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A. Executive Summary

- **Expanded Research Enterprise:** During FY12, CHIP principal investigators (PIs) launched substantial new U.S. and international, interdisciplinary research initiatives in numerous health behavior domains, expanding CHIP’s focus in a number of existing health domains, such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, autism, exercise science, obesity, alcohol use, global health, health communication, and health-related dissemination and implementation science. In the context of HIV/AIDS, newly-funded initiatives included external grants to (1) prevent HIV transmission to HIV-negative individuals in extremely high-risk populations, (2) reduce risky sexual and drug-use behaviors among HIV-positive individuals, and (3) promote medication adherence to both pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and antiretroviral therapy (ART) regimens. In other critical health domains, some of the newly-funded initiatives included external grants to (1) study the effectiveness of new U.S. graphic health warning labels for cigarette packages in two high-risk populations, (2) create video-enhanced training tools for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and develop new ASD screening, diagnostic, and treatment tools in Albania, where autism resources are limited, and (3) evaluate an intervention to reduce alcohol use among University of Connecticut students who drink to excess. In keeping with CHIP’s focus on health-related dissemination and implementation science, several of these new projects are developing interventions that can be immediately and cost-effectively disseminated to the populations that need them most, once the interventions have been proven effective.

- **Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network:** In FY12, CHIP’s multidisciplinary affiliates collaborative network of health behavior change researchers experienced significant growth, bringing its total membership to 164 research affiliates. The resulting community of multidisciplinary expertise, representing nearly all Schools and Colleges within the UConn system as well as more than 30 other institutions, enables CHIP to assemble teams of investigators who are able to respond within short timeframes to large-scale funding opportunities.

- **Expanded Collaborations at the Center Level:** During FY12, CHIP made an even greater effort to forge new and expand existing collaborations, both within UConn and outside the University. These efforts included meetings with UConn’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and its Cooperative Extension System (CES), UConn’s Center for Continuing Studies (CCS), Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Of particular note, CHIP’s expanded collaboration with Yale’s CIRA resulted in the creation of a new joint seed grant competition involving at least one HIV/AIDS researcher from each organization. This year’s winners of the joint seed grant were CHIP’s Debarchana Ghosh, UConn Assistant Professor of Geography, and CIRA’s Dr. Frederick Altice, Yale Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Public Health.

- **Hiring for the Next Generation of CHIP:** As part of the Administration’s efforts to invest in UConn’s areas of strength, three new faculty positions were approved for CHIP during FY12 in strategic growth areas: cancer, obesity, and biostatistics. To date, CHIP spearheaded the faculty search efforts that lead to the hiring of two very prominent cancer researchers from Dartmouth College – Frederick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology) and Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology), and a biostatistician from Harvard University’s School of Public Health - Elizabeth Schifano (Ph.D., Statistics).

- **Growth in New Externally-Funded Research:** In FY12, CHIP again had extraordinary success in attracting external funding for its research: CHIP PIs received new multiple-year external grant awards in excess of $13.3 million, a nearly 75% increase over the new multiple-year grant awards received during the previous year.

- **Ongoing Research Portfolio:** Actual total costs expended on CHIP external grants during FY12 were approximately $8.0 million, including $6.1 million in direct costs and $1.9 million in recovered indirect costs.\(^1\) In the past 10 years, total costs have increased more than 600 percent (from $1.3 million in FY02 to $8.0 million in

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\(^1\) Indirect costs (IDCs) are synonymous with “Facilities and Administrative” costs or F&As.
The total costs of CHIP grants that are currently active involve $53.9 million, across all years, compared to $48.7 million for the same period last year. Moreover, total costs awarded to CHIP PIs since CHIP’s founding in FY02 are $88.1 million, direct costs are $67.5 million, and indirect costs returned to the University during this interval are $20.6 million.

- **Grants Submitted:** In FY12, CHIP PIs submitted 50 external grant applications, comprising more than $37.3 million in total costs, including nearly $25.6 million in direct costs and nearly $11.8 million in indirect costs. Of these FY12 submissions, 14 grants with more than $6.2 million total costs already have been funded. (The $13.3 million in new external awards received during FY12, reported above, includes grants submitted in both FY11 and FY12).

- **International Research:** CHIP research continues to be international in scope, with active externally-funded projects in Albania, China, Ethiopia, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand, and Uganda, and a proposed project in South America’s Andes Mountains. In fact, with $18.4 million in active international grants, across all years, one third of CHIP’s research portfolio involves work outside the U.S.

- **CHIP Research Investment Capital Awards:** Each year, CHIP holds internal Research Investment Capital (“Seed Grant”) Competitions to stimulate pilot research leading to future external grant applications submitted through the Center. CHIP research investment funds are awarded through a rigorous National Institute of Health (NIH)-style panel review process. In FY12, CHIP awarded seed grants to CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and to two doctoral students: Hayley MacDonald (M.S., Kinesiology) and Alefiyah Pishori (M.A., Psychology). Over the years, the return on investment for this program has been extremely high. For each dollar invested by CHIP in its seed grant program, approximately $38 dollars in new external grant funds have been awarded to CHIP investigators and $8 in indirect costs have been returned to the University.

- **CHIP Funding of Graduate Students:** External grants received by CHIP PIs fund a substantial number of graduate students each year. This year, CHIP external grants fully funded 46 graduate students and partially funded four graduate students across multiple departments, and internal University awards to CHIP PIs fully funded one graduate student and partially funded four graduate students. Total FY12 funding for CHIP’s 51 graduate students, from external and internal grants, was $643,192, an increase from last year.

- **CHIP Graduate Student Research Accomplishments:** Among many FY12 CHIP graduate student accomplishments, Psychology doctoral student Carter A. Lennon received a two-year fellowship funded by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD); the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) selected Public Health doctoral student TaShauna Goldsby for inclusion in the ACSM’s Leadership and Diversity Training Program for the second year in a row; and Psychology doctoral student Laramie Smith, who last year received a prestigious National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) National Research Service Award (NRSA), presented her NRSA-funded research to the UConn Board of Trustees. Also during FY12, one former CHIP doctoral student and one former CHIP post-doc accepted tenure-track positions at UConn. Lisa Eaton, Ph.D., and Tania Huedo-Medina, Ph.D., both assistant research professors in Psychology during FY12, will be assistant professors in Human Development and Family Studies and Allied Health Sciences, respectively, beginning in August of this year.

- **CHIP Lecture Series:** CHIP continues to sponsor an impressive series of lectures and events that brought 20 nationally and internationally recognized leaders in health behavior research from 17 different institutions to the University of Connecticut campus in FY12. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including weight loss and obesity, poverty alleviation through innovative approaches, social network approaches to HIV prevention, and reducing hazardous drinking among college students, along with many others. Many presentations were simulcast to the UConn Health Center and Yale’s CIRA, as well as to other sites.
B. Introduction

In November 2001, the Chancellor and Provost and the Interim Vice Provost for Research of the University of Connecticut identified the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) as a potential center of excellence at the University. 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 CHIP’s actions and accomplishments for the past year, highlighting the Center’s continued scholarly excellence, growth, and further international recognition.

C. Mission Statement

The CHIP Executive Committee reviews the CHIP mission statement, long-range goals, and research objectives every year. In FY12, these were reviewed at the November 16th meeting, and minor changes were made. The revised mission statement, long-range goals, and research objectives appear below.

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 at multiple levels of analysis (e.g., individual, family, community, societal). CHIP disseminates knowledge and cutting-edge interventions through research, capacity-building, structural change, teaching, mentoring, and collaboration at the University, local, state, national, and international levels.

D. 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, theoretical frameworks, and 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 and related systems, the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing, implementing, evaluating, and disseminating effective interventions.

Goal 3: CHIP will share its expertise in health behavior and health behavior change, capacity building, and technology with relevant local, state, national, and international organizations.

Goal 4: CHIP researchers will educate and mentor undergraduate students, graduate students, researchers, faculty, community members, and others in the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing, implementing, evaluating, and disseminating effective interventions.

E. Progress on CHIP Objectives for FY 2012

Progress on CHIP Research Objectives:

While CHIP’s roots are in HIV/AIDS research and CHIP continues to be a worldwide leader in that area, over the years, the Center has broadened considerably the health domains in which its investigators are conducting research. In addition to HIV/AIDS, the full list of current CHIP health domains in which research is conducted includes other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and sexual risk behaviors, alcohol and substance use, medication adherence and management, exercise science, nutrition, obesity, diabetes, cancer, autism, global health, health disparities, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, health intervention- and measurement-related dissemination and implementation science, health communication and marketing, and select methods to study health behavior. (For examples of CHIP research within each of these domains, please see Section J on p. 28.)
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 research teams.**

CHIP supports new research and external grant proposals in several ways. It provides an excellent internal grants program, which supports the pilot research often necessary for its principal investigators (PIs) to obtain large external grants. CHIP internal grant proposals receive mentoring reviews, which improve the research that was proposed, and the strongest proposals are funded. The CHIP internal grants program has often been a critical part of CHIP PIs’ success in winning external grants. According to many CHIP PIs who have received substantial external grants, the grants would not have been possible without seed grant support awarded competitively through CHIP. In fact, over the years, for each dollar invested by CHIP in its seed grant program, approximately $38 dollars in new, external grant funds have been awarded to CHIP investigators and $8 in indirect costs have been returned to the University. *(See Section K on p. 33 for more information about CHIP’s internal grant opportunities and this year’s grant winners.)*

A new feature of the CHIP internal grants program that was started this past year is a 2-year seed grant for $50,000 which is being jointly funded and sponsored by CHIP and the Center for International Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University. This new opportunity for CHIP researchers to work collaboratively with Yale researchers on innovative HIV prevention research is discussed in detail in Section G on p. 20 and Appendix 12 on p. 83.

In addition to CHIP’s internal grants program, the Center also provides, when requested, pre-submission reviews of external grant proposals by experts in the field, and may fund a competitive summer stipend to junior faculty who are writing grants, to help them succeed in obtaining funding. A relatively new CHIP service available to affiliates is access to previously-submitted, successful CHIP grants to use as models for new grant proposals. Electronic access to model grants is provided upon request.

Due to these services and others, CHIP PIs, again this year, developed, submitted and received external grant awards for a substantial number of new proposals in diverse areas of health behavior change. In each case, the grant application and grant award process was facilitated by high quality pre-award services and post-award grants management technical support provided by the Center. These services were augmented when needed by help in searching for possible sources of grant support, assistance with creating research teams to write and submit grants, sending proposals to statistical and methodological experts for feedback as needed, and, as noted above, sending prospective grant applications out for internal or external review to major experts in the field for pre-submission feedback. Together, our highly skilled PIs and these innovative services at the Center resulted in $13.3 million in new externally-funded grants being awarded in the past year. *(For the purpose of this report, grants are considered “new” if awarded between May 16, 2011 and May 15, 2012.)*

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

In the past year, CHIP expanded its research in many of its existing health research domains including HIV/AIDS, cancer, autism, exercise science, obesity, health-related dissemination and implementation, and health communication. *(For a full list of CHIP health research domains and examples of CHIP research within each domain, please see Section J on p. 28.)*

CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology) received new funding in FY12 to explore possible gender differences in soldiers’ reactions to combat. She was awarded a grant by the Veteran’s Administration to study whether male and female veterans returning from military service in combat-exposed parts of the world differ in their post-combat health and functioning. Little research to date has explored this issue, and there are competing hypotheses as to whether males and females might experience differential outcomes. Dr. Park’s study will follow veterans being discharged from service in Iraq or Afghanistan for a year to address this question, as well as potential differential rates of nicotine, alcohol, and other drug use, and other factors among men and women released from the military.
New CHIP PI Lindsay DiStefano (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a grant from the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) to evaluate the effects of a lower extremity injury prevention program on military cadets. This research will also examine the extent to which these effects are retained over time, which will provide information on how frequently such injury prevention interventions need to recur. Participants will be 1,300 cadets entering the U.S. Military Academy, half of whom will receive the lower extremity injury prevention program, which emphasizes balance exercises that involve proper alignment and avoidance of positions that stress the lower extremities. The other half of the participants will receive traditional “warm-up exercises” and will serve as an active comparison group. The experimental group is expected to show improved movement and ground reaction forces relative to the comparison group, but these effects are expected to dissipate over time if not reinforced by a “booster” intervention session.

CHIP PI Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received funding from industry to study the effect of increases in dietary carbohydrates on plasma saturated fatty acid levels and blood borne risk markers for cardiovascular disease. Since the 1970s, restricting the consumption of foods high in saturated fats (e.g., beef, dairy, and eggs) has been the basis of national nutritional recommendations. However, Dr. Volek has recently obtained preliminary data which supports the hypothesis that carbohydrate levels regulate plasma saturated fatty acid levels, and will attempt to demonstrate in this new work that plasma lipid levels are a function of carbohydrate intake and not saturated fat intake per se. This could have important basic and applied implications for nutrition.

CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) received a subcontract from National Institutes of Health (NIH)/Drexel University to study the synergistic effects of two different interventions on weight loss and weight loss maintenance. In previous research on weight loss, Behavior Therapy (BT) was used to change dietary intake and increase physical activity, but long-term maintenance was poor and almost all weight lost was regained within five years of the intervention. Dr. Gorin’s research study involves augmenting BT with environmental control and Acceptance of Commitment Therapy (ACT). Environmental control teaches participants how to change their personal food and physical activity environment so that their environment supports weight control activities. ACT bolsters participants’ commitment to behavior change and teaches them relevant skills to keep the commitment salient (e.g., mindfulness of health activities and goals). Dr. Gorin hypothesizes that the combination of these two interventions will produce greater maintenance of weight loss than typical BT interventions alone.

CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences) was just awarded a substantial subcontract from the National Cancer Institute through Harvard University to study the effects of the new graphic health warnings (GHW) that will appear on cigarette packaging in the U.S. This research will examine the cognitive, emotional, social, and possible behavioral responses of two groups of individuals to these new GHW: teens who smoke or are at risk for smoking, and pregnant women who smoke or are at risk for relapse. Dr. Snyder’s work will also attempt to identify messaging strategies that can amplify the favorable responses to the GHW in each of these two target groups, and counteract any unintended negative reactions to the GHW. This groundbreaking research may have important conceptual and applied health implications.

CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) was funded by a subcontract from NIH/Brown University to study a brief intervention to reduce alcohol use among University of Connecticut students who drink in excess. Past research has found that binge drinking among college students undermines their academic performance, their social relationships, and their health. Previously attempted brief motivational interventions (BMIs) to decrease college student drinking have had small to moderate impact, and any positive effects have tended to dissipate over time. Dr. Kalichman, who is working in collaboration with project PI Kate Carey from Brown University, is designing and evaluating an improved BMI protocol that uses low cost email “boosters” to increase the impact of the intervention and the duration of its effects. Hopefully, this research will further our understanding of the dynamics of problem drinking among college students and how best to intervene with them to reduce their alcohol use.

New CHIP PI Deborah Fein (Ph.D., Psychology) received funding from NIH’s National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to develop and test a video-enhanced program to teach caregivers of children with Autism
Spectrum Disorders (ASD) how to apply behavioral principles that can benefit their children, as well as increase parents’ self-efficacy and lower parents’ stress levels. Critically, more children are being diagnosed with ASD each year, and many caregivers of children with ASD worldwide have few resources to rely on. This intervention, if effective, will have important benefits for children with ASD and their caregivers, and will be disseminated widely.

The newly funded CHIP grants described above, as well as other newly submitted CHIP grants, demonstrate how CHIP’s research focus has broadened to include a wide array of health domains other than just HIV. Of the $37.3 million in CHIP grant proposals that were submitted this past year, $21.2 million of them proposed conducting research in domains outside of HIV, and $3.3 million of the $13.3 million in newly awarded grants in FY12 were in areas other than HIV. (For the purpose of this report, grant proposals submitted between May 16, 2011 and May 15, 2012 are considered “new” submissions in FY12).

(See Appendix 2 on p. 54 for brief abstracts of these and other new grants, and Appendix 1 on p. 52 for each new CHIP grant’s funding agency, total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs.)

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

CHIP principal investigators received, or were notified they would be receiving, a number of new HIV/AIDS prevention grants during FY12, continuing CHIP’s role as a world leader in this domain. At present, CHIP’s active portfolio of HIV/AIDS prevention grants exceeds $42.8 million in total costs across all years.

CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) received a new grant from NIH that will address several inherent challenges of the relatively new HIV “test and treat” initiative. The focus of the “test and treat” initiative is on testing and diagnosing people with HIV, linking them to care, and getting them on antiretroviral medications, when appropriate. The belief is that early diagnosis and treatment will not only limit the risk of health problems in people living with HIV but also reduce the likelihood that they will transmit HIV to others if the amount of HIV in their bodies is reduced to undetectable levels. However, this initiative is optimally effective only if people with HIV adhere to their medications and do not acquire other sexually transmitted infections which increase the amount of HIV in their bodies. Dr. Kalichman asserts that scalable interventions are needed to ensure that individuals with HIV who use alcohol and other drugs keep their infectiousness low by maintaining high levels of adherence and reducing their risks for contracting other sexually transmitted infections. In this newly funded study, participants who use alcohol or drugs are randomly assigned to an active “integrated” intervention group (focused on medication adherence and reduction of risky sexual behavior) or to a time-matched control group. If, as expected, the intervention group increases their medication adherence behaviors, engages in less HIV transmission risk behavior, and reduces the amount of virus in their bodies, Dr. Kalichman and his colleagues will disseminate this intervention immediately to HIV-infected men and women through community and clinical services for HIV infected populations.

CHIP PI Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) received a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to conduct a randomized controlled trial to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of an adapted, shortened version of an evidence-based HIV risk reduction intervention entitled “Holistic Health for HIV.” The abbreviated version will be compared to the original intervention among HIV-infected drug users to determine if the same effects can be achieved with an intervention that is briefer, is less expensive, and has greater potential for sustainability over time in clinical settings. If the shortened intervention is found to be effective and cost effective, efforts will be made to disseminate it widely.

New CHIP PI Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Psychology), a junior CHIP investigator, received a substantial R01 grant this past year to design, implement, and evaluate, in a randomized controlled trial, a behavioral intervention to reduce the HIV transmission risks associated with “serosorting.” Serosorting is a technique that is most often used by men who have sex with men (MSM), which involves selecting sexual partners perceived to be of the same HIV status as oneself as a way to try to reduce the HIV transmission risks of unprotected sex. Eaton is using Conflict Theory of Decision-Making to guide the design of her brief, single session intervention which
will be implemented with MSM in public health settings. It is proposed that the intervention will result in greater knowledge and awareness of the risks associated with serosorting, increased HIV serostatus disclosure to partners, and reductions in the numbers of sex partners among MSM.

CHIP PI Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP) received two subcontracts this year, one from the San Francisco Department of Public Health and another from Family Health International. The original funders for these grants were NIH and NIH/NIMH, respectively. The goal of the first project is to determine if intermittent dosing of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) promotes higher adherence to the medication regimen, higher tolerance for the medications, increased safer sex behavior, and lower costs than other types of dosing. In effect, the project will identify dosing requirements for optimal medication-taking and preventive behavior in a population at especially high risk for HIV.

The second project will also focus on a population on PrEP, in an attempt to ensure high adherence to the medication regimen and low HIV risk behavior in individuals on this regimen. For this study, Amico has designed a “Next Step” counseling intervention to achieve these dual ends. A complementary approach, consisting of the use of a short message system (SMS), which has been effective in trials in Africa, will also be attempted. The first phase of this project will assess adherence and HIV risk behavior of men who have sex with men on PrEP in San Francisco pre-intervention. Data from phase one will be used to finalize and deploy “Next Step” counseling and SMS to increase adherence and lower risky behavior in this sample.

Other grants submitted through CHIP, but not yet funded, during the past fiscal year also reflect CHIP’s continued research focus on the core problem area of HIV/AIDS: $16.1 million of the $37.3 million in CHIP grants that were submitted this year involved multidisciplinary work in the HIV/AIDS domain. (For the purpose of this report, grant proposals submitted between May 16, 2011 and May 15, 2012 are considered “new” submissions in FY12.)

(See Appendix 2 on p. 54 for brief abstracts of these and other new grants, and Appendix 1 on p. 52 for each new grant’s funding agency, total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs. For a detailed list of all submitted grants, please see Appendix 14 on p. 91.)

4. CHIP will begin to perform increased research with more direct policy implications.

A new CHIP goal for the past two years has involved conducting more health-related research with implications for public policy. Since the creation of this goal, several CHIP projects have adopted this focus.

One of the most significant problems in HIV care and treatment is that people living with HIV do not always initiate HIV care and antiretroviral therapy (ART) in a timely fashion, do not adhere to their antiretroviral regimen once started on it, and do not optimally remain in care. This year, CHIP PI and Research Scientist Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP) was part of a group that created and published important evidence-based policy guidelines to optimize initiation and retention in care and adherence to ART among people living with HIV. The needs of special populations, such as pregnant women, those with mental illness, and substance users, among others, are addressed in the recommendations, which were published by the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care in the Annals of Internal Medicine in March, 2012.

The research being conducted by CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) in Mozambique is also policy-related. She is developing a new multi-level, gender-based violence prevention intervention in response to that country’s first ever domestic violence law. The purpose of the intervention is not only to educate people about the new law but also to change norms around domestic violence and to provide men with more effective communication and anger management skills. By intervening at multiple levels (individual, group, and community), the goal is to lessen the incidence of violence against women as well as risky sexual behavior.

Finally, Leslie Snyder’s new research on tobacco package labeling and associated anti-smoking campaigns (described in detail above) is in response to new federal policies, and the goal is that the findings from her research will be utilized to inform future policies.
There are other projects currently underway with policy implications, and it is expected that CHIP’s focus on public policy will expand in future years.

5. **CHIP will continue to bring local, national, and international 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 and research.**

Since 2002, CHIP has organized a highly successful lecture series for the purpose of identifying and bringing together local, national, and international 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 figures in health behavior change research, and to become familiar with work conducted and published by others within CHIP’s extensive network. The series is well attended and is an invaluable context for sharing late-breaking findings and trends in health behavior research.

CHIP continued to sponsor the CHIP Lecture Series in FY12, bringing 20 nationally- and internationally-recognized leaders in health behavior research from 17 different institutions to UConn for presentations. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including weight loss and obesity, poverty alleviation through innovative approaches, social network approaches to HIV prevention, and reducing hazardous drinking among college students, among many others. Most presentations were video streamed live from CHIP and then archived on its website for future viewing. This virtual inclusion of additional colleagues at each presentation greatly enhanced the value and profile of the Lecture Series for the University, as well as the potential of the Series to disseminate cutting-edge science. In addition to attending the presentations, PIs, graduate students, other affiliates, and community members at large, were given the opportunity to meet with each presenter one-on-one, as a group, or by telephone, to discuss research interests and possible collaborations. During FY12, CHIP had an average onsite lecture participation rate of 27 people and a total of 119 individuals met with 1 or more presenters. Additional colleagues viewed the video streamed talks online.

The CHIP Lecture Series is planned and publicized by CHIP administrative staff. Publicity for the events includes posting the series on the CHIP website, sending out announcements through various listservs, including UConn’s Daily Digest, and publishing the information on the University Events website and through other venues. To cast as wide a net as possible for persons interested in CHIP’s lectures, e-mail announcements are sent to current affiliates, prospective affiliates, UConn staff, and members of other research institutions, hospitals, health clinics, and community-based organizations in Connecticut. For those who respond by phone or e-mail to the announcements and/or who attend the lectures in person, CHIP follows up with additional communications, including invitations to future events and meetings, so that interested individuals can explore the potential for research collaboration with CHIP affiliates and others. A significant number of new affiliates and contacts have been identified through this process.

(For a list of CHIP Lecture Series presentations made during FY12, see Appendix 3 on p. 58.)

6. **CHIP will continue to 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 has continued to explore new innovations in information technology to connect its geographically-dispersed members and to enhance multidisciplinary collaborations. In FY12, CHIP IT, in partnership with the School of Engineering, added Microsoft Lync services to its growing portfolio of IT services designed to support CHIP’s mission. Microsoft Lync is a web-conferencing platform that enables real-time collaboration, allowing CHIP members to instantly initiate a multi-party web conference.

To increase awareness of CHIP’s IT services, CHIP IT created a CHIP IT newsletter that showcases new and upcoming IT capabilities and initiatives. This newsletter is disseminated to all CHIP-affiliated individuals as
new information about CHIP’s IT services becomes available, to ensure that all CHIP affiliates are aware of the full scope of IT services available to them. CHIP IT continues to develop technical solutions to enhance health behavior change research and is committed to maintaining strong communication with the researchers and affiliates that they support.

Another way that CHIP extends its reach is through its media-centric website: www.chip.uconn.edu. CHIP IT has continued to enhance the Center’s website by offering to all CHIP affiliates repositories for posting materials that are related to their research. Such resources include measurement instruments, intervention documentation, diagrams, charts, photos, etc. This allows researchers to use CHIP’s website to disseminate materials that cannot be included in their publications due to page limitations. Each CHIP researcher has the opportunity to post materials in a repository, as well as organize his/her specific area as appropriate. A link is available to point directly to each researcher’s area, facilitating inclusion in biographical sketches and curricula vitae.

