Members Bulletin

Happy New Year Everyone!

January 2 2007, Bulletin 23

The Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities Bulletin is available only to members of the Institute.

In this Bulletin:
1. Faculty Development Opportunities and Resources
   - Call for Abstracts-IEHD

2. Funding Opportunities
   - Health Disparities among Minority and Underserved Women
   - Drug Abuse as a Cause, Correlate, or Consequence of Criminal Justice Related Health Disparities among African Americans
   - Health Disparities in HIV/AIDS: Focus on African Americans

3. Selected Recent Disparities Articles
   - “Windshield Tour” – A Journey towards Cultural Competency
   - The Rising Prevalence of Severe Poverty in America: A Growing Threat to Public Health
   - Patients Do Not Understand Instructions on Prescription Labels

4. Upcoming Events
   - Cultural competence in health profession conference
   - Second Annual Health Disparities Conference
   - “Mental Illness, Race, Victimization, and Prison Culture: The Confluence of Adversity”

5. Job Openings/Training Opportunities
   - Tenure-Track Faculty in Epidemiology

Faculty Development Opportunities and Resources
Call for Abstracts-IEHD
In collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus, UMDNJ’S Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities will be hosting a conference focusing on the Challenge of Obesity in health disparity populations in New Jersey. The conference will be held on March 30-31, 2007, at the Dental School on the Newark Campus. The purpose of the conference is to: 1) review current data on social and economic impact of obesity and related illnesses on the healthcare system, employers, communities and residents; 2) increase knowledge and awareness of successful, cost-effective obesity reduction programs in the community; 3) seek concrete recommendations for public policy changes to improve access to safe recreational facilities and affordable nutrition; and, 4) showcase UMDNJ faculty research and community interventions. Faculty who have research projects, clinical or community interventions involving obesity and health disparity populations are invited to submit an abstract for a presentation or a poster. For further information, please contact Tracey Richardson at (973) 972-4383 or email: Richartr@umdnj.edu.
Funding Opportunities

Health Disparities among Minority and Underserved Women
The purpose of this initiative is to stimulate research aimed at reducing health disparities among racial/ethnic minority and underserved women. More specifically, this initiative seeks applications for: (1) research related to health promotion or risk reduction among minority and underserved women age 21 and older; and, (2) intervention studies that show promise for improving the health profile of minority and underserved women. Investigators responding to this announcement should focus on enhancing the body of knowledge of a variety of factors (e.g., social, economic, demographic, community, societal, personal, cultural) influencing the health promoting and health compromising behaviors of racial and ethnic minority women and underserved women and their subpopulations. The focus of this program announcement is on women age 21 and older, but investigators may also focus on the childhood antecedents of adult health disparities. http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=3105

Drug Abuse as a Cause, Correlate, or Consequence of Criminal Justice Related Health Disparities among African Americans
Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to conduct epidemiologic, prevention, treatment, and services research on criminal justice related health disparities among African Americans as it relates to drug abuse and addiction. Specifically, the program seeks to understand risk factors and pathways between drug abuse and criminal justice involvement, and to determine the extent to which criminal justice involvement and HIV/AIDS risk are interlinked or compounded by drug abuse and addiction. Eligible applicants include city or township governments, county governments, independent school districts, special district governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, state governments, nonprofit organizations, private institutions of higher education, and for-profit organizations. There are multiple deadline dates for applications. For further information, contact Edith Davis at (301) 433-6710 or edavis1@nida.nih.gov; or go to: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-114.html

Health Disparities in HIV/AIDS: Focus on African Americans
Department of Health and Human Services announces funds to encourage drug abuse and mental health research to better understand the disparities in HIV/AIDS in minority populations, particularly among African Americans, who, as a group, have experienced exceptionally high rates of new HIV infections and worse survival rates than other ethnic/racial groups in this country. Eligible applicants include city or township governments, county governments, independent school districts, special district governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, state governments, nonprofit organizations, and private institutions of higher education. There are multiple deadline dates for applications. For further information, contact Deborah Wertz at dwertz@nida.nih.gov; or go to: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-116.html

Selected Recent Disparities Articles
“Windshield Tour” – A Journey towards Cultural Competency
The “Windshield Tour” provides an in-depth look at community characteristics such as housing, health care facilities, schools, public transportation, recreation facilities, grocery and drug stores. The particular focus is on those areas in the community that lack vital resources. Medical educators are directing greater attention to the promotion of cultural competency when prioritizing educational program goals. An innovative educational approach is described here in a community hospital where nearly one-third of its citizens fall below the poverty level. The intent was to provide a very personal, first-hand learning experience via witnessing living conditions of patients from poverty-stricken neighborhoods. http://www.med-ed-online.org/pdf/T0000089.pdf
The Rising Prevalence of Severe Poverty in America: A Growing Threat to Public Health

Americans has been inadequately studied. Of particular concern is whether severe poverty is increasing, a trend that would carry important public health implications. Poverty is of great concern to the public health community because of its influence on health status and access to care. The poor account for a growing proportion of Americans. Although the nation’s poverty rate declined in the 1990s, since 2000 the United States Census Bureau (USCB) has reported a steady rise in the poverty rate, from 11.3% in 2000 to 12.7% in 2004.2 Children experienced the sharpest increase; the proportion living in poverty rose by 13.4%, from a rate of 15.7% (11.1 million) in 2000 to 17.8% (13.0 million) in 2004.

http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0749-3797/PIIS0749379706002339.pdf

Patients Do Not Understand Instructions on Prescription Labels

According to a recent study from Louisiana State University published in the current issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine, some patients have problems understanding the instructions on prescription labels. Click on the URL to view the entire report.

http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/0000605-200612190-00144v1

Upcoming Events

Cultural competence in health profession conference

A conference for promoting leadership and continuous improvement of cultural competence education in health profession institutions. The Federation of Associations of Schools of Health Professions (FASHP) is sponsoring a four-day inter-professional Institute designed to help faculty and administrators better inculcate cultural competence into health professions curricula.


Second Annual Health Disparities Conference

The 2nd annual conference and accompanying research seminar provide health professionals, researchers, physicians, health educators, psychologists, social workers, and other healthcare workers with new knowledge of a variety of evidence-based approaches to reducing health disparities, attitudes and beliefs. March 9 & 10, 2007. For more information visit: www.tc.edu/ceoi/healthdisparities

“Mental Illness, Race, Victimization, and Prison Culture: The Confluence of Adversity”

As part of its seminar series, IEHD hosted lecture titled “Mental Illness, Race, Victimization, and Prison Culture: The Confluence of Adversity” by Nancy Wolff, PhD, of Rutgers University on Thursday, January 18, 2007. Please call 973-972-4382

Job Openings/Training Opportunities

Tenure-Track Faculty in Epidemiology

The Masters in Public Health (MPH) Program in the Institute of Public Health, Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine seeks a tenure-track faculty member in epidemiology. The individual will work closely with other faculty in the Epidemiology Concentration of the MPH Program and with other faculty in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the School of Medicine. The position requires strong communication skills, experience working with diverse populations, and the ability to work collaboratively in teaching, research, and community-based practice. The successful applicant will demonstrate an extramurally funded research program or the potential to develop such a program. Experience working in a public health agency is also highly desirable. Two years
experience developing and teaching graduate courses is also desirable. The successful applicant should also have the ability to teach both introductory and intermediate epidemiologic methods courses. How to Apply: Interested candidates must send a signed letter of interest stating research and teaching experience, curriculum vitae, and names of three professional references. For best consideration, applications must be received by January 20, 2007 or open until filled. Send Application Materials To:
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Chair, Search Committee MPH Program
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