConn and collaborating institutions. The administrative core facilitates and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and individual initiative in a climate of productivity and creativity, and provides a nurturing environment for junior researchers and students. There are two external boards of advisors: one consists of professionals in health, communication, and technology from state, non-profit, and for-profit entities, and the other includes researchers from academic and consulting organizations.

**CHCM Executive Committee Members (located at UConn unless otherwise indicated):**

- Dr. Leslie Snyder, Director, CHCM; Professor, Communication Sciences
- Dr. Jeffrey Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention; Professor, Psychology
- Dr. Robert Broadhead, Professor, Sociology
- Dr. Pamela Erickson, Professor, Anthropology
- Dr. Blair Johnson, Professor, Psychology
- Dr. Seth Kalichman, Professor, Psychology
- Dr. Carolyn Lin, Professor, Communication Sciences
- Dr. Rafael Perez-Escamilla, Professor, Nutritional Sciences
- Dr. Jean Schensul, Senior Scientist, Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT

**CHCM Scientific Advisory Board Members:**

- Dr. Frank Biocca, Ameritech Professor, Telecom Inf Std MD Communication, Michigan State University
- Dr. Jane Brown, Professor, Journalism/Mass Communication, University of North Carolina
- Dr. Linda Degutis, Director, Yale Center for Public Health, Yale University
- Dr. William deJong, Coordinator of Doctoral Education, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Boston University
- Dr. Timothy Edgar, Graduate Program Director, Health Communications, Emerson College
- Dr. Robert Hornik, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Eileen Berlin Ray, Professor and Director, Communications Mgmt. Div., Cleveland State University
- Dr. Michael Slater, Professor, School of Communication, The Ohio State University
- Dr. William Smith, Director, Social Change Group, Academy for Educational Development
Dr. Kasisomayajula Viswanath, Associate Professor, Dana Farber Cancer Institute and School of Public Health, Harvard University

CHCM External Board of Professionals:
Mr. Danny Briere, President, MBlast & Telechoice
Ms. Deborah Crane, Community Programs Director, Generations Family Health Center, Inc.
Dr. J. Robert Galvin, Commissioner, State of Connecticut Department of Public Health
Mr. William Gerrish, Director, Office of Communications, State of CT Department of Public Health
Mr. Philip Swayze, Researcher and Writer (*HealthCare Directions*), BCBS of Rhode Island
Mr. Dwayne Proctor, Senior Communications Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Dr. Marion Ball, IBM – Global Leadership Initiative, Center for Healthcare Management
Mr. Glen Orkin, Motion, Inc.

The **Scientific Core** brings together a multi-disciplinary group of scholars in a structured way to advance theory and methods of research in health communication and marketing. The scientific core contributes to the field by identifying research priorities in the discipline, conducting original descriptive research to monitor the current state of research practice and disseminate successful interventions. This group explores ways in which to develop techniques to monitor the amount, approach, and substance of health communication by community-based and non-profit organizations, health delivery organizations and the world-wide web. The scientific core, comprised of senior investigators and specialists, is organized into six groups for addressing specific areas of concern: (1) Research Methods, (2) Meta-Analyses, (3) Behavior Change Theory and Message Design, (4) Information Technology, (5) Communication Strategy, and (6) At-Risk Populations and Health Care. Each group consists of researchers from a variety of disciplines, theoretical approaches, and health foci. Individuals in the groups are from UConn unless otherwise indicated.

**Research Methods Core Group:**
- K. Rivet Amico, Psychology, CHIP
- Dipak Dey, Professor and Chair, Statistics
- Pamela I. Erickson, Associate Professor, Anthropology
- David A. Kenny, Distinguished Professor, Psychology
- Leslie Snyder, CHCM Director and Professor, Communication Sciences

**Meta-Analysis Core Group:**
- Dipak Dey, Professor and Chair, Statistics
- Blair T. Johnson, Core Area Leader, Professor, Psychology
- Leslie B. Snyder, CHCM Director and Professor, Communication Sciences

**Behavior Change Theory and Message Design Core Group:**
- Jeffrey D. Fisher, Core Area Leader, CHIP Director, Professor, Psychology
- Ross Buck, Professor, Communication Sciences
- Michael M. Copenhaver, Assistant Professor, Allied Health Sciences
- Blair T. Johnson, Professor, Psychology
- Kerry L. Marsh, Associate Professor, Psychology & Greater Hartford Campus
- Leslie B. Snyder, CHCM Director and Professor, Communication Sciences

**Communication Strategy Core Group:**
- Leslie Snyder, Core Area Leader, Professor, Communication Sciences
- Thomas Babor, Professor and Chair, Community Medicine, UConn Medical Center
- Robert Broadhead, Professor, Sociology
- Seth C. Kalichman, Professor, Psychology
- Carolyn Lin, Professor, Communication Sciences
- Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Jean J. Schensul, Senior Scientist, Founding Director, Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT
- Narasimhan Srinivasan, Associate Professor, Marketing, School of Business
Art Vanlear, Associate Professor, Communication Sciences

At-Risk Populations and Health Care Core Group:

Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, Core Area Leader, Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences
Pamela I. Erickson, Associate Professor, Anthropology
Patricia J. Neafsey, Professor, Pharmacology, School of Nursing
Linda S. Pescatello, Professor, Kinesiology
Juan Salazar, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, UConn Medical Center
Jean J. Schensul, Senior Scientist and Founding Director, Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT
Eileen Storey, MD, MPH, Professor, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, UConn Medical Center

Information Technology Core Group:

Carolyn Lin, Core Area Leader, Professor, Communication Sciences
William D. Barta, Research Scientist, CHIP
Kirstie Cope-Farrar, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences
Thomas W. Miller, Professor, Psychiatry/College of Medicine, University of Kentucky
Patricia J. Neafsey, Professor, School of Nursing

The Research Affiliates of CHCM collaborate on research, attend talks and seminars, and respond to internal and external requests for proposals.

CHCM Research Affiliates (located at UConn unless otherwise indicated)

Dr. Tom Babor, Professor and Chair, Community Medicine, UCHC
Dr. William D. Barta, Associate Research Scientist, CHIP
Dr. Susan Beeman, Program Director, Center for Public Health & Health Policy
Dr. Robert Broadhead, Professor, Sociology
Dr. Ross Buck, Professor and Chair, Communication Sciences
Dr. Kirstie Cope-Farrar, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences
Dr. Deborah H. Comman, Associate Director, CHIP, Associate Research Scientist
Dr. Dipak Dey, Professor and Head, Statistics
Dr. Sarah Diamond, Research Associate, Institute for Community Research
Dr. Pamela Erickson, Professor, Department of Anthropology
Ms. Nilda Fernandez, Community Health, Family Social Work, School of Medicine, UCHC
Dr. Ann Ferris, Professor, Nutritional Sciences
Dr. Jeffrey Fisher, Director, CHIP, Professor, Psychology
Mr. William Gerrish, Director, Office of Communications, State of CT Department of Public Health
Dr. Douglas Hartman, Associate Professor, Juvenile/Health Literacy, Neag School of Education
Mr. Randall Hoyt, Assistant Professor, Visual Communication Design, School of Fine Arts
Dr. Blair Johnson, Professor, Psychology
Dr. Seth Kalichman, Professor, Psychology
Dr. David Kenny, Professor, Psychology
Dr. Jeffrey Kramer, Director, Center for Health Care and Insurance Studies, School of Business
Dr. Sheryl LaCoursiere, Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Nursing, Yale University
Dr. Anthony Lemieux, Assistant Professor, School of Natural and Social Sciences, SUNY/Purchase
Dr. Carolyn Lin, Professor, Communication Sciences
Dr. Kerry Marsh, Associate Professor, CHIP/Psychology
Dr. Deborah McDonald, Professor, School of Nursing
Dr. Thomas Miller, Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Kentucky
Dr. Patricia Neafsey, Professor, School of Nursing (Pharmacology)
Dr. Ann O’Connell, Associate Professor, Educational Psychology, Ohio State University
Dr. Rafael Perez-Escamilla, Professor, Nutritional Sciences
Dr. Linda Pescatello, Professor, Kinesiology
Dr. Geeta Pfau, Assistant Director, Health Services, Eastern Connecticut State University
CHCM Health Intervention Research in Progress

**Project 1:** “HIV/STI Prevention for Out-of-School Emerging Adults Using a Video Game” - Dr. Leslie Snyder, P.I., Drs. Bill Barta, Kirstie Cope-Farrar, & Carolyn Lin, Co-PIs

This research project is designed to create and test the efficacy of an interactive video game to promote safer sex among urban 18- to 26-year-olds. This age group is of particular importance as they have the highest incidence of unprotected sex and very high rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

**Project Progress for FY09:** Because the video game is still under development, the contract with the video game developer was renewed in April of this year. Deliverables received from the developer this year include drafts of the game script, drawings of the major and minor characters, a revised design document, and three portions of different scenes that are playable. Research during this period focused on pretesting each of these elements with members of the target audience. The research team also drafted the clinic visit portion of the game and had it reviewed by an STI expert at the CDC. And they drafted the questionnaire that will be used in the evaluation portion of the research. In light of the delays in the project, they decided to negotiate with an Internet survey company to collect data for the evaluation of game effectiveness.

**Goals for FY10:** In order to complete the video game intervention and evaluate its effectiveness, Dr. Snyder will be asking for a second no-cost extension for the games project. The research team should be receiving the initial draft of the entire game shortly and will provide feedback to the developer. After the game developer produces the final version of the game, they will conduct a randomized control trial of its impact on the target group. They are in the process of finalizing the questionnaire for the trial, and will soon submit it to the IRB for approval.

**Project 2:** “Place-Based Social Marketing to Prevent Party Drug Use Among Urban Youth” - Dr. Jean Schensul, PI, Dr. Sarah Diamond & Rey Bermudez, Co-PIs, Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT; Dr. Leslie Snyder, UConn, Co-PI.

This research project is designed to prevent an increase in substance use over time among urban youth aged 14-20 years who are non-users or low level users, by demonstrating the fun in attending substance-free events and by promoting and supporting substance-free group norms. The intervention consisted of (1) producing a series of live entertainment shows that incorporate critical components of urban youth culture to deliver drug prevention messages, (2) creating promotional materials that promote being substance-free and distributing them at the events, and (3) creating a CD-ROM with original music and spoken-word pieces written specifically for this project. The performances by local artists and visual art products, under the “Xperience” logo, contained messages about the risks of club drug use. The project trained the artists to incorporate research-based messages in their original work. In theory, the audience in attendance at one of these shows would be more likely to accept messages endorsed by local celebrities. At the same time, the project promotes local artists and culture, strengthens positive community ties, and reinforces substance-free norms. An additional project goal is to design a model for this type of intervention that can be conducted by community or municipal organizations in other cities. The intervention builds on ICR’s two-decade history of research and participatory intervention programming with urban adolescents and urban artists in an innovative way.

**Project Progress for FY09:** Since the last progress report, the research team trained an additional group of artists and production crew members, produced their third Xperience CD, and held a public performance which, like the other shows, had large attendance. The website was updated and the CD was made available for download on the website.
The project also distributed the CDs in-person to youth in different locations throughout Hartford. The training and dress rehearsal equivalent were again held at Mi Casa Family Services and Educational Center, Inc., a community agency in the south end of Hartford. Consistent with the team’s plan to increase the program’s sustainability, the Mi Casa youth program director requested that their staff liaison take on more responsibilities in helping to run the program at their agency. The partnership with Mi Casa has been valuable, and one which the research team is looking to sustain in future endeavors. The team collected quantitative evaluation data from the performers, production crew members, youth in attendance at the performances, and a group of control youth. They also conducted qualitative interviews with the youth involved in the program. They are currently analyzing the data and preparing publications. The qualitative data suggests that the program had positive effects on the youth who participated in the training on substance-use intentions, youth self esteem, multi-cultural understanding, enhanced leadership capacity, civic engagement and occupational outlook. Initial quantitative analysis suggest youth who participated in the program decreased intentions to use drugs in the future, and increased negative beliefs about drugs, compared to the control group. Some preliminary results were presented at a conference at the CDC in August of 2008, and an article about Xperience as a multi-level intervention was published.

Project Goals for FY10: The priorities for the remaining time on the grant are to analyze the data from the evaluation, submit publications to journals, and continue to explore avenues for additional funding.

Grant Supplement: “The Distribution and Effects of Personal Public Service Announcements to Promote HIV Testing,” Leslie Snyder, UConn, PI.

In September, 2008, Dr. Snyder received a supplement to the Center grant to study the effectiveness of short video messages (also called personal public service announcements) that promote HIV testing among young adults. E-health interventions using cell phones and e-mails are seen as a promising new intervention area, but there is little empirical evidence about their effectiveness (Kahur, 2008). The grant takes advantage of HIV testing promotion messages created by young people for another project to study reactions to the videos and the natural distribution of short videos via new communication technologies through peer networks. The objectives are to:

1) Examine reactions to being sent the peer-produced HIV testing messages by known peers, including memorability, knowledge of the information in the message, willingness to share the messages with others, and potential behavioral impact of the messages.

2) Understand the diffusion of short, peer-produced video messages among peers.