7. **CHIP will continue to 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 with the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS).**

CHIP has had a long history of dissemination and implementation of its health behavior change interventions. Over the years, several externally-funded interventions developed at CHIP have been widely disseminated in the U.S. and internationally.

Last year, new NIMH-funded work by CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) and his team sought to understand the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the successful implementation of the team’s South Africa *Options* intervention project. Some initial findings from this research became available recently. Fisher and his colleagues found that organization-level factors such as having more counselors and staff to conduct the intervention and a more autonomous environment in clinical care settings were beneficial for implementation success. Moreover, implementation success was greater in urban and in hospital sites than in rural and small clinic sites. An intriguing finding was that counselors administering the intervention in “high achieving” sites were less likely to report being HIV-positive. This is perhaps due to the compromised health of the HIV-positive population in South Africa, but additional explanations are being explored as well. More results from other analyses are forthcoming. These findings will ultimately make a contribution to the overall literature on dissemination and implementation research, and will be used to optimize the implementation of the team’s planned future attempts to disseminate its *Options* prevention-with-positives intervention in Africa.

CHIP-based Boundary Spanner Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/CHIP) and CHIP Affiliate Stephenie Chaudoir (Ph.D., CHIP) have recently written a manuscript which highlights theoretical constructs hypothesized to affect implementation success, and which makes available standardized measures of these constructs. Lack of such measures has been a barrier to implementation efforts and research, and this manuscript attempts to address this gap. Dr. Dugan and Dr. Chaudoir’s review indicated that five broad types of factors (i.e., structural, organizational, provider, patient, and innovation level characteristics) affect implementation success, and measures of each of these elements are provided in their article. The manuscript is posted on the CHIP website under “Dissemination Resources,” and has been submitted for publication.

Three new grants, described above, with immediate implications for dissemination and implementation are those of Dr. Fein, Dr. Copenhaven, and Dr. Kalichman. In addition to these efforts, efforts of CHIP-based boundary spanner Dr. Dugan (*described in Section P on p. 43 and Appendix 15 on p. 97 of this report*) strongly contribute to dissemination and implementation. In addition to individual PI-based projects with a translation, dissemination, and/or implementation focus, CHIP is engaged with CICATS at UConn to further its mission of accelerating the translation and subsequent dissemination of UConn health-related innovations and interventions into clinical and community practice. CHIP’s role, specifically, is to interface with University faculty at Storrs and UCHC to encourage greater faculty interest in performing dissemination and implementation (D & I) research, to identify extant UConn “dissemination-ready” intervention and health innovation projects, and ultimately, to increase the number of grants in this area by
UConn faculty and their community partners. (These efforts are described in detail in Section P on p. 43 and Appendix 15 on p. 97 of this document.)

**Progress on CHIP Administrative Objectives:**

CHIP’s Administrative Team is comprised of experienced professionals specializing in the areas of grant and subcontract management, financial planning and processing, human resources, and distribution of research findings and accomplishments. To effectively manage CHIP grants and assist CHIP investigators in conducting important health behavior change research worldwide, the Administrative Team collaborates with a range of individuals, including specialists at the University and in community, public, and private sectors as well as with other partners and colleagues throughout the world. The work and success of the Administrative Team has contributed directly and significantly to CHIP’s continued growth and achievement as a leading health behavior research center. The progress noted on the Administrative Objectives below is dedicated to improving business and research-related functions and operations in order to continually advance CHIP’s mission and long-range goals. (For more details on CHIP’s Administrative Team, please see Section T on p. 47 as well as Appendices 5, 18, and 19 on pp. 71, 126, and 131 respectively.)

8. The Administrative Team will continue to update and revise existing guidelines and procedures annually and on an as-needed basis. New guidelines and procedures will also be developed to address operational needs and to improve and streamline existing administrative processes.

The Administrative Team continued to work collectively on updating and revising existing guidelines and procedures as well as internal and online forms in the areas of travel, purchasing, grants management (both pre-award and post-award processing), facilities, employment and payroll, electronic signature use (for internal use only), IT support and related areas, and interview room/computer usage. As-needed updates were made to various existing guidelines and procedures in January 2012 and are scheduled to be reviewed again in October 2012. New guidelines and procedures were developed in the areas of Research Office Space Use, IT User Account Requests (which includes NetID guidelines), and CHIP Security/Theft. October has now been established as the new review date for all guidelines and procedures. In addition to the website postings of these guidelines and procedures, CHIP distributes relevant new and updated guidelines and procedures via its listservs, and it maintains and provides access to two updated hard copies of the CHIP Guidelines and Procedures manuals. New and existing guidelines and procedures will be continually developed based on operational and business needs as well as to ensure CHIP meets University, state and federal requirements.

9. CHIP will continue to publicize and disseminate information about its available business services to affiliates, research faculty, research staff, and graduate students through various means, such as the CHIP Business Services Survey, business meetings, website updates, listserv announcements, emails, promotional slides at Lecture Series events as well as announcements at the CHIP Annual Meeting.

During FY12, CHIP sent its first “Welcome Back to CHIP” email via its listserv at the start of the fall semester. This email communication, which CHIP distributed to its principal investigators (PIs), research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, contained updates about new members of CHIP’s Executive Committee and new principal investigators as well as a summary of available CHIP business services with a link to the “Guidelines for Use of CHIP Services” chart on CHIP’s website. The email explained that the chart contains a comprehensive list of all available CHIP services and details about who is eligible (all PIs, UConn-based PIs, affiliates, etc.) for each service.

CHIP also held its Annual Meeting at the start of the fall semester, and the Center devoted a portion of the meeting to sharing results from the FY11 CHIP Business Services Survey. The summary of the survey results, presented by CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP), revealed very high satisfaction of CHIP PIs and other affiliates with all CHIP business services. The survey results also indicated a marked improvement in affiliates’ awareness of CHIP services compared to the preceding year.
Throughout FY12, CHIP utilized its website to communicate with CHIP affiliates - and potential affiliates - about available CHIP business services as well as CHIP research. Specifically, related to services, CHIP used its website to announce CHIP’s annual Capital Research Investment Capital (“Seed Grant”) Competitions and publicize deadlines for the competitions, to announce a new joint seed grant program for HIV research that CHIP launched with Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) and related deadlines, and to provide updates regarding new IT services. CHIP IT also added a subscription mechanism to CHIP’s homepage for individuals interested in receiving email updates every time a new announcement or news article is posted.

In addition, CHIP regularly used both its listserv and its website to announce upcoming Lecture Series speakers and, for the second year in a row, added designated individuals to its listserv from each UConn school or department where CHIP currently has affiliates. Those designated individuals, or CHIP departmental liaisons, in turn forwarded CHIP listserv announcements about upcoming Lecture Series events and seed grant competitions to their own departmental listservs, which allowed CHIP to reach potential affiliates interested in health behavior change research as well as current affiliates.

Finally, also for the second year in a row, CHIP created marketing slides, which highlighted several available CHIP business services and/or upcoming events, and displayed the marketing slides in a continuous loop at the start of each Lecture Series event until the speaker was ready to begin his/her lecture.

10. **CHIP will continue to conduct an annual Business Services Survey in order to evaluate the services that CHIP offers.** The survey will continue to be sent to affiliates, research faculty, research staff, and graduate students. Once data is collected and analyzed, a summary report will be created for distribution. The results of this survey will be used to improve upon the business operations at CHIP.

CHIP offers a range of services to its principal investigators (PIs), research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, including access to internal CHIP grant competitions, assistance with grant preparation, pre- and post-award grant support, IT services, and many more. To ensure that the services that CHIP provides are meeting the needs of its consumers, each year CHIP asks PIs, research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, to evaluate the quality of its services through an anonymous online survey. In March of 2012, the CHIP Annual Business Services Survey was sent to all CHIP affiliates, and a total of 82 respondents completed and returned it. The feedback provided on the survey was overwhelmingly positive with all services viewed as “somewhat helpful” to “very helpful.” Suggestions for improvements to CHIP services have been reviewed and modifications to its services are being made, as appropriate. (See [Section 1](#) on p. 25 for additional information on the survey results.)

11. **The Cost Savings Committee will continue to meet semi-annually to identify and recommend cost-saving measures that can benefit CHIP and the University financially.** Relevant procedures and guidelines will be created and updated based on the Committee’s findings.

In FY12, the CHIP Cost Savings Committee met semi-annually to review CHIP’s operating budget expenditures from past fiscal years and compare them to estimates for the current fiscal year, with the intent and directive of implementing substantial cost savings measures. Member of the Committee also held several additional meetings throughout the year to create and evaluate these measures.

This past year, the Committee identified telephone and office supply costs as two specific areas that could produce significant cost savings. Consequently, emails were sent to all CHIP faculty, staff, and students about the following cost savings measures:

- Skype can be used for free or at a substantially reduced cost instead of long-distance phone calls.
- Office supplies must be used for CHIP-related projects only.
- Printers must be used for CHIP-related projects only.
- Print two-sided copies whenever possible.
• Set black-and-white printers (not color) as default printers.

Sign-out sheets were posted on CHIP’s office supply cabinets in order to be able to more efficiently and accurately monitor the use of CHIP office supplies. In addition, CHIP Admin Team staff offered assistance with installing Skype and instructions for duplex printing and resetting default printers if needed.

As a result of implementing these cost savings measures, a significant decrease of approximately $3,000 in office supply costs is projected for this past year as well as a decrease of approximately $2,000 in telephone toll costs.

In the next fiscal year, CHIP will continue to explore cost savings opportunities. A number of graduate student phone lines have already been eliminated, with the remaining graduate student office phone lines being reviewed for possible elimination, if deemed unnecessary. In addition, CHIP is seeking additional external funding for the annual CHIP Lecture Series which, pending successful outreach efforts, could produce a sizeable cost savings.

CHIP will continue to be sensitive and attentive to the current difficult fiscal environment at the University and will be appropriately mindful in making future responsible business decisions.

12. 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.

The CHIP Security/Data Committee met this year to review and assess physical and technical security issues related to CHIP operations.

During FY12, CHIP continued to experience no known security threats, disruptions, or breaches to data server service. However, CHIP experienced one theft of an LED projector from a meeting room, which was reported to University Police. Acting proactively, CHIP reviewed its meeting room and key sign out procedures, and revised its policies and procedures to improve reporting of loss or damage to CHIP/State-owned property.

Other ongoing measures to improve security during the year included use of “routing forms” when employees end work at CHIP, so that they are immediately removed from the DSX card access system; regular and ongoing inventorying of office and building keys; and regular review and updates of security guidelines in the CHIP Policies and Procedures manual, which is posted on the website.

Measures were also taken to improve the cooling needs of the server room, which provides critical cooling of the equipment. Specifically, working with a consultant, a separate cooling system was installed in the CHIP data center to meet the increased cooling demand of the data housed there.

In the coming year, the Committee will monitor and maintain current systems, and pursue an improvement of interior signage specifically for CHIP.

13. Through the work of CHIP’s Public Engagement Committee and the participation of CHIP staff and researchers on the University’s Public Engagement Forum, CHIP will increase its efforts to share its knowledge, expertise, and research findings about health behavior and health behavior change with the University and with various community-based groups and organizations.

CHIP Associate Director and Principal Investigator (PI) Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) has been serving as the CHIP representative on the UConn Public Engagement Forum for the past two years. (CHIP Administrative Manager Susan Hoge serves as back-up representative). The Forum meets monthly to determine how to foster engagement in a variety of forms across the University community and thereby extend the impact the University has throughout the state and beyond. Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/CHIP), a CHIP Research Scientist and CHIP-based Boundary Spanner for the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, is also a member of the Forum and attends the monthly meetings.
Over the past year, CHIP’s Public Engagement Committee met to discuss how to leverage CHIP researchers’ unique expertise to benefit the University, local, state, and northeastern U.S. communities as well as to build on existing CHIP public engagement activities through established research projects nationwide and overseas. As a function of this Committee’s efforts, the following occurred:

- In October of 2011, Dr. Cornman was invited to serve on a planning committee to organize a day-long retreat to enhance interdisciplinary collaborations across UConn and with other academic institutions in the region. The retreat, which was entitled “Infectious Diseases, Inflammation and Immunology: The Current Landscape and Implications for Global Health,” was sponsored by The Department of Medicine and the Department of Molecular, Microbial and Structural Biology at the University of Connecticut Health Center, and it was held on May 15 on the Storrs campus. Over 100 researchers from UConn and nearby academic institutions attended the retreat.

- On January 19, 2012, Dr. Cornman, Susan Hoge, and Dr. Dugan met with Carrie Graham, Public Health House Coordinator of First Year Programs and Learning Communities. Carrie contacted CHIP to find ways in which CHIP and the Public Health Learning Community (of 60 Public Health students) could work together. As a result of this meeting, Carrie now receives CHIP Listserv announcements for the CHIP Lecture Series, which she distributes to the Public Health students. In addition, it was agreed that, during the Learning Community’s Fall 2012 Lecture Series, a CHIP representative will make a presentation about CHIP and the various resources and research opportunities that the Center provides. Lastly, Carrie Graham agreed to identify and refer to CHIP work study students with public health interests who are interested in working at CHIP.

- In April of 2012, Dr. Cornman became an affiliate of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University and was appointed as the new UConn/CHIP representative on CIRA’s Executive Committee. She participates in their ongoing meetings and events.

In the past year, individual CHIP PIs also regularly made significant contributions to the community in ways that drew on their unique expertise. Two examples are the following:

- CHIP PI Stephanie Milan (Ph.D., Psychology) continued to serve as a consultant for Community Health Center, Inc., helping to build a research infrastructure to enhance evidence-based clinical care for low-income patient populations in Connecticut, and she served as a member of the organization’s community advisory board for adolescent health services. In addition, she is a member of the New Britain YWCA Board of Directors.

- CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) continued as an active member of the Hartford Childhood Wellness Alliance, a working collaboration among community organizations, schools, local and regional government, advocacy groups, healthcare centers and practitioners, and researchers aimed at preventing and decreasing childhood obesity in Hartford. She also served on the Mansfield Public School’s Wellness Policy Advisory Council, a board of parents, educators, and health experts that meets regularly to guide school policies related to nutrition, physical activity, and general health issues in the Mansfield elementary and middle schools.

14. CHIP will continue to publicize its activities and its research, not only to scholarly audiences, but also to public health and community-based audiences.

During FY12, in recognition of the emphasis the University’s academic plan places on public engagement, specifically its strategy to increase the visibility and accessibility of faculty expertise, CHIP continued to promote the considerable wealth of research expertise represented by its network of 164 principal investigators (PIs) and research affiliates. CHIP publicized its activities and research to external community audiences through local, state, and national media outlets; to the greater University community through UConn Today and CHIP Research News (CRN) emails, among other communication vehicles; and directly to public health audiences through its outreach to UConn’s Public Health Learning Community (detailed in
Administrative Objective No. 13, directly above) and its developing partnership with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (detailed in Section H on p. 22.)

**Outside Media Coverage of CHIP Research Expertise**

Advancing CHIP’s mission to contribute to policy and guidelines based on behavioral science, CHIP PI and Research Scientist K. Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP) served as a member of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC)’s panel that developed the “International Guidelines for Entry Into and Retention in HIV Care and for Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy,” which were published by the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in early March. Dr. Amico led the section of these guidelines focused on education and counseling approaches to promote adherence to HIV medications for the general clinic population. A variety of national and international media outlets, including *The Baltimore Sun*, the *Voice of America*, and *The Body* (a comprehensive online resource on the topic of HIV/AIDS), covered the publication of the guidelines and their potential impact.

In mid-February, the CBS television news documentary *60 Minutes* featured research conducted by CHIP PIs Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) and Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Psychology), regarding the efficacy of antidepressants. This research, which was published several years ago, was conducted by Drs. Johnson and Huedo-Medina in collaboration with former UConn Psychology Department faculty member Irving Kirsch, who is now at Harvard University. Dr. Kirsch appeared on the segment and discussed the findings of the research.

In a *Chicago Tribune* article published in December, CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) discussed how to best encourage and support loved ones as they try to choose healthier behaviors. The article, which was reproduced in other newspapers, briefly described Dr. Fisher’s evidence-based Information, Motivation, and Behavior (IMB) model for health behavior change.

CHIP PI Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology), who is the author of two books and numerous journal articles on low-carbohydrate diets, received media coverage for his work from both *Men’s Health* and the *Orlando Sentinel* during the past year.

In April, CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC) Director Timothy Gifford appeared together on Fox CT’s *Stan Simpson Show* to discuss their autism and robotics research. Dr. Bhat is the principal investigator on two current CHIP federally-funded autism-related grants, and Gifford is a Co-Investigator on those grants.

**UConn Today Coverage of CHIP Research Activities**

CHIP’s efforts to reach UConn administrators and non-CHIP-affiliated UConn faculty with CHIP research news included more than half a dozen articles posted to University news website *UConn Today* during FY12. CHIP PIs featured in *UConn Today* during FY12 included Dr. Johnson, Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Psychology), Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), and William Kraemer (Ph.D., Kinesiology). The accomplishments of several CHIP psychology doctoral students – Benjamin Meagher, Anna Schierberl Scherr, and Laramie Smith - also were covered in *UConn Today* during FY12.

*UConn Today* also is planning to post an article about a virtual weight-loss intervention being developed in part by CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology).

**CHIP Research News Emails**

During FY12, Beth Krane, CHIP’s Communications and Dissemination of Research Findings Specialist, distributed several “CHIP Research News” e-mails to CHIP affiliates and other relevant individuals both inside and outside UConn (including key UConn administrators). These e-mail news alerts provided headlines and story summaries with links to full articles on CHIP’s website for those who were interested in reading more. The articles featured the research of CHIP Associate Director and PI Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) and CHIP PIs Dr. Johnson, Dr. Eaton, Dr. Gorin, and Deborah Fein (Ph.D., Psychology). The CHIP Research News emails also included stories about CHIP’s expanded collaborations – both within and outside UConn.
(detailed in Section H on p. 22) – and the Center’s strategic hiring of several new, highly-regarded faculty members in the areas of cancer and biostatistics (detailed in Section G on p. 20). Beth Krane also used CHIP’s website, with its media-centric focus, to publish news articles and announcements about CHIP research, events, and services. (For more details on how she publicized CHIP business services and special events, please refer to Administrative Objective No. 9, above.)

**Progress on CHIP Technology Objectives**

CHIP IT's mission is to provide specialized technical expertise and the core competencies to work closely and collaboratively with CHIP researchers to perform the type of IT-intensive, cutting-edge, health behavior and health behavior change research which is the hallmark at CHIP. The success of CHIP’s grants is heavily dependent on the availability of in-house IT staff members who have direct knowledge of health-related research and related methodologies, immediate access to the systems hosting and collecting data, a thorough understanding of the data collection process and underlying IT systems, and strong established relationships with the IT staff of CHIP’s subcontractors. CHIP IT services, which are specialized and articulated to the Center’s focus on health behavior change, have made it possible for CHIP PIs to win very substantial external grants that have contributed markedly to the University’s reputation and returned significant, indirect costs to the University.

**15. CHIP IT will continue to support the extensive, specialized IT needs of CHIP PIs, providing solutions for health behavior and health behavior change applications.** Such solutions will enable CHIP researchers to perform and to expand the type of IT-intensive, cutting-edge, health behavior change research that is CHIP’s hallmark. The union between specialized health-behavior change IT staff and CHIP researchers will make it possible to advance the state of the science and leverage information technology to develop highly innovative health behavior change interventions.

CHIP IT continued to provide IT solutions for CHIP health behavior change research in FY12, with a new emphasis on the domain of information dissemination and an increased focus on CHIP’s web presence and streaming media technology. The CHIP website, a product of ongoing improvement, is maintained with regular updates to the CHIP research projects database and CHIP member biographical information, and with news content featuring research within CHIP’s 15 identifiable health domains. Email distribution groups have been established and published within several health domains to streamline communications among groups of researchers, providing an avenue for new collaborations, information dissemination, and funding opportunities. Additionally, as noted earlier, a new section on the CHIP website has been created for CHIP affiliates to post research materials that are too substantial to be included in their publications.

In FY12, CHIP IT focused on strengthening its core services, internal organization, and server infrastructure to facilitate the development and implementation of highly innovative IT-based health behavior change interventions. Further, CHIP IT has established a number of collaborations with departments and schools within the University to facilitate knowledge transfer and to leverage centralized systems whenever CHIP research data is not subject to compromise. CHIP IT staff members also are involved in University-wide IT committees to ensure the interests of CHIP are represented and to have input into processes and procedures that affect the University as a whole. With increased collaborations and participation in University-wide committees, CHIP IT personnel will continue to hone their skills, develop new relationships, and ultimately bring relevant knowledge to CHIP to support the specialized IT needs of CHIP PIs.

**16. CHIP IT will provide the necessary hardware and software, leveraging investments in server virtualization technology, to deliver a platform to host interactive web applications for the purposes of delivering web-based interventions, online assessments, and other content as it relates to the type of research conducted at CHIP.** Additionally, CHIP IT will provide basic web development services on a case-by-case basis, largely dependent upon the complexity and system requirements of the research project.

CHIP IT continues to leverage its investments in server virtualization technology, providing the foundation for purpose-built application servers to meet the varying demands of technology-assisted health behavior change research. In FY12, CHIP IT implemented a dedicated application server to host faculty and graduate student websites and web-based applications, a departmental license server for CHIP AITC’s virtual reality
software and visual-design software used for generating high-quality interventions with virtual environments, a subversion server for software versioning and revision control to securely and dynamically store custom code generated by CHIP AITC and IT, and an asset-scheduling server for the scheduling of participants for several interventions based in Atlanta, GA.

17. **CHIP IT will complete the overhaul of its existing backup systems with a more robust backup-to-disk-to-tape model, building upon CHIP’s existing storage infrastructure.** New systems will increase backup retention periods and allow for offsite vaulting of data for extended periods of time in accordance with state and federal data retention guidelines. Additionally, new systems will allow us to extend backups beyond our datacenter to CHIP workstations and laptops, both onsite and offsite.

CHIP IT completed the overhaul of its existing backup systems with the deployment of Symantec Backup Exec 2012. Using data deduplication technology and disk-based storage, CHIP IT was able to increase its on-premises data retention to one year given its current rate of change and storage utilization. Additionally, CHIP IT has begun the expansion of its offsite data vaulting, increasing the retention of monthly back-ups to two years. Further enhancements to CHIP’s backup infrastructure have enabled CHIP IT to instantly restore a physical server in a failed state to a VMware virtual machine and to ensure that any data leaving the server room for offsite vaulting is fully encrypted.

With respect to CHIP’s security posture, it was determined that the backup of data on workstations and laptops was not complementary to data security best practices. In its place, CHIP IT is promoting a model where data and IT systems are centralized within the CHIP datacenter, thereby eliminating the need to backup workstations and laptops and further decreasing the likelihood of a potential data security breach by centrally protecting sensitive research data.

Due to the resignation of a member of the IT staff, the duration of the job search and rehire process, and other unforeseen demands on IT in FY12, the following FY12 IT objectives will either be completed in FY13 or canceled due to funding and IT personnel limitations:

18. **CHIP IT will implement Microsoft’s System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM), building upon CHIP’s centralized systems, to manage software and operating system deployment, patch management, and hardware and software inventory.** Additionally, this platform will be the foundation for Forefront Endpoint Protection 2010, another FY12 CHIP IT objective.

CHIP IT has moved this objective to FY13 due to the pending release of SCCM 2012, the required preparation to implement this system, and the network infrastructure upgrades required to support automated system deployment. CHIP IT is committed to delivering this product as part of its FY13 secureU initiatives, providing new capabilities to monitor system hardware, and to maintain software inventory, patch management, and centralized system and software deployment.

19. **CHIP IT will deploy Microsoft’s Forefront Endpoint Protection, an endpoint protection technology, consistent with University information security standards and industry best practices.** New systems will be built upon CHIP’s Active Directory and virtualization infrastructure to facilitate rapid deployment and ease of management/administration.

CHIP IT has deployed the Microsoft Forefront Endpoint Protection 2010 client in its latest Windows 7-based workstation image and will be upgrading all computers with Symantec Endpoint Protection by June 30, 2012. However, without SCCM in place (refer to the previous objective), CHIP does not have the centralized monitoring and automated virus definition deployment capabilities that Symantec provided. The full deployment of this product is outlined within CHIP’s FY13 secureU initiatives (see CHIP FY2013 Objective No. 14, below), which are designed to enhance the Center’s security posture and the protection of its intellectual property.

20. **CHIP IT will deploy Microsoft’s SharePoint platform, integrated with the CHIP Active Directory and Exchange implementations.** Microsoft SharePoint is a web-based content management system with
document management capabilities. Functionalities include management and provisioning of intranet portals/websites, document management (versioning/indexing), file management, process/information integration, and collaboration spaces (portals).

Due to the IT resources required to deliver and manage this comprehensive content management system, CHIP IT has postponed the deployment of this product. We have asked a group of researchers within CHIP to pilot a small test environment in FY13 to determine its usefulness and applicability to CHIP as a whole. Additionally, we are exploring a possible collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) to utilize an existing document management system that is presently used by the State of Connecticut.

F. CHIP Objectives for FY 2013

CHIP Research Objectives:

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

2. CHIP will continue to expand its focus on health behavior change and to foster new multidisciplinary work in a broad array of critical health domains.

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

4. CHIP will continue to increase its research with direct policy implications.

5. CHIP will continue to bring local, national, and international 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 and research.

6. CHIP will continue to 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.

7. CHIP will continue to expand its work to improve translation and dissemination of behavior change research into clinical and community practice in the U.S. and internationally, including work in conjunction with the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS).

CHIP Administrative Objectives:

8. The Administrative Team will update and revise existing guidelines and procedures annually (in October) and on an as-needed basis. New guidelines and procedures will also continue to be developed to address operational needs and to improve and streamline existing administrative processes.

9. CHIP will publicize and disseminate information about its available business services to CHIP research faculty, research staff, graduate students, and other CHIP affiliates, through various means, including website updates, listserv announcements, emails, promotional slides at Lecture Series events, the CHIP Business Services Survey, and announcements at the CHIP Annual Meeting and other business meetings.

10. CHIP will conduct an annual Business Services Survey in order to evaluate the services that CHIP offers. The survey will be sent to CHIP research faculty, research staff, graduate students, and other CHIP affiliates. Once data is collected and analyzed, a summary report will be created for distribution. The results of this survey will be used to improve upon the business operations at CHIP.
11. The CHIP Cost Savings Committee will meet semi-annually to identify and recommend cost-saving measures that can benefit CHIP and the University financially. Relevant procedures and guidelines will be created based on the Committee’s recommendations.

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

13. CHIP will expand its efforts to publicize and share its knowledge, expertise, and research findings about health behavior and health behavior change with the University, with other academic institutions and scholarly audiences, and with various community-based groups and organizations.

**CHIP Technology Objectives:**

14. CHIP IT will complete a number of security initiatives, known as CHIP’s secureU initiatives. These initiatives are designed to enhance CHIP’s security posture and the protection of its intellectual property. CHIP has built upon the University’s secureU initiatives, augmenting the requirements where necessary to increase the protection of human subject-related research data.

The following initiatives comprise CHIP’s FY13 secureU efforts:

- Implementation of Identity Finder to scan all CHIP workstations for data containing Protected Health Information (PHI) and/or Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
- Implementation of the Microsoft BitLocker Administration and Monitoring platform to simplify the deployment of full-disk encryption, key recovery, and reporting of encryption status.
- Consolidation of all system logs with UITS Splunk log collection services.
- Enhancements to network security with logical segmentation (e.g., separate networks for public-facing servers) and network access control mechanisms to ensure that computers on the CHIP network meet University security standards.

15. Contingent upon funding and institutional commitment, CHIP IT will initiate a project to completely revamp the CHIP website, with a target completion date no later than the end of FY14. In FY13, CHIP IT will formalize a website committee and begin establishing the system requirements, specifications, and interface design concepts. Additionally, this group will conduct a feasibility assessment and usability study to determine the key shortfalls in current design and prioritize strategic initiatives for the development of the next generation of the CHIP website.

16. CHIP IT will implement Microsoft’s System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) 2012 as part of its ongoing managed desktop initiative. Microsoft’s SCCM will enable CHIP IT to manage software and operating system deployment, software update and patch management, and conduct hardware and software inventory from a centralized administrative console. Additionally, this platform will provide CHIP affiliates with a software portal, where they can select CHIP software and install it without the intervention of CHIP IT personnel.

Another element of this objective is the implementation of Forefront Endpoint Protection (FEP) 2012, which provides the end-user with antimalware, virus and spyware protection. The administrative and reporting capabilities of FEP 2012 are built upon SCCM, providing a unified administrative interface. Furthermore, the completion of this initiative will further CHIP’s FY13 secureU efforts as outlined above in Objective No. 14.

**G. CHIP Executive Committee**

During FY12, the following CHIP principal investigators (PIs) served on the Center’s Executive Committee: CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology), CHIP Associate Director and Executive Committee Chair Deborah Cormann (Ph.D., CHIP), Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences), Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology), Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology), Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology), Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences), and Lisa Werkmeister Rozas (Ph.D., Social Work).
The Executive Committee held four meetings in FY12. At each meeting, the Committee was provided with updates on CHIP’s operating budget, grant submissions, newly funded grant proposals, grants management services, IT services, statistical support services, physical facility issues, and CHIP internal grant competitions. Any operational problems were discussed and suggestions for improvements were agreed upon. As it does annually, the Executive Committee also reviewed CHIP’s mission statement, long-term goals, and research objectives for 2012-13, and made some minor changes to them. (See Sections C and D on p. 5 for the latest version of the Mission Statement and Long-Term Goals, and Section F on p. 19 for the FY 2013 Research Objectives.)

Most of the efforts of the Executive Committee this past year were focused on further expanding CHIP’s grant portfolio and breadth of research in health behavior change. These efforts included the following: establishing a stronger collaborative relationship with the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University, hiring three new faculty members with expertise in health behavior research, and creating a Faculty Hire Plan that would further expand the breadth of research being conducted at CHIP over the next 2 to 3 years.

Expanding the Collaborative Relationship between CHIP and CIRA

To broaden CHIP’s reach geographically and scientifically, the Executive Committee strongly endorsed strengthening the collaborative relationship between CIRA and CHIP, and creating a mechanism by which researchers across the two centers could share ideas and partner on research activities. As a first step in this process, CIRA Director Paul Cleary traveled to Storrs on September 1, 2011 to meet with the Executive Committee and brainstorm ideas on how to strengthen this collaboration. Of the numerous ideas that were generated, the following ones have been or are being implemented:

- On September 27, Director Jeff Fisher and Associate Director Debbie Cornman attended CIRA’s 2011 Center Retreat, and Dr. Fisher made a brief presentation about CHIP’s research activities and about CHIP and CIRA’s efforts to collaborate.

- An individual from each Center (Boundary Spanner Alicia Dugan from CHIP and Center Assistant Director for Administration Gai Doran from CIRA) was identified, and the two of them were charged with working together to foster research collaborations across the Centers.

- CHIP and CIRA agreed to jointly fund and solicit applications for a $50,000 pilot project in HIV-related research that would be conducted collaboratively by CHIP and CIRA investigators (“CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Grant”). The funding announcement was released on January 24, 2012, several letters of intent were received by March 6, and three proposals were submitted by the deadline of April 19. On May 24, CIRA’s Dr. Frederick Altice, Yale Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Public Health, and CHIP’s Debarchana Ghosh, UConn Assistant Professor of Geography, were notified that they would be awarded $50,000 by CHIP and CIRA for their joint project entitled, Neighborhood Impact on HIV, Drug Abuse, and Criminal Justice Outcomes. (See Section P on p. 43 and Appendix 15 on p. 97 for additional details).

- On February 15, 2012, CHIP and CIRA co-sponsored an “After 5 Research Schmooze,” in which researchers from CHIP and CIRA were able to meet each other and discuss their research interests and possible collaborations. The event was held at Agave Grill in Hartford (about halfway between UConn and Yale), and 20 investigators from CHIP and from CIRA registered and attended the event. It was an extremely productive event with several researchers agreeing to partner on research projects, including submitting a proposal for the CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Grant (see above). (See Section P on p. 43 and Appendix 15 on p. 97 for additional details).

- CIRA and CHIP are providing pre-submission grant reviews for each other, when relevant. CIRA currently provides peer reviews of grant proposals in-house, and CHIP sends proposals out to experts for peer review.

- A list of research interests and areas of expertise of each researcher at each Center has been created and shared across the two Centers. It will help researchers identify potential collaborators at the two Centers.

Hiring New Faculty with Expertise in Health Behavior Research

President Susan Herbst and Vice Provost Suman Singha both strongly support the idea of investing in areas of strength at UConn, such as CHIP. Consequently, three faculty positions were approved to further strengthen CHIP
and health behavior change research in several departments at the University. The Executive Committee played a pivotal role in the ultimate selection of these faculty members. First, they met to discuss in what research areas these faculty should have expertise and the academic departments in which they should be based. Based on their recommendations, the administration approved hiring a senior researcher in cancer prevention/survivorship, a senior researcher in obesity prevention/control, and a biostatistician who would provide statistical support to researchers at CHIP. The Executive Committee members then helped create job descriptions for each of these hires, contacted researchers from other institutions who might qualify and be interested in these positions, and served on the search committees. As a result of their efforts, three new, highly-regarded faculty members have been hired: Elizabeth Schifano (Ph.D., Statistics), a biostatistician from Harvard University’s School of Public Health, and Frederick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology) and Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology), both senior health psychologists from Dartmouth College who specialize in cancer risk behavior. The search for an obesity researcher was not successful at attracting senior level researchers with strong grant portfolios and therefore will be resumed in the fall of FY13.

**CHIP Faculty Hire Plan**

The University announced that it will be hiring 290 new faculty members over the next several years to “make the University more competitive, contribute to the state’s economy, and improve undergraduate and graduate programs as well as student/faculty ratios.” Each department and center was asked to develop a multi-disciplinary plan for hiring new faculty. The Executive Committee participated substantially in the development of CHIP’s Faculty Hire Plan. They helped write sections of the plan, reviewed and provided feedback on the plan, and contacted department heads for letters of support. The result was a Faculty Hire Plan that was innovative, forward-thinking, and multi-disciplinary. The plan proposed faculty hires with expertise in 9 different health research areas across 7 academic departments and 4 schools/colleges.

**H. CHIP Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network**

In FY12, CHIP added new research affiliates to its multidisciplinary affiliates collaborative network of researchers with interests in health behavior and health behavior change, bringing its total membership to 164 research affiliates.

CHIP continued its efforts to expand multidisciplinary collaborations with appropriate members of relevant UConn schools, departments, and centers, considering new requests for affiliation from individuals whose research interests are consistent with CHIP’s mission. In the past year, there has been increasing involvement with members of several UConn-Storrs departments, as well as with individuals and groups at the UConn Health Center and other institutions, which have led to new grant applications and/or funded grants.

During FY12, CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) and Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) made an even greater push to forge new and expand existing CHIP collaborations both within UConn and outside the University. Several examples of those efforts include working with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), UConn’s Cooperative Extension System (CES) which is administered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), and UConn’s Center for Continuing Studies (CCS):

- In April, the first CHIP/CT DPH Work Group meeting convened at CT DPH in Hartford. The idea for this session originated with DPH Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA and Dr. Fisher as a way to explore the possibility of having Connecticut be a “natural laboratory” for programs and research by CT DPH and CHIP researchers, working in partnership with one another. Invited to the meeting were CT DPH and CHIP researchers who specialize in the following health areas: Cancer, Tobacco, Asthma, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Health Disparities, Maternal and Child Health, Obesity, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Cardiovascular Disease, Stroke, Diabetes, and Health Risk Behaviors. Biographical information about each participant was collected and distributed prior to the meeting so that attendees could decide in advance who they wanted to meet. The event provided time for open networking as well as small breakout groups in which researchers with common interests were assigned to discussion tables focused on specific health topics. The vision is for the CHIP/CT DPH Work Group to hold a series of meetings to further this partnership and plan specific projects. Next steps include having a representative from DPH come to CHIP to present on the research opportunities...
at DPH, distributing information to the CT DPH group regarding the CHIP Lecture Series, and adding relevant CT DPH staff to the CHIP listserv so that they can receive announcements about pertinent projects and funding opportunities.

- Dr. Fisher and Dr. Cornman held meetings during FY12 with leaders from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and its Cooperative Extension System (CES) to explore possible ways for CHIP and CANR/CES to enhance each other’s research and outreach efforts, given that CHIP and CANR/CES’s missions share an emphasis on bringing research-based programs and practices to the communities that need them most. For example, in identified areas of mutual strength, CHIP researchers may be able to help CANR/CES educators evaluate the effectiveness of their existing health-related programs and apply for even larger federal grants to expand those that are most effective. In return, CANR/CES, with its vast network of more than 40,000 extension educators spread throughout every county in Connecticut, may be able to help CHIP researchers identify and gain access to additional research sites for their projects. This is especially important as both CANR/CES and CHIP work with at-risk populations, and it can be particularly challenging for researchers to establish trusting relationships with some at-risk populations. One area of mutual strength between CHIP and CANR/CES that already has been identified is obesity, and there have been preliminary discussions about using the 4-H program, administered by CANR/CES, as an arena to test and disseminate CHIP interventions to address obesity and improve the health of teens.

- During the spring semester, Dr. Fisher and Dr. Cornman also met with leaders at UConn’s Center for Continuing Studies to discuss possible opportunities for collaboration. Ideas resulting from this meeting ranged from those that could be implemented quickly, such as identifying professional audiences interested in the CHIP Lecture Series and offering UConn continuing education credits to them for attending the lectures or viewing them online, to those that would take longer to develop, such as offering, to domestic and international audiences, online “train-the-trainer” sessions for various CHIP evidence-based interventions.

- In addition to these new collaborations initiated during FY12, CHIP and Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) expanded their existing collaboration. Two new initiatives that resulted from the expanded collaboration include the creation of a new $50,000 joint seed grant competition for HIV researchers from CHIP and CIRA, and a networking event for HIV researchers from both centers. (Both of these new initiatives are detailed elsewhere in this report, including in Sections G and P and Appendix 15 on pp. 20, 43, and 97, respectively.)

In summary, as in previous years, CHIP has continued to foster multi-disciplinary research collaborations by creating novel opportunities for researchers to meet and by adding new affiliates to its network from across the UConn campuses and beyond who conduct research in the areas of health behavior, health risk dynamics, and health behavior change. CHIP’s long-term goal is to continually expand and enhance its research network and to promote the University as a premier institution of health behavior and health intervention research.

(See Appendix 4 on p. 60 for a list of CHIP principal investigators and research affiliates.)

CHIP Affiliation and Associated Benefits

Potential CHIP affiliates are identified through new and existing research collaborations, through direct communications between CHIP and other UConn departments and centers, through initiation by UConn Deans and Department Heads, 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 become an affiliate. The benefits of being a CHIP affiliate are many, and as the Center continues to grow, CHIP services to its affiliates to help them scale up and succeed in health behavior change research are reviewed and enhanced on a regular basis. Several services of note include providing CHIP affiliates with pre-submission statistical, methodological, and content review of their external grant proposals; the CHIP Lecture Series that showcases leading scholars from diverse fields of health research; assistance in searching for external grant opportunities; extensive pre- and post-award support; and competitive pilot funding for developing research projects/interventions that will increase the likelihood of affiliates securing external grant funds in the future.
(See Appendix 5 on p. 71 for a list of services provided by CHIP and the administrative staff members responsible for each service.)

Selected New Multidisciplinary Affiliates Research Collaborations

CHIP’s efforts to enhance multidisciplinary collaboration resulted in several new partnerships formed or furthered during FY12. In fact, in FY12, nearly 60 percent of new CHIP grants (received between May 16, 2011 and May 15, 2012) involved multidisciplinary collaborations.

The projects described below provide a sampling of some of the CHIP multidisciplinary collaborative grants recently awarded by external funders:

1. **Secondary HIV Prevention and Adherence Among HIV+ Drug Users:** With a new R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute On Drug Abuse (NIDA), CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) and his collaborators are conducting a randomized, controlled “non-inferiority trial” to test the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of an adapted, brief version of an evidence-based intervention (EBI) for HIV+ drug users called “Holistic Health for HIV” (3H+) relative to the original evidence-based “Holistic Health Recovery Program” (HHRP) intervention. Dr. Copenhaver and his colleagues developed and adapted 3H+ as a result of formative work they conducted in drug treatment settings in New Haven, CT. The trial is termed a “non-inferiority trial” because it will compare the adapted version of the intervention to the original intervention, which is evidence-based and currently considered the gold standard. Should the adapted intervention be found to be cost-effective and “non-inferior” to the original intervention, it likely will be the preferred intervention to implement because it is briefer and can be readily disseminated to drug treatment settings. Dr. Copenhaver is the grant PI, and his Co-Investigators include CHIP Affiliate Frederick Altice, M.D., a Yale University Professor of Medicine and Director of Clinical and Community Research at Yale’s Department of Internal Medicine; Douglas Bruce, M.D., a Yale Assistant Professor of Medicine and Public Health; Dr. Elisa Long, an Assistant Professor of Operations at the Yale School of Management; and Lynn Madden, Chief Executive Officer at the APT Foundation in New Haven.

2. **Behavioral Intervention to Enhance HIV Test/Treat:** CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) has a new NIH/NIDA grant to evaluate a theory-based intervention he developed to simultaneously improve HIV treatment adherence and reduce HIV transmission risk behaviors in people living with HIV who use alcohol and other drugs. The intervention, which attempts to address some of the challenges of the national HIV “test and treat” strategy, is among the first to simultaneously address treatment adherence and HIV transmission risk behaviors in an integrated model for substance-using people living with HIV. The intervention consists of one office-based counseling session followed by four cell phone-delivered counseling sessions. Identifying factors that predict relapse to non-adherence and/or HIV transmission risk behaviors will also be a focal point of the study. Dr. Kalichman is the grant PI and CHIP PI Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Psychology) is the grant Co-I. Dr. Kalichman’s collaborators on the grant include specialists in pediatric and geriatric medicine from Emory University in Atlanta, the city in which the study will take place.

3. **Evaluation of Graphic Warning Labels on Tobacco Packages and Related Supporting Messages:** CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences) has a new grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to assess the potential impact of new, graphic cigarette package warning labels, which are required to cover 50 percent of the cigarette package. Snyder specifically will study the impact of the graphic warning labels in two high-risk, but previously untested, populations: teenagers and pregnant women. Dr. Snyder also will develop and test additional messaging that could enhance the effectiveness of the warning labels. Dr. Snyder is working with colleagues at Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania and is the UConn-based PI for the grant. Her multidisciplinary team at UConn includes Co-Is and UConn Health Center physicians Dr. Michelle Cloutier (a pediatric pulmonologist) and Dr. Cheryl Oncken (an internal medicine and primary care physician who specializes in smoking cessation in pregnant women). Both Dr. Cloutier and Dr. Oncken are CHIP affiliates.

4. **Effect of Incremental Increases in Dietary Carbohydrate on Saturated Fat Levels and Blood Borne Risk Markers for Cardiovascular Disease:** CHIP PI Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology) has a new grant from private
industry that involves working collaboratively with faculty from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ Department of Nutritional Sciences; CHIP Affiliate Maria-Luz Fernandez (Ph.D., Nutritional Sciences) and CHIP Affiliate Richard Bruno (Ph.D., Nutritional Sciences) are serving as Co-Is on the grant. The multidisciplinary team is conducting a controlled feeding study of men and women with metabolic syndrome, in which participants spend the first several weeks on a low-carbohydrate diet and then have their carbohydrates incrementally increased as their fat intake is lowered. Blood will be drawn at baseline and after each diet phase to determine circulating fatty acid composition, lipoproteins, glucose, insulin, and markers of inflammation and oxidative stress. The team expects to show that plasma saturated fatty acid levels are impacted by dietary carbohydrate intake and to provide strong support for the paradigm that dietary carbohydrate has a major influence on the metabolic processing of saturated fat and other health markers.

5. **Effect Size Metric Choices As Factors in Meta-Analytic Statistical Inferences:** CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology), internationally known for his expertise in meta-analysis, has a new grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to improve meta-analytic methods, specifically focused on accurately representing the magnitude of each study’s effect on a common metric. Dr. Johnson is the grant PI. His Co-Is include Professor of Pharmacy and Department of Pharmacy Practice Head Charles Michael White and CHIP PI Tania B. Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Psychology). The team expects to show that under some circumstances, it is better to use standardized metrics to represent study outcomes than to leave them in their original metric.

6. **Enhancing PrEP Adherence Support and Risk Reduction in a Public Health Setting:** As Co-I on a new NIH grant, CHIP PI and CHIP Research Scientist Rivet Amico (Ph.D., Psychology) is working with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to determine whether oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention can be delivered effectively in community settings. The project involves refining and deploying two promising interventions to promote adherence and reduce risk among HIV-uninfected men who have sex with men (MSM) who are PrEP users, with the ultimate goal of supporting MSM utilizing PrEP in diverse clinical and community settings. Dr. Albert Liu, M.D., M.P.H., of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, is the grant PI.

I. **Results of 2012 CHIP Affiliates Survey**

CHIP offers a range of services to its principal investigators (PIs), research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, including access to internal CHIP grant competitions, assistance with grant preparation, pre- and post-award grant support, IT services, and more. To ensure that the services that CHIP provides are meeting the needs of its consumers, each year CHIP asks its PIs, research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates to evaluate the quality of its services through an anonymous online survey.

Eighty-two individuals completed the 2012 CHIP Business Services Survey in March of this year, and results were very favorable in all categories. Examples of the comments made by the respondents are the following:

- “It is great to have CHIP as a resource for grant development.”
- “I don’t know what I would do without CHIP and the services it provides. Thank you.”
- “Keep it up…. I appreciate all CHIP does.”
- “CHIP has much better services than most departments at most institutions of higher learning.”

A summary of the survey results related to key services follows.

**CHIP Internal Grants for PIs and Affiliates**

CHIP offers 5 different internal grant opportunities to UConn-affiliated faculty and graduate students (i.e., seed grants for new investigators, seed grants for experienced PIs in health behavior, pilot project grants for graduate students, summer stipends for faculty for grant development, and grants for conference development) as a way to
foster research in health behavior and, ultimately, successful external grant applications. Each internal grant application is rigorously evaluated by a panel of CHIP reviewers using procedures similar to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) review panel, and applicants are provided with detailed written feedback from the reviewers. The 2012 CHIP Business Services Survey asked respondents to indicate whether they had ever applied for a CHIP internal grant and, if so, whether it benefited their research. Of the 82 respondents, 20 indicated that they had previously applied for and were awarded one or more internal grants. When asked the impact of the internal grants on their research, 12 (60.0%) individuals reported that the grants had “helped further their research” and the remaining 8 did not answer the question. Although many people have applied for a CHIP grant over the history of CHIP’s internal grant competition and not been awarded one, only 5 of 82 survey respondents reported having this experience. Of those 5 respondents, 2 reported that applying for the grant “helped further their research,” one person wrote that “the process of applying for this grant gave me some experience with grant writing that I would not have otherwise obtained,” and the other 2 individuals did not provide any feedback on the impact of this experience on their research.

(See Section K on p. 33 and Appendices 6 through 12 on pp. 73 – 83 for more information about CHIP’s internal grants.)

CHIP Research Support Services: Expert Review and Statistical Analysis

CHIP services to researchers include pre-submission reviews of external grant proposals by expert researchers as well as statistical support with research design, power analysis, and data analyses. Although pre-submission reviews of grant proposals were provided in the past year, none of the individuals who completed the survey indicated that they had received such services. One respondent did, however, comment very positively on his/her experience utilizing these services in previous years: “I used it in the past, and it was very helpful. This has been a major selling point with junior researchers thinking about their first grants.” When asked to indicate whether they had made use of the statistical support services in the past year, 6 respondents reported receiving statistical support from a CHIP-funded statistician. When asked to rate the helpfulness of the statistical support, 4 of 6 respondents said the services were “very helpful,” one respondent reported that the statistical support “did not help in any way,” and one person did not rate the helpfulness. A PI who received this service commented positively about the support s/he received: “We used this service to analyze data, and our Senior Statistician found it very helpful.”

(See Appendix 18 on p. 126 for more information about these and other CHIP services.)

CHIP Lecture Series

The CHIP Lecture Series brings world-renowned researchers to UConn to make presentations on a range of topics related to health behavior, and it also provides opportunities for researchers and graduate students to meet individually with the presenters to discuss research ideas and possible collaborations. Forty of the 82 respondents indicated that they had attended at least one CHIP Lecture Series presentation in the past year, and 18 reported that they had watched one or more presentations online (web streamed or archived) on the CHIP website, for a total of 47 unique respondents who attended or watched at least one presentation. Of the 35 individuals who provided feedback on the presentations, 14 (40.0%) respondents indicated that the presentations were “very helpful” to their research, 21 (60.0%) responded that the presentations were “somewhat helpful” to their research, and 10 (28.6%) indicated that the presentations helped them to “identify potential research collaborators.” No one indicated that the CHIP Lecture Series presentations had “not helped in any way.” The comments about the Lecture Series were very positive and included the following:

- “The online option has been a wonderful means of staying informed and involved in CHIP!”
- “I was a presenter for 2012. The presentation experience and audience response were excellent!”

(See Appendix 3 on p. 58 for a list of CHIP Lecture Series presentations.)
**CHIP’s Pre-Award and Post-Award Grant Services**

Services that are critical to obtaining grants and managing them once awarded are pre-award and post-award grant services. A total of 22 out of 82 survey respondents indicated that they had utilized CHIP pre-award services one or more times during the past year. Of 19 respondents who used these services and rated their helpfulness, 16 (84.2%) respondents indicated that the services were very helpful, and 3 (15.8%) responded that the services were “somewhat” to “very helpful;” none of the respondents indicated that the services were “not helpful.” Twenty-five respondents indicated that they had used post-award grant services in the past year. Of the 22 respondents who used these services and rated their helpfulness, 15 (68.2%) respondents reported that the services were “very helpful,” 5 (22.7%) rated the services as “somewhat” to “very helpful,” and 2 people (9.1%) rated the post-award services as “somewhat helpful.” The comments provided by respondents about pre- and post-award grant services were very positive, as exemplified by the following:

- “CHIP staffers are excellent: punctual, accurate, helpful, friendly.”
- “I learned a lot through the process thanks to the help that I received, and I do not think I would have been able to do it without that help.”
- “I could never manage this alone.”
- “The assistance made the tedious process much smoother!”
- “The review [of my final grant application prior to OSP submission] made me feel much more confident.”
- “Super important, super helpful.”
- “Excellent service!”