University of Georgia (UGa), under Dr. Vicki Friemuth, is a collaborator on the research. UGa received a sister grant to examine differences between the messages and initial reactions to them.

Project Progress for FY09: The first task was to flesh out the design for the study, and the research team decided to conduct two studies. The first, as outlined in the proposal to CDC, called for UGa to “seed” the messages with youth in person, by showing them the messages on a phone during a mall intercept interview, soliciting their reactions to the messages, and asking them to pass the video messages along to at least two friends. The research team refers to the initial research participants as the first generation. The team then followed up with telephone interviews to the participants’ friends (the second generation) who had, in principle, received a video message, asking their reactions to the videos and whether (and to whom) they sent the messages. The sample for the first study is called the community sample. The second study was conducted with college students at both UConn and UGa, using e-mail distribution of links to the videos, rather than phone distribution. Again, the team was prepared to follow-up with the second generation who were sent links to the videos by their friends in the first generation. For the college students, the team conducted an experiment testing features of the message by creating four message conditions plus a control condition. In this year, the team received IRB approval for the studies, designed the survey instruments for both the community and college samples and for each generation of respondents, and modified the videos for ease of use with each format (decreasing size of the videos for use across phone services and creation of special web pages for viewing the videos via a web link). They also created the experimental versions of the videos for the college sample. They hired a contractor to conduct the phone interviews, after receiving notification that the Center for Survey Research and Analysis would be closing and therefore would no longer be able to do the study. The data for both the community and college studies were collected in April and May, 2009.

Project Goals for FY10: The next steps are to clean the datasets, conduct analyses, and write up the results. The team will need to prepare a final report for the CDC. They are scheduled to present the findings at a national CDC-sponsored conference in August.
**Other Research in Progress**

- **Meta-analysis of health interventions that use tailoring.** Tailoring involves soliciting information from each individual and then providing each person with specific messages matched to his/her answers. The results are being written up for publication, and they have been presented at several conferences.

- **Meta-analyses of nutrition education and communication interventions.** A paper has been drafted, and the results were presented at several conferences.

- **Meta-analyses of HIV media campaigns.** A paper is under revision for the *American Journal of Public Health*, and the results have been presented at several conferences.

- **Monitoring advertisements of unhealthy products.** Using a commercial database, a team at CHCM has been examining the amount of advertising for healthy and unhealthy products. The data have been coded, and analysis is underway. In addition, the team submitted a grant to NCI to study the effects of advertisements about food on children and adolescent consumption patterns.

- **Monitoring of public service announcements.** The goal of this project is to describe public service announcements aired since 2001. Members of CHCM published a paper this year on how PSAs are treated on national television, including the quantity of PSAs, the hours they air, and the types of programming they appear on. For the second project in this research line, the research team coded the specific health topic of the PSAs, and is writing up a paper comparing the relative emphasis of health topics to public health priorities. They are also writing up the third paper, which compares the number of PSAs promoting cancer prevention, detection, and treatment to public health data on cancer morbidity and mortality. Finally, they are in the process of coding the focus of cancer PSAs, with a goal of conducting a multi-level study of the effects of PSAs on cancer screening behaviors in the national population.

- **Monitoring alcohol advertisements.** In practice, alcohol advertisements often contain messages at the end exhorting viewers to drink responsibly. A team at CHCM conducted a study to examine the nature of responsibility messages contained in all televised national alcohol advertisements and public service announcements aired in 2007, and presented the results at a conference this year. Another study in this research program uses national survey data of adolescents from prior research, linked with Nielsen data provided by the Center for Alcohol Marketing and Youth and Virtual Media Resources (Natick, MA), to assess the effects of alcohol advertising exposure on youth.

- **Analysis of the health communication and marketing practices of all 50 state public health departments.** The goal of this project is to survey the health communication needs and practices at the state level. A team at CHCM have drafted a questionnaire based in part on qualitative interviews with public health officials in five states and had it reviewed by people at the CDC, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC). These organizations have all agreed to be co-signatories to a letter introducing the study. NPHIC has agreed to allow the team to email the questionnaire to their membership.

**Scholarly Activity and Accomplishments**

In FY09, CHCM Principal Investigators and Research Affiliates:

- Published 4 books, 1 edited book, 6 book chapters, 14 journal articles, and 6 conference proceedings.
- Presented 23 invited scholarly colloquia, presentations, or symposia.
- Served as invited consultant on 3 occasions.

**Internal Grant Competition**

- Ofer Harel, Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics, was awarded a summer stipend by CHIP and CHCM for the summer of 2008 for his proposal entitled, “Dealing with Missing Data in HIV Prevention Trials.” He used the funding to write a grant proposal for a K-Award, which he submitted to NIH on 1/7/09. It is currently being reviewed.
• Pamela Erickson, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, continues her work on her internal grant-funded project entitled, “Social Context of Sexual Behavior among Emergent Adults.” She was awarded $15,000 for this project.

Other CHCM Activities and Progress

• Provided funding for 7 graduate students in the summer, fall, and spring of FY09: Nicole D’Alessandro, Andrea Fuohrel, Shu Li, Maxim Polonsky, Keith Richards, Rhonda Trust, and Tashonna Webster.
• Supported one post-doctoral fellow: Tania Huedo-Medina.
• Co-sponsored four lectures as part of the CHIP Lecture Series:
  ➢ Colin Poitras and David Bauman, “Working with the Media: Publicizing Your Research Results and Expertise” (October 2, 2008).
  ➢ Rajiv Kumar and Brad Weinberg, “Shape Up Rhode Island” (November 13, 2008).
  ➢ Jane Brown, “Growing up Sexually in a Mediated World” (April 16, 2009).
• Updated the Center’s website (http://www.chcm.uconn.edu).
• Submitted new research grants.

CHCM FY10 Objectives

• Conduct a survey on health communication and marketing practices in the 50 state public health departments.
• Submit articles on the meta-analyses of nutrition interventions, meta-analysis of tailored interventions, and projects related to advertising and public service announcements.
• Project 1: Receive the video game from the developer, review the preliminary version, receive the beta version from the developer, and conduct the efficacy trial.
• Project 2: Finish data analysis, and write up the results for publication.
• Supplement: Clean the data, conduct the analysis, and write up the results for publication.
• Continue to seek interdisciplinary collaboration on new research projects.
• Submit additional grant proposals.

16. DISSEMINATION OF CHIP THEORY, INTERVENTIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY

In the past several years, CHIP has achieved tremendous success in disseminating cutting-edge, theory-based interventions developed by CHIP investigators to health organizations nationally and globally working in communities with high rates of HIV and other health concerns. Examples of these interventions include: (1) Options/Opciones, a healthcare provider-delivered HIV prevention intervention for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in clinical care, developed under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Fisher, Director of CHIP, (2) LifeWindows, a computer-delivered ART adherence support program for PLWHA in clinical care, also developed under the direction of Dr. Fisher, (3) Healthy Relationships, a multi-session, group-level HIV risk prevention intervention for PLWHA, developed by Dr. Seth Kalichman, Psychology, (4) NIA: A Program of Purpose, a video-based, motivational skills-building, small-group intervention for heterosexual African American men living in urban areas, also developed by Dr. Kalichman, (5) Peer-Driven Intervention (PDI) model of HIV risk prevention for intravenous drug users, developed by Dr. Robert Broadhead, Sociology, and (6) Preventing Medicine Conflicts, developed by Dr. Patricia Neafsey, School of Nursing.

CHIP Principal Investigators also have submitted new federal grant proposals this fiscal year for work which would include substantial dissemination components. Among those submissions are (1) grant proposals by Dr. Deborah Fein, Psychology, and Dr. Anjana Bhat, Physical Therapy, to develop intervention methods for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and to support the free, widespread distribution of those teaching materials to parents, and (2) a grant proposal submitted by Dr. Amy Gorin, Psychology, to develop a pediatrician- and community health counselor-based intervention targeting early childhood obesity in Hartford’s Latino population. Dr. Gorin’s intervention also would include the development of intervention training materials that would be disseminated to pediatricians and community health counselors in Hartford.
Note that in addition to these and other CHIP health behavior change interventions that are being disseminated, CHIP has established a Dissemination Theory and Practice Workgroup focused on contributing to the science of dissemination theory and practice. CHIP also is a part of the University of Connecticut’s application for a new clinical and translational science research institute. CHIP will be part of the Practice-Oriented Research Translation Core (PORT), which will play a significant role in disseminating clinical and behavioral science health care innovations and interventions throughout the region, the state, the nation, and internationally.

**Options/Opciones Project**

Outreach efforts at CHIP and inquiries from health organizations around the world, as well as from industry, have led to important agreements in the United States and Africa to deploy the CHIP-developed Options/Opciones Project in locations where HIV infection is a serious threat to the population. Options is a theory-based, healthcare provider-delivered, HIV risk reduction intervention for HIV-positive patients, developed by a team under the direction of CHIP Director, Jeffrey D. Fisher, and originally funded by an R01 grant from NIMH. The Options intervention was designed to be readily adopted by public health clinics serving communities with high rates of HIV.

Options is an important innovation in that the majority of HIV prevention efforts to date have focused on HIV prevention for individuals who are not infected with HIV. Options is directed to HIV-positive individuals who may transmit HIV infection to others in the absence of effective prevention interventions. Published manuscripts that describe the original Options Project can be found in JAIDS:


With respect to the dissemination of Options, in July of 2003, CHIP Associate Director, Deborah H. Cornman began collaborating with the New York State Department of Health’s AIDS Institute on assessing the feasibility of translating Options into standard-of-care for HIV care clinics in the state of New York. Specifically, 3 HIV clinics in New York were selected in which to implement the Options intervention. A total of 423 patients were enrolled in this demonstration project across the 3 sites, and over 30 clinicians were trained in the intervention. Findings confirmed that Options was feasible to implement in clinic settings as part of primary HIV care, that it was acceptable to patients and clinic staff, and that it was implemented with fidelity. More importantly, over time, there was a significant reduction in the number of unprotected sexual events among PLWHA as well as in the number of HIV-negative and unknown status partners with whom PLWHA had unprotected sex.

Based on these findings, the New York AIDS Institute contracted with CHIP to provide training to 11 additional clinics (over 100 healthcare providers) throughout the state of New York. In addition, CHIP provided Options training to the Substance Abuse Learning Network, which is made up of 17 different clinics and community-based organizations; a total of 52 participants participated in that training. The New York State Department of Health is now requiring that all HIV care facilities that receive Ryan White funding provide risk reduction counseling to their HIV-infected patients, and Options is being recommended as the intervention of choice. This $712,000 project was conducted under the direction of Dr. Cornman who served as PI. Other staff members from CHIP who worked on this project include Sarah Christie (Project Manager), Lindsay Shepherd, Stacy Cruess, and K. Rivet Amico.

The Health Research Services Administration (HRSA) also was interested in evaluating the feasibility of integrating the Options intervention into routine HIV care for PLWHA, except on a national scale. Consequently, in September of 2005, HRSA awarded grants to 15 clinical care sites around the country to implement Options nationwide. These sites represented a diverse set of healthcare facilities that served large numbers of HIV-infected patients in both rural and urban settings. JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (a public health research and consulting firm) was hired to evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of implementing Options in these clinics and the fidelity with which providers implemented it. CHIP was awarded a 15-month contract (for $145,000) to provide training and technical assistance to the participating sites throughout the duration of the project. In January of 2006, each of these clinics sent a minimum of two clinicians to Washington, D.C. where they were trained in the Options intervention. Following the 2-day training, the clinicians returned to their facilities where they served as mentors and sometimes as trainers for their colleagues in the Options intervention. A booster training session was held in Washington, D.C. in June of 2006.
Concerned about the challenges of meeting the ever-growing demand for Options trainings, CHIP collaborated with MedCases, Inc. (a medical education e-learning company and ACCME-accredited provider of continuing medical education (CME)) on the development of a CME-accredited, Internet-based program to train physicians in the Options HIV risk reduction counseling approach. Funding for this endeavor was provided by an NIMH/SBIR new technologies grant that began in September of 2004. After developing 19 interactive online modules that incorporated over 220 minutes of expert video and video role plays, the online training program (www.optionstraining.org) was launched in February of 2006. Following a massive e-mail campaign to infectious disease physicians and internists nationwide, approximately 2100 individuals visited the site within a 10-month period. Over three-quarters (78%) of these visitors were from the U.S., but there were also individuals from 77 other countries who came to the site. Of those who visited the site, 347 physicians registered and participated in the online training. The local Principal Investigator for this project was Deborah H. Cornman, and $225,000 in funding was provided to CHIP to assist with this project. Sarah Christie also worked on this project.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) also expressed an interest in disseminating the Options intervention nationally and consequently provided CHIP with $350,000 (beginning in September of 2005) to develop a package of Options training and implementation materials. CHIP completed these materials during FY08. They include an implementation manual, an Options intervention manual, a risk reduction strategies manual, two train-the-trainer manuals, a training DVD, patient handouts, and a brochure. CDC is making these materials available for widespread use throughout the United States. Deborah H. Cornman directed this project. Other staff members from CHIP who worked on this project include Sarah Christie, Stacy Cruess, K. Rivet Amico, Lindsay Shepherd, and Caroline Redding.