**Other CHIP Administrative Services**

Other CHIP administrative services include assistance with hiring staff, payroll, human resources/labor relations, purchasing, and travel. All of these services are critical to PIs being able to conduct their research projects as cost- and time-efficiently as possible. Eighteen of the 82 respondents indicated that they had sought assistance from the CHIP administrative team one or more times in the past year for the hiring of students and/or research staff, processing of payroll, and/or human resources issues. Sixteen (94.1%) of the 17 respondents who rated these services indicated the services were “very helpful,” and one individual rated these services as “somewhat” to “very helpful.” Similarly, in terms of assistance with travel, 20 respondents reported utilizing these services one or more times in the past year. Of the 19 respondents who rated the helpfulness of travel services, 18 (94.7%) rated these services as “very helpful” and 1 (5.3%) rated them as “somewhat helpful.” A total of 21 respondents indicated receiving assistance with purchasing on at least one occasion in the past year; of the 20 respondents who rated the helpfulness of these services, 18 (90.0%) rated them as “very helpful,” 2 (10.0%) as “somewhat helpful,” and no one rated them as “not helpful.” Examples of the comments made on the survey about these various administrative services are the following:

- Assistance with hiring: “Susan Hoge is an exceptional resource and does an excellent and timely job of this.”
- Assistance with processing payroll: “Susan was helpful to me.”
- Assistance with travel: “In my experience, Sarah Bothell has been outstanding. She's very prompt and thorough and a real pleasure to work with.”
- Assistance with purchasing: “Melissa was very helpful.”

**CHIP IT Services**

Section U: “Ongoing Technology Initiatives” on p. 48 provides more information about IT services, which include assistance with IT purchases, project management, hardware and software issues, network issues, file server
management, and data/file backup. As CHIP research and grants have become progressively more technologically sophisticated, the availability of quality IT support articulated to the health behavior change needs of CHIP PIs has become an absolute necessity. Of 82 survey respondents, 29 indicated they were assisted with IT issues one or more times in the past year. Of the 25 respondents who rated the helpfulness of IT services, 16 (64.0%) indicated that those services were “very helpful,” and 9 (36.0%) reported that the services they received were “somewhat” to “very helpful.” The majority of comments provided by respondents about IT services were very positive and included comments such as “They are great!,” “They are terrific.,” and “What would I do without that great, fast, and efficient assistance?!” However, there were also some concerns voiced about their availability and responsiveness. Of 38 respondents who rated IT’s availability, 30 (78.9%) respondents indicated that IT was “always available” or “available most of the time” when they were needed, but 8 (21.1%) reported that IT was “sometimes” or “rarely” available when they were needed. Comments about their availability included many positive comments as well as the following:

- “Though they do their best to immediately attend to urgent matters, some of our issues have been on the back burner for weeks.”

- “Although they work great, I think they may need more people to help them due to the volume of work with CHIP growing more and more.”

CHIP IT is aware of the accessibility concerns that have been raised and is taking measures to address them. Specifically, CHIP IT has done the following: (1) acquired new mobile phones on the AT&T network, which offers much better coverage throughout the Storrs campus and surrounding areas than Sprint PCS; (2) created signage for the CHIP IT office door indicating the location of CHIP IT personnel during regularly scheduled office hours; (3) established an open door policy during regular business hours; and (4) adopted use of a shared calendar with the CHIP Administrative Team that details IT personnel schedules, meetings, and other related events that may affect IT availability (sickness, personal day, vacation, offsite meeting, etc.). CHIP IT also went through a period of time this past year when there was also only one full-time staff member supporting all of CHIP’s IT needs. The staff shortage problem was resolved in November of 2011 with the hire of Sam Salorio, a full-time CHIP IT Consultant.

(For a complete list of CHIP services and who is eligible for them, see Appendix 18 on p. 126.)

**Communication about CHIP Services**

Last year, questions were added to the survey that assessed how to most effectively disseminate information about CHIP’s services, resources, and research accomplishments to CHIP PIs, staff, students, and other affiliates. When respondents were asked which CHIP email communications sent via the listservs they found to be valuable, 58 of 67 respondents (86.6%) indicated that the CHIP Lecture Series announcements were valuable, 50 (74.6%) responded that the funding announcements were valuable, and 40 individuals (59.7%) said that the research news announcements were valuable. Out of 68 respondents who answered the question about how they would prefer to receive email updates with CHIP research news, 51 respondents (75.0%) reported that they wanted to receive “email updates when several news stories are ready and can be bundled together into one email,” 16 (23.5%) indicated that they wanted to receive “email updates as soon as significant CHIP news occurs,” and one person (1.5%) wanted both things to occur. In terms of CHIP’s website, all but 3 (4.3%) of 69 respondents indicated visiting the website at least once in the past year. Forty-one respondents (59.5%) indicated that they visited CHIP’s website at least every other month. Those who visited the website during the past year reported visiting many different sections of the website, but the most frequently visited sections were the following: Staff Directory (75.0%), CHIP Lecture Series (65.6%), Research Resources (42.2%), CHIP Administrative Services (34.4%), IT Support (31.3%), and “CHIP Today” Articles Box (21.9%).

**J. CHIP Health Domains**

CHIP principal investigators (PIs) conduct research related to health behavior, health risk behavior, and health behavior change across a range of academic disciplines and health domains. Since the formation of CHIP in FY02, CHIP PIs have successfully secured research grants totaling more than $88.1 million to study the dynamics of health
behavior and health risk behavior within specific populations and to develop interventions to reduce risk behaviors and support healthy behaviors.

At present, CHIP has $53.9 million in active grants across all years in the following health domains: HIV/AIDS, other STIs and sexual risk behaviors, alcohol and substance use, medication adherence and management, exercise science, nutrition, obesity, diabetes, cancer, autism, global health, health disparities, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, health intervention and measurement-related dissemination and implementation, and select methods to study health behavior.

(A list of the active CHIP grants for FY12 is provided in Appendix 13 on p.85.)

A brief description of each health domain follows.

**HIV/AIDS**

CHIP’s historical roots are in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment research, although its mission and its work have become much broader over the years. Much CHIP research to date has been conducted in the area of HIV risk behavior, including understanding the dynamics of risky behavior, creating HIV prevention interventions for at-risk and HIV-positive populations, creating interventions to improve antiretroviral medication adherence, and performing meta-analyses of existing HIV interventions to determine which ones are most effective.

Of particular note, three CHIP interventions are included in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) *Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions*, which lists the premier interventions developed, implemented and evaluated in the U.S. to date. They include:

- **Healthy Relationships**, a multi-session, group-level HIV risk reduction intervention for people living with HIV (PLWH), which is one of the most widely disseminated HIV prevention interventions in the world.
- **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.
- **Options/Opciones Project**, a healthcare provider-delivered HIV prevention intervention for PLWH who are in clinical care, which has been disseminated broadly throughout the U.S. and Africa since it was first developed in 2000.

In addition to the three interventions listed in CDC’s *Compendium*, the *Peer-Driven Intervention (PDI)* developed by a CHIP PI 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. The model was demonstrated to be effective and has been disseminated globally, including in China, Ukraine, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, and U.S.

As indicated above, CHIP’s HIV/AIDS research has grown increasingly international over the years. The Center’s research portfolio in Africa is especially large, comprising approximately $17 million in active grants across all years.

**OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIS) AND SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIORS**

CHIP research on other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and sexual risk behaviors includes the development and evaluation of interventions for pregnancy prevention, meta-analyses of existing safer sex interventions and family planning campaigns, and use of virtual reality (VR) technology to measure study participants’ rapid, emotion-based reactions to condoms.

**ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE**

CHIP alcohol and substance use research includes risk reduction interventions for injection drug users as well as interventions addressing alcohol-related HIV risk behaviors and alcohol-related obstacles to antiretroviral medication adherence in various target populations. Other lines of CHIP alcohol and substance use research involve interventions to reduce excess drinking in college students, and interventions using exercise to reduce hazardous drinking behavior and drug use.
Much of CHIP’s past or present research in this domain has been internationally-based, including research performed in China, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

**MEDICATION ADHERENCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Examples of CHIP research in the realm of medication adherence include a novel software program investigators created to increase HIV-positive patients’ adherence to antiretroviral medications and a theory-based, cell phone-delivered HIV medication adherence counseling intervention currently being developed and tested. CHIP research on medication adherence targets a variety of at-risk populations including individuals with poor literacy skills and recently released prisoners transitioning back into the community.

In the realm of medication management, CHIP investigators have developed a user-friendly software program for older adults with hypertension to learn more about their medications and to alert them to potentially dangerous drug interactions. The program, which runs on a tablet computer, has been licensed to a company that provides web-based monitoring and management solutions to improve the quality and reduce the cost of care for patients with chronic conditions.

**EXERCISE SCIENCE**

CHIP investigators from UConn’s top-ranked Kinesiology Department have grants covering a broad range of exercise science areas, including exercise genomics, medications’ effects on muscle function, and exercise regimens as interventions for alcohol and substance use and for obesity. They are also studying the impact of exercise on the management of chronic diseases, such as hypertension, and on cancer survivors’ quality of life, as well as researching ways to improve athletic performance.

**NUTRITION**

A number of CHIP interventions across health domains include nutrition and/or physical activity components. Additionally, CHIP researchers in UConn’s Kinesiology Department have grants to study metabolic and hormonal responses to foods low in carbohydrates, the role of acute and chronic ingestion of whey protein on the body’s response to resistance training, and how the level of fat in milk affects the efficacy of plant sterols in the milk to lower cholesterol.

**OBESITY**

CHIP obesity research seeks to understand and change the individual, social, and environmental factors contributing to our nation’s obesity epidemic. Examples of ongoing CHIP obesity research projects include: (1) working with parents and pediatricians in Hartford to address childhood obesity in children as young as two years of age, (2) studying the cultural contexts of health disparities among adolescent girls, with a specific focus on weight/obesity and reproductive health in Latina and African American girls known to be at greatest risk with regard to these two health outcomes, (3) involving spouses or partners in weight loss efforts, and (4) analyzing the impact of food advertisements and public service announcements (PSAs) on child and teen eating habits and weight.

An obesity research interest group at CHIP includes faculty members from UConn’s Psychology, Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutritional Sciences, Pediatrics, Public Health, and Communication Sciences departments with a common interest in understanding, preventing, and treating obesity and related co-morbidities.

**DIABETES**

CHIP diabetes research includes the translation of a proven, intensive lifestyle intervention for overweight adults with Type 2 Diabetes into a virtual clinician intervention tool to make it more practical for time-pressured healthcare providers to integrate the intervention into routine patient care. Another line of CHIP diabetes research involved the development, implementation, and evaluation of a theory-driven diabetes self-care intervention.

**CANCER**

CHIP cancer research historically has focused on quality-of-life issues for cancer survivors and interventions to address survivors’ heightened risk for cancer reoccurrence, second primary cancers, and many other diseases. An
example of such work is a nutrition and physical activity intervention currently being developed for breast cancer survivors targeting the “teachable moment” following diagnosis and treatment.

A new line of cancer prevention research involves evaluating the effectiveness of new graphic cigarette warning labels on cigarette packages that are intended to discourage tobacco use.

Additionally, during FY12, CHIP hired two renowned senior psychologists from Dartmouth College, Frederick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology), who is a health-social psychologist who focuses on cancer risk behavior, and Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology). The Gibbons-Gerrard Health Psychology Lab at Dartmouth applies social psychological theory to health-risk behavior. Much of their work is based on a social-reaction model of adolescent health-risk behavior, the Prototype/ Willingness (PW) model, which they developed. The model contends that adolescents’ health decision-making strategies are often reactions to risk-conducive situations rather than planned activities. Dr. Gibbons and his research team study individuals from a variety of demographic backgrounds, including backgrounds that vary in ethnicity, age, and socioeconomic status. In addition, Dr. Gibbons is a member of the Cancer Control Research Program at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center at Dartmouth Medical School.

Dr. Gerrard, Co-Director of the Cancer Control Research Program at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, is a health psychologist with more than 38 years of experience studying adolescent and young adult health behavior. For the past 15 years, her primary research area has been health risk and health promoting factors of African American adolescents and emerging adults. Dr. Gerrard has examined cancer susceptibility profiles in young African American adults and, specifically, she has created a theoretical model of the integration of psychological and physiological stress response pathways to markers of cancer vulnerability (i.e., smoking, risky sex, elevated BMI, increased inflammation, and reduced telomere maintenance). Examples of some of Dr. Gibbons and Dr. Gerrard’s collaborative research in the area of cancer prevention include: predicting and preventing youth alcohol and substance use, assessing smoking risk behavior and the effectiveness of smoking cessation interventions, applying social psychological theory to interventions for UV protection, and determining psychological and behavioral predictors of HPV vaccination in African American women.

AUTISM

Examples of CHIP autism research include a study of the impact of robots on the gross motor, fine motor, and social communication skills of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); the development and evaluation of novel tools for identification of motor, social, and cognitive deficits associated with ASD within the first six months of life; and the creation and evaluation of theory-based training videos for parents of children with ASD to help them support and supplement their children’s therapy at home.

GLOBAL HEALTH

During this past year, CHIP researchers continued to design, implement, evaluate, and disseminate theory-based, but highly practical, health behavior change interventions for at-risk populations around the world. In fact, with $18.2 million in active international grants, across all years, one third of CHIP’s research portfolio involves work in other countries. CHIP researchers currently have externally-funded projects in Albania, China, Ethiopia, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, South Africa, and Uganda that involve health behavior change interventions designed or adapted for those countries, with sustainability in mind and the potential to save countless lives. In addition to these active international grants, a recently submitted CHIP grant, if funded, would allow researchers to conduct HIV prevention research in South America’s Andes Mountains.

Much of CHIP’s international work is in the core problem area of HIV/AIDS, a research arena in which CHIP continues to be a worldwide leader. CHIP’s international HIV/AIDS work includes the development and evaluation of interventions that support the healthy behavior of people living with HIV (PLWH). This includes interventions that address PLWH’s barriers to safer sexual behavior, such as alcohol use, drug use, and gender-based violence, as well as interventions that promote optimal adherence to life-saving antiretroviral medications. A CHIP research team also is currently determining how geospatial factors, such as environment, culture, and politics, can affect the efficacy of HIV prevention interventions, with the ultimate goal of assembling a geospatial landscape of HIV prevention interventions around the world and publishing an interactive map on the Internet, so that it can become an international resource for researchers, public health workers, and policy makers.
Select examples of CHIP international research in other health areas include a new line of autism research in Albania focused on screening, diagnosis, and parent training for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and a recently completed health communication study evaluating the effectiveness of communication campaigns focused on reproductive health and family planning in developing countries.

**HEALTH DISPARITIES**

CHIP health disparities research includes mentoring scholars from under-represented racial and ethnic backgrounds in community-based HIV research; studying the cultural contexts of health disparities among adolescent girls, with a specific focus on reproductive health and weight/obesity; and addressing childhood obesity in African American and Latino preschoolers in Hartford.

**COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO MEDICINE**

CHIP research in this area includes exploring the linkage between religiousness/spirituality (R/S) and physical health and developing a translational tool for researchers that will allow them to explicitly describe and compare different types of yoga interventions in clinical trials. Although evidence suggests that yoga benefits both physical and mental health, researchers have yet to compare various styles of yoga and assess specific components, such as breathing, poses, or a teacher’s specific approach, to identify what works most effectively in terms of improving health. The translational tool being developed through a current CHIP grant will allow researchers to do so.

**HEALTH INTERVENTION- AND MEASUREMENT-RELATED DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE**

Increasingly, new and submitted CHIP grants include significant dissemination and implementation components. One example of this is a research project examining the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the successful implementation of an effective HIV prevention-with-positives intervention. Another example is a grant to translate an effective behavior change intervention for overweight and obese Type 2 diabetics into a virtual program that can be accessed 24/7 on the Internet from anywhere in the world. Currently being developed, theory-based training videos for parents of children with autism also have the potential to be widely disseminated.

Additionally, since 2008, CHIP has been a critical partner in the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS), helping to develop its Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core and making valuable contributions to support its mission of accelerating the translation of health-related discoveries into clinical and community practice.

**HEALTH COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING**

Recent examples of CHIP health communication and marketing research include evaluating the effectiveness of new graphic cigarette warning labels on cigarette packages, and analyzing the impact of food advertisements and public service announcements (PSAs) on child and teen eating habits and weight.

Past CHIP health communication and marketing research includes the development of an HIV prevention video game geared toward young urban adults, location-based social marketing to prevent youth drug abuse, and the meta-analysis of health communication campaigns.

**SELECT METHODS TO STUDY HEALTH BEHAVIOR**

CHIP also has expertise in select methods for studying health behavior, including geographic information systems (GIS), meta-analysis, and virtual reality (VR) and other advanced interactive technologies.

A CHIP investigator recently received an NIH mentored training grant in geospatial analysis, and he is using his training to create a geospatial landscape of HIV prevention intervention efficacy. This will involve the use of GIS data, such as economic and political factors, to ascertain if these elements relate to HIV prevention intervention efficacy. The same investigator has received three consecutive five-year grants from NIMH to conduct meta-analyses of existing HIV prevention interventions to determine which ones are most effective.
Finally, several years ago, a CHIP-administered federal grant to study sexual risk behavior in VR environments led to the creation of the CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC). CHIP’s AITC, which is now a fee-for-service center available to the entire University, offers hardware, software, and personnel capabilities to produce and support interactive and VR research. In addition to working on the sexual risk behavior grant (which is using VR technology to measure study participants’ rapid, emotion-based reactions to condoms), AITC staff members currently are working with researchers from a number of disciplines, including Nursing and Engineering, on projects or grant proposals involving interactive or VR technologies.

K. CHIP Research Investment Capital ("Seed Grant") Competitions

Annually, CHIP conducts five competitions for CHIP seed grant 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 and most successful external grants were funded because they were able to include critical pilot data made possible by one of the five seed grant competitions described below.

Of particular note this year, in addition to holding these five long-standing seed grant competitions, CHIP also launched a new joint seed grant program with Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) to spur collaborative, innovative research in the area of HIV/AIDS. More details about this new program can be found below, following the descriptions of the five long-standing, annual seed grant competitions:

1. **Seed Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators (PIs)** - 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 junior investigators who 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. **CHIP Seed Grant Funding Opportunities for Pilot Projects 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 a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-style panel. Priority is given to promising research likely to develop into a larger study and to garner external funding (e.g., a National Research Service Award through the National Institute of Mental Health).

4. **Annual CHIP Grant Development Summer 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 financially support junior faculty 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, 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 research literature, the type of grant (R21, R03) for which the PI will apply, and provide evidence that the funding agency has interest in supporting this type of work. The proposals are reviewed by an internal NIH-style review panel within CHIP.

5. **CHIP Grant Funding for Conference Development** - 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 UConn 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.

6. **CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Program** - A new joint seed grant program was announced in FY12 as a strategic initiative to strengthen the CHIP-CIRA collaborative partnership. In January 2011, the CIRA/CHIP Multi-
Institutional Pilot Program announced that it would award $50,000 in funding to a research team comprised of an investigator from each research center (i.e., CHIP and CIRA) for innovative HIV/AIDS pilot research leading to future external grant funding. On March 6, four pairs of CHIP-CIRA researchers submitted letters of intent to apply for the new grant and all were invited to prepare full applications, due on April 19. The grant review process entailed an initial review of letters of intent; applicants who met the basic review criteria were invited to submit a full proposal. The LOI review committee consisted of two members each of CHIP and CIRA, and one member of CIRA’s Community Advisory Board. Full applications were jointly reviewed by a committee comprised of three members each from CHIP and CIRA, and one member of CIRA’s Community Advisory Board. Grantees were announced on May 24th: CIRA’s Dr. Frederick Altice, Yale Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Public Health, and CHIP’s Debarchana Ghosh, UConn Assistant Professor of Geography, won for their joint project entitled, Neighborhood Impact on HIV, Drug Abuse, and Criminal Justice Outcomes.

(Please see Appendices 6 through 12 on pp. 73 - 83 for this year’s announcement for each of these competitions.)

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 late fall of each year. Reviews are performed in February of the following year, and funds are awarded before the end of each fiscal year.

An important component of all 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 review panels are charged with making funding recommendations, so reviews are scored by open polling, followed by the group deriving consensus scores. The panels also have the power to revise the budgets in the grants, in the way that NIH panels can make budget recommendations.

CHIP Administrative Specialist Stacey Leeds provides communication and logistical assistance for the faculty and graduate student review process. CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher reviews the recommendations of the committee and makes final funding decisions, consistent with CHIP’s budget.

Results of CHIP Research Investment Capital (“Seed Grant”) Competitions

The proposals, which are submitted in response to the announcements in Appendices 6 through 12 on pages 73 - 83, constitute the “seed corn” from which future CHIP research grant proposals emerge. It is critical that CHIP has the funds to support these competitions each fiscal year, because availability of these funds can have impact on the success of future CHIP external grant submissions, the breadth of the scientific work emerging from CHIP research, as well as the indirect costs (IDCs) CHIP can return to the University.

This past year, the CHIP Review Committee was chaired by CHIP PIs Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) and Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology). Committee members also included CHIP Affiliate Katie Martin (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences), and CHIP researcher Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/CHIP). Doctoral students Ifeoma Ezeabogu (M.S., Allied Health Sciences), Carter Lennon (M.A., Psychology), and, Jenna Apicella (M.A., Kinesiology) also participated. Dr. Pescatello recused herself from reviewing her own application for seed grant funding as well as her students’ applications for seed grant funding.

In March 2012, the CHIP Review Committee awarded $14,500 to a CHIP faculty member affiliate:

- Dr. Pescatello and colleagues (see below) for a grant proposal entitled, Modality and the Long Lasting Anti-Hypertensive Effects of Exercise.
The CHIP Review Committee also funded two $1,500 seed grants for each of the following CHIP graduate student affiliates:

- Alefiyah Pishori (Psychology) for a proposal entitled, *Impact of Stigmatized Identities on Mental and Physical Health of Asian Americans*.

Brief descriptions of each of these new seed grant projects are below:

**Modality and the Long Lasting Anti-Hypertensive Effects of Exercise:**
CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), along with Co-Investigators CHIP Affiliate Garrett Ash (M.S., Exercise Science), Ming-Hui Chen (Ph.D., Statistics), Paul Thompson (M.D., Director of Cardiology, Hartford Hospital), Beth Parker (Ph.D., Research Scientist, Hartford Hospital), and CHIP PI William Kraemer (Ph.D., Kinesiology), will use their seed grant award to fund a pilot study comparing the antihypertensive effects of two forms of exercise: aerobic exercise and isometric hand grip (IHG) exercise. Dr. Pescatello and her team hypothesize that IHG exercises produce greater reductions in blood pressure than aerobic exercise. Their pilot study also will examine carotid femoral pulse wave velocity (PWV) changes before and after aerobic and IHG exercise, to explore if exercise-induced changes to carotid femoral PWV, an independent cardiovascular disease risk factor that is an index of central arterial stiffness, may account for the blood pressure responses to both forms of exercise. The work of Dr. Pescatello’s team has the potential to increase the importance of exercise as antihypertensive therapy, provide more exercise options for those with hypertension, explore mechanisms underlying blood pressure’s response to exercise, and yield preliminary data to strengthen Dr. Pescatello’s ultimate application for significant external funding for this line of her work.

**The Anti-Hypertensive Effects of Aerobic Exercise Training: A Meta-Analysis:**
Under the guidance of CHIP PIs Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) and Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Kinesiology doctoral student Hayley MacDonald (M.S., Exercise Science) will use her seed grant award to help fund the preparation of a meta-analysis examining relevant, randomized, controlled trials to determine the optimum dose of aerobic exercise to lower blood pressure. Specifically, her project will determine the overall effectiveness of aerobic exercise as a lifestyle intervention to prevent, manage, and treat hypertension. MacDonald’s meta-analysis also will examine how patient clinical characteristics, intervention training characteristics, and their complex interactions may modulate the blood pressure response to aerobic exercise training.

**Impact of Stigmatized Identities on Mental and Physical Health of Asian Americans:**
Under the guidance of Associate Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Michelle Williams and CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology), Clinical Psychology doctoral student Alefiyah Pishori (M.A., Psychology) will use her seed grant award to study the impact of both visible and concealed stigmatized identities on the psychological and physical health of Asian Americans. Her work will expand a model of vulnerability factors for people with concealed stigmatized identities, developed by Dr. Williams and Associate Professor of Psychology Diane Quinn. Drs. Williams and Quinn have compared the applicability of their model among three different racial groups (White, Black, and Latino Americans). In addition to studying the model’s applicability to Asian Americans as one group, Pishori will study the applicability of the model to three subgroups of Asian Americans (East, South, and Southeast).

**Christine N. Witzel Award**
The Christine N. Witzel Award is another research award offered through CHIP to support an undergraduate or graduate student who wishes to do research in women’s health. Eligibility is based on (1) academic promise, (2) a recommendation by a faculty member associated with CHIP, and (3) the submission of a three-to-five page proposal that includes a description of an innovative research project in women’s health issues and a corresponding budget. Areas of particular 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.

During FY12, CHIP gave a $1,500 Witzel Award to Roman Shrestha, a Public Health graduate student, for his project entitled, *HIV Among Repatriated Sex-Trafficked Girls & Women of Nepal*. Eileen Pitpitan and Nicole Overstreet, both former winners of the award, reviewed all submissions.

L. **New Externally-Funded Research Initiatives by CHIP Principal Investigators**

In FY12, CHIP Principal Investigators were awarded $13.3 M of new external funding to direct multidisciplinary research activities in the health domains of HIV/AIDS, sexual behavior, medication adherence, exercise science and nutrition, autism, cancer, diabetes, global health, complementary and alternative approaches to health, and health-related dissemination and implementation science.

(A list of these grants, their funding agencies, and the total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs associated with each one is contained in [Appendix 1](#) on p. 52. Brief summaries of new grant awards are contained in [Appendix 2](#) on p. 54.)

M. **Active CHIP Research Grants**

The total costs budgeted for FY12 on externally funded CHIP grants were the highest in CHIP’s history at $10.10 million. Over the past 10 years, total costs expended have increased more than six fold, from $1.30 million in FY02 to $8.04 million in FY12 (see [Figure 1](#) on p. 37).

The actual costs expended in FY12 were lower at $8.04 million, because, as is typical with most grants, the budgets were not fully expended during the fiscal year. Additionally, several large new grants were awarded late in the fiscal year, resulting in abbreviated time periods for grant expenditures (see [Figure 2](#) on p. 37).

A similar pattern is reflected in the budgeted vs. actual expended direct costs for FY12. Budgeted direct costs reached a new high in FY12 at $7.61 million (see [Figure 3](#) on p. 38), with the actual expended direct costs at $6.12 million (see [Figure 4](#) on p. 38).

During FY12, both the budgeted indirect costs ($2.49 million) and the actual indirect costs ($1.92 million) recovered by the University from CHIP external grants increased from the previous year, representing the highest indirect returns since CHIP’s inception in 2002 (see [Figures 5](#) and 6 on p. 39).

CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher and Associate Director Deborah Cormman are projecting significantly increased total and direct costs during FY13, and perhaps the highest indirect costs yet returned to the University. These projections are based on the nearly 75% increase in new external grant awards between FY11 and FY12, the volume of new external grant applications submitted by some of the Center’s most productive investigators, and the impressive research portfolios of CHIP’s recent new faculty hires in the field of cancer.

( NOTE: FY12 total, direct, and indirect costs reported above represent the sum of actual research expenditures for the period beginning July 1, 2011 and ending May 15, 2012 plus projected research expenditures for the period beginning May 16, 2012 and ending June 30, 2012. By comparison, financial figures reported for CHIP newly awarded grants and submitted grant proposals are budget figures for the period beginning May 16, 2011 and ending May 15, 2012).
Figure 1: Total Costs Budgeted Per Year on External CHIP Grants

Figure 2: Actual Total Costs Per Year Expended on External CHIP Grants
Figure 3: Total Direct Costs Budgeted Per Year on External CHIP Grants

Figure 4: Actual Direct Costs Per Year Expended on External CHIP Grants
Figures 7 and 8 (below) show the distribution of CHIP grants and CHIP grant dollars by academic department.
(For a current list of CHIP Active and Awarded Grants, see Appendix 13 on p. 85.)
N. Submitted CHIP Grant Applications

Through May 15, 2012 of FY12, CHIP Principal Investigators had submitted 50 external grant applications comprising more than $37.3 million in total costs, including nearly $25.6 million in direct costs and nearly $11.8 million in indirect costs. (For details of these submitted grants, see Appendix 14 on p. 91.) Of these grants, $6.2 million (total costs) from 14 grants have already been funded thus far this fiscal year. (The $13.3 million in new external awards received during FY12, reported in Section I on p. 36, includes grants submitted in both FY11 and FY12).

(Those grants that were submitted in FY12 that have already been funded are listed both in Appendix 1 on p. 52 and in Appendix 13 on p. 85.)

O. Dissemination of CHIP Interventions

CHIP has a rich history of research dissemination and implementation and, during the past year, continued to make significant gains in achieving its goal of improving the translation and dissemination of health behavior change research into clinical and community practice in Connecticut, nationally, and internationally.

During FY12, several CHIP principal investigators (PIs) received new CHIP grants for work with substantial dissemination and implementation components. In addition, new CHIP grant proposals with dissemination and implementation components continued to be submitted, and many of them will likely be funded in the future.

CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) received a new National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant that will address several inherent challenges of the relatively new HIV “test and treat” initiative. The focus of the “test and treat” initiative is on testing and diagnosing people with HIV as soon as possible following their infection, linking them to care, and getting them on antiretroviral medications, when appropriate. The belief is that early diagnosis and treatment will not only limit the risk of health problems in people living with HIV but also reduce the likelihood that they will transmit HIV to others if the amount of HIV in their bodies is reduced to undetectable levels. However, this initiative is optimally effective only if people with HIV adhere to their medications and do not acquire other sexually transmitted infections that can increase the amount of HIV in their bodies. Scalable interventions are needed to ensure that individuals with HIV who use alcohol and other drugs keep their infectiousness low by maintaining high levels of adherence and reducing their risks for contracting other sexually transmitted infections. In this newly funded study, participants who use alcohol or drugs are randomly assigned to an active “integrated” intervention group (focused on medication adherence and reduction of risky sexual behavior) or to a time-matched control group. If, as expected, the intervention group increases their medication adherence behavior, engages in less HIV transmission risk behavior, and reduces the amount of virus in their bodies, Dr. Kalichman and his colleagues will disseminate this intervention immediately to HIV-infected men and women through community and clinical services for HIV-infected populations.

CHIP PI Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) received a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to conduct a randomized controlled trial to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of an adapted, shortened version of an evidence-based intervention (EBI) for HIV+ drug users called “Holistic Health for HIV” (3H+) relative to the original evidence-based “Holistic Health Recovery Program” (HHRP) intervention. The abbreviated version will be compared to the original intervention among HIV-infected drug users to determine if the same effects can be achieved with an intervention that is briefer, is less expensive, and has greater potential for sustainability over time in clinical settings. If the adapted intervention is found to be effective and cost effective, efforts will be made to disseminate it widely in clinical care settings.

New CHIP PI Deborah Fein (Ph.D., Psychology) received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to develop and test a video-enhanced program to teach caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) how to apply behavioral principles that can benefit their children as well as increase their self-efficacy and lower their stress levels. Critically, more children are being diagnosed with ASD each year, and many caregivers of children with ASD worldwide have few resources on which to rely. This intervention, if effective, will be disseminated widely.

In addition to the new CHIP dissemination and implementation grants detailed above, the Center has a well-established track record in dissemination and implementation of health-related interventions. In fact, three CHIP
interventions are now included in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) *Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions*, which can be accessed on CDC’s website.

Dr. Kalichman previously developed two HIV prevention interventions that are listed in the CDC’s *Compendium: Healthy Relationships*, a multi-session, group-level HIV risk reduction intervention for people living with HIV (PLWH), and *NIA: A Program of Purpose*, a small group, video-based, motivational skills-building, 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.

The *Options/Opciones Project* (PI: CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology)), which is a healthcare provider-delivered HIV prevention intervention for PLWH who are in clinical care, has been disseminated broadly throughout the U.S. and Africa since it was first developed in 2000. *Options* is listed in the CDC’s *Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions* as a “promising intervention.” CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) received funding from PEPFAR (U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) to implement and evaluate adapted versions of *Options* in military hospitals in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Uganda. In addition, funding was provided by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to implement and evaluate *Options* in 16 public healthcare clinics in South Africa (PI: Dr. Fisher). Last year, new externally-funded work by Dr. Fisher and his team sought to understand the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the successful implementation of the *Options* intervention in South Africa. Some initial findings from this work became available recently and indicated that organization-level factors, like having more counselors and staff to conduct the intervention and a more autonomous environment, were beneficial for implementation success. Moreover, implementation success was greater in urban and hospital sites than in rural and small clinic sites. Additional results are forthcoming. These findings will ultimately make a contribution to the overall literature on dissemination and implementation research, and will be used to optimize future attempts to disseminate and implement the *Options* prevention-with-positives intervention in Africa.

In addition to the three interventions listed in CDC’s *Compendium*, CHIP PI Robert Broadhead (Ph.D., Sociology) developed and evaluated an HIV prevention intervention for intravenous drug users over a period of 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 received extensive funding to disseminate the model globally, including in China, Ukraine, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the U.S.

Another significant CHIP effort in regard to dissemination and implementation is the Center’s involvement in the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core and the work of CHIP-based boundary spanner Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/CHIP). CHIP’s role, specifically, is to interface with University faculty at Storrs and the UConn Health Center to encourage greater faculty interest in performing Dissemination and Implementation (D & I) research, to identify extant UConn “dissemination-ready” intervention and health innovation projects, and ultimately, to increase the number of grants in this area by UConn faculty and their community partners. (*CHIP’s involvement in the CICATS PORT Core and a number of Dr. Dugan’s boundary spanner activities from the past year are detailed in Section P, which immediately follows, and Appendix 15 on p. 97.*)

Additionally, in FY12, the *CHIP Lecture Series* continued to bring to campus well-known speakers who do cutting-edge research on dissemination and implementation. These presentations were made available live on the Internet through live webcasts and broadcasts, and they are also available in archived form through the CHIP website. Speakers in FY12 included Daren Anderson from The Community Health Center, Inc., who presented on "An Integrative Model of Care;" Lynne Garner from The Donaghue Foundation, who spoke about "What is Next in Health Research Funding?;" and Bruce Rapkin from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, who lectured on "Designing for Collaboration: Putting Evidence-Based Prevention Strategies into Practice in Diverse Communities."

All three speakers focused on research that is conducted in the community. Dr. Anderson lectured on conducting research on disease management and behavior change in a community health setting (i.e. practice-based research). Dr. Garner spoke about the need to increase funding for research that has direct and short-term practical benefit for
public health in clinics and communities. Dr. Rapkin focused on the importance of community-engaged research and utilizing a research design that provides more detailed information about intervention adaptation and fit in community settings.

The CHIP website also includes a section on Dissemination and Implementation as a resource for researchers and public health organizations wishing to adopt health behavior change interventions developed at CHIP.

**P. CICATS PORT Core Update**

UConn, in partnership with regional hospitals, state agencies, and community health care organizations, created the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) to transform the way biomedical and health-related behavioral science is conceived, conducted, and disseminated in Connecticut. The Institute transcends the traditional boundaries of individual organizations and organizes the University and its partners into a single functioning research consortium. As a critical partner in the CICATS Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core, this year CHIP made numerous valuable contributions in support of the PORT Core’s mission to accelerate the translation of health-related discoveries into clinical and community practice (i.e., dissemination and implementation). Since 2010, significant progress has been made to advance the CICATS(PORT) agenda, due to the hiring and extensive efforts of CHIP-based Boundary Spanner Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/CHIP), who works three-quarter time in her position under the supervision of CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology). Dr. Dugan’s work includes efforts to recruit and mobilize a network of health researchers from various academic departments across UConn, inform them about dissemination and implementation (D&I) science and community-engaged research, and identify opportunities for research collaborations among faculty members and community-based organizations.

Important CHIP contributions this year included outreach to faculty in health-related academic departments to create and expand relationships with researchers across disciplines, institutions, and the community. In particular, Dr. Dugan worked to strengthen CHIP’s existing relationship with Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), in order to spark new HIV/AIDS research collaborations among investigators at CHIP and CIRA by identifying willing collaborators, innovative research ideas, and funding opportunities for interdisciplinary partnerships. Noteworthy new efforts have been undertaken to facilitate this goal in FY12, including a new joint grant program, a social networking event, and a “One-Click Distribution List” with relevant researchers’ email addresses.

*(For more details about these new CHIP-CIRA initiatives, the CHIP-based Boundary Spanner’s work with UConn-based research interest groups to plan similar efforts, and other D&I resources CHIP helped to develop for the University community during the past year, please see Appendix 15 on p. 97.)*

*(For a complete list of CICATS-PORT CORE Community Engagement Seminar Series speakers, please see Appendix 3 on p. 58.)*

**Q. Selected Current CHIP PI Publications and Presentations**

Many highly prestigious scholarly books, book chapters, and journal articles were published, and numerous important presentations were delivered by CHIP Principal Investigators (PIs) and their research associates during the fiscal year from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. These PIs include: Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP), Keith Bellizzi (Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies), Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology), John Christensen (Ph.D., Communication Sciences), Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences), Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP), Dean Cruess (Ph.D., Psychology), Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Psychology), Lindsay DiStefano (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Deborah Fein (Ph.D., Psychology), Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology), Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology), Ofer Harel (Ph.D., Statistics), Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Psychology), Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology), Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology), William Kraemer (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology), Katie Martin (Ph.D., Psychology), Stephanie Milan (Ph.D., Psychology), Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology), Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Merrill Singer (Ph.D., Anthropology), Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences), Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology), and Lisa Werkmeister Rozas (Ph.D., Social Work).
A list of selected publications and presentations is presented in the Appendix and does not include publications and presentations by CHIP Ph.D. affiliates who did not have active or submitted CHIP grants during the fiscal year; that list would be much longer. The list also does not include the publications and presentations of CHIP PIs that are unrelated to health behavior change.

(See Appendix 16 on p. 99 for selected CHIP PI publications and presentations during the last fiscal year.)

R. CHIP Graduate Student Highlights, Research Achievements, Publications, Presentations, and Grant Awards

Graduate students working with CHIP principal investigators (PIs) benefit tremendously from the unique research, collaborative, professional, and mentorship opportunities available through the Center. 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 PIs as substantial contributors to collaborative research projects and grants.

This year, CHIP funded a total of 51 graduate students across multiple departments: 46 graduate students through external CHIP grants only, one graduate student through internal University funding only, and four graduate students through a combination of external CHIP grants and internal University funding.

Total yearlong CHIP funding for graduate students (for the period from May 23, 2011 through May 22, 2012) was more than $643,192, an increase from FY11.

The pie chart below shows the number of graduate students in each department who were funded by CHIP grants. And the graph that follows demonstrates the increasing amount of CHIP grant funds spent on graduate students over time.

Number of CHIP Grant-Funded Graduate Students by Department as of May 22, 2012
A full list of CHIP graduate student publications, presentations, awards and honors can be found in Appendix 17 on pp. 118. Below are just a few highlights of notable CHIP graduate student achievements during FY12.

In July 2011, Carter A. Lennon, a CHIP-affiliated doctoral student in Social Psychology, received a two-year fellowship funded through the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and awarded by the Fenway Institute’s Center for Population Research in LGBT Health. Through her fellowship, Lennon was matched with a mentor who shares her research interest in the health of sexual minority adolescent girls. Together with her fellowship mentor, Alicia Matthews, an associate professor in University of Illinois-Chicago’s College of Nursing, Lennon currently is preparing a review paper that extensively summarizes risk factors that put sexual minority adolescent girls at risk for HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections (STIs). Lennon and Dr. Matthews aim to build a model that can help inform HIV/STI intervention efforts. Lennon’s primary UConn advisor is CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) and her secondary UConn advisor is CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology). At UConn, Lennon also is a fellow under Dr. Kalichman’s National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)-funded Social Processes of HIV/AIDS training grant.

In the fall of 2011, two CHIP-affiliated Psychology doctoral students were named the University’s first Farber Fellows. Anna Schierberl Scherr and Benjamin Meagher became the first in what will be a long line of Farber Graduate Fellows, funded through a generous trust established by former Social Psychology faculty member Maurice Farber before he died in 2009.

The trust will provide Schierberl Scherr and Meagher each an annual total of $24,000. The fellowships also will include tuition remission and health benefits, and will be held by the students for two to five years, until they complete their degrees.

Schierberl Scherr, a graduate student in Clinical Psychology, expects to finish her Ph.D. in 2014. She completed a Master’s degree last year, with a thesis examining how mothers of overweight children in Latino and African-American families perceive their child’s weight. She is now studying couples-based behavioral programs that promote and maintain weight loss. Her adviser is CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology). Schierberl Scherr also previously received CHIP seed grant funding and a CHIP-administered Christine N. Witzel Award.
Meagher, a graduate student in Social Psychology whose adviser is CHIP PI Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology), is studying how the physical environment relates to social psychological experiences, and how environment and experiences influence each other. One of the areas he is interested in is how the physical objects in a setting, such as furniture, can be designed to lessen or enhance feelings of social ostracism. Meagher received his Master’s degree last spring.

Students who receive Farber awards have to maintain a 3.5 grade point average, demonstrate research productivity, and complete their degrees in a timely manner.

In the fall of 2011, CHIP-affiliated Psychology doctoral student Laramie Smith presented to the UConn Board of Trustees about her National Research Service Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award (NRSA) research project entitled, HIV Care Utilization: A Theory-based Approach to Retention in Care. Smith received the prestigious award from NIMH last year, becoming the tenth Psychology graduate student working with a CHIP mentor to receive an NRSA in as many years. (The 10 NRSA’s combined represent nearly $800,000 in total costs awarded). Smith’s award is one of the latest examples of the exceptional track record CHIP graduate students have at winning outside funding from national funding agencies, such as NIMH and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NRSA is very competitive and one of the most sought-after awards for doctoral support in the social sciences. Moreover, it provides an exceptional opportunity for CHIP graduate students to work collaboratively with their CHIP faculty mentor(s) on their own research project, providing them with the necessary skills to successfully pursue additional grant funding after completing their graduate studies.

Smith is using her NRSA to develop and test a theory-based intervention to support retention in HIV medical care for people living with HIV (PLWH) who are tenuously engaged in care. Very few researchers currently are working in the field of engagement in HIV medical care. CHIP PI Rivet Amico (Ph.D., Psychology) is one of Smith’s co-sponsors for the NRSA and one of a few experts in the field nationally. CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) is Smith’s other co-sponsor for the NRSA and is the University’s PI on the grant. Smith credits CHIP’s supportive atmosphere and researcher services, including the Center’s annual Research Investment Capital “Seed Grant” Competitions (see Section K on p. 33 for more details), with helping her to win her NRSA.

Another FY12 graduate student accomplishment of particular note is that, in March 2012, the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) selected CHIP-affiliated Public Health doctoral student TaShauna Goldsby for inclusion in the ACSM’s Leadership and Diversity Training Program for the second year in a row. The training program requires ACSM membership, involvement in regional and national ACSM meetings and committees, and pursuit of ACSM professional presentations, publications, and fellowship. Goldsby’s participation in the program helps to ensure diversity in ACSM’s membership and the future leadership of the organization as well as future leadership in the field of public health research. Goldsby also won an internal CHIP seed grant during FY11, which remained active during FY12. Goldsby’s primary advisor is CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), and her secondary advisor is CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology).

Additionally, CHIP PI Lisa Eaton, who earned her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from UConn in 2009 and who has worked as part of CHIP PI Seth Kalichman’s Southeastern HIV/AIDS Research Evaluation (SHARE) project for the past nine years, recently accepted a tenure track position in UConn’s Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS). An assistant research professor in Psychology during FY12, Dr. Eaton will start in HDFS as an assistant professor in August.

S. CHIP Post-Doctoral Investigators

During FY12, Drs. Jinhyouk Jung, Eileen V. Pitpitan, and Charikleia (Cleo) Protogerou served as postdoctoral researchers/investigators at CHIP. CHIP post-docs collaborate with CHIP principal investigators (PIs) on funded research while typically pursuing their own independent research. Many former CHIP post-doctorates have gone on to have their own significant, independently-funded research portfolios. Furthermore, CHIP post-docs also have gone on to procure tenure track positions at major research institutions. For example, during FY12, former CHIP post-doc Tania Huedo-Medina, who has worked on CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson’s Synthesis of HIV/AIDS Research Project (SHARP) for six years, accepted a tenure track position in UConn’s Department of Allied Health Sciences. Like Dr.
Eaton, mentioned above, Dr. Huedo-Medina worked as an assistant research professor in Psychology during FY12. She will start as an assistant professor in Allied Health Sciences in August.

Here are brief descriptions of CHIP’s current post-docs:

- **Jinhyouk Jung, Ph.D.,** joined CHIP in May 2011 as a Post-doctoral fellow for CHIP PI Ofer Harel (Ph.D., Statistics), and he continues to work on Dr. Harel’s National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) research project, *Dealing with Missing Data in HIV Prevention Trials*. While in this position, he designed a proportional hazards model with time-dependent covariates for HIV data. Dr. Jung’s research interests include missing data imputation, case-cohort study for survival data, generalized extreme-value distribution modeling, and image analysis.

- **Eileen V. Pitpitan, Ph.D.,** joined the research team of CHIP PI Seth C. Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) in 2011, to work on the grants, *Multilevel Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa* and *Alcohol-related HIV Risks Among South African Women*. Dr. Pitpitan received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Connecticut in May 2011. Her pre-doctoral research focused on the influence of social stigma on the mental and physical health of stigmatized individuals, primarily overweight and obese people. She also has interests in gender, social identity, power dynamics, and social inequality. At CHIP, Dr. Pitpitan has been examining alcohol use, gender-based violence, and stigma as they relate to sexual risk behavior among South African men and women.

- **Charikleia (Cleo) Protogerou, Ph.D.,** joined the research team of CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) in 2012, to contribute to the *Geospatial Factors in HIV Prevention Outcomes* project. Her research interests include the application of theories of social cognition to the study of condom use in different cultures. Her research has been conducted in academic settings in Greece, Britain, and South Africa, whereby she demonstrated the applicability and suitability of theories of social cognition in the study of university students’ condom use. In explaining condom use and other safer-sex choices, she additionally demonstrated the importance of taking into account the impact of context (i.e., culture-specific influences of religiosity, governmental policies relating to safer sex, and relationship status). She has also worked for the Greek Organization Against Drugs (OKANA), designing and implementing substance use prevention and health promotion programs for primary and secondary education.

**T. CHIP Administration**

During FY12, the CHIP Administrative Team consisted of CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology); CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP); Susan Hoge, Administrative Manager I; Vasinnee Long, Grants and Contracts Specialist; Melissa Stone, Administrative Services Specialist II; Sarah Bothell, Administrative Services Specialist II; Donna Hawkins, Program Assistant I (hired November 30, 2011); Jonathan Gill, Computer Technical Support Consultant III; Samuel Salorio, Computer Technical Support Consultant I (hired November 4, 2011); Stacey Leeds, part-time University Specialist; Beth Krane, part-time University (Dissemination) Specialist; and Kathleen Moriarty, part-time University (Grants) Specialist (hired January 11, 2012). In addition, CHIP continued to have the support of 1 to 2 part-time work-study undergraduate students.

Three staffing changes to the Administrative Team occurred during FY12. First, Samuel Salorio was hired as a full-time Computer Technical Support Consultant I to replace the employee who resigned from the position. Similarly, Donna Hawkins was hired as a Program Assistant I, after the individual in that position resigned. The third person hired was Kathleen Moriarty, who was hired as a temporary, part-time University Specialist to provide necessary grant support to the Grants and Contracts Specialist; no one was previously in that position.

The CHIP administrative staff continues to operate as a highly competent administrative team that has vast experience with and expertise in organizational, operational, and grants management.

*(A list of current CHIP administrative tasks and the people responsible for each of them is included in Appendix 5 on p. 71, and the CHIP Organizational Chart is shown in Appendix 19 on p. 131.)*
U. Ongoing Technology Initiatives

Advanced technology for health behavior and health behavior change research at CHIP is being pursued in six interrelated IT initiatives. Progress in many of these domains has been significant. Each of these initiatives has great potential to enhance multidisciplinary research among CHIP investigators and to attract substantial external research funds. The six initiatives comprise the following:

1. **Continuous improvement of the CHIP website** to feature health behavior change research, news stories, and announcements with an appealing, media-centric presentation.

2. **Continuous improvement in the domain of information security** to protect CHIP’s sensitive research data and to increase the overall security posture of the organization as a whole.

3. Development of **webcasting and videoconferencing capability at CHIP** to enhance health behavior change research and the dissemination of the lectures from the CHIP Lecture Series.

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

5. Development of **innovative information technology systems** to support CHIP’s mission, specifically the dissemination of theory-based knowledge and development of cutting-edge, technology-driven, health behavior change interventions.