In December of 2008, the CDC selected Options for inclusion in its 2008 Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions, designating it as one of the country’s top HIV/AIDS interventions. The CDC publishes the Compendium annually to highlight programs that have been scientifically proven to reduce HIV or STI-related risk behaviors or promote safer behaviors. The Compendium is a source of information that informs state and local HIV prevention programs about what works for preventing HIV infections and includes a total of 63 interventions. Options is the third CHIP intervention to be selected for inclusion in the CDC’s annual Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions.

Internationally, CHIP entered into a partnership in 2003 with McCord Hospital in Durban, South Africa to pilot a counselor-delivered version of Options with HIV-infected patients. That pilot project was completed, and the findings suggest that this HIV prevention intervention is feasible to implement with fidelity in the South African clinical care setting and is effective at reducing unprotected sexual behavior among PLWHA. A description of this study was recently published in JAIDS:


This pilot study led to a collaboration between CHIP and the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine in Durban, South Africa and to the funding two years ago of an NIMH R01 grant proposal to evaluate a counselor-delivered version of Options with PLWHA in 16 primary care sites throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. This $6.4 million project represents one of the first attempts to develop, implement, and rigorously evaluate an HIV prevention intervention for PLWHA on ARVs in the South African clinical care context.

As of May 2009, the South African version of the Options intervention is up and running at 12 of the 16 sites with a total of 1,186 patients currently enrolled in the study. Numerous CHIP staff are involved in this project including Jeffrey D. Fisher as the Principal Investigator; Deborah Cornman, William Fisher, and Paul Shuper as Co-Investigators; Sarah Christie as the project manager; Lindsay Shepherd as a research assistant; and Susan Kiene, who recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut.

Options is also in the process of being disseminated to all ARV clinics in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. A cluster randomized controlled trial is being used to assess the effectiveness of the intervention at reducing sexual
risk behavior among HIV-positive patients on ARVs. Professor Leikness Simbayi, who is the deputy executive
director and head of the Behavioural and Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Unit at the Human Sciences Research Council
(HSRC) of South Africa, is the Principal Investigator on the project. Jeffrey D. Fisher and Deborah H. Cormann are
Co-Investigators on the project. In February of 2008, Dr. Cormann traveled to Cape Town, South Africa to train the
trainers in the *Options* intervention.

Not only is *Options* being disseminated to South Africa, it is also being disseminated to Ethiopia, Mozambique, and
Uganda. Deborah Cormann is serving as PI on three projects that are being funded by PEPFAR. Dr. Cormann and her
CHIP-based team are collaborating with the Mozambique Armed Defense Forces (FADM), the Ugandan Peoples’
Defense Force (UPDF), the National Defense Forces of Ethiopia (NDFE), and the United States Department of
Defense to adapt *Options* for use with HIV-infected Mozambican, Ugandan and Ethiopian soldiers and spouses who
receive their HIV care at military hospitals. The project in Mozambique began in September of 2006, and then in
September of 2008, PEPFAR awarded Dr. Cormann additional funds to develop an *Options*-based intervention for
military hospitals in Ethiopia and Uganda. Caroline Redding is serving as the project manager and Beena Azeem is
the research assistant for all three projects.

*LifeWindows*

In 2003, CHIP was awarded an NIMH R01 grant to develop, implement, and evaluate a CD ROM-based adherence
support intervention for PLWHA in clinical care entitled, *LifeWindows*. This intervention assesses patients’
informational, motivational, and behavioral skills barriers to consistent ARV adherence and then provides them with
activities that are tailored to address their particular barriers. A total of 20 interactive activities were developed to
address diverse ARV adherence barriers. The *LifeWindows* project was implemented in 5 HIV care clinics in
Connecticut with 594 HIV+ patients randomly assigned to treatment or control versions of the software.
Cumulatively, participants completed a total of 3964 *LifeWindows* sessions over the course of their approximately 18
months of participation. *LifeWindows* sessions were yoked to one’s regularly scheduled HIV care visits. Analyses
indicated that perfect and optimal (>90%) ARV adherence were reported more in the treatment arm over time in
comparison to the control arm, for participants who attended care with a degree of regularity. For those with 6 or more
intervention sessions, self-reported adherence (perfect and optimal) increased over time in the treatment arm, but
decreased in the control arm. Results support the effectiveness of the *LifeWindows* software for those accessing care
with some degree of regularity.

In September of 2006, PEPFAR provided funding to Deborah H. Cormann, Ph.D. to translate this CD ROM-based
intervention into a person-delivered intervention for HIV-infected soldiers and spouses receiving their HIV care from
military hospitals in Uganda. CHIP is working in collaboration with the Uganda People’s Defense Forces (UPDF) on
the development and evaluation of this adherence intervention. As a first step in intervention development, CHIP
conducted formative research with hospital staff and patients to understand the dynamics of non-adherence among
Ugandan PLWHA, and to determine how best to translate *LifeWindows* into a person-delivered intervention that is
feasible to implement in the military hospital setting, that is acceptable to staff and patients, and that is effective at
assisting patients with their ARV adherence. Based on the findings from the formative research, a group-level
adherence support program was developed and is currently being implemented and evaluated in a military hospital in
Uganda and is in the process of being expanded to a second hospital. In September of 2008, PEPFAR awarded a new
grant to Dr. Cormann to develop, implement, and evaluate a *LifeWindows*-based intervention for PLWHA who attend
two military hospitals in Ethiopia. Additional staff members from CHIP who are working on this project include
Caroline Redding (project manager) and Beena Azeem (research assistant).

In April of this year, Rivet Amico, Ph.D. (Psychology) submitted a grant proposal to NIH to modify *LifeWindows* so
that it can be used by Ryan White case managers to support the ARV adherence of their HIV+ clients. If funded for
the requested amount, the grant would be for $999,869 over a period of 22 months.

Later this year, Jeffrey Fisher, Rivet Amico, Deborah Cormann, and Bill Fisher will be submitting an R01 grant to
develop a second version of *LifeWindows* that will be Internet-based and that patients can interact with without
needing the assistance of staff (i.e., “stand-alone”).

*Healthy Relationships*

*Healthy Relationships* is an intervention developed by Dr. Seth Kalichman, Professor of Psychology and CHIP
Principal Investigator, which is part of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Replicating Effective Programs (REP)
initiative. In FY05, following successful evaluation for inclusion in the REP program, *Healthy Relationships* moved
into the CDC’s DEBI program (Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions). The REP and DEBI initiatives are part of a CDC dissemination project that identifies HIV/AIDS prevention interventions that have demonstrated evidence of efficacy in the health behavior change literature. CDC then funds replication studies to verify the effectiveness across multiple sites. The REP/DEBI program takes interventions that have been demonstrated effective and packages them for distribution to health organizations nationwide. Thus far, hundreds of agencies in several states and U.S. territories, as well as in other countries, have been trained in and are implementing *Healthy Relationships*, making it one of the most widely disseminated HIV prevention interventions. *Healthy Relationships* is listed in CDC’s *2008 Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions*, in the Compendium’s Best-Evidence Interventions category.

**NIA: A Program of Purpose**

*NIA* is another intervention developed by Dr. Kalichman that CDC has included in its *2008 Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions*. *NIA* is a video-based, motivational, skills-building, small-group intervention, consisting of six to 10 participants per group. The intervention includes videos, movie clips, and discussion to educate men about HIV/AIDS and motivate behavior change. Facilitators discuss with participants ways to prevent HIV/AIDS and the pros and cons of condom use, and they teach participants problem-solving, safer sex, and decision-making skills. Facilitators also teach male condom use skills through demonstration, modeling, and practice using anatomical models, and they demonstrate and discuss female condoms. In addition, the intervention uses movie clips and discussion to teach personal risk reduction and sexual communication skills such as negotiating safer sex, sexual assertiveness, and risk refusal. An intervention package was developed with funding from the CDC’s Replicating Effective Programs (REP) initiative.

**Peer-Driven Intervention**

During the 1990s, Dr. Robert S. Broadhead, UConn Professor of Sociology and CHIP PI, along with Douglas D. Heckathorn, Professor of Sociology, Cornell University, pioneered the *Peer-Driven Intervention (PDI)* model to reduce the transmission of HIV among injection drug users (IDUs). The model, an alternative to traditional outreach models that rely on salaried outreach workers, instead uses active IDUs to educate their IDU-peers in a body of HIV prevention information and to recruit their peers to attend enhanced HIV prevention services, for which they earn nominal rewards. The effectiveness of the model was demonstrated from 1994-1998 in a field study in Eastern Connecticut, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) (R01 DA08014) (see Broadhead & Heckathorn et al. Public Health Reports 113, Supplement 1, 1998). Further development of the *PDI* model in a second field study, also sponsored by NIDA (R01 DA014691) is presently being conducted in Russia (see Broadhead and Volkanevsky et al., International Journal of Drug Policy 17 (5), 2006). In September 2004, Dr. Broadhead was awarded a 5-year Independent Scientist Award from NIDA to extend the development of the *PDI* model globally (K02 DA017615). Dr. Broadhead has been collaborating with researchers and public health organizations in Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, China, New Zealand, Ukraine, and the U.S. to implement an array of initiatives to further test, enhance and refine the *PDI* model. In particular, Dr. Broadhead just completed assisting the Ukraine HIV Alliance in Kiev to successfully pilot test *PDIs* in five city-sites. Within six months, the *PDIs* recruited 2,273 injection drug users. The baseline data conclusively shows that age is directly related to the likelihood of being infected; thus prevention efforts must make a concerted effort to reach younger IDUs. Also, women IDUs were found to be twice as likely to be HIV+ than their male counterparts, controlling for age. As a result of these findings, the Ukraine HIV Alliance is in the process of scaling up *PDIs* in 16 new city-sites, with support from the Global Fund. The results of the pilot *PDIs* were presented at the 5th European Conference on Clinical and Social Research on AIDS and Drugs in Lithuania and at the 20th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm in Bangkok, Thailand, both held in April 2009.

**Preventing Medicine Conflicts**

Dr. Patricia Neafsey, Professor of Nursing and CHIP PI, is currently working on a three-year $1,039,593 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to develop and test a computer intervention program aimed at improving medication adherence and blood pressure readings among older adults. This new computer program, *Personal Education Program-Next Generation (PEP-NG)*, is based on a computer-based intervention to reduce adverse self-medication practices in older adults with hypertension. To date, Dr Neafsey and her team have completed formative research with the target population, and have integrated feedback into the *PEP-NG* program. Additionally, formal usability testing has been conducted, as well as a beta test of the three-month intervention with participants at
three sites. Training materials, recruitment brochures, and protocol documents have all been designed, and the research efficacy study is currently underway. To date, they have recruited and trained APRNs at 10 practice sites and enrolled 264 older adults. Qualitative interviews are being conducted after participants complete their 4th visit. Ultimately, Dr. Neafsey plans to disseminate her intervention widely.

**New Grant Proposals Involving Dissemination**

**Dr. Deborah Fein**, Professor of Psychology and CHIP PI, has submitted a four-year NIH grant proposal (combined R21 and R33) focused on the development and dissemination of intervention materials for parents to use with their children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), particularly for use in low-resource communities. Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) have better outcomes if they obtain early and intensive intervention. In many regions within the U.S., especially low-resource communities, few interventions are available and the ones that are available are poor quality and not evidence-based. The aim of Dr. Fein’s team is to create a set of eight video programs that will deliver high quality instruction in basic principles and applications of behavior therapy for parents of young children with ASD, stressing positive behavior support and task analysis, with applications to core features of ASD such as social interaction and communication, as well as cognitive skills, play, toilet training, other activities of daily living, and managing interfering behaviors. Material will be presented in a clear and simple way, geared to parents who may have limited education or literacy and limited access to expert services for their children or supervision for themselves. Five foci are proposed: (1) caregivers suspecting an autism-related disorder in their child who have to wait a long time for a qualifying diagnosis, (2) caregivers with a diagnosed child waiting for early intervention to start, (3) caregivers wanting to supplement sparse early intervention, (4) health professionals (e.g., behavior analysts, early intervention providers, physicians, psychologists, speech/language therapists) who want to provide supplemental teaching materials to caregivers, and (5) caregivers who have little or no access to early intervention. In the U.S., consumers will primarily be from the first four groups, but Dr. Fein’s team anticipates developing versions of the DVD for use in developing countries where little or no intervention is available; they hope to reach a very wide population in these countries. The program is not meant to replace an intensive professional program, when such is available, but will provide caregivers tremendous leverage in promoting development and reducing interfering behavior, and give them tools for use in future situations.

**Dr. Anjana Bhat**, assistant Professor of Physical Therapy and CHIP PI, is Dr. Fein’s collaborator on the NIH grant proposals described above. Dr. Bhat also has submitted a four-year NIH grant proposal (combined R21 and R33) as Principal Investigator. The grants would involve piloting robot-child interactions as a novel intervention for children with autism to enhance their social, communication and motor skills. Once developed, the intervention will be disseminated broadly.