6. Development of **immersive virtual technology expertise** for the advancement of health behavior change research. *(For a full description of CHIP’s Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC), which includes Virtual Reality (VR) capabilities, see Section V, which immediately follows, and Appendix on p. 132.)*

**Ongoing Development of the CHIP Website**

CHIP has continued to enhance its web presence through new media submissions, multimedia broadcasting, and new pages for PI’s research materials (e.g., surveys, interventions). Over the course of the past year, CHIP IT worked to increase the prominence of the CHIP website with major Internet search providers, and they organized CHIP’s research into 15 identifiable health domains, available from a drop down menu structure. These optimizations have helped to enhance CHIP’s online presence and the wealth of information available to the public audience. Users have immediate access to hundreds of archived CHIP Lecture Series broadcasts, intervention resources, dissemination and implementation resources, and archived presentations given by CHIP researchers.

**Ongoing Improvement in Information Security**

In FY12, CHIP IT identified its own SecureU initiatives in addition to those of the University’s IT Security Office. With increased awareness of the significance and criticality of information security, CHIP IT places a top priority on the protection of research data when deploying new systems, computers, and IT services. Across these initiatives, a common theme emerges: protect CHIP research data while striking a balance between usability and security. Through systems such as Identity Finder, CHIP IT will work to identify all data residing on CHIP computers that are either classified as Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or Protected Health Information (PHI), and once identified, ensure that it is either stored on encrypted hard drives or relocated to the CHIP datacenter with appropriate access controls. Other areas of focus include managed workstation initiatives, network security enhancements, and the establishment of a virtual computer lab hosted securely within the CHIP datacenter with VMware View’s Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI).

**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 acquisition of live media streaming technology in a joint venture with the University’s Institute for Teaching & Learning. CHIP utilizes
webcasting (the delivery of live video-based content via the Internet) to broadcast its Lecture Series events in real time, in addition to providing content on demand via the CHIP website. Meetings at CHIP can harness videoconferencing technology, such as Microsoft Lync, to engage colleagues at remote locations. It is anticipated that this technology will permit CHIP researchers and others to decrease their travel and will facilitate rapid and effective communication and decision-making among individuals at three or more sites simultaneously without the need for specialized videoconferencing hardware.

**Electronic Questionnaires, Web-Based Survey Capability, and Interactive Voice Response**

A number of CHIP investigators conduct survey research on health behavior change, and one of the CHIP technology initiatives is to support CHIP investigators in the use of electronic, web-based, and interactive voice response (IVR) survey capabilities. This approach allows automation of a number of survey functions including the streamlining of data collection and data entry. LimeSurvey, an open-source software package, is being considered as a new service to deliver web-based surveys and is currently being piloted as part of an online CHIP health behavior change intervention. Another software package, FileMaker Pro, is being utilized to create relational databases with GUI-based interfaces for the collection and storage of research data. Additionally, CHIP IT has begun to explore membership in the REDCap Consortium (Research Electronic Data Capture) to build secure systems to support data capture for CHIP research projects. Continuous development in this area will ensure that CHIP investigators, affiliates, and graduate students have access to cutting-edge survey and data collection software.

**Innovations in Information Technology (IT) Systems**

In the past few years, CHIP has made considerable investments in its information technology infrastructure to support the Center and its technology-driven health behavior and health behavior change interventions. Through cutting-edge advancements in technology, CHIP has bridged the gap between geographically-dispersed investigators, cohorts, and affiliates with innovations in video conferencing and collaborative tools. With server virtualization technology, CHIP has the capability to host project-specific virtual servers, encouraging new and highly innovative online interventions with central data collection capabilities. Recent security enhancements protect CHIP’s valuable research data, increase reliability for client/server-based interventions and data collection, and open the door to new interventions that may involve personal health information. CHIP strives to be a leader in information technology as it applies to the advancement of health behavior and health behavior change research.

**Immersive Virtual Technology Expertise**

The CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC) has continued to develop immersive virtual reality technology and has expanded its mission to include other types of interactive media. The AITC has developed extensive capability to produce interactive simulations with virtual avatars that can play multiple roles in research and training applications. CHIP AITC now has the capability to produce interactive content deployable to laptops, desktops, and tablets. It is developing the capability to produce Android and iOS apps. The Center has taken sensor technology used in VR and applied it to other areas including robotics. The CHIP AITC now offers a broad range of capabilities to CHIP researchers that enable them to do sophisticated research with a minimum of time and resource investment. Through an agreement with the University, CHIP AITC now offers its services to the entire UConn community.

V. CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC)

The CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC), which grew out of CHIP Principal Investigator Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology)’s federal grant to conduct health behavior-related virtual reality (VR) research, now provides researchers in the University community with access to an expanded array of high-end interactive technology and services in animation, motion capture, interactive simulations, web-based interactives, VR, robotics, and advanced computing analysis. CHIP AITC staff can create complete applications to serve researchers’ specific needs. The CHIP AITC also has a full line of interactive equipment, such as robots, tracking devices, and display equipment, which researchers can use to run experiments utilizing the interactive content. The CHIP AITC’s interactive applications
extend the reach of researchers in a cost-effective, controlled, and realistic way. Data from pilot AITC studies can be used to support large, external grant applications involving these technologies.

*(To learn more about the CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center, including some of its active projects during FY12, please see Appendix 20 on p. 132.)*

**W. 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 collaborative, multidisciplinary research in health behavior change. The resulting dramatic growth over the past 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 conduct of collaborative, multidisciplinary research. Since moving into the facility nine years ago, CHIP investigators have competed successfully for $88.1 million in total costs in new grants.

The current CHIP research facility provides office space for 13 faculty members and 4 post-docs, 13 research staff members, 10 CHIP administrative staff, 20 graduate student researchers, and 9 student workers who represent a variety of disciplines and work predominantly on CHIP external grants. At CHIP, affiliated faculty members, post-docs, graduate students, undergraduate students, CHIP administrative staff, and project-related support staff have access to critical research space. Often, CHIP-affiliated faculty members are housed with their graduate students and grant-funded staff to conduct their research as a unit. In the CHIP research facility, faculty members, post-docs, and students from Allied Health Sciences, Anthropology, Communication Sciences, Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutritional Sciences, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, 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 and powerful opportunities for mentoring students and junior faculty.

A 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. The CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC), which includes a Virtual Reality (VR) Laboratory, is also housed on the second floor.

**X. Conclusion**

During FY12, CHIP experienced tremendous growth on multiple fronts. The Center experienced a nearly 75% increase in new multiple-year external grant awards. CHIP attracted three new faculty members from prestigious research institutions - two renowned psychologists from Dartmouth College who focus on cancer risk behavior and a biostatistician from Harvard University’s School of Public Health. The Center’s Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network grew by almost 20 percent, including other newly hired UConn faculty members, and CHIP forged new and expanded existing interdisciplinary research collaborations with a number of entities both within and outside the University, including the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS, and UConn’s Cooperative Extension System. All of these achievements, together with others detailed in this report, set the stage for CHIP’s continued success in FY13.
Appendices
## APPENDIX 1: New CHIP Grants Awarded in FY12

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<th>Total Direct Costs Awarded</th>
<th>Total Indirect Costs Awarded</th>
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APPENDIX 2: New Externally-Funded Grant Summaries

Amico, Rivet (Ph.D., CHIP) received a $134,351 grant from National Institutes of Health (NIH)/San Francisco Department of Public Health entitled, Enhancing PrEP Adherence Support and Risk Reduction in a Public Health Setting. As Co-I on the grant, CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) and CHIP Research Scientist K. Rivet Amico is working with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to determine whether oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention can be delivered effectively in community settings. The project involves refining and deploying two promising interventions to promote adherence and reduce risk among HIV-uninfected men who have sex with men (MSM) who are PrEP users, with the ultimate goal of supporting MSM utilizing PrEP in diverse clinical and community settings. Dr. Albert Liu, M.D., M.P.H., of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, is the grant PI.

Amico, Rivet (Ph.D., CHIP) received a $45,464 grant from NIH/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)/Family Health International (FHI) entitled, HPTN 069: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Prevent HIV Transmission in At-Risk Men Who Have Sex with Men. As a core research team member and behavioral scientist on a new HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) trial (HPTN069), Dr. Amico is working with HPTN069 to evaluate the safety of and adherence to medications that may prevent the acquisition of HIV. In this study, three different kinds of antiretroviral medications are evaluated, all with once daily regimen requirements. Electronic drug monitoring through wireless cellular technologies and SMS text messaging to collect random samples of sexual behavior are used to estimate "coverage" of risk events with prescribed medication. The goal of this work is to determine the safety and tolerability of these medications amongst otherwise healthy MSM, and to advance methodologies for monitoring of daily HIV medication use for prevention and coverage in this U.S. sample.

Copenhaver, Michael (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) received a $3,148,014 R01 award from the NIH/National Institute on Drug Abuse entitled, Secondary HIV Prevention and Adherence among HIV-infected Drug Users. This NIDA R01 grant involves comparing the relative efficacy and cost-effectiveness of an adapted and significantly shortened version of an evidence-based HIV prevention intervention (“Holistic Health for HIV or 3H+”) with the original comprehensive version (“Holistic Health Recovery Program or HHRP+”) in a randomized controlled trial. Both interventions were designed to address sex- and drug-related HIV risk behavior and adherence to antiretroviral therapy. If the adapted version is comparable in terms of efficacy (i.e., within a margin of 10%) and is more cost-effective, it is likely to be rapidly disseminated for immediate use in a range of common drug treatment settings where many high-risk, HIV+ drug-involved persons can be readily reached for HIV-focused services.

Corman, Deborah (Ph.D., CHIP) received a $521,000 grant from the Department of Defense (DOD) HIV AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP) entitled, Prevention with Positives and Gender-Based Violence Projects in Mozambique. The overall goal of these combined projects is to develop, implement, and evaluate an integrated gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV prevention program for soldiers in Mozambique. The program that is being developed will address GBV and HIV prevention at the individual, group, and community levels, and will be conducted with soldiers in military hospitals, barracks, and training academies in Maputo, Mozambique. The program will comprise the following components: (1) trained soldier peer educators will facilitate group workshops, do outreach to soldiers, and assist with a social marketing campaign in the barracks around GBV and HIV prevention, (2) GBV/HIV prevention classes will be offered at the military training academies, providing relevant information and skills building to new recruits, and (3) GBV-related issues will be incorporated into existing one-on-one counseling sessions and group health education sessions for soldiers with HIV receiving their care at military hospitals. The feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of this program will be evaluated through self-report surveys administered at baseline and 12 months, and with exit focus groups conducted at the end of the study.

Corman, Deborah (Ph.D., CHIP) received a $400,000 grant from the Department of Defense (DOD) HIV AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP) entitled, Increasing Healthy Behavior among PLWH in Military Settings in Ethiopia FY12-13. The primary goal of this project is to work on the development, implementation, and evaluation, and wider dissemination, of a theory-based health maintenance intervention that supports ARV adherence and reduces risky sexual behavior among HIV-infected military personnel in Ethiopia. The health maintenance intervention is a Peer Educator-delivered program with three components: (1) health literacy classes that educate HIV+ patients preparing to start antiretroviral therapy (ART) and patients referred by healthcare staff about how HIV and ART impact the body, ART adherence, safer sex, HIV
DiStefano, Lindsay (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a $57,395 grant from National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) entitled, Lower-Extremity Injury Prevention: Monitoring Changes Over Time. Neuromuscular injury prevention programs that are performed prior to physical activity have been shown to reduce lower extremity injury rates. However, these programs are usually only performed for 6-8 weeks. It is unknown if one “dose” of the injury prevention program is sufficient or if individuals need to perform the programs for longer periods of time. This study will evaluate the immediate and long-term effects of a lower extremity injury prevention program on risk factors for injury at the United States Military Academy. Incoming cadets will perform the program before physical activity during summer basic training. The participants will be evaluated for high-risk movements before and after the program, as well as every other month throughout the academic year. The results of this study will guide injury prevention program implementation efforts.

Eaton, Lisa (Ph.D., Psychology) received a $2,560,853 grant from NIH/NIMH entitled, Serosorting Intervention for HIV Negative MSM. Dr. Eaton’s team is currently conducting a five-year study consisting of a randomized controlled trial to test a behavioral intervention designed to reduce risks for HIV posed by sexual partner selection strategies. Specifically, the research team is studying the risks associated with serosorting among at-risk HIV negative men who have sex with men in Atlanta, GA. Serosorting - limiting unprotected sexual partners to those of the same HIV status - has emerged as a risk reduction strategy with little input from public health agencies. It is commonly practiced among men who have sex with men to avoid HIV infection. However, engaging in serosorting is a predictor of HIV transmission rather than a reliable form of prevention. Serosorting is ineffective due to several factors, including: multiple flaws in the ability to be certain of one’s own or a partner’s HIV status, the failure of routine HIV tests to detect acute HIV infection, elevated infectiousness due to acute HIV infection, and increased risk for contracting other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that can facilitate HIV transmission. Dr. Eaton and her team are testing a brief single-session Conflict Theory of Decision Making-based intervention for use in public health settings. This project uses a novel theory of informed decision-making to guide an intervention designed for use in routine services, i.e., HIV post-test counseling. Participants are being followed over 12 months, and assessments include measures of serosorting beliefs, decisional balance, knowledge of acute HIV infection, HIV status disclosure, and biological (incident STI) and behavioral outcomes (sexual behaviors).

Fein, Deborah (Ph.D., Psychology) received a $681,261 grant from NIH/NIMH entitled, Teaching Skills to Toddlers: A Program for Caregivers. The application of behavioral and developmental principles to early teaching can dramatically alter the developmental trajectory of children with early-diagnosed and treated Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Furthermore, although parent training is part of many early intervention programs, there are few standardized or manualized training packages for parents. The aim of this grant is to create an effective, video-enriched, teaching program, to train caregivers in basic behavioral and developmental principles, and in the application of these principles to young children with ASD. CHIP PI Deborah Fein’s team will develop and pilot test “Teaching Skills to Toddlers: A Program for Caregivers,” a set of video programs that will deliver high-quality instruction in basic principles and applications of evidence-based therapies for caregivers of young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In contrast to available training materials, which are generally in the form of written manuals that cost money for parents to acquire and require substantial education, literacy, sophistication, and close professional supervision to use, Dr. Fein’s team plans to develop its series so that it is (1) user-friendly to a wide range of people with different levels of education, (2) able to be used with a minimum of direct expert supervision, and (3) available free-of-charge on the Internet. Although the final product will be broader in scope, the pilot materials to be developed in this project will focus on communication and social interaction. For this pilot project, Dr. Fein will focus on the use of the materials as a supplement to early intervention, although other applications are envisioned for the future. During the project period, Dr. Fein’s team, with ongoing input from parents and healthcare providers, will create the first four of the projected eight programs, test the acceptability and clarity of the program with parents, and conduct a pilot test of the effect of the programs on parent stress levels and self-efficacy.
Fein, Deborah (Ph.D., Psychology) received a $199,908 grant from Autism Speaks entitled, Screening, Diagnosis and Parent Training for Young Children with ASD in Albania. Families with autism are underserved in Albania, a country of 3,000,000 in southeast Europe. In 2009-2011, a partnership between Autism Speaks (AS) and the Albanian Children’s Foundation (ACF) raised public autism awareness, conducted educational symposia, translated and pilot tested an autism screener, translated a diagnostic instrument, and obtained a private foundation grant to conduct intensive therapist and parent training in evidence-based therapy. To maintain and accelerate these gains, and make autism capacity in Albania self-sustaining, Dr. Fein has the following aims: (1) continue awareness raising by having Dr. Ariel Como, child psychiatrist of the ACF and director of Tirana’s academic medical center, conduct educational symposia on ASD for parents and professionals, (2) study the performance of the translated screener for autism in young children in pediatric clinics, (3) complete training on the diagnostic instrument to enable future diagnostic services and research, (4) provide supervision by credentialed experts for the Albanian therapists as they take formal coursework in evidence-based therapy, which will, within the grant period, make them independent of supervision from outside the country and able to train other Albanian therapists, (5) disseminate and evaluate a parent-training program to teach effective strategies for parenting children with ASD, and (6) establish and evaluate a support network for parents who are using the training material. The work is directly relevant to the 2010 AS priorities of: (1) early detection, (2) development and evaluation of novel treatments, and (3) dissemination of empirically-validated screening, diagnostic, and treatment approaches to community settings. It is also directly relevant to the Global Autism Public Health priorities of screening, diagnostic, and intervention services that will be fully sustainable, testable in a scaled-down version, and with a strong commitment from the local, Albanian stakeholders, in a region of the world where the autism community is underserved and has the potential to greatly influence autism services throughout the country.

Gorin, Amy (Ph.D., Psychology) received a $93,529 subcontract from NIH/Drexel University entitled, Environmental and Acceptance-Based Innovations for Weight Loss Maintenance. While initial weight loss is fairly easy to achieve through a variety of diets and health behavior change plans, long-term weight loss maintenance remains an elusive goal for most individuals. This project is examining the basic question of whether weight loss maintenance is enhanced by building skills that focus on the individual (i.e., teaching weight loss participants emotional regulation techniques for handling distress and negative emotions) or by building skills that help individuals modify their immediate environments (i.e., stimulus control techniques for creating a healthy home food environment). The randomized controlled trial will follow almost 300 individuals for over a year to determine the impact of the innovative approaches on both initial weight loss and weight loss maintenance.

Gorin, Amy (Ph.D., Psychology) received a $16,133 subcontract from Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHN)/Connecticut Children’s Medical Center (CCMC) entitled, The Added Value of Telephone Follow-up and Home Visits in Helping Children to Grow Up Healthy. This collaborative effort with CHIP Affiliate Dr. Michelle Cloutier is examining whether the efficacy of a primary care-based pediatric obesity prevention program is improved by offering families either a monthly follow-up phone call or a monthly home visit by community health workers. One hundred and fifty families of 2- to 4-year-old children will be randomized to either brief motivational counseling delivered in the primary care office (BMC), BMC plus phone calls, or BMC plus home visits. Families will receive the intervention for a year, and phone calls and home visits by community health workers will focus on building core skills such as goal setting and problem solving to assist parents decrease obesogenic behaviors in their children. If effective, this treatment model could be adapted for widespread dissemination throughout Hartford and other similar disadvantaged communities that bear a disproportionate obesity burden.

Johnson, Blair T. (Ph.D., Psychology) received an $85,597 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) entitled, Effect Size Metric Choices as Factors in Meta-Analytic Statistical Inferences. CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson, internationally known for his expertise in meta-analysis, has a new grant from the AHRQ to improve meta-analytic methods, specifically focused on accurately representing the magnitude of each study’s effect on the same metric. Johnson is the grant PI. His Co-Is include Professor of Pharmacy and Department of Pharmacy Practice Head Charles Michael White, and CHIP Affiliate and Assistant Research Professor of Psychology Tania B. Huedo-Medina. The team expects to show that under some circumstances, it is better to use standardized metrics to represent study outcomes than to leave them in their original metric.

Kalichman, Seth (Ph.D., Psychology) received a $597,451 grant from NIH/Brown University entitled, Brief Alcohol Interventions by Counselor and Computer (SURE). The overall purpose of this research is to promote college student
health and safety by conducting brief interventions that are intended to decrease behavior like harmful binge drinking. Previous research has shown that a short one-on-one counseling discussion that is focused on alcohol use motivation can decrease risky drinking behaviors. One potentially low-cost and easy-to-use therapeutic tool is informational emails; thus, the specific goal of this project is to investigate whether sending out such emails will improve or extend the effect of the alcohol counseling session. The goal is to recruit 596 students referred for violating campus alcohol policy. Students will be asked to come to the SURE office for a baseline survey, the counseling (intervention) session, and then to do follow-up surveys 1, 3, 5, 8 and 12 months after their intervention session.

Kalichman, Seth (Ph.D., Psychology) received a $3,218,765 grant from NIH entitled, Behavioral Intervention to Enhance HIV Test/Treat (ITM2). CHIP PI Seth Kalichman has a new NIH/ NIDA grant to conduct a trial of a theory-based intervention he developed to simultaneously improve HIV treatment adherence and reduce HIV transmission risk behaviors in people living with HIV who use alcohol and other drugs. The intervention, which supports the national HIV “test and treat” strategy, is among the first to simultaneously address treatment adherence and HIV transmission risk behaviors in an integrated model for substance-using people living with HIV. The intervention uses a single office-based counseling session followed by four cell phone-delivered counseling sessions. Factors that predict relapse to non-adherence and/or HIV transmission risk behaviors also will be a focal point of the study. Kalichman is the grant PI and a CHIP PI and Assistant Research Professor of Psychology; Lisa Eaton is the grant Co-I. Kalichman’s collaborators on the grant include specialists in pediatric and geriatric medicine from Emory University in Atlanta, the city in which the study is being conducted.

Park, Crystal (Ph.D., Psychology) received a $168,010 grant from VA Connecticut Healthcare System entitled, Study of Returning Veterans (SERV). This is a longitudinal study of veterans returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are recruiting a sample of 1,000 men and women whom they will follow over the course of a year to determine predictors of psychological and physical health and well-being. Dr. Park is particularly interested in examining factors that enhance stress resilience in this group.

Snyder, Leslie (Ph.D., Communication Sciences) received a $976,059 subcontract from NIH/Harvard University entitled, Evaluation of Graphic Warning Labels on Tobacco Packages and Related Supporting Messages. CHIP PI Leslie Snyder has a new grant to assess the potential impact of new graphic cigarette package warning labels that are required to cover 50% of the cigarette package. Dr. Snyder specifically will study the impact of the graphic warning labels in two high-risk but previously untested populations: teenagers and pregnant women. Dr. Snyder also will develop and test additional messaging that could enhance the effectiveness of the warning labels. Dr. Snyder is working with colleagues at Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania, and is the UConn-based PI for the grant. Her multidisciplinary team for the grant at UConn includes Co-I’s and UConn Health Center physicians Dr. Michelle Cloutier (a pediatric pulmonologist) and Dr. Cheryl Oncken (who specializes in smoking cessation in pregnant women). Both Dr. Cloutier and Dr. Oncken are CHIP affiliates.