**Dr. Amy Gorin**, assistant Professor of Psychology and CHIP PI, has submitted a proposal for an NIH challenge grant to fund the development and dissemination of an intervention addressing obesity in Latino children in Hartford through a partnership between pediatricians and community health workers. The two-year grant would involve 150 children ages 2 to 4 who fall above the 85th percentile for Body Mass Index (BMI) for their age. With the grant, Dr. Gorin’s team will develop a standard treatment protocol based on best, evidence-based practices that pediatricians can use within three to five minutes during a patient’s routine office visit. Community health workers can then use the treatment protocol for follow-up with the child and his/her family in a home or community setting. Dr. Gorin currently has a related, large faculty grant, awarded in January 2009, which has allowed her research team to already conduct screenings for high risk behaviors related to childhood obesity with 250 children and their families in pediatric waiting rooms. The intervention involves collaboration with community partners Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and the Hispanic Health Council, and with CHIP affiliates Rafael Perez-Escamilla, Professor of Nutritional Sciences, and Stephanie Milan, assistant Professor of Psychology.

**Dissemination Theory and Practice Workgroup**

In FY07, several CHIP affiliates formed a small Dissemination Theory and Practice Workgroup, which could at some point grow into a broader-based CHIP interest group. The group is comprised of Dr. Jeffrey Fisher, Dr. Deborah Cornman, Dr. K. Rivet Amico, Dr. William Fisher, and CHIP graduate students Wynne Norton and Stephanie Chaudoir. Based on work done in the group, members of this team published two articles in peer-reviewed journals this year, both of which focus on advancing the science and practice of dissemination and implementation of HIV prevention interventions. Other research teams in CHIP (e.g., CHCM) and other CHIP investigators also have a focus on dissemination. Through the PORT core of the CICATS, in which CHIP will play a major role in disseminating UConn-developed, evidence-based intervention, innovation, and health practices in Connecticut and beyond, these
groups will work together to further the science and practice of dissemination. CHIP’s involvement in the PORT core to date have focused on helping to conceptualize and write the dissemination portion of the CTSA grant, and conducting a comprehensive inventory of UConn evidence-based interventions, innovations, and practices to identify those which are ready for dissemination. When the CTSA grant is funded, these efforts will intensify. Many of these activities are in conjunction with the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP) at the UCHC.

**CHIP Lecture Series**

CHIP and the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP) continued to co-sponsor several dissemination and implementation research-focused lectures this year. Presenters included Drs. Brian Mittman (VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System), Thomas Coates (University of California, Los Angeles), and David Chambers (National Institute of Mental Health).

17. **SELECTED CHIP SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Many scholarly publications were published and numerous presentations delivered by CHIP Principal Investigators and their students, CHIP research staff, and investigators receiving CHIP research development funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Articles are listed in alphabetical order by first author. CHIP investigators, CHIP affiliates, and CHIP research personnel are indicated in bold print. CHIP graduate students are indicated with “(g)” after their name. Principal Investigators included in this list are: K. Rivet Amico, William D. Barta, Thomas O. Blank, Robert S. Broadhead, Michael M. Copenhagen, Deborah H. Cornman, Dean G. Cruess, Pamela I. Erickson, Jeffrey D. Fisher, Amy Gorin, Blair T. Johnson, Seth C. Kalichman, William Kraemer, Carl Maresh, Kerry L. Marsh, Deborah McDonald, Patricia J. Neafsey, Crystal L. Park, Linda S. Pescatello, Leickness Simbayi, Merrill Singer, Leslie B. Snyder, Jaci VanHeest, and Jeff Volek (24 out of 31 PIs with active or submitted CHIP grants in FY09).

*Only publications and presentations by CHIP Principal Investigators and their immediate staff are included in this list. A list that included publications by all CHIP affiliates would be much longer.*

**Books**


**Books Edited**


**Book Chapters**


**Full-Length Articles in Refereed Journals**


outcomes in overweight and obese individuals with type 2 diabetes: Results from the Look AHEAD trial. *Archives of General Psychiatry,* 65, 1447-55.


Planas, J. (g) (in press). Hispanic nursing students' journey to success: A meta-synthesis. Journal of Nursing Education.


**Published Conference Proceedings**


Schierberl Scherr, A. (g), & Gorin, A. A. (2009, March). Marital functioning among overweight women seeking treatment for binge eating disorder. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, Quebec. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine, 37* (Supplement), S156.


**Conference Proceedings and Presentations (short paper, abstract, or poster)**


reduction counseling to PLHIV in clinical care in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa. Poster presented at XVII International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico.


Fuhrel-Forbis, A. (g), & Snyder, L. B. (2008, October). Looking at the big picture: Which types of cancers have greater presence in national public service announcements (PSAs) over time? Poster presented at 136th Annual Meeting of American Public Health Association, San Diego, California.


Pescatello, L. S. (2008). *The additive blood pressure lowering effects of intensity on postexercise hypotension; Vitamin D receptor genetic variants and the muscle size and strength response to resistance training; Correlates of endothelial function and the peak systolic blood pressure response to a graded maximal exercise test.* Paper presented at New England Chapter American College of Sports Medicine, Providence, RI.


Raftopoulos, I., & Gorin, A. A. (2008, June). *Patients with combined mood and eating disorders who had laparoscopic gastric bypass are more challenging postoperatively but can achieve comparable weight loss.* Paper presented at annual meeting of American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, Washington, DC.


Invited Scholarly Colloquia, Presentations, or Symposia


Fisher, J. D. (2009, February). The IMB model, positive prevention, and adherence. Invited presentation at Department of International Community Health, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.


Fisher, J. D. (2009, March). The IMB model, positive prevention, and adherence. Invited presentation at the School of Public Health, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel.


Fisher, J. D. (2009, April). The IMB model, positive prevention, and adherence. Invited presentation at Department of Infectious Diseases, Amsterdam Health Services, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.


Gorin, A. A., (2009, March). Preventing and treating obesity: Opportunities for intervention within the home microenvironment. Invited colloquium address at Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT.

diabetes. Invited presentation at American Psychiatric Association’s meeting of the DSM Eating Disorders Workgroup, Washington, D.C.


Park, C. L. (March, 2009). Stress, coping, and meaning research: Applications to cancer survivorship. Invited presentation at Psycho-Oncology Group, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY.


Pescatello, L. S. (2008). What we are learning about exercise, genes and blood pressure; ACSM position stands: Past, present and future. Clinical Exercise Physiology Table Mentor & Host at Exercise Genomics in the Practice of Preventive Medicine: American College of Sports Medicine, Indianapolis, IN.


18. CHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REORGANIZATION

Two CHIP administrative employees resigned at the end of FY08 to take better-paying positions in the federal government and in private industry, so the Center had two critical positions vacant at the beginning of FY09. Therefore, two recruitment searches were initiated and conducted, involving a Business Manager and a Computer Technical Support Technician II position. Jonathan Gill was hired June 30, 2008 as a Computer Technical Support Technician II (CHIP IT Manager). The search for a Business Manager was voluntarily eliminated by the CHIP Director due to the University’s fiscal crisis, which prompted a reorganization of the CHIP Business Unit. The duties and responsibilities of the Business Manager were assumed by existing staff members. Vasinee Long assumed the grants and contracts management component of the Business Manager’s position which resulted in Vasinee’s reclassification from a Financial Assistant II to a Grants and Contracts Specialist. Concurrently, Susan Hoge began managing and directing the CHIP Business Unit as well as continuing with her Human Resources management responsibilities. Consequently, Susan was reclassified to an Administrative Manager I. Another change was the reclassification of the Program Assistant I position to a Program Assistant II position. After an extensive search for a Program Assistant II, Rebecca Orteinez was hired on November 12, 2008. During FY09, the CHIP Business Unit thus
consisted of Susan Hoge, Administrative Manager I (100% FTE), Vasinee Long, Grants and Contracts Specialist (100% FTE); Melissa Stone, Administrative Services Specialist II (100% FTE); Sarah Bothell, Administrative Services Specialist II (100% FTE); Rebecca Ortez, Program Assistant II (67% FTE); Jonathan Gill, Computer Technical Support Consultant II (70% FTE); Stacey Leeds, Administrative Specialist (35% FTE); and Beth Krane, University Dissemination Specialist (40% FTE). The CHIP administrative staff has developed into a highly competent administrative team that has vast experience with and expertise in organizational, operational, and grants management. And in order to ensure that there is not a gap in services, there is a minimum of 2 staff members trained in each of the various administrative tasks and responsibilities. The CHIP administrative team is thus able to provide critical and extensive administrative support to CHIP researchers, staff, and graduate students in a timely manner. In FY09, this team administratively supported Principal Investigators and researchers affiliated with CHIP in business operations involving $49.7 million in active grants (43 grants) and $37.4 million in submitted grants (62 grants). Sustaining this huge volume, especially in newly submitted grants, has at times been very difficult due to the voluntary elimination of one of our long-held administrative positions to help address the University’s financial crisis, but everyone has worked very hard to fill the gaps.

A list of current administrative roles within CHIP and the people associated with each of them is included as Appendix I on page 110, and the CHIP Organizational Chart is shown in Appendix J on page 111.

19. CHIP PHYSICAL FACILITY UPDATE

Central to CHIP's impressive growth is the CHIP research facility at 2006 Hillside Road on the Storrs campus. Since taking occupancy of the facility in March 2003 and its renovated second floor in July 2007, CHIP investigators and administrative staff have worked to establish it as a highly productive site for multidisciplinary, collaborative research in health behavior change. The resulting dramatic growth over the past few years has shown convincingly that having the ability to house investigators from multiple disciplines and their research teams in a single site greatly facilitates the evolution and the conduct of collaborative multi- and interdisciplinary research. Since moving into the facility six years ago, CHIP investigators have competed successfully for $52.2 million in total costs in new grants.

The current CHIP research facility has office space for 20 faculty, Ph.D.s, and post-docs, 10 research associates, 8 Center staff, 26 graduate student researchers, and 5 student workers who represent a variety of key disciplines, the vast majority of whom are funded by external grants. At CHIP, affiliated faculty, post-docs, graduate students, undergraduate students, CHIP staff members and project-related support staff are accommodated, and have access to critical research space. Often, CHIP-affiliated faculty is housed with their graduate students and grant-funded staff to conduct their research as a unit. In the CHIP research facility, faculty, post-docs, and students from Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutritional Sciences, Communication Sciences, Allied Health, and related fields work together on research projects, and apply for additional funding together. This includes many of the most productive researchers at the University, several of whom have consistently had external funding in excess of one million dollars per year. This enhanced multidisciplinary environment has vast benefits for UConn, resulting in improved research and additional funding opportunities, as well as unique opportunities for mentoring students and junior faculty.

A very substantial amount of funded research is conducted in the CHIP research facility, which has ten small interview cubicles for conducting research, a focus group room with 10 large overstuffed chairs to create a relaxing environment for participants, four meeting and presentation rooms that can also be used for research, and a small library for CHIP’s health behavior change resources. The main first floor conference room where meetings and presentations are held is outfitted with multimedia presentation capability. On the second floor, there is a large University-operated, long-distance learning media classroom that can house about 60 people for the CHIP lecture series, and which can also be reserved for large research projects. CHIP is in the process of developing a new Virtual Reality Laboratory (described in detail below), which is being used on a new NIMH-funded project, and by other CHIP affiliates, and which will become a major resource for the University.

20. CHIP ONGOING TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

Advanced technology for health behavior research at CHIP is being pursued in six interrelated IT initiatives. Progress in many of these domains has been significant. The six initiatives comprise the following:

1) Creation of multimedia production capability at CHIP to advance sophisticated use of visual media and information technology in health behavior change intervention and prevention research.
2) Development of **webcasting and videoconferencing capability at CHIP** to enhance health behavior change research development and the dissemination of the lectures from the *CHIP Lecture Series*.

3) Development of **electronic questionnaire, web-based survey capabilities, and interactive voice response (IVR) data collection capabilities**.

4) Creation of a **CHIP Digital Library** to make the *CHIP Lecture Series* and scholarship tools developed at CHIP available to CHIP investigators and others, nationally and internationally.

5) Development of **server virtualization technologies at CHIP** to foster IT-driven research initiatives with grant specific IT service offerings.

6) Development of **immersive virtual technology** expertise for advancement of health behavior change research.

As noted above, the CHIP Virtual Reality Lab can become an important resource for the entire University. It has already spawned several new CHIP grant proposals that would not have been possible without it, one of which has been funded for several million dollars.

*See Section 21 (“CHIP Virtual Reality Lab”) on page 80 for information about virtual technology.*

Each of these initiatives has great potential to enhance multidisciplinary research development among CHIP investigators and to attract substantial external research funds.

**Use of Multimedia for Intervention Development**

CHIP has a history of using cutting-edge media in research to deliver health behavior change interventions to targeted populations. Use of high-quality visual media (video and computer-interactive formats) in empirically-validated, theory-based health behavior change interventions has been shown both to increase the effectiveness of intervention delivery and reduce the cost of disseminating interventions in community settings. NIH and other funders have a strong interest in funding projects that employ new media to enhance the reach, impact, and cost effectiveness of health behavior change interventions among at-risk populations, and NIH, specifically, has indicated that they would like to promote CHIP as a center with key expertise in this area.