Volek, Jeff (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a $420,213 award from private industry entitled, Effect of Incremental Increases in Dietary Carbohydrate on Saturated Fat Levels and Blood Borne Risk Markers for Cardiovascular Disease. People vary widely in their ability to metabolize dietary carbohydrate. Those who are carbohydrate-intolerant tend to convert more of it into fat. A greater conversion of dietary carbohydrate into fat increases plasma levels of saturated fat and is associated with other harmful metabolic effects. The aim of this study is to determine how much carbohydrate a person can consume before they start to mismanage it. Approximately 20 people will be provided all their food for nearly 6 months. During that time, the dietary carbohydrate intake will be gradually increased from very low to very high levels. CHIP PI Jeff Volek’s team will measure a broad array of markers to determine how varying dietary carbohydrate intake affects overall health.
### APPENDIX 3: CHIP Lecture Series 2011-12

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<td>Exercise and Statin Myopathy</td>
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<td>Kathleen Sikkema <em>Duke University</em></td>
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<td>Daren Anderson <em>Community Health Center, Inc.</em></td>
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<td>11/101/11</td>
<td>Lynn Garner <em>The Donaghue Foundation</em></td>
<td>What is Next in Health Research Funding</td>
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<td>Lynn Fiellin <em>Yale University</em></td>
<td>The Game of Science and the Science of a Game</td>
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<td>Bruce Rapkin <em>Yeshiva University</em></td>
<td>Designing for Collaboration: Putting Evidence-based Prevention Strategies into Practice in Diverse Communities</td>
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<td>Kate Carey <em>Brown University</em></td>
<td>Reducing Hazardous Drinking by College Students: Lessons Learned and Future Directions</td>
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<td>Sherry Deren <em>NYU College of Medicine</em></td>
<td>Research on Drug Use and HIV in NYC: Historical trends and Future Directions</td>
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<td>New Approaches to Broaden Interdisciplinary Health Research</td>
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<td>Karina Davidson <em>Columbia University</em></td>
<td>A Randomized Controlled Trial of Depression Care for Acute Coronary Syndrome Patients</td>
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<td>05/03/12</td>
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**CICATS/PORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SEMINAR SERIES 2011-12**

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<td>Racism Among The Well- Intentioned: Unconscious Bias And Medical Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/05/12</td>
<td>Alan Goodman</td>
<td>Race is a Verb: From Race-as-Explanation to the Health Consequences of Race and Racism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Hampshire College</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 4: CHIP PIs and Research Affiliates

Principal Investigators (PIs)

K. Rivet Amico, Ph.D.
Research Scientist, CHIP

Keith M. Bellizzi, Ph.D., MPH
Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

Anjana Bhat, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, UConn

John Christensen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences, UConn

Michael M. Copenhaver, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Allied Health Sciences, UConn

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

Dean Cruess, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, UConn

Sarah Diamond, Ph.D.
Associate Research Scientist, CHIP

Lindsay J. DiStefano, Ph.D., ATC
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, UConn

Lisa Eaton, Ph.D. Psychology
Assistant Research Professor of Psychology, UConn

Deborah Fein, Ph.D.
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology, UConn

Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D.
Director of CHIP
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology, UConn

Amy Gorin, Ph.D
Associate Professor of Psychology, UConn

Ofer Harel, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Statistics, UConn

Tania Huedo-Medina, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor, Psychology, UConn

Blair T. Johnson, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, UConn
Seth C. Kalichman, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, UConn

William Kraemer, Ph.D.
Professor of Kinesiology, UConn
Professor of Medicine, Center on Aging

Kerry L. Marsh, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, UConn

Katie S. Martin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Allied Health Sciences, UConn

Stephanie Milan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, UConn

Crystal L. Park, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, UConn

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

Merrill Singer, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology, UConn

Leslie B. Snyder, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication Sciences, UConn
Director of Center for Health Communication & Marketing

Jeff Volek, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Kinesiology, UConn

Lisa Werkmeister Rozas, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Social Work, UConn

CHIP Research Affiliates

UConn College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

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

Robert S. Astur, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

David A. Atkin, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication Sciences

Saraswathi Bellur, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences

Thomas Blank, Ph.D.
Professor of Human Development and Family Studies
Hart Blanton, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Psychology*

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

Robert Broadhead, Ph.D.  
*Professor Emeritus of Sociology*

Edna Brown, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies*

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

Claudia Carello, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Psychology*  
*Director of Center for the Ecological Study of Perception & Action (CESPA)*

Simon Cheng (Hsu-chih), Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Sociology*

Mary Crawford, Ph.D.  
*Emeritus Professor of Psychology*

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

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

Kirstie M. Farrar, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Communication Sciences*

Debarchana Ghosh, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Geography*

Sara Harkness, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
*Professor of Human Development and Family Studies*

Idethia Shevon Harvey, Dr.Ph, M.P.H.  
*Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies*

Sangwook Kang, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Statistics*

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

Carolyn Lin, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Communication Sciences*  
*Associate Dean of the Graduate School*
Cyr E. M’Lan, Ph.D.  
**Assistant Professor of Statistics**

David L. Richards, Ph.D.  
**Associate Professor of Political Science**

Stephen L. Ross, Ph.D.  
**Professor of Economics**

Beth S. Russell, Ph.D.  
**Assistant Professor of Human Development & Family Studies**

Elizabeth D. Schifano, Ph.D.  
**Assistant Professor of Statistics**

Leickness Simbayi, Ph.D.  
**Senior Research Scientist, Psychology**  
*Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa*

Alice E. Veksler, Ph.D.  
**Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences**

James Watt, Ph.D.  
**Professor Emeritus of Communication Sciences**

**UConn College of Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Richard Bruno, Ph.D., R.D.  
**Associate Professor Nutritional Sciences**

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

Maria-Luz Fernandez, Ph.D.  
**Professor of Nutritional Sciences**

Amy R. Mobley, Ph.D., R.D.  
**Assistant Professor of Nutritional Sciences**

**UConn School of Business**

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

**UConn - Neag School of Education**

Michael Joseph, Ph.D.  
**Assistant Professor of Kinesiology**

Brian Kupchak, Ph.D.  
**Assistant Clinical Professor of Kinesiology**
Carl Maresh, Ph.D.
*Distinguished Professor & Department Head of Kinesiology, UConn*
*Director of Human Performance Laboratory*

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

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

Ana Lourdes Volek, Ph.D.
*Research Scientist, Kinesiology*

**UConn School of Nursing**

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

Xiaomei Cong, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Nursing*

Colleen Delaney, Ph.D., AHN-BC, R.N.
*Associate Professor of Nursing, Coordinator Graduate Community Health Track*

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

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

Deborah A. Shelton, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.A., B.C.
*Professor of Nursing*

Thomas J Van Hoof, M.D., Ed.D
*Associate Professor of Nursing*

**UConn School of Pharmacy**

Michelle L. Breland, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Pharmacy*

**UConn School of Social Work**

Karen Bullock, Ph.D.
*Research Specialist, Social Work*

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

Brenda Kurz, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Social Work*

Cheryl A. Parks, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research & Professor, School of Social Work

Cristina Mogro-Wilson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Social Work

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

Ann M. Ferris, Ph.D.
Professor of Nutritional Sciences
Director of the Center for Public Health and Health Policy
Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

Danielle Barry, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Calhoun Cardiac Center

Lisa C. Barry, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Center on Aging

Michelle M. Cloutier, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, UCHC
Director of Asthma Center, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

Ellen K. Cromley, Ph.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine

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

Judith A. Fifield, Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine
Director of Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy

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

Bruce E. Gould, M.D.
Professor, Center for Public Health
Associate Dean for Primary Care

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

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

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

Susan M. Kiene, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

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

Karina Lora, Ph.D.
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Public Health & Health Policy

Cheryl Oncken, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Medicine & OBGYN

Nancy M. Petry, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

Jack Ross, M.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases, Hartford Hospital

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

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

Paul R. Skolnik, M.D.
Professor & Chair, Department of Medicine

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

Minakshi Tikoo, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

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

CHIP – University of Connecticut

William D. Barta, Ph.D.
Associate Research Scientist, CHIP

Demetria Cain, M.P.H.
Research Assistant II, Psychology
Sarah Christie, M.P.H.  
*Research Assistant II, Psychology*

Carolyn Lagoe, M.A.  
*Research Assistant II, Communication Sciences*

Sarah A. Lust, Ph.D.  
*Research Associate I, Psychology*

B. Grace Sullivan, Ph.D., APRN, CNP  
*Associate Research Scientist, CHIP*

**University of Arkansas – Little Rock, AR**

Ann M. Cheney, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Psychiatry*

**Bradley University - Peoria, IL**

Stephenie R. Chaudoir, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*  
*Associate Research Scientist, CHIP*

**Brown University – Providence, RI**

Kate C. Carey, Ph.D.,  
*Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

Michael P. Carey, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior*

Cynthia Rosengard, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Medicine (Research)*

Lori A. J. Scott-Sheldon, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor (Research), Centers for Behavioral & Preventive Medicine*

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*

**Duke University – Durham, NC**

Marcella H. Boynton, Ph.D.  
*Post-Doctoral Fellow, Transdisciplinary Prevention Research Center*

**Eastern Connecticut State University – Willimantic, CT**

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

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

John Hopkins School of Public Health – Baltimore, MD

Michelle R. Kaufman, Ph.D.
Research & Evaluation Officer, Center for Communication Programs

Institute for Community Research – Hartford, CT

Marlene J. Berg
Associate Director of Training

Kim E. Radda, R.N., M.A.
Director of Research Administration/IRB Administrator

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

Margaret R. Weeks, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI

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

National Cancer Institute - Bethesda, MD

Rebecca Ferrer, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences

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

Northern Rivers University – Sydney, Australia

Hudson Birden, M.A.
Senior Lecturer, Public Health and Clinical Leadership

Ohio State University – Columbus, OH

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

Private Industry

Mark R. Convey, M.A.

Nathan Geffen, B.S.

Matt Kostek, Ph.D.
Joseph McManus, M.P.H

Caroline Redding, M.S.R.

Thomas Taaffe, Ph.D.

St. Louis University – St. Louis, MO

Jeremiah Weinstock, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Southern Connecticut State University - New Haven, CT

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

University of Alabama – Birmingham, AL

Wynne E. Norton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health

University of Colorado—Boulder, CO

Angela Bryan, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

University of Exeter - United Kingdom

Charles Abraham, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

University of Hartford – Hartford, CT

Jeffrey P. Cohen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Economics

University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY

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

University of South Carolina – Columbia, SC

Mark Macauda, MPH, Ph.D.
Research Associate, Arnold School of Public Health

University of Toronto

Paul A. Shuper, Ph.D.
Independent Scientist, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

University of Western Ontario – London, Ontario, Canada

William A. Fisher, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Psychology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology

Vanderbilt University – Nashville, TN

Chandra Y. Osborn, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Marijn de Bruin
Assistant Professor of Communication Science

Western New England College – Springfield, MA

Jason Seacat, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Yale University – New Haven, CT

Frederick L. Altice, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Director of Clinical and Community Research
Director of HIV in Prisons Program

Ruth M. Arnold, Ph.D.
Associate Research Scientist, School of Medicine

John F. Dovidio, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

Gerald H. Friedland, M.D.
Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health
Director of AIDS Program

Michael J. Kozal, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Infectious Diseases

Sheryl LaCoursiere, Ph.D., R.N.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Medical Informatics

Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, Ph.D.
Professor & Director of Center for Eliminating Disparities Among Latinos

Gwendolyn Thomas, Ph.D.
Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Medicine

Robin Whittemore, Ph.D., APRN
Associate Professor of Nursing
### APPENDIX 5: CHIP Business Office Functions and Responsibilities

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<tr>
<th>Business Office Function</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Staff Member</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Staff Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable/Out-of-Pocket Reimbursements (not exceeding $499)</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIP Annual Report</td>
<td>Beth Krane</td>
<td>Deborah Cornman</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grant Budgets/Expenses</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grant Pre-Submission/Applications</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications/ Marketing and Research Finding Dissemination</td>
<td>Beth Krane</td>
<td>TBN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Room and Pod/Key/Equipment Sign-Out</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities – Report Problems at CHIP</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities – New Space Requirements</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Jeffrey Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Opportunity Emails (weekly) &amp; Custom Funding Searches</td>
<td>Beth Krane</td>
<td>TBN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Management (Pre-Award &amp; Post-Award)</td>
<td>Vasinee Long</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources/Personnel (Faculty &amp; Staff)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Deborah Cornman/ Jeffrey Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory on Loan/ACT-40s</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Management/Support</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Purchasing Advice/Quotations</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keycards (Proximity Cards)</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
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<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>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISTSERV Management</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail Service</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETID Requests</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Tags</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant Incentives/Cash Advances</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll (Faculty, Staff, &amp; Students)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell/ Donna Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Service Agreements (PSAs)</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Vasinee Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing – CHIP</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Office Function</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Staff Member</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Staff Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing – Grants</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Employment/Issues (Graduate Student, Student Labor, &amp; Work Study)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications (Landlines, Cell Phones, &amp; Blackberries)</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel – Authorizations and Reimbursements</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Administration/Management</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 6: Seed Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators

Date: 11/16/11
To: CHIP Principal Investigators
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Seed Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators
(Individuals who have 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, 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, theories, and/or new domains 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/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), to include Sections 2 and 3 of the Research Plan portion of PHS 398, specifically:
  
  2. Specific aims

  3. Research strategy
     a. Significance
     b. Innovation
     c. Approach

• 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.

• References.

• Appendices are not required or 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 Thursday, December 15, 2011, that includes an overview and estimated total project cost to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit final applications electronically only by Wednesday, February 1, 2012, to Stacey Leeds.

Please contact Jeff Fisher if you have questions regarding this opportunity at 860-486-4940 or at jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
APPENDIX 7: CHIP Seed Grant Development Opportunities for New Investigators

Date: 11/16/11
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: CHIP Seed Grant Development Opportunities for New Investigators

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.** Applications to become a CHIP affiliate are here: [http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/](http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/)

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](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, single-spaced, not including reference list), to include Sections 2 and 3 of the Research Plan portion of PHS 398, specifically:
     2. *Specific aims*
     3. *Research strategy*
        a. *Significance*
        b. *Innovation*
        c. *Approach*
   - 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
   - Appendices are discouraged, and should not be used to circumvent the 10-page description limit.
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 Thursday, December 15, 2011, with a title, an overview of your project, and a preliminary estimated total cost to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit final application electronically only by Wednesday, February 1, 2012, to Stacey Leeds.

Priority for funding will be based on:

- Scientific merit of the research plan.
- Completed project’s likelihood to elicit external funding.
- Importance of the research question.
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially a proposal testing new methodologies and/or theories, or new areas in need of pilot data.
- Composition of the research team (e.g., cross-disciplinary work will be given preference).
- Principal Investigator has one or fewer CHIP internal grants underway at the time; funds from other CHIP internal grants should be expended and/or closed out.
- Relevance to the mission of CHIP.
- 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 Fisher at 860-486-4940 or at jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
Date: 11/16/2011
To: CHIP Affiliates and Colleagues
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Seed Grant Funding Opportunities for Pilot Projects for Graduate Students

Deadlines
Letter of Intent: December 15, 2011
Application: February 1, 2012

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

Eligibility
CHIP graduate student affiliates are invited to apply. Applications to become a CHIP graduate student affiliate are here: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

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 of intent should include a statement by the student’s adviser indicating that the advisor approves of the project, will oversee the student’s work on the full proposal, and will ensure high quality work by the student. Submit the letter of intent electronically by the above date to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Final proposals should be submitted electronically only by the above date to Stacey Leeds.

Guidelines for Submission
Proposals must be modeled after the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ PHS 398 (Instructions may be downloaded at: http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html). Proposals must include:
• Face page.
• Description of the work, performance sites, and key personnel.
• Research grant table of contents.
• Detailed budget (not to exceed $1,500).
• Biographical sketch of the student and other key personnel.
• Research plan (maximum 5 pages, not including reference list and Human Subjects Research section, if applicable), to include Sections 2 and 3 of the Research Plan portion of PHS 398, specifically:
  2. Specific aims
  3. Research strategy
     a. Significance
     b. Innovation
     c. Approach
  4. Human Subjects Research (if applicable)
• 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.
• References.
• Letters of support from the research performance site and collaborating faculty should be included in an appendix and should indicate appropriate linkage and support for conducting the proposed study at the selected location(s).
• Format: Times New Roman, font size 12, can be single-spaced, and 1-inch margins.
• In fairness to all applicants, any application that does not follow the basic format used by PHS 398 may not be accepted.

Review Process

Graduate students who have not submitted proposals for a given CHIP seed grant review cycle 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:

• Two CHIP graduate students (one with previous external grant funding and one without previous grant funding).
• Two CHIP-affiliated post-doctorates.
• Two CHIP PIs.

Funding will be awarded based on the:

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

Please contact Jeff Fisher at 860-486-4940 or at jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
APPENDIX 9: Annual CHIP Grant Development Summer Stipend Competition for Junior Faculty

Date: 11/16/11
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Jeff Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Annual CHIP Grant Development Summer Stipend Competition for Junior Faculty

CHIP offers summer stipends to UConn junior faculty who are CHIP affiliates to assist them with writing successful grant applications in health behavior change. We are seeking applications from CHIP-affiliated UConn junior faculty to compete for the stipend. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate are here: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

- Applications should describe the focus of the grant application to be written, how it contributes to the literature, the type of grant (R21, R03), the agency, and 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. Evidence that the funding agency is interested in the area under study will be helpful.
- Your CHIP application can be a maximum of five single-spaced pages, not including reference list, the Human Subjects Research section (if applicable), and appendices.
- Applications must contain, in brief form, the content of the Research Plan, Sections 2 and 3 of PHS 398, and a Human Subjects Research section (if applicable), which is the form used by NIH and all Public Health Services agencies. Specifically:
  2. Specific aims
  3. Research strategy
     a. Significance
     b. Innovation
     c. Approach
  4. Human Subjects Research (if applicable)

- The document should be formatted using Times New Roman, Font Size 12, and one-inch margins.
- Letters of support from the research performance site and collaborating faculty should be included in an appendix and should indicate appropriate linkage and support for conducting the proposed study at the selected location(s).
- Applications must follow the PHS 398 format. Instructions may be downloaded at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html
- In fairness to all applicants, any application that does not follow the basic format used by PHS 398 may not be accepted.
Applications for this stipend will be reviewed by a CHIP internal grants committee, by NIH grant review rules. We propose to fund one or two successful applicants for summer 2012, 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 2012 during the period of the stipend.

Send a brief letter of intent electronically by Thursday, December 15, 2011, to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. The final application is due electronically only by Wednesday, February 1, 2012. Please include a current curriculum vitae and a recommendation from an appropriate University Department Head.

If you have questions regarding this opportunity, please contact Jeff Fisher at 860-486-4940 or at jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
To: CHIP Affiliates

From: Jeff Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention

Date: 11/16/11

Re: CHIP Grant Funding for Conference Development

CHIP requests proposals from CHIP Ph.D.-level affiliates at the University of Connecticut 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 to invite key national and international researchers to CHIP and to 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. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate are here: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

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. Please indicate conference organizers, keynote speakers, number of invitees, anticipated attendance, prospective dates for the meeting, partnering institutions, and other funding sources being pursued. Proposals should be no more than ten pages, which can be single-spaced, not including references, using Times New Roman 12 font and one-inch margins.

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 significant 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 electronically that includes a total cost estimate by December 15, 2011, to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit applications electronically only to Stacey Leeds by February 1, 2012.

If you have questions regarding this opportunity, please contact Jeff Fisher at 860-486-4940 or at jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
APPENDIX 11: Pre-Submission Grant Review

Date: 11/16/11
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Jeff Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Pre-Submission Grant Review (for individuals planning to submit external grants through CHIP)

CHIP affiliates at the University of Connecticut who are 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, or experts in the field the grant is in outside of Chip, prior to submission of the grant. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate can be found at: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

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 the field of focus in the grant, as well as successful grant writing and grant review experience.

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 external grant. This permits the Director time to select, notify, and obtain consent, as well as time to obtain a review from qualified reviewers.

2. Your 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.

3. 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 two external reviewers (outside of CHIP) whose expertise would be highly relevant to review your proposal.

Please contact Jeff Fisher if you have questions regarding this opportunity at 860-486-4940 or at jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
APPENDIX 12: CIRA/CHIP Grant for Pilot Projects in HIV/AIDS Prevention Research

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT (REVISED)
CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Grants

NEW DEADLINE!! LETTERS OF INTENT: Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Original Release Date: January 24, 2012
Revised Date: February 16, 2012

To: CIRA and CHIP Principal Investigators
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Paul D. Cleary, Ph.D., Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS

Subject: Grant for Pilot Projects in HIV/AIDS Prevention Research

Purpose
The Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University and the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at the University of Connecticut will provide joint funding for a pilot project in HIV/AIDS prevention research that will be carried out collaboratively by CHIP and CIRA investigators. Proposed projects should be consistent with CIRA’s mission to support the conduct of research on the prevention and treatment of HIV infection and the reduction of the negative consequences of HIV disease in vulnerable and underserved populations nationally and abroad, and CHIP’s mission to advance the science of health behavior change and health risk prevention. In this round of funding, preference will be given to projects that emphasize translational/implementation research that focuses on priority populations identified in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf) or research projects that address the HIV epidemic in international settings.

Implementation research is defined as the systematic study of how a specific set of activities and designed strategies are used to successfully integrate an evidence-based public health intervention within specific settings (e.g., a primary care clinic, community center, or school).

Funding Available
One pilot project will be funded under this announcement with a maximum award of $50,000. All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award, no later than June 30 2014. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP and CIRA.

Eligibility
Faculty and research scientists at CIRA and 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 by a CHIP-CIRA research team (i.e., the grant should appear to have an equal likelihood of being ultimately submitted through either CHIP or CIRA with a substantial subcontract to the other). Proposals will require at least two PIs, one from CIRA and one from CHIP, who will make equal contributions to the proposed research and have roughly equal expenditures. Applicants must demonstrate intent to apply for national research funding within a defined timeline, and describe new research that could not be achieved without the collaboration. Preference is to support new collaborations and thus to fund a new CHIP-CIRA team. If the team applying has already worked together, the researchers must justify that the proposed research will constitute a significant departure from past work. Postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and research associates are not eligible to apply for these pilot grants. Applications will be reviewed by a joint review committee made up of both CHIP and CIRA members, including members of CIRA’s Community Advisory Board. Applications must be the work of the PIs, and for the benefit of the PIs’ own research programs. Applications written primarily by graduate students or others in the PIs’ names will not be considered.
Applications must be for work that will foster collaborative research among CHIP and CIRA and will markedly assist in the submission of new, substantial, external grant applications, to be submitted through CIRA or CHIP by a specified target date.

**Letters of Intent and Application Process**

**Applicants must submit a one to two page Letter of Intent** via email as a Word or PDF attachment to Gai Doran (gai.doran@yale.edu) no later than Tuesday, March 6, 2012. The letter should identify the project title; PI names, and their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, department/institution affiliations, and positions, and; the names of key collaborators. The letter should provide a brief outline of the proposed research project, including an estimate of total project cost, and describe how it will meet the review criteria (below). Letters must certify that any external grant applications which derive from the pilot grant research will be submitted through CHIP or CIRA. Applicants who have submitted letters of intent that meet the review criteria will be invited to submit full applications, which will be **due on Thursday, April 19, 2012**.

Those invited to submit a full application will be linked to an appropriate CIRA Core to receive support to develop their application, start up and conduct their study, analyze results, write manuscripts, consider external funding options, apply for external funding, resubmit external funding applications if necessary, and ultimately secure funds.

**Review Criteria**

Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of the research plan based on internal and/or external reviews.
- Equal collaboration among CIRA and CHIP investigators.
- The approximately equal likelihood at its inception that a proposal will elicit external funding through either CHIP or CIRA, with a significant subcontract to the other.
- Importance of the research question.
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially proposals testing new methodologies, theories, and/or new domains in need of pilot data.
- Composition of the research team (cross-disciplinary work will be given preference).
- Relevance of the work to the missions of CIRA and CHIP.

In addition, we will also consider where the PIs are in their funding cycles (e.g., at the start of a large grant vs. at the end), and the track record of the PIs in realizing outcomes (e.g., external grants) from previous internal grants.

**Inquiries**

We welcome inquiries about this opportunity. Please contact:

Gai Doran  
Center Assistant Director  
Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS  
gai.doran@yale.edu  
203-764-4342

or

Jeff Fisher  
Director  
Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention  
jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu  
860-486-4940
## APPENDIX 13: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Total Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY12 Direct Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY12 Indirect Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY12 Total Costs Awarded</th>
<th>Yr s</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>NIH/NIMH</td>
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AN  Anthropology  
CH  CHIP  
CS  Communication Sciences  
KIN  Kinesiology  
PSY  Psychology  
STAT  Statistics

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Department:  
AHS  Allied Health Sciences  
AN  Anthropology  
CH  CHIP  
CS  Communication Sciences  
HDF  Human Development and Family Studies  
KIN  Kinesiology  
PSY  Psychology  
SW  School of Social Work
APPENDIX 15: CICATS PORT CORE

CICATS (the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science), which represents a partnership between the University of Connecticut, the UConn Health Center, area hospitals, and area community-based organizations, promotes health and well-being through “collaborative, transdisciplinary science linking academic researchers, organizations, clinicians and the community.” CHIP is a critical partner in CICATS’ Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core, which focuses on the translation of health-related discoveries into clinical and community practice.

As discussed earlier in this report, one of the most notable examples of CHIP’s FY12 efforts to expand relationships with health researchers across disciplines and institutions in support of the PORT Core mission involved the work of CHIP-based Boundary Spanner Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/ CHIP) to strengthen CHIP’s existing partnership with Yale’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA). As a result of Dr. Dugan’s and others’ efforts, the CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Program was announced in January 2012. The program provides $50,000 in grant funding to an HIV/AIDS research team comprised of an investigator from each research center (i.e., CHIP and CIRA) who propose an innovative HIV-related pilot project that has the potential to lead to external grant funding. (For full details, see Section K: CHIP Research Capital Competitions on p. 33 and Appendix 12 on page 83.)

Another CHIP-CIRA collaborative activity occurred in February 2012 in Hartford. Entitled the “After 5 Research Schmooze,” it was a social networking event featuring speed dating-style meetings to provide an opportunity for CHIP and CIRA investigators to meet, discuss research ideas, and find research collaborators (possibly for submitting a CHIP-CIRA joint grant application). Twenty-three people attended from CHIP, CIRA, and the Institute of Community Research in Hartford. In March 2012, a “One-Click Distribution List” was created to facilitate the quick and easy dissemination of project ideas and foster research collaborations among HIV/AIDS researchers. With the click of a button on the CHIP website, investigators are able to readily email a group of HIV/AIDS investigators who share their research interests.

The CHIP-based Boundary Spanner has also worked closely with a CHIP/PORT Core Interest Group (CIG), the Multidisciplinary Obesity Research Group (under the direction of CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology)), to plan similar efforts (i.e., social networking/speed dating, One-Click Distribution List) to promote multidisciplinary collaboration among UConn faculty at Storrs and the Health Center, and community organizations (i.e., Connecticut Children’s Medical Center) with obesity-related research interests. Other groups with which the CHIP Boundary Spanner has done outreach include the Occupational Health Research Group and the Aging Research Group (both CICATS/PORT CIGs) as well as UCHC’s Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, the University’s Cooperative Extension System (CES), and the Public Health Learning Community.

In March 2011, the CHIP-based Boundary Spanner joined the University’s Public Engagement Forum (PEF) to represent both CHIP and the CICATS/PORT Core. The Forum is a central branch of the Office of Public Engagement, and has a mission that parallels that of CICATS/PORT Core, which is to expand the transformational impact of the University throughout the region. The PEF and CICATS/PORT Core are important partners for one another due to their common goals and plans (i.e., creating a database of UConn’s outreach and community engagement activities to be used for planning growth in this area, offering workshops and training opportunities, identifying community-based projects, and providing information about funding opportunities for community-engaged projects).