CHIP currently has four large-funded grants that employ interactive multimedia and/or innovative communication technology to deliver health behavior change interventions to high risk audiences, and several additional grants were recently submitted that will employ this type of technology. CHIP has worked closely with research staff to provide technical support in the development, testing, and implementation phases of all of these ongoing projects. The four projects that are currently funded include:

- **“Changing ART Adherence Behavior”** – This 6-year NIMH-funded project involves the development, implementation, and evaluation of a computer software program that assists HIV+ patients in clinical care with their adherence to their antiretroviral medications. Principal Investigator: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D. (Psychology).

- **“Reducing Adverse Self-Medication Behaviors in Older Adults”** – This 5-year NIH-funded project involves the development, implementation, and evaluation of a computer-based intervention aimed at improving medication adherence and blood pressure readings among older adults. Principal Investigator: Patricia Neafsey, Ph.D. (Nursing/Pharmacology).

- **“HIV/STI Prevention for Out-of-School Emerging Adults Using a Video Game”** - This 4-year CDC-funded research project is designed to create and test the efficacy of an interactive video game to promote safer sex among urban 18-26 year olds. Principal Investigator: Leslie Snyder, Ph.D. (Communication Sciences).

- **“Implicit Attitudes and HIV Risk Behavior in Virtual Environments”** – This is a 5-year NIH-funded project that uses Immersive Virtual Reality (VR) technology to assess attitudes towards condoms and sex, as well as risky behavior in sexual contexts. This grant involves a series of experiments in which participants will be put into virtual environments, and various aspects of the environment (e.g., cues for riskiness, impulsivity, and even motivation of the “partner”) will be carefully manipulated to examine the link between emotion-based attitudes (“implicit attitudes”) and behaviors. Principal Investigator: Kerry Marsh, Ph.D. (Psychology).

An example of a grant that was recently submitted that proposes to use sophisticated computer technology is Carolyn Lin’s (Communication Sciences) proposal entitled, “A Social Drinking Journey via a Virtual Reality Game.” This grant, which was submitted to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will use virtual reality (VR) technology to deliver a campus-based interactive alcohol-education program.
Webcasting and Videoconferencing

In the past few years, CHIP has made a substantial investment in developing the capacity for webcasting and videoconferencing at the Center, which was further enhanced with the addition of the large University-operated multimedia conference/classroom that is part of the new second floor space. Webcasting is the use of the Internet to deliver video-based content to individuals at remote workstations anywhere in the world. CHIP continues to broadcast its biweekly lecture series online, and has increased the size of the viewing audience by offering the videos in various formats for both PC and Mac users. CHIP will continue to explore new methods to broadcast its lectures online.

Videoconferencing utilizes network communications to provide the ability for live interactive communication between users at remote sites that have similar equipment. Meetings at CHIP are now frequently videoconferenced to include colleagues at other locations. In addition, we have frequently utilized our videoconferencing equipment to broadcast our lecture series to UCHC, the Connecticut State Department of Public Health, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University. The utilization of videoconferencing equipment has continued to expand over the past year to include conferences held with the UMass Lowell campus for the CPH-NEW Advisory Committee.

An increasing number of large, externally-funded projects at CHIP are now international in scope. These involve frequent contact with research collaborators and clinical sites across the globe, now conducted by phone or SKYPE. In the future, we expect our videoconferencing capacity to allow us to reduce travel and permit rapid and effective communication and decision-making among individuals at three or more sites simultaneously. There is also a tremendous need for the dissemination of breaking research findings and providing training to health providers at remote international sites, such as with our clinical partners in South Africa, which can be facilitated through the use of this equipment. With the videoconferencing classroom on the second floor, CHIP has increased its capacity to hold large conferences with multiple international sites simultaneously. Overall, we believe that investments in these technologies have enhanced and will continue to enhance existing CHIP research programs and dissemination of theory-based interventions developed at CHIP, as well as support new, original research.

Electronic Questionnaires, Web-Based Survey Capability, and Interactive Voice Response (IVR)

A number of CHIP investigators conduct survey research on health behavior change. One element of the CHIP technology initiative is to support CHIP investigators in the use of electronic, web-based, and interactive voice response survey capability. This approach allows automation of a number of survey functions including the streamlining of data collection and data entry. Custom forms may be designed within a given software package, and data collected can then be read via a scanner and transferred directly to a hard drive, eliminating manual data entry and greatly facilitating timely data collection and analysis. Verification and correction modules allow a researcher to clarify data and correct errors without manually entering data. CHIP has invested in an electronic survey program called eListen that allows users to easily create, deploy, collect, and analyze surveys via the Web, a local network, e-mail, or paper, among other options. eListen allows for flexible data collection and facilitates data analysis with its ability to export to Excel, Word, HTML, pdf formats, or statistical software such as SPSS. eListen also employs data encryption during the collection, transfer, and maintenance phases to ensure data confidentiality and privacy. We have tested the capability of integrating our webcasting capabilities with our existing electronic questionnaire system (eListen) in hopes of implementing online multimedia-based surveys in the future. In addition, Inquisit 3 by Millisecond software has been utilized to introduce text, picture, video, and sound stimuli into web-based surveys.

Currently, eListen is being used by multiple CHIP investigators and CHIP graduate students. For example, graduate student Rebecca Ferrer is using the eListen software to collect data over time on risky sexual behaviors among undergraduate students for her dissertation. David Portnoy used the eListen software to collect sensitive information on sexual risk behaviors among young adults, funded by a small University of Connecticut grant. Stephanie Chaudoir, CHIP graduate student, has used this software to examine the disclosure experiences and physical and psychological well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS. Overall, CHIP members have used eListen to facilitate the collection of sensitive yet groundbreaking data that may not otherwise be accessible without this innovative use of technology.

In addition to the eListen software, CHIP has also invested in telephone-based survey equipment to provide an even broader array of data collection options for CHIP researchers. CHIP currently operates software for Interactive Voice Response (IVR), a telephone-based survey that allows researchers to create pre-recorded voice prompts, which participants can answer by pressing the keypad on their phone, or they may also enter their own open-ended responses. The responses are then saved to a database where they can be analyzed. This technology increases the
efficiency of data collection for research participants and investigators. In FY09, the capacity of this system was doubled.

**CHIP Digital Library**

Over the years, CHIP researchers have published many articles, made numerous presentations, and developed many interventions, manuals, and measures related to health behavior and health behavior change. In addition, CHIP has sponsored bi-weekly talks by health behavior researchers from around the world. One of CHIP’s goals has been to provide easy and ongoing access to this wealth of information and resources. Basically, this is being accomplished by creating the equivalent of a “Digital Library” in which all of this information is being moved onto an electronically searchable medium that can be accessed by students, researchers, and collaborators. During FY09, CHIP made significant progress in the creation of its “Digital Library” through the following mechanisms:

- In terms of providing easy access to manuscripts, CHIP has worked closely with the UConn Library, which piloted and then established a resource known as the “DigitalCommons,” or the “knowledge repository.” This resource has enabled UConn researchers and authors to make available their manuscripts, presentations, and other works directly through this project at the UConn library, ensuring consistent access to these materials for anyone with an Internet connection. In the first year of the DigitalCommons project, two CHIP investigators (Jeffrey Fisher and Blair Johnson) were selected to participate in the project and have their publications made available electronically, thus facilitating the dissemination of their scholarly works. There were over 7,000 downloads occurring the first year alone. During the past few years the site was expanded to include other CHIP investigators. Publications posted on DigitalCommons in the CHIP community section have been downloaded 10,750 times, demonstrating that this program provides a useful access point for individuals who otherwise might not be able to acquire these scholarly materials. Since DigitalCommons was first created on the library website for those interested in CHIP resources, there has been a total of 29,323 downloads of CHIP materials. There is great capacity to expand this resource more widely within CHIP in the future.

- In addition to UConn Library’s DigitalCommons, CHIP utilizes the CHIP website to disseminate various materials. One section of the CHIP website is dedicated to “Intervention Resources;” it provides intervention curricula, training manuals, and measurement instruments that researchers, students, and community organizations can access and download nationally and internationally. In addition, under “Research” on the website, one can find PowerPoint slide presentations made by some of the CHIP PIs and affiliates.

- The website is also being used to provide people with access to the *CHIP Lecture Series*, which consists of presentations that are made by world-renowned experts in a variety of health-related fields. These lectures provide a forum for CHIP investigators, affiliates, and research staff to hear about new, cutting edge research in health promotion and disease prevention in the U.S. and around the world (see page 112). To ensure that these presentations reach as many people as possible, CHIP records each of the presentations on digital video and then uploads the video onto the CHIP website; CHIP has been doing this since the fall of 2004. Along with the videotaped presentation, CHIP also puts the accompanying PowerPoint slide presentation on the website. CHIP is exploring ways to synchronize the video and audio capabilities with the PowerPoint presentations on the website to allow users to view the video of the speaker at the same time as the slide presentation (i.e., the slides are automatically timed to the video), providing a full multimedia experience to individuals unable to attend the lectures or at sites far removed from the Storrs campus.

**Server Virtualization Technology at CHIP**

Within the past year, CHIP has made a substantial investment in virtualization technologies, specifically VMware's Virtual Infrastructure. With the purchase of multiple hosts and a centralized storage appliance, physical servers can be consolidated into a scalable infrastructure with high availability. Virtualization technology provides CHIP PIs with the opportunity to leverage cutting-edge information technology services to support research initiatives with tailored application servers.

The most beneficial component of virtualization is the reduction in physical server count, which lowers power consumption and cooling requirements. At present, the virtualization infrastructure hosts twelve virtual machines (servers) on two hosts, which represents an 83% reduction in physical servers. CHIP PI, Merrill Singer created a collaborative MediaWiki website for Syndemics, which normally would require the purchase of a physical server, but because of the virtualization technology available at CHIP, he is able to use a virtual machine to host his website at minimal cost. The CHIP Virtual Reality Lab also leverages this infrastructure to host a MediaWiki website for
internal development and a floating license server for their virtual reality software, enabling a small number of software licenses to be shared among many researchers both on and off campus. It is clear that with the cost savings, the environmentally friendly aspects, and the ease of implementation, that server virtualization is a valuable addition to CHIP’s current information technology services.

21. CHIP VIRTUAL REALITY LAB

The Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at the University of Connecticut has established hardware, software, and personnel capabilities to produce and support virtual reality (VR) research. These capabilities are currently being provided to the CHIP community of researchers to support ongoing research in health-related fields. Under the direction of a PI, the CHIP VR Lab creates content that the PI and his/her team can use to run experiments where participants are exposed to virtual environments. The behavior of the participants in these scenes are recorded and then used for statistical analysis to pursue the research aims of the PI.

Virtual reality has been demonstrated to be an effective tool for research at many Universities around the world. In the U.S., several institutions utilize VR to provide a rich medium for immersing subjects into rich environments for the purposes of testing their responses. This capability enables the researcher to place the participant in situations that would be cost prohibitive, dangerous, or even impossible in the real world. VR extends the reach of the researcher in a cost effective and repeatable way. The situations that are simulated can be repeated with great control over key variables.

**VR Equipment in the CHIP VR Lab**

The virtual reality production and experimentation equipment are housed in Room 203 (the CHIP VR Lab) of the J. Ray Ryan Building at UConn. The production equipment includes Dell dual processor workstations and a Dell M90 laptop for portable operation. The lab has two Cintiq 20WSX interactive pen displays and 3Dconnexion SpacePilot 3D controllers. These devices aid in rapid creation of 3D environments. The lab has a Panasonic Lumix digital camera for acquisition of imagery from actual locations to add to the realism of the simulations.

The equipment used for presenting VR scenarios immersively to human participants includes Head-Mounted Display devices (Z800 3D Visor) augmented with Polhemus Patriot motion tracking systems for tracking participant movement in a limited space, and an untethered optical motion tracking system using optical tracking (PPT, Precision Position Tracking system, including sensors and tracking cameras) suitable for tracking a participant walking in a large open space up to 20 feet square. Thus, participants can move through virtual environments in one of three ways: (1) using a joystick (roller ball) while seated at a computer, (2) walking around monitored by sensors that have cords, or (3) walking around monitored by an optical tracking system without cords. Hand movements and gestures can be tracked using 5DT data gloves available in the lab, or more crudely, using button presses on a joystick.

Production software available in the lab include five seats of Vizard, Vizard Virtual Reality Toolkit (Worldviz) including Complete Characters, Autodesk 3ds Max 2008, Mindjet MindManager, RealVIZ ImageModeler, Sony Media Collection (Vegas, DVD, ACID, SoundForge), Corel Draw, Poser, and Adobe Photoshop. Software/middleware currently being developed will output the actions that the participant made while in VR, and provide easy user interface for the researcher to dictate the behavior of the agent that the participant “interacts with,” such that at various branching points in a script, the agent can make various responses (verbal, nonverbal) depending on what the participant does or says.