One of the main roles of the CHIP-based Boundary Spanner is to educate researchers about dissemination and implementation (D&I) Science. As such, in FY12, Dr. Dugan continued to provide free consultation on Storrs and UCHC grants and research studies that have D&I components, informing researchers about relevant D&I frameworks and providing feedback during the writing process. Current projects include the preparation of a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) grant focused on evaluating yoga as a hypertension intervention, and a Center for Medicare and Medicaid grant being prepared by UCHC’s TRIPP Center on medical neighborhoods in metro New York. The CHIP-based Boundary Spanner is also working with other CHIP staff members to write a D&I-focused manuscript for submission to the journal Implementation Science. The paper examines the barriers and facilitators of implementation success of an HIV risk reduction intervention in South Africa. Additionally this year, consultation was provided for several other grants and projects ranging in focus from breast cancer survivors to the management of chronic pain to early intervention for autism.
In addition to project/grant consultation, the Boundary Spanner engaged in outreach efforts with individual investigators to discuss and plan specific strategies for the effective and widespread dissemination of their evidence-based health innovations within community/clinical settings. Individual researchers targeted for outreach were identified using CHIP’s inventory of UConn-created health innovations (i.e., developed by researchers at the Health Center and Storrs campus), which was compiled from the results of the FY11 Health Innovations survey conducted by CHIP. As part of her outreach efforts, the Boundary Spanner not only provided background information regarding D&I science, but provided technical assistance to investigators who indicated they were most interested in developing strategies and materials required for dissemination (i.e., writing up dissemination plans, creating informational fact sheets, packaging innovations in user-friendly formats).

In FY12, CHIP continued to co-sponsor several lectures as part of the CICATS/PORT Core Community Engagement Seminar Series on Health Disparities. Though seminars were held at the UConn Health Center, CHIP promoted each seminar among all relevant academic departments/programs on the Storrs campus (e.g., Allied Health Sciences, School of Nursing, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Nutritional Sciences, Psychology) and made each seminar available for viewing through live webcasts at the Storrs campus.

(For a complete list of PORT Core Community Engagement Seminar Series speakers, please see Appendix 3 on p. 58.)

In FY12, the CHIP Lecture Series also brought to campus a variety of speakers to discuss cutting-edge developments in dissemination and implementation research, and made these presentations available in archived form through the CHIP website as well as through live webcasts and broadcasts. (For a list of Lecture Series speakers who addressed dissemination and implementation during FY12, please see Section O on pp. 41.)

CHIP also continued to contribute to the development of the CICATS Federated Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) Innovation Laboratory, by creating the necessary infrastructure to strengthen and enhance the amount of D&I research underway at UConn.

In the spring of 2012, CHIP significantly expanded all dissemination and implementation-related resources on its website to provide updated, user-friendly information to facilitate the adoption of UConn-based health behavior change interventions. In the future, these resources will ultimately become part of the CICATS D&I Lab, available through the D&I Lab’s own website which has yet to be developed. These resources include the “Intervention Resources” webpage, providing fact sheets and supplemental materials to support the widespread dissemination of evidence-based health innovations created by UConn/CHIP researchers, and a similar “Measurement Instruments” webpage that provides access to measures developed by UConn researchers. The “Dissemination & Implementation Resources” webpage, which is designed to foster D&I activities across the University, provides access to relevant websites, funding and training opportunities, literature, archived lectures, and listservs to help UConn-Storrs and UCHC researchers and community stakeholders increase their capacity for dissemination and implementation. This webpage features the D&I Grants Database, which was recently updated and now identifies 14 funding mechanisms designed to support dissemination and implementation activities. The “D&I Measurement Compendium” is also posted on this webpage; it is a white paper written by the CHIP-based Boundary Spanner and other CHIP researchers that provides investigators with a synthesis of validated measurement tools designed to assess D&I-related constructs.
APPENDIX 16: Selected FY11 Scholarly Publications, Presentations, and Awards by CHIP PIs

- PIs and Affiliates’ names are **bolded** in the PI section.
- Graduate Students’ names are **bolded** in the Graduate Student section. Their names are followed by (g) in the PI section.
- Research staff members’ names are followed by (r.s.) in the PI section. Those research staff members who also are Affiliates also have their names bolded.

**Articles**


Martin, K., Havens, E., Boyle, K., Matthews, G., Schilling, E., Harel, O., & Ferris, A. (2012). If you stock it, will they buy it? Healthy food availability and customer purchasing behavior within corner stores in Hartford, CT. *Public Health Nutrition.* Advance online publication. doi:10.1017/S1368980011003387


**Book Chapters**


Singer, M. (2012). Medical anthropology and public policy: Using research to change the world from what it is to what we believe it should be. In M. Inhorn & E. A. Wentzell (Eds.), Medical anthropology at the intersections. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.


Books


Published Conference Proceedings (full paper)


Conference Proceedings and Presentations


Clarke, M. (g), Kauffman, J., LaRose, J., & Gorin, A. A. (2011, October). *Exercise habits in college students: Factors associated with maintaining physical activity levels throughout the transition to college*. Poster session presented at the Annual Meeting of the Obesity Society, Orlando, FL.


Ju, G., Kaur, M. (g), Harris, A. (r.s.), Srinivasan, S. (g), & Bhat, A. (2012, May). *Differences in object exploration skills between infants at risk for autism and typically developing infants in the first 15 months of life.* Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Toronto, Canada.

Kaur, M. (g), Srinivasan, S. (g), & Bhat, A. (2012, June). *Comparing object exploration skills between typically developing (TD) infants and infant siblings of children with autism from 6 to 15 months of age.* Poster session presented at the International Conference of Infant Studies (ICIS), Minneapolis, MN.


Martin, K., Goyzueta, J., Robaina, K., & Illyes-Zonatti, E. (2011, October). *Addressing the underlying causes of poverty through Freshplace.* Presentation at the Building Solutions to Poverty Methodology Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

Matthews, G., & Harel, O. (2011, October). *Assessing the privacy of randomized vector valued queries to a database using the area under the receiver-operator characteristic curve.* Poster session presented at the 9th International Conference on Health Policy Statistics, Cleveland, OH.


McClure, K. J. (g), Clarke, M. M. (g), Gorin, A. A., & Quinn, D. M. (2011, October). *Weight-based rejection sensitivity as a risk factor for unhealthy dieting and exercise behaviors.* Poster session presented at the 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Obesity Society, Orlando, FL.


Riley, K. E. (g), Park, C. L., Besedin, E. Y., & Stewart, V. M. (2011, September). *Yoga state of body and mind: Wellbeing of yoga users compared to national samples.* Poster session presented at the Symposium on Yoga Research, Stockbridge, MA.

Robaina, K., & Martin K. (2011, October). *Food insecurity, diet quality and health among food pantry clients in Hartford, CT.* Poster session presented at the Connecticut Public Health Association Annual Conference, Southington, CT.

Schierberl Scherr, A. (g), McClure, K.J. (g), & Gorin, A. A. (2012, April). *Do romantic partners’ diet and activity behaviors impact each other’s weight loss? Results from a couples weight loss intervention*. Poster session presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, New Orleans, LA.


Snyder, L. B. (2011, December). *The efficacy and spread of short video messages using mobile phones to promote HIV testing among a low income population*. Poster session presented at the mHealth Summit, National Harbor, MD.

Snyder, L.B. (2012, March). *Promotion of sedentary behaviors and physical activity to youth through media promotions and public service announcements on television*. Poster session presented to the Active Living Research Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

Snyder, L.B., & LaCroix, J. M. (g). (2012, April). *Comparing the effectiveness of interventions using media to those that do not: A meta-meta-analyses*. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, New Orleans, LA.

Srinivasan, S. (g), Kaur, M. (g), & Bhat, A. (2012, June). *Developmental changes and the influence of caregiver interactions during object sharing behaviors between 9 to 15 months of age and its applications to infants at risk for autism*. Poster session presented at the International Conference of Infant Studies (ICIS), Minneapolis, MN.


Turcios, V. (g), Zona, K. (g), & Milan, S. (2011, August). *Possible selves in diverse adolescents: Academic goals and their relation to mental health outcomes.* Poster session presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association (APA), Washington, DC.


**Keynote and Plenary Lectures at National and International Conferences**


**Invited Scholarly Colloquia, Presentations, and Symposia**


Fisher, J. D. (2011, July). *Changing HIV risk behavior*. Invited presentation at training session for the REID program for training minority PhDs in HIV prevention, a joint NIH-funded program at Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale/Centers for Health, Intervention, and Prevention at UConn, and the Institute for Community Research in Hartford, Storrs, CT.

Fisher, J. D. (2011, July). *The Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP)*. Invited presentation at training session for the REID program for training minority PhDs in HIV prevention, a joint NIH-funded program at Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale/Centers for Health, Intervention, and Prevention at UConn, and the Institute for Community Research in Hartford, Storrs, CT.


Harel, O. (2011, August). *Generating multiple imputations from multiple models to incorporate model uncertainty in nonignorable missing data problems.* Invited presentation at the Joint Statistical Meeting, Miami Beach, FL.

Harel, O. (2012, February). *Generating multiple imputation from multiple models to reflect missing data mechanism uncertainty: Application to a longitudinal clinical trial.* Invited presentation at the UCLA Department of Biostatistics Seminar Series, Los Angeles, CA.

Harel, O. (2012, March). *How to complete the incomplete; a statistical antidote for incomplete data sets.* Invited presentation at the quantitative research methods seminar at the Department of Psychology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

Harel, O. (2012, April). *How to complete the incomplete; a statistical antidote for incomplete data sets.* Invited presentation at the Connecticut Data Mining Conference, New Britain, CT.


Milan, S. (2011, December). *Violence and mental health of Nairobi youth.* Member of University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Social Sciences and Humanities Interdisciplinary Forum, Storrs, CT.


Park, C. L. (2011, October). Development of self-regulation abilities as predictors of psychological adjustment across the first year of college. In M. Ardelt (Chair), *Pathways to personality growth and wisdom at different stages of the life course*. Symposium conducted at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for the Study of Human Development, Providence, RI.


Park, C. L. (2012, March). *Spirituality and meaning in cancer survivorship*. Invited presentation at the Karmanos Cancer Center, Detroit, MI.


Singer, M. (2011, September). Syndemics, sex and the city: Understanding STIs in social and cultural context. Invited presentation at the Best Practices in HIV Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment Conference, Center for Continuing Medical Education, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, New York, NY.


Snyder, L. B. (2012, January). Will graphic warnings on tobacco packages affect pregnant women and teens? Testing the impact on native Hawaiian pregnant women and other diverse groups in the U.S. Invited presentation to the Queen’s Cancer Center, ‘Imi Hale, NCI Community Cancer Center Programs, Honolulu, HI.

Volek, J. S. (2011, August). Dietary versus endogenous saturated fat, which is the real villain? Invited presentation to the Atkins Nutritional Sciences Advisory Board Meeting, Lambertville, NJ.


Volek, J. S. (2011, December). Low carbohydrate diets are the answer to improved glycemic control. Invited presentation to the World Diabetes Congress, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.


Volek, J. S. (2012, April). Carbohydrate restriction uniquely benefits metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes. Invited presentation to the 21st Annual Contemporary Topics in Nutrition Symposium, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI.

APPENDIX 17: Selected CHIP Graduate Student Publications, Presentations, Research Projects, and Achievements

- PIs and Affiliates’ names are **bolded** in the PI section.
- Graduate Students’ names are **bolded** in the Graduate Student section. Their names are followed by (g) in the PI section.

**Articles**


**Book Chapters**


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


real vs. ideal yoga teachers. Poster session presented at the Symposium on Yoga Research, Stockbridge, MA.


Riley, K. E., Park, C. L., Besedin, E. Y., & Stewart, V. M. (2011, September). *Yoga state of body and mind: Wellbeing of yoga users compared to national samples.* Poster session presented at the Symposium on Yoga Research, Stockbridge, MA.


Srinivasan, S., Kaur, M., & Bhat, A. (2012, June). *Developmental changes and the influence of caregiver interactions during object sharing behaviors between 9 to 15 months of age and its applications to infants at risk for autism.* Poster session presented at the International Conference of Infant Studies (ICIS), Minneapolis, MN.


**Invited Scholarly Colloquia, Presentations, and Symposia**


An understudied but essential dimension in the psychology of religion. Symposium conducted at the American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC.


Wortmann, J. H. (2012, March). How I got into the psychology of religion and Spirituality: First-person accounts from division 36 members. In C. Boyatzis (Chair), How I got into psychology. Symposium conducted at the annual mid-year meeting of the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, Division 36 of the American Psychological Association, Baltimore, MD.

Grants

Ash, G., CHIP Seed Grant for Graduate Student Pilot Projects, awarded by the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut. March 2010 — June 2012. A Pilot Study of the Comparison of the Immediate After Effects of Aerobic (AE) and Ischemic Handgrip (IHG) Exercise on Blood Pressure (BP) and Vascular Function Among Adults with High Blood Pressure. $1500. [Mentor: Linda Pescatello].


Finitsis, D., CHIP Seed Grant for Graduate Student Pilot Projects, awarded by the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut. May 2011 - August 2012. Psychosocial Predictors of Medication Adherence in Organ Transplant Patients. $1500. [Mentor: Dean Cruess].


Goldsby, T., American College of Sports Medicine. The Influence of Ethnicity on Post Exercise Hypotension: A Meta-analysis of Acute Exercise Trials. Purpose: To meta-analyze the literature to quantify the magnitude of the BP reductions that result from acute exercise, i.e., PEH. To meta-analyze the literature to determine the influence of ethnicity on PEH. July 2011 – June 2012. $5000. [Mentors: Linda S Pescatello & Blair T. Johnson].


Lennon, C., Graduate Research Grant, awarded by Psi Chi. Extending the Investment Model: Power and Attachment in Intimate Relationships. $1000. [Mentor: Blair T. Johnson].


Schierberl Scherr, A., CHIP Seed Grant for Graduate Student Pilot Projects, awarded by the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut. April 2011-September 2011. *Understanding for Whom and How Couples-Based Approaches to Weight Loss may be Successful.* $1500. [Mentor: Amy Gorin].

Tan, J. Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, awarded by the National Science Foundation. 2010 – 2012. $12,199.


**Selected Honors & Awards**

Ash, G. Graduate Mentor, Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. 2010.


Ballard, K. Neag School of Education Helen Reynolds Scholarship Recipient, University of Connecticut. 2010.

Ballard, K. Outstanding Graduate Student Scholar in Exercise Science, University of Connecticut.

Brown, J. Graduate Mentor, Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. 2010.

Brown, J. Graduate School Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut. 2010.

Goldsby, T. Leadership and Diversity Training Fellow, American College of Sports Medicine, Indianapolis, IN. 2011


Gregory, P. Outstanding Academic Achievement Award from the Department of Physical Education and Human Performance, Central Connecticut State University.


Tan, J. Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Connecticut. 2011. $2,000.

Tan, J. Advanced Training Institute Travel Grant, American Psychological Association. 2010.

Tan, J. Methodological Studies Award, Center for Research on Families, University of Massachusetts - Amherst. 2010.

### APPENDIX 18: Chart of CHIP Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHIP SERVICES</th>
<th>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</th>
<th>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</th>
<th>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIP INTERNAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grants for PI's</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grants for New Investigators</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X PI must be from UConn</td>
<td>X Must be CHIP Affiliate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot Project Grants for Graduate Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Faculty Stipends for Grant Development</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X UConn faculty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for Conference Development</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X PI must be from UConn</td>
<td>X Must be CHIP Affiliate</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of your CHIP external grant proposals by outside experts prior to submission to external funder (with approval from Director)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to samples of awarded internal and external grants provided as a learning tool with Director or Associate Director approval and University NET ID</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become member of a CHIP-L Listserv</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtain University affiliate NET ID for CHIP related work with Director/Associate Director approval</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to CHIP’s Microsoft Lync Services (web conferencing platform)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend CHIP Lecture Series and access all presentations via podcast and web site (<em>available to the general public</em>)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP SERVICES</td>
<td>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</td>
<td>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</td>
<td>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</td>
<td>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</td>
<td>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post supplemental resources to publications on CHIP's website (repository)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to methodological and statistical pre-review of proposals and statistical support for other health related research work with approval from Director &amp; Associate Director</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive grant funding opportunities via e-mail and access them through the website</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request and receive custom grant funding searches/opportunities</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHIP GRANTS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submit a CHIP affiliated grant with approval from Director &amp; Associate Director</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>X w/ official UConn title</th>
<th>X Must be a CHIP affiliate</th>
<th>X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRE-AWARD (EXTERNAL GRANT APPLICATION) SERVICES: assistance with Internal Proposal Review Form (IPR) &amp; the Significant Financial Interest Review Form (SFIR), budget, consortium agreements, actual grant application submission &amp; review of submission for compliance/requirements</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X w/ official UConn title</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X Academic dept approval required for external grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST AWARD (GRANT ADMINISTRATION) SERVICES: assistance with pre-award coding, set-up of awarded budget, PSAs and paying invoices, re-budgeting and cost transfers, no cost extensions, budget projections, effort reporting, progress reports and carryover and award closeout</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHIP PERSONNEL & PAYROLL SUPPORT SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance with hiring staff, undergraduate and graduate students</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</th>
<th>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</th>
<th>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIP SERVICES</td>
<td>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</td>
<td>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</td>
<td>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</td>
<td>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with payroll processing of staff, undergraduate and graduate students</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with staff-related human resources/labor relations issues</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP PURCHASING SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with making purchases, payment of invoices and reimbursements &amp; cash advances for participant incentives</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVEL SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with making flight reservations &amp; reconciling travel expenses when travel is funded by a CHIP grant</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X UConn employees working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X If funded by CHIP grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel safety information and assistance</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACILITY SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to reserve a CHIP conference or interview room for research, based on availability.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to obtain research office space at CHIP for use that is relevant to CHIP’s mission (building and office access) with approval from Director.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP SERVICES</td>
<td>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</td>
<td>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</td>
<td>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</td>
<td>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check out available equipment (Laptop, Polycom Pod, Skype Speakerphone &amp; Digital Video Cameras w/ Tripods) for use for CHIP related business and research.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHIP IT SUPPORT SERVICES (for CHIP grant-related equipment and work only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</th>
<th>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</th>
<th>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consultation services to plan IT involvement in future research grant</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with CHIP grant related IT purchases (computers, hardware &amp; software)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with project management (setting up &amp; managing servers, system analysis)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with CHIP grant purchased hardware &amp; software issues (failures, warranty requests upgrades, email, research software packages)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with network issues and server management</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term data storage on CHIP's server with secure access</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### CHIP DISSEMINATION SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</th>
<th>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</th>
<th>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beth Krane - communications, public relations, dissemination of research findings</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post on website: affiliate biopage, research measures, and conference presentations.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP SERVICES</td>
<td>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</td>
<td>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</td>
<td>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</td>
<td>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</td>
<td>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHIP ADVANCED INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER (AITC)</strong></td>
<td>Consultation to build hardware and software and provide personnel capabilities to produce and support virtual reality (VR) research</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fee-for-service AITC support</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Note that access to CHIP services is only for work performed within CHIP's mission.
- Any exception to these guidelines needs prior approval from the CHIP Director and/or Associate Director.

Notes:

- *CHIP affiliates* are individuals who are performing research, or scaling up to perform research, that is consistent with CHIP's mission. Affiliates must fill out an affiliation form (available on the CHIP website) and be approved by the Director and Associate Director, or their designee.

- **CHIP affiliates and graduate students with active CHIP external or internal grants become CHIP PIs and are eligible for associated services.

- ***CHIP graduate student employees who are also affiliates* may be eligible for services in both of the right most columns below, as appropriate.
APPENDIX 19: CHIP FY12 Organizational Chart

* This chart indicates the percentage of each position that is funded by the CHIP Ledger 4 account. 80% of Deborah Cornman’s position, 14% of Jonathan Gill’s position, and 43% of Sam Salorio’s position are funded by research grants.
APPENDIX 20: CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC)

Mission Statement
The mission of the CHIP AITC is to provide production development and operational services in conjunction with providing access to advanced interactive equipment. The CHIP AITC provides development and production services for applications involving interaction both between participants and equipment, and between multiple participants mediated by technology. The CHIP AITC supports theoretical research applications as well as practical, deployable applications that can directly benefit impacted populations.

History
In 2006, CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology) received a seed grant from CHIP to use virtual reality (VR) as an experimental medium for her research. Based partly on the results of this initial work, Dr. Marsh was awarded a significant grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to continue research along these lines. In 2008, this funding enabled the establishment of a modest Virtual Reality (VR) Lab at CHIP. In the summer of 2008, Marsh and VR expert Timothy Gifford, now CHIP AITC Director, proposed to CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) that the capabilities of the VR Lab be made available to other CHIP researchers and to the greater University community. Dr. Fisher responded by providing funding for additional equipment to support the growth of the VR Lab, and the Lab began to be utilized by additional CHIP researchers.

In 2009, UConn’s Service Center and Cost Recovery Committee (SCCRC) approved the creation of the CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC). The CHIP AITC has a broader focus than the original CHIP VR Lab, providing access to additional interactive technologies and services. The CHIP AITC provides services to CHIP researchers and to the entire University community. The CHIP AITC can also provide services to commercial customers with no affiliation to the University.

CHIP AITC Clients during Fiscal Year 2012
Fiscal year 2012 was the second full year of operation for the CHIP AITC. During FY12, the CHIP AITC served multiple clients, including faculty and graduate students, and produced several useful deliverables for each client.

CHIP AITC personnel continued to work on Dr. Marsh’s NIH/NIMH grant, which utilizes VR technology to study sexual risk behaviors in several target populations. Specifically, her research involves studying the reactions of participants to the behavior of virtual avatars; participants’ gaze, reaction times, and body movements are analyzed as implicit measures that provide data on their attitudes towards specific events and objects in the environment. AITC provided underlying software development that controlled the movements and behavior of the avatars as well as constructed the models and graphics used in the environments.

During FY12, CHIP AITC staff also worked on a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded grant belonging to Engineering Professor Peter Luh (grant PI) and Dr. Marsh (grant Co-Investigator). The grant is investigating numerical models of psychological factors influencing crowd behavior in evacuation scenarios. For this grant, the CHIP AITC produced a 3D model of UConn’s Homer Babbidge Library from architectural blueprints and texture maps created from photographs of the actual library. The CHIP AITC also developed several experiments which used VR to place participants in various fire evacuation situations in Homer Babbidge Library. The CHIP AITC integrated the engineering group’s numerical modeling of fire and smoke propagation and crowd movement into the virtual library. AITC then created an interactive, immersive visualization that enabled a participant to experience the simulation from within the library with over one hundred virtual avatars. The research team found that study participants wanted to move faster in response to risk factors, such as smoke and fire, validating the authenticity of the virtual emergency scenario. The team also studied which exits participants chose and how they used signage to find their escape routes, information that could potentially inform the safe design of future buildings.

For the Psychology Department’s Center for the Ecological Study of Perception and Action (CESPA), the CHIP AITC provided technical assistance to support the installation of CESPA’s new parallel processing 80 core computing cluster housed in the Bousfield Building server room. The cluster is intended to make it easier for researchers to...
conduct advanced numerical analyses using a technique known as multifractal analysis, which allows researchers to find evidence of natural features in their data. An outgrowth of the CHIP AITC’s work with CESPA was the creation of a new agreement allowing researchers throughout the University community to utilize equipment belonging to CESPA. CHIP AITC will manage access to the CESPA equipment for CHIP AITC projects as needed.

The CHIP AITC also supported a separate project of Dr. Marsh’s focused on interpersonal synchrony, or how individuals mimic each other’s behaviors and synchronize their actions with those around them. Study of interpersonal synchrony reveals how people relate to one another in social settings. For this line of work, the CHIP AITC designed and built a reconfigurable mobile tracker support structure from off-the-shelf components that Dr. Marsh used to measure how closely in sync with each other her study participants performed certain movements.

The CHIP AITC also performed work for several graduate students during FY12, including work on Psychology graduate student Nicole Overstreet’s Christine Witzel Award-funded project. The project involves research on feelings of body shame and possible increased risk for HIV as a result of those feelings. For this project, the CHIP AITC produced two experiments with four conditions each, in which participants were allowed to interact with virtual dating scenarios, and their reactions to various objects and avatar behaviors in the scenarios could be measured.

Additionally, CHIP Director Timothy Gifford’s ongoing research into collaborative robotics, human-robotics interactions, and perception and action as it relates to robots’ ability to interact in the environment continues to broaden the services available to UConn researchers through the CHIP AITC.

For instance, since Gifford (grant co-I) began working with CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (grant PI) on a federally-funded study examining robotics as a potential therapeutic tool for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Gifford has expanded the CHIP AITC’s menu of available services to include robotics.

**CHIP AITC Administration**

During FY12, Gifford continued to provide design and production direction for each application the CHIP AITC produced. Other CHIP AITC staff members included: Christian Wannamaker (M.S., Computer Science), a graduate of UConn’s School of Engineering, who provided software development and support; James Redway (B.S., Computer Science), a graduate of UConn’s School of Engineering, who provided software development and support; and Zhenxiang Zhang (B.S., Psychology), who joined CHIP AITC this year and provided technical, administrative and research design support. Members of CHIP’s Administrative Team also provided ongoing administrative support to the Center.

The CHIP AITC also hosted an open house during the fall semester to demonstrate the various technologies available through the center to the greater UConn community.

For more details regarding the CHIP AITC’s specialized equipment and capabilities, please visit the Center’s web page at [www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-aitc/](http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-aitc/)
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