**Current Projects**

A primary project currently in development in the CHIP VR Lab involves creating virtual environments for experiments proposed in a 5-year NIMH grant entitled, “Implicit Attitudes and HIV Risk Behavior in Virtual Environments” (funded beginning in 2008, PI: Kerry Marsh, Associate Professor of Psychology). Many health-related behaviors occur in the context of environments (physical and social) that can have substantial influence on whether we take actions that put our health at risk. Interpersonal interactions can have a substantial impact on whether our choices are based on impulse rather than reason, and various stimuli in our environments (alcohol cues, stimulus overload of loud music and other factors) can also determine whether our actions are impulse-based rather than more deliberative (thought-intensive) in nature. Studying precursors to risky behavior in interpersonal contexts—e.g., how one responds to overtures from a potential dating partner—in virtual environments allows us to carefully control the environmental and social contextual stimuli in that situation. Moreover, virtual reality has some unique properties that, paradoxically, allow for studying behavior in a more “real” way than can otherwise be studied looking at real...
behavior within experiments; it most fully preserves the “perception-action loop” that reflects how humans normally move in and see/experience a social/physical environment. The NIMH grant proposes a series of experiments to systematically manipulate various aspects of the environment, at the level of the individual, the social context, and physical environment, that might prime more impulsive behavior, and examine the link between emotion-based attitudes (“implicit attitudes”) and behaviors that result.

Deborah McDonald, CHIP Affiliate and Associate Professor in UConn’s School of Nursing is using applications produced at the CHIP VR Lab to study the effect of a Virtual Pain Communication Coach on older adults’ pain. Osteoarthritis afflicts approximately 27 million Americans, and is associated with debilitating pain. Person-to-person coaching before medical visits results in significant pain reduction for cancer patients, but is resource intensive. A virtual practitioner coach (i.e., computer-animated practitioner representation) provides a more feasible way to coach people with pain. The study is aimed at testing the piloted pain communication plus virtual practitioner coaching intervention with older adults for effects on: (1) communication of clinically relevant osteoarthritis pain information during health care visits, (2) practitioners’ pain management changes, and (3) older adults’ reports of reduced pain intensity, functional interference from the pain and depressive symptoms, and global improvement. The overall goal of the project is to provide a virtual practitioner coach that assists older adults to communicate important pain information, and obtain significant pain relief and improved quality of life.

Several other researchers have requested to use the lab for future research. The proposed research is in the areas of student health education and emergency preparedness.

CHIP VR Service Center

The CHIP VR Lab is currently in the process of applying to the University to become a fee-for-service center that provides VR services to the institution at large, as well as to other entities outside of the University. This proposal is to create a structure to operate the lab as a service center providing VR content production and access to VR equipment for research and training purposes.

The VR Service Center will provide the service of producing virtual reality applications for a fee. This will include meeting with the researcher to determine the best type of application based on their project needs. The staff of the VR Center will then produce a design document that will include a production schedule and implementation plan. Based on approval from the researcher, the staff will create the graphical content and the programming required to support the virtual environment. The staff will integrate these components into a working virtual reality application. The staff will also integrate any specific hardware needed for that particular application. The staff of the VR Center will then work with the researcher to test the application to ensure that it meets the project needs of the experiment. As a final step, the staff will produce a stand-alone executable of the research application that can run on the equipment in the lab or on external PCs, again based on the needs of the researcher.

The vision for the VR Center is to grow with usage to increase equipment, software, and staffing. The VR Center will bring an ever increasing capability to each researcher. The average researcher will not need expertise in the area of VR development but will come to the Center with a well-defined need. The personnel of the Center will work with the researcher to produce an application that provides them with a tool to reach their research goals. The underlining software development will be combined with existing libraries of software developed by the lab contributing to the overall capability of the Center. The CHIP VR Center will continue to provide cutting edge simulation capability to the research community.

The VR Center will provide the following services:

- **Training**
  The Center’s staff will provide training to the researcher and their designee(s) on how to use the VR application and equipment. This training will ensure that the researcher can operate any equipment needed and can access the data created during the trials as well.

- **Experiment Support**
  The VR Center staff will support the use of the VR equipment for running participants through experiments. This support will be provided at two basic levels. At the first level, the staff will set up the equipment and start the software ensuring that everything is properly calibrated and running smoothly. The researcher and/or their graduate students will then operate the equipment for the experiment. At the second level, the staff will actively operate the equipment throughout the experiment. At this second level, it will be necessary that the researcher provide supervision and management of the participants for the duration of the study.
**Unsupervised Equipment Usage**

In some cases, it will be appropriate for the researcher to operate the equipment on his/her own. They will be charged for the usage of the equipment only. Included in the cost for this service will be a recalibration fee for testing and calibration of the equipment after each use.

All of these developments of the VR Lab support the ongoing research goals of the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention.

### 22. NEW CHIP WEBSITE CAPABILITIES

CHIP is currently working with UConn’s Web Development Lab to redesign its website and make it easier to update regularly through the use of content management systems. The redesign is intended to increase the effectiveness of CHIP’s website as an internal and external communications and marketing tool, to expand the content that can be showcased on the site’s homepage, and to make the site easier for users to navigate.

Target audiences for the redesigned site include CHIP Principal Investigators, affiliates and staff; University administrators and other members of the UConn community; other researchers in the fields of health behavior and health behavior change at UConn and beyond, who may wish to affiliate and collaborate with CHIP on future research ventures; members of the public health community worldwide who utilize CHIP interventions; and members of the news media who may be in search of highly-regarded expert sources in the fields of health and human behavior or who may be interested in covering CHIP research findings.

Among the proposed design’s key features are:

- **A “New and Noteworthy” box**, which will link the main photos on the site’s homepage with relevant and timely CHIP news. The box will become a showcase for recent *Advance* articles, future e-newsletter articles and other news and announcements. About half a dozen articles will be highlighted at any one time, with the articles and associated pictures rotating automatically without a site user having to refresh the page. Site users also will be able use arrow keys to move forward and backward through the highlighted articles at their own speed.

- **A vertical menu of “roll-up” boxes** to the right of the “New and Noteworthy” box, which will provide additional space/organization for content on the homepage without sacrificing a clean design with ample open space. Among the categories that may have dedicated “roll-up” boxes would be “In the News,” which would showcase the latest outside news stories featuring CHIP research; “Events;” “Announcements;” “New Funding Opportunities;” “Grants Management;” “New Books/Publications;” and “Awards.”

- **New, easier to navigate headings** in the main horizontal menu bar, including “CHIP Business Office” and “CHIP VR Lab” links.

- **A second horizontal menu bar** at the bottom of the page **with login areas to access** two password-protected sites, “Administrative Login” and “IT Services.” For example, IT Director Jonathan Gill plans to create online IT help tickets that PIs, students, and staff can fill out online to request IT services; these tickets would be accessed and then tracked in the password-protected “IT Services” section of the website.

- **A new, more vivid color scheme for the site.**

### 23. MULTIDISCIPLINARY LECTURE SERIES

Since 2002, CHIP has organized a highly successful lecture series for the purpose of identifying and bringing together researchers from diverse academic fields with interests in health behavior change and health behavior change intervention research. The **CHIP Lecture Series** provides a forum for CHIP investigators, affiliates, and research staff to hear presentations about new work in development by leading national and international figures in health behavior intervention and prevention, and to become familiar with work conducted and published by others within the CHIP network as well as researchers at other nearby prestigious institutions. The series is well attended and is an invaluable forum for sharing late-breaking findings and trends in health behavior research. The series is planned and publicized by CHIP staff.

Publicity for the events includes posting the series on the CHIP website, sending out announcements through various listservs, and publishing it in the campus news and other venues. E-mail announcements are sent to current affiliates, prospective affiliates, and members of other research institutes, hospitals, health clinics, and community-based organizations in Connecticut to cast as wide a net as possible for persons interested in the lectures. For those who
respond by phone or e-mail to the announcement and/or who attend the lectures in person, CHIP follows up with additional contact, including invitations to events and meetings, so that CHIP members can connect with interested individuals to explore the potential for research collaboration. A number of new affiliates and contacts have been identified through this process.

In previous years, speakers were invited as part of two different lecture series, the CHIP Lecture Series and the International Lecture Series on HIV Intervention and Prevention and Medical Adherence to ART. In recent years, CHIP combined the two series by sponsoring both national and international expert speakers in its CHIP Lecture Series. (For a list of presentations during the current reporting year, see Appendix K on page 112.)

**Dissemination of the CHIP Lecture Series**

Since 2004, CHIP has made the CHIP Lecture Series presentations available on the CHIP website to allow researchers from remote locations, or those unable to attend the lecture, to have access to this valuable resource. Furthermore, since Spring of 2005, CHIP has videotaped its speakers and posted each video and the accompanying PowerPoint presentation on the CHIP website.

With completion of the second floor renovations and the availability of a long-distance classroom within the building that permits additional capabilities, we continued simulcasts (using videoconferencing) to the UConn Health Center and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale, and on occasion, to other sites. This allowed participants from these sites to view the speaker and presentation during the actual presentation as well as to ask questions. This virtual inclusion of a larger subset of our colleagues at each presentation greatly enhances the value and profile of the Lecture Series for the University of Connecticut.

**24. CHIP Community Involvement**

Through its health promotion intervention research trials in Connecticut, the U.S., and worldwide, and the dissemination of this work, CHIP research has helped to improve the health in communities across the globe. This work is described in detail elsewhere in this report and on the CHIP website, and includes interventions to prevent HIV in uninfected individuals, interventions to promote the health of HIV-infected individuals, interventions to promote weight loss, interventions to promote exercise, interventions to help families and individuals with Autism, and many additional evidence-based health promotion activities in other domains. The potential effect of work done at CHIP on communities near and far is enormous, with significant consequences for health, and in some cases, for life and death.

In addition to promoting multidisciplinary scholarly research that affects critical health outcomes and its dissemination which affects individual and community-level health, CHIP is also committed to being an active and involved member of the community in areas relevant to its mission. In the past year, CHIP has contributed to a number of community activities in the areas of HIV/AIDS. Examples involve several CHIP PhDs (Rivet Amico, Deborah Cormman, Jeff Fisher, and Bill Fisher) volunteering to travel to an urban site and a rural village in South Africa to help with adherence on a microbicide trial, where the results could make a critical difference in the fight against HIV. Seth Kalichman, a Psychology Professor and a CHIP PI, has donated the royalties from a recent book on AIDS denialism to the purchase of antiretroviral medications for individuals with HIV who cannot access them. Stephenie Chaudior, a CHIP graduate student in social psychology, volunteers regularly to assist individuals with HIV in Manchester, CT. Many other CHIP faculty and graduate students have performed similar work to help the community.

In addition, this year CHIP co-sponsored the “Siyazama Traditional Arts, Education, and AIDS in South Africa” exhibit that was held at The Institute for Community Research in Hartford. This activity involved research and community presentations, and community engagement. CHIP also cosponsored “AIDS Science Day” with CIRA at Yale. This involved presentations by both scientists and members of the community on HIV and its consequences, treatment, and prevention. We were also a partner in the “New Directions for New York: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drug Policy” conference held at The New York Academy of Medicine in New York City. At the very local level, CHIP presented an overview of its work on health promotion to students from Killingly High School for their course in “Exploration in Allied Health Careers.”
25. MEDIA OUTREACH

In recognition of the emphasis the University’s new academic plan places on public engagement, specifically its strategy of increasing the visibility and accessibility of faculty expertise, CHIP has expanded its outreach to local, state, national and international print and broadcast media in the past year.

- CHIP Principal Investigator Amy Gorin, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology who specializes in understanding social and environmental factors that contribute to the obesity epidemic, has had her research findings featured by a variety of state, national and international print and broadcast media outlets, including Reuters, MSNBC.com, the Boston Globe, SHAPE, Men’s Health, and WVTNBC-30. Of particular interest to the media within the past year, Dr. Gorin reported results from a study in which she found that one spouse’s participation in a behavioral weight loss program had a ripple effect, positively affecting the untreated spouse. Dr. Gorin also shared with the media results from a study which found that a structured weight loss program benefited diabetics with a history of binge-eating disorder.

- **Options/Opciones**, an HIV/AIDS prevention intervention which was developed by a team of CHIP researchers led by CHIP Director and Social Psychology Professor Jeffrey Fisher, was featured in The Day (New London) and the Manchester Journal-Inquirer following the intervention’s recognition by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). **Options** is a healthcare provider-delivered intervention aimed at helping HIV-positive individuals to reduce sexual risk behaviors that contribute to the spread of the disease. The CDC-selected **Options** as one of eight interventions being added this year to the 2008 Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions. The CDC publishes the Compendium annually to highlight programs that have been scientifically proven to reduce HIV or STI risk behaviors, or promote safer behaviors. The team of CHIP researchers that helped to develop, implement, and evaluate the **Options** intervention includes CHIP Associate Director and Principal Investigator Deborah Cormman; CHIP Principal Investigator K. Rivet Amico, an Assistant Research Professor in Psychology; CHIP Affiliate Dr. Gerry Friedland, a Professor and Infectious Disease Doctor at Yale University; and CHIP Affiliate William Fisher, a Professor at the University of Western Ontario.

- Sociology Professor Robert Broadhead and Assistant Professor of Allied Health Sciences Michael Copenhaver, both of whom are CHIP Principal Investigators specializing in HIV prevention with injection drug users, were quoted in The Day (New London) for an article about the impact of proposed state budget cuts on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services in Connecticut.

- CHIP Principal Investigator Kerry Marsh, an Associate Professor of Social Psychology, appeared on WNPR’s (CT public radio) Where We Live radio show to discuss her new federal grant to conduct virtual reality research into impulsive decision-making and sexual risk behaviors and to discuss the capabilities of CHIP’s new Virtual Reality Lab. Her WNPR appearance was timed with CHIP hosting an internationally known expert in the field of virtual reality research, Dr. Albert “Skip” Rizzo, as part of its Lecture Series. Dr. Marsh’s work and the capabilities of CHIP’s VR Lab also were featured in the Hartford Courant and the Waterbury Republican-American.

- CHIP Principal Investigator and Social Psychology Professor Seth Kalichman’s new book, Denying AIDS: Conspiracy Theories, Pseudoscience and Human Tragedy, was featured in the Hartford Courant. The popular press book is the first to offer an American perspective on AIDS denialists and their harmful influence on HIV-positive individuals and some of the countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Dr. Kalichman is donating all of the proceeds from Denying AIDS to the purchase of antiretroviral medications for people living with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

26. OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR NINE (FY10)

Looking ahead to the coming year, CHIP plans to continue to excel as an interdisciplinary research center. In its first eight years, CHIP has been highly successful in achieving and, in many areas, surpassing its stated objectives. We will be staying with our proven formula for promoting research excellence and external funding in the coming year as we pursue expanded multi- and interdisciplinary aims.

In addition to continuing to fulfill and build upon key aspects of its mission statement over the long-term, CHIP has several short-term foci for the coming year which have been approved by its Executive Committee. Key among our goals for Year Nine (FY10) are the following:
Research Objectives

1) Through our CHIP internal grants programs, mentoring, and technical support to PIs, we will continue to support the development of new, high quality, innovative, and timely proposals for externally-funded research through CHIP by individual researchers and teams.

2) CHIP will continue to be a worldwide leader and to foster new multidisciplinary work in the core problem area of HIV/AIDS.

3) CHIP will continue to deepen its focus on health behavior change in an array of critical health domains.

4) CHIP will continue to bring local and national researchers together on an ongoing basis from a wide range of health and social science disciplines for lectures, events, and meetings at CHIP to promote cutting-edge, multidisciplinary exchange.

5) CHIP will expand its technology capacity, and capitalize on new technology innovations, to efficiently link CHIP affiliates with resources at CHIP and to connect CHIP investigators with colleagues across the State of Connecticut and throughout the world for research collaboration in health behavior change.

6) CHIP will expand its work to improve translation and dissemination of behavior change research into clinical and community practice in the U.S. and internationally. Substantial future work in this domain will be done in conjunction with the CICATS.

7) CHIP will publicize its activities and its research.

Administrative Objectives

8) In FY10, the redesign of the CHIP website will be completed. Currently, CHIP is working with UConn’s Web Development Lab to redesign its website and make it easier to update regularly through the use of content management systems. The redesign is intended to increase the effectiveness of CHIP’s website as an internal and external communications and marketing tool, to expand the content that can be showcased on the site’s homepage, and to make the site easier for users to navigate. Once completed, the website will be updated and maintained on an ongoing basis.

9) By June 30 of 2010, CHIP will distribute a regular e-newsletter to keep affiliates and other target audiences apprised of CHIP’s latest research news and other developments in a timely manner. The e-newsletter will showcase CHIP research findings, newly funded research projects, and funding opportunities. It also will highlight affiliates’ new publications and awards, and introduce new CHIP PIs and affiliates to the community. The e-newsletter will begin as a quarterly publication with the possibility of increasing it to a monthly publication. CHIP’s redesigned website will include a section for the latest edition of the e-newsletter as well as an e-newsletter archive and a mechanism for subscribing to the e-newsletter. In addition, the e-newsletter will enhance the redesigned website’s effectiveness as a marketing and public relations tool by increasing traffic to the site.

10) CHIP will review the findings from a Sustainable Offices audit that was conducted at CHIP in FY09 by the Office of Environmental Policy and make changes to how CHIP functions so that it is more energy efficient and “green-friendly.” This audit was requested by CHIP to assess office practices with respect to reducing, reusing, and recycling materials as well as energy efficiency.

11) By December of 2009, all of CHIP’s operating and business procedures and guidelines will have been reviewed, revised, disseminated to staff and students, and posted on the CHIP website. This will include the establishment of new procedures for the use of CHIP conference rooms and interview rooms. All procedures and guidelines will be in accordance with UConn policies, and they will be reviewed on an annual basis and as needed.

12) The newly established Travel Safety Committee will finalize guidelines for maximizing the safety of all PIs and staff traveling to and working in international research settings. The guidelines will be published in a designated area on CHIP’s redesigned website.

13) A new Cost Savings Committee will be formalized to identify and recommend cost saving measures that can financially benefit CHIP and the University. Relevant procedures and guidelines will be created based on the Committee’s findings.
14) The CHIP Security Committee will continue to review all procedures for maintaining the security of the physical facility, its occupants, and its data semi-annually and as needed.

15) In the Spring of 2010, CHIP will successfully complete the University’s Academic Center/Institute Review Committee process for the Center’s recertification.

**Technology Objectives**

16) Pending the receipt of adequate funding, CHIP will implement a second Storage Area Network (SAN) appliance to supplement our existing SAN appliance, increasing the performance and redundancy of the entire virtualization infrastructure.

17) CHIP will expand its centralized backup infrastructure with a Storage Area Network (SAN) to provide operational backups, later saved on tape for offsite long-term archive.

18) CHIP will upgrade its virtualization infrastructure to enterprise-level operation. VMware’s VMotion technology will allow live virtual machine migration to another host in the cluster for host maintenance and/or hardware upgrades without interrupting service. Should one virtual server exceed the resources available on the host, VMware’s Distributed Resource Scheduling (DRS) will redistribute the load amongst the other hosts in the cluster in the background with minimal performance implications during the migration.

19) CHIP will continue to expand its Active Directory to all CHIP workstations and servers for a top-down approach to system management. Group policies will be deployed to secure systems and disable known vulnerabilities. A single username/password will be generated for all CHIP faculty, staff, affiliates, and students to access internal CHIP resources, enforcing homeland security best-practices for password expiration and complexity requirements.

20) CHIP will leverage its Active Directory to provide Microsoft Exchange services for CHIP faculty, staff, and graduate students. This service will offer new innovations for collaborating and exchanging data between CHIP investigators and colleagues throughout the world.

21) CHIP will deploy McAfee Endpoint Encryption and Symantec Endpoint Protection to all CHIP workstations and laptops. McAfee's Endpoint Encryption will guard against physical theft with a full-disk encryption, requiring pre-boot authentication. Symantec's Endpoint Protection provides virus, spam, and firewall services, supplementing existing systems to protect the integrity of our sensitive research data.
APPENDIX A: ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRANT DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHIP PIS

To: CHIP Principal Investigators
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Date: 10/22/08

Re: Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators (Individuals with external grants through CHIP or submitted through CHIP)

Established PIs with grants through CHIP may apply for funds to support new research development initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications to be submitted through CHIP in the areas of health behavior change and health risk prevention.

**Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria:**

- Scientific merit of the research plan based on internal and/or external reviews.
- Completed project’s likelihood to elicit external funding.
- Importance of the research question.
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially proposals testing new methodologies and/or theories in need of pilot data.
- Composition of the research team (preference will be given to interdisciplinary work).
- Relevance of the work to the mission of CHIP.
- Extent to which the project demonstrates collaboration with community-based organizations may be a plus.
- Priority will be given to Principal Investigators who have one or fewer CHIP internal grants project underway at a time.

Funds from previous CHIP grants should be expended and/or closed out.

In addition, we will also consider where the PI is in his/her funding cycle (e.g., at the start of a large grant vs. at the end), and the track record of the PI in realizing outcomes (e.g., external grants) from his or her previous CHIP internal grants. All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP.

**Guidelines for Submission for Research Investment Development Funds**

1. Applications must be for work that will assist markedly in the submission of new substantial, external grant applications, to be submitted through CHIP by a specified target date.

2. Applications should describe the scope of the work, its contribution to the field, and its potential interest to a particular funding agency. Applications should be modeled after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ PHS 398 ([http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html](http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html)) and include:
   - Face page.
   - Description of the work, performance sites, and key personnel.
   - Research grant table of contents.
   - Detailed budget (generally $15,000 or less).
   - Biographical sketch of the investigator and other key personnel.
   - Research plan (maximum 10 pages, which can be single-spaced, not including reference list)
     a. Specific aims.
     b. Background and significance.
     c. Research design/method/data analysis.
d. Explanation of how this research will be used to acquire external funding (e.g., type of award, funding agency), and why this preliminary research assists the investigator’s ability to receive external funding).

e. References.
  - Pending or approved protocol number from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and copy of IRB protocol and/or approval letter, when funds are awarded.
  - Appendices are neither required nor encouraged, and should not be used to circumvent the 10-page maximum.
  - Format: Times New Roman, font size 12, and 1-inch margins.

3. Include a line item budget for all costs involved, which should normally be for pilot research, staff, participant and travel costs, and costs associated with grant development and submission, and only infrequently for equipment.

4. Applications must be predominantly the work of the PI, and for the benefit of the PI’s own research program. Applications written primarily by graduate students or others in the PI’s name will not be considered.

5. Applications must be accompanied by a certification letter indicating that any external grant applications which derive from the seed grant research will be submitted through CHIP.

6. Send a brief letter of intent electronically by December 1, 2008, that includes an overview and estimated total project cost to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit final applications electronically by January 12, 2009 to Stacey Leeds.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this opportunity at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
APPENDIX B: ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHIP SEED GRANT COMPETITION FOR NEW INVESTIGATORS

To:CHIP Affiliates and CHCM Colleagues
From:Jeffrey D. Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Date:10/22/08

Re:CHIP “Seed Grant” Development Opportunities

The Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) will support new research development efforts and pilot work leading to future grant applications submitted through CHIP by the applicant. These grants are only open to CHIP Affiliates who have not previously received significant external funding in health behavior change. All grants funds must be expended within two years of the award date; unexpended funds will revert to CHIP.

Guidelines for Distribution of “Seed Grant” Funds

1. Applications for receipt of funds must be for work that will assist markedly in the submission of new, substantial, external grant applications by a specified target date and that will be submitted for external funding through CHIP.

2. Applications should describe the scope of the work, its contribution to the field, and the potential interest to a particular funding agency. Proposals should be modeled after the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ PHS 398 (http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html). Thus, proposals should include:
   - Face page
   - Description of the work, performance sites, and key personnel
   - Research grant table of contents
   - Detailed budget (less than $7,500).
   - Line item budget for all costs involved for pilot research, staff, participant and travel costs, and other costs associated with grant development and submission, and only infrequently for equipment.
   - Biographical sketch of the investigator and other key personnel
   - Research plan (maximum 10 pages, not including reference list)
     - Specific aims
     - Background and significance
     - Research design/method/data analysis
     - Explanation of how this research will be used to acquire external funding (e.g., type of award, funding agency) and why the preliminary research assists the PI’s ability to receive external funding.
   - References
   - Pending or approved protocol number from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and copy of IRB protocol and/or approval letter, when funds are awarded.
   - Appendices are discouraged, and should not be used to circumvent the 10-page description limit.
   - Format: Times New Roman, font size 12, can be single-spaced, and 1-inch margins.
   - Certification letter that any future external grant applications resulting from the pilot work will be submitted through CHIP

3. Applications must be predominantly the work of a Principal Investigator (PI), and for the benefit of the PI’s research program. Applications written primarily by graduate students or others in the PI’s name will not be considered.

4. Send a brief letter of intent electronically by December 1, 2008 with an overview of your project and a preliminary estimated total cost to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit final application electronically by January 12, 2009 to Stacey Leeds.

Funding will be awarded based on:

1. Scientific merit of the research plan.
2. Completed project’s likelihood to elicit external funding.
3. Importance of the research question.
4. Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially a proposal testing new methodologies and/or theories in need of pilot data.
5. Composition of the research team (e.g., cross-disciplinary).
6. Principal Investigator has one or fewer CHIP internal grants underway at the time. Funds from previous CHIP internal grants should be expended and/or closed out.
7. Relevance to the missions of CHIP.
8. Extent to which the project demonstrates collaboration with community-based organizations may be a plus.

CHIP projects may be in any area of health behavior or health behavior change.

Please contact Jeff at 860-486-4940 and jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
To: CHIP Affiliates and Colleagues
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Date: 10/22/08

Re: Pilot Projects for Graduate Students in Health Intervention and Prevention Research

Deadlines
Letter of Intent: December 1, 2008
Application: January 12, 2009

Purpose
To conduct preliminary research in any health area related to the overarching goals of CHIP/CHCM (i.e., to study the dynamics of health risk behavior and processes of health behavioral change in individuals and at-risk populations, or study the dynamics of health communication and marketing practices.) Priority is given to promising research likely to develop into a larger study and garner external funding (e.g., an NRSA proposal through NIMH).

Eligibility
Graduate students of CHIP Affiliates/or CHCM affiliates who are also CHIP affiliates are invited to apply. Students must be enrolled in a program leading to a research degree such as the Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut.

Allowable Costs
Funds may be used to support routine research-related expenses (but not the investigator’s salary) such as payment of participants, copying of research material (e.g., questionnaires, consent forms), specialized equipment (e.g., micro-cassette recorder/transcriber), or paying research assistants with specialized skills necessary for the proposed project (e.g., fluency in Spanish). Funds may not be used to support travel to conferences, routine office equipment (e.g., computers), or student tuition and/or fees.

Letter of Intent
Prior to submitting proposals, investigators should submit a letter of intent providing a descriptive title of the proposed project, a short abstract (maximum of 250 words), the research area (e.g., Nutrition, Communication, Psychology), an estimated total cost for the project, and the name, phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address of the student investigator proposing the work and his or her CHIP-affiliated sponsor. Furthermore, the letter should include a statement by the student’s adviser indicating that the advisor has read and approves of the proposal and will ensure high quality work by the student. Submit the letter of intent by the above date to Stacey Leeds at e.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Final proposals should be submitted by the above date to Stacey Leeds.

Guidelines for Submission
Proposals should be modeled after the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ PHS 398 (http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html). Proposals should include:

1. Face page.
2. Description of the work, performance sites, and key personnel.
3. Research grant table of contents.
4. Detailed budget (not to exceed $1,500).
5. Biographical sketch of the student and other key personnel.
6. Research plan (maximum 5 pages, not including reference list).
a. Specific aims.
b. Background and significance.
c. Research design/method/data analysis.
d. Information on how this research will ultimately be used to acquire external funding (e.g., type of award such as NRSA proposal, and why this preliminary research assists the investigator’s ability to receive external funding).
e. References.

7. Pending or approved protocol number from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and copy of IRB protocol and/or approval letter, when funds are awarded.

8. Format: Times New Roman or Courier, font size 12, can be single-spaced, and 1-inch margins, submitted electronically only.

Review Process

Graduate students who have not submitted proposals will be given an opportunity to participate in the review process. In this context, they will be mentored by faculty with prior reviewing experience. The review committee may be composed of the following individuals:

- Four CHIP graduate students (two with previous external grant funding and two without previous funding)
- Two CHIP-affiliated post doctorates
- Two CHIP PIs

Funding will be awarded based on:

1. Scientific merit of the research plan.
2. Completed project’s likelihood to elicit external funding.
3. Importance of the research question.
4. Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially proposals that test new methodologies and/or theories in need of pilot data.
5. Composition of the research team (e.g., interdisciplinary).
6. Relevance to the missions of CHIP/CHCM.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this opportunity at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Jeff Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Date: 10/22/08

Re: CHIP Grant Development Stipend Competition

CHIP would like to offer summer stipends to junior faculty who are CHIP affiliates to assist them with writing successful grant applications in health behavior change. We will seek applications from CHIP affiliated junior faculty to compete for the stipend. Applications should describe the focus of the grant application to be written, how it contributes to the literature, the type of grant (R21, R01), the agency, any funding mechanism under which the grant will be submitted. Applications should also specify, in some detail, the work you will do on the grant during the period covered by the CHIP stipend. Applications should contain, in brief form, the content of sections A-D of typical NIMH grant applications and should not exceed five single-spaced pages with NIMH margins. Evidence that the funding agency is interested in the area under study will be helpful.

Applications for this stipend will be reviewed by a CHIP internal grants committee, by NIMH grant review rules. We propose to fund two successful applicants for the 2009 summer, at $5000 each, to be paid to successful applicants as a stipend when the grant application is submitted to an external funding agency.

While the grant is being prepared, CHIP will mentor the grant writer and will also send the proposal, before it is submitted to the funder, for external review by the major experts in the field. We may also send the proposal to program officials at NIH for feedback. All feedback can be incorporated in the final external grant application.

Those selected for the CHIP Grant Development Stipend cannot do summer teaching in 2009 during the period of the stipend.

Send a brief letter of intent electronically by December 1, 2008 to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. The final application is due electronically by January 12, 2009 by midnight. Please include a current curriculum vitae and recommendation from a corresponding University department.

If you have questions regarding this opportunity, please contact Jeff Fisher at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
To: CHIP Affiliates  
From: Jeff Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention  
Date: 10/22/08  

Re: CHIP Conference Development Grant

CHIP requests proposals for conferences that could be convened for the purpose of stimulating innovative, multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaboration in research related to CHIP’s mission. Funds are available for one and possibly two small conferences this academic year to invite key national and international researchers to CHIP and the University of Connecticut to share recent work in new, under-explored areas, or at the intersection of disciplines. Conference topics and/or themes should lead to new, multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional project development, as well as to new scholarship in the area of health behavior change. Conferences should lead ultimately to new grant applications submitted through CHIP.

Guidelines for submission of conference development grants:

1. Applications for conference development funds should demonstrate how the conference may lead to significant new research collaboration and scholarship relevant to CHIP’s mission.

2. The topic of the conference, key participants and research questions to be explored, contribution of the meeting to field (or fields) of interest, scholarship goals, and potential for new collaborative endeavors should be described in the application. Proposals should be no more than ten pages, which can be single-spaced (not including references). Please indicate conference organizers, keynote speakers, number of invitees, anticipated attendance, prospective dates for the meeting, partnering institutions, and other funding sources being pursued.

3. There should be a line item budget for all costs involved, which should be for organizational costs, travel, and costs associated with conference planning, development, and implementation. Please note that preference will be given for funding proposals which involve cost sharing with other individuals or entities (i.e., CHIP pays only part of the cost of the conference, which has received commitments of support from others, as well.) Normally, CHIP’s contribution will be $2,500 or less.

4. Include with your proposal the names of two external reviewers (from outside University of Connecticut) and two internal reviewers (at University of Connecticut) whose expertise would be relevant to review your proposal. Only one internal reviewer may be affiliated with CHIP.

5. Send a brief letter of intent that includes a total cost estimate by December 1, 2008 to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit applications electronically to Stacey Leeds by January 12, 2009.

If you have questions regarding this opportunity, please contact me at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
To: CHIP Affiliates  
From: Jeff Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention  
Date: 10/22/08  

Re: Pre-Submission Grant Review (for individuals planning to submit external grants through CHIP)

I am pleased to announce an opportunity for research development support through CHIP. Investigators in the process of preparing grant proposals for submission to external funding agencies may apply to CHIP for an internal review by one or more experienced CHIP investigators prior to submission of the grant.

If CHIP does not have expertise “in house,” you may suggest experts who could provide a helpful review (e.g., former members of an NIMH review panel). CHIP will pay an honorarium to them for their review. This provides investigators with the opportunity to have their proposal reviewed by CHIP investigators or others with extensive experience in successful grant writing and grant review for federal agencies, or other large funding entities.

In addition to reviews of content, CHIP will also arrange for reviews of statistics or methodology if deemed critical to the success of a grant proposal.

Guidelines for application to CHIP for internal review of proposals:

1. Individuals wishing to apply for internal review of an external grant proposal should contact the Director of CHIP by letter or email at least 2 months prior to the submission date for the grant. This permits the Director time to select, notify, and obtain consent and a review from qualified reviewers.

   The letter should be accompanied by an abstract, and a brief description of the project that addresses the scope of the work, its anticipated contribution to the field, and its interest to a particular funding agency. The letter should also indicate key personnel and collaborators on the grant.

2. Proposals being submitted to CHIP for external review should be more or less completely written and in the final format required by the funding agency prior to CHIP sending them out for external review. Grants for external review should be sent at least a month before the submission deadline so the reviewer’s comments can be incorporated into the final grant application.

Please include with your request the names and contact information of two internal reviewers at CHIP and possibly two external reviewers (outside of CHIP) whose expertise would be relevant to review your proposal.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this opportunity at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
### Appendix G: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Dep</th>
<th>Total Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY09 Direct Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY09 F&amp;A Awarded</th>
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### Appendix G: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Dep</th>
<th>Total Costs Awarded All Years</th>
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**Note:** $0 (zero) refers to no cost extension

**Department:**
- AHS  Allied Health Sciences
- AN   Anthropology
- CH   CHIP
- CS   Communication Sciences
- FS   Family Studies
- K    Kinesiology
- N    Nursing
- PT   Physical Therapy
- PS   Political Science
- PSY  Psychology
- SO   Sociology
- ST   Statistics
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## Appendix H: CHIP Submitted Grants (July 1, 2008-May 12, 2009)

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<th>End Date</th>
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### Appendix H: CHIP Submitted Grants (July 1, 2008-May 12, 2009)

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<td>No. of Yrs in Project Period</td>
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<td>Investigation of Acute Exhaustive Endurance and Resistance Exercise on Thrombotic Markers in Resistance Trained and Sedentary Adults</td>
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**Department:**

- AHS  Allied Health Sciences
- AN   Anthropology
- CH   CHIP
- CS   Communication Sciences
- PSY  Psychology
- HDF  Human Development & Family Studies
- K    Kinesiology
- N    Nursing
- PS   Political Science
- PT   Physical Therapy
- SO   Sociology
- ST   Statistics

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### APPENDIX I: LIST OF ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function/Assignment</th>
<th>1st Staff Member</th>
<th>2nd Staff Member</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable/out-of-pocket reimbursements not to exceed $499</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grant Budgets/Expenses</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grant Pre-Submission/Applications</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference room and pod/key/equipment sign-out</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities – Report problems at CHIP</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell/ Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities – New space requirements</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Jeffrey Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Management (Pre-Award &amp; Post-Award)</td>
<td>Vasinee Long</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resources/Personnel (Faculty &amp; Staff)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory on Loan/ACT-40s</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Management/Support (IT purchasing)</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
<td>Keith Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keycards</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor/Union Relations (Staff &amp; Students)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Deborah Cornman/ Jeffrey Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Series</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listserv Management</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net ID Requests</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participant incentives/cash advances</td>
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<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
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<td>Payroll (Faculty, Staff &amp; Students)</td>
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<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Service Agreements (PSAs)</td>
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<td>Vasinee Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing – CHIP</td>
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<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing – Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Employment/Issues (Graduate Student, Student Labor &amp; Work Study)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications (Landlines, Cell Phones, Blackberries)</td>
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<td>Melissa Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel – Authorizations and Reimbursements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website Management</td>
<td>Becky Ortinez/ Jonathan Gill</td>
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## APPENDIX K: CHIP LECTURE SERIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title / Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 11 Sept 2008 | Theresa Exner  
*Columbia University*  | “The Female Condom Revisited”                                                   |
| 2 Oct 2008 | Colin Poitras & David Bauman  
*University Communications, UConn*  | “Working with the Media: Publicizing Your Research Results and Expertise”      |
| 16 Oct 2008 | Susan Kegeles  
*University of California, San Francisco*  | “How Can our Research Make a Difference? Issues in Translating an Evidence-based HIV Prevention into Practice” |
| 23 Oct 2008 | Ann O’Leary  
*Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, CDC*  | “What Made the Intervention Work? Mediation Analyses of Three Intervention Studies” |
| 6 Nov 2008 | Rick Zimmerman  
*PIRE, Louisville, KY*  | “Looking Back: Emerging Themes from HIV Prevention Work Thus Far”               |
| 13 Nov 2008 | Rajiv Kumar & Brad Weinberg,  
*Brown University*  | “Shape Up Rhode Island”                                                        |
| 20 Nov 2008 | Thomas Coates  
*University of California, Los Angeles*  | “What Is Next in HIV Prevention?”                                               |
| 4 Dec 2008 | Christina Economos,  
*Tufts University, Boston*  | “Catalyzing Communities to Prevent Childhood Obesity”                          |
| 5 Feb 2009 | Christina A. Economos  
*Tufts University*  | “Catalyzing Communities to Prevent Childhood Obesity”                          |
| 19 Feb 2009 | Rebecca Puhl  
*Yale University*  | “Weight Stigma in Health Care: Implications for Patients, Providers, and Public Health” |
| 19 Mar 2009 | Peter Vanable  
*Syracuse University*  | "Promoting Sexual Health and Stress Management Among HIV+ Men Who Have Sex with Men" |
| 26 Mar 2009 | Albert “Skip” Rizzo  
*University of Southern California*  | “Clinical Virtual Reality: A Brief Review of the Future!”                      |
| 16 Apr 2009 | Jane Brown  
*University of North Carolina*  | "Growing Up Sexually in a Mediated World"?                                     |
| 30 Apr 2009 | Jeff S. Volek  
*University of Connecticut*  | “Dietary carbohydrate restriction uniquely targets the features of metabolic syndrome” |
| 7 May 2009 | Gerald Friedland  
*Yale University & Sarah Friedland  
*Thing With No Name Productions*  | “Thingwithnoname” – HIV/AIDS documentary film                                  |
| 21 May 2009 | Jeff Parsons  
*Hunter College*  | Motivational Interviewing Interventions for HIV and Drug/Alcohol Use: 10 Years of Lessons Learned |
We would like to thank the following individuals at CHIP for their contributions to the 2009 CHIP Annual Report:

Meg Bishop
Sarah Bothell
Tim Gifford
Jonathan Gill
Susan Hoge
Beth Krane
Stacey Leeds
Vasinee Long
Wynne Norton
Becky Ortínez
Melissa Stone