Interdisciplinary Team Science Addressing Modifiable Cancer Risk & Protective Factors Research Team

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Rationale

• Cancer continues to be one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality world-wide and the second leading cause in the U.S.

• Approximately 45% of cancer morbidity and mortality is associated with *modifiable cancer risk factors*.

• These factors can be internal such as behavioral, lifestyle, and health screening; or external like provider recommendations, coordinated services, insurance coverage, and accessibility.
Objectives

1. Focus on cancers associated with modifiable risk factors.

2. Assess healthcare access, availability, and appropriateness.

3. Identify and map navigation to connect members to health and social services.

1. Advance social and behavioral health science research, propel interdisciplinary research in other health disparity areas.
Approach

• Utilize a community-based team science approach, integrating community and student-based capacity building interventions to advance preventative and comprehensive cancer care.

• Collaborate on 4 complimentary cancer projects—based in El Paso. These are designed and interwoven to understand critical issues and implement interventional strategies related to HPV vaccine uptake, early screening processes for HPV-associated cancers, health literacy, and overall cancer awareness of youth and young adults within resource scarce areas of El Paso County.
Complimentary Cancer Research Projects
Explore and understand the cancer continuum. Cancer are non-specific cancer type

1. **EdTech HPV** (R01 grant; 2016 – 2021) technology-focused project, implements and assesses a community-based educational program to increase the rate of HPV vaccination completion among children (ages 11 – 17) of Mexican-origin families.

2. **HPV across the Lifespan** (R01-type grant; 2019 – 2024) assesses HPV-related knowledge, attitudes and practices, barriers and facilitators of vaccine uptake to develop, implement, and assess targeted interventions to improve vaccination, screening and health literacy across the lifespan (ages 18 – 65).

3. **C-KAP** (U54 pilot grant; 2020 – 2021) explores young adults (ages 18 – 39) non-specific type cancer knowledge, attitude's and practices in San Elizario and Socorro, Texas.

(4.) **Student IDR Pipeline: Training & Capacity Building** (IDRE pilot grant; 2020 - 2021) increases research mentorship/team building activities of multi-level students and scholars interested in impactful learning and practice experiences in interdisciplinary community-based research.
Cancer Project 1.

EdTech-HPV: A Community Approach using Education and Technology to Increase HPV Vaccination

Aragones, A., (PI); Moya E. M., (Co-I); Tonda, J., (Co-I)

Background

- Led by Abraham Aragones, MD, MS—Immigrant Health & Cancer Disparities Service Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

- A multi-state, multi-site, community-based project operating in Mexican Consulates in New York City, Las Vegas, Chicago and El Paso to increase HPV vaccination rates among children of Mexican immigrants through education and text messaging.

Goal: To develop a multi-level 18 statistical predictive model on vaccination series completion

Current Efforts & Future Directions

- Aim 1: Compare HPV vaccination series completion among children whose parents complete an education session

  - Arm 1: Text Group
    - Education + a series of 12 weekly text message reminders about HPV vaccine for each dose
  - Arm 2: Control Group
    - Education but no reminder texts about vaccine

- Aim 2: Identification of factors that contribute to parental decision for HPV vaccination completion
  - Administration of Progress Surveys (N = 200) participants per site

- 5th year ending in May 2021.

This work was supported by Grant R01MD011508, National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01).
Cancer Project 1.

**EdTech-HPV: A Community Approach using Education and Technology to Increase HPV Vaccination**

Aragones, A., (PI); Moya E. M., (Co-I); Tonda, J., (Co-I)

This work was supported by Grant R01MD011508, National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01).
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Cancer Project 2.

HPV Across the Lifespan: Implementing Innovative & Strategic Approaches to Prevent And Mitigate the Deleterious Effects of HPV Across the Lifespan of Hispanics of Mexican Origin

Moya, E., (Core Lead/PI); Padilla, M., (Co-I); Frietze, G., (Co-I); Gosselink, K., (Co-I)

Background

- Led by Robert Kirken, PhD; Principal Director—Research Center at Minority Institutions and Borders Biomedical Research Center—UTEP BBRC
- 1st behavioral research project under BBRC, working towards addressing issues of Hispanic health disparities unique to our region. Three phases: 1) community needs/scan of HPV impact, 2) creating educational tools informed by community and professional members, and 3) testing the impact of such tools.

This work was supported by Grant 2U54MD007592 from the National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
Recruitment Flyers: HPV Across the Lifespan and C-KAP

This work was supported by Grant ZU54MD007592 from the National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and supported by UTEP Interdisciplinary Research and Education Program (IDRE), Seed Funding.
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Cancer Project 3.

C-KAP: Youth and young adult cancer knowledge, attitudes and practices pilot study
Moya E. M., (PI); Chávez -Baray, S. (Co-I/Director), Araceli Garcia, RA

Background

• Pilot-project (U54) exploring young adults (18 – 39 yrs) cancer KAP in San Elizario and Socorro, Texas.

• Focus: prevention of cancer in youth/young adults to report documented findings to key informants and decision makers.

Current Efforts & Future Directions

• 125 participants are expected to complete the survey using QuestionPro software.
  • [https://www.questionpro.com/t/AQ5CqZiUnf](https://www.questionpro.com/t/AQ5CqZiUnf) Spanish
  • [https://www.questionpro.com/t/AQ5CqZiTwX](https://www.questionpro.com/t/AQ5CqZiTwX) English

• Data collection is expected to be completed by early-November.

• Data transcription: November-December

• Data analysis: January-February (2021).

• Preparation of grant submission(s) Spring 2021

• Article report & manuscript development: February-April (2021).

This work was supported by Grant 2U54MD007592 from the National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
**Background**

- To increase research mentorship/team building activities for undergraduate & graduate students interested in research experiences and practices.
- Partnership with the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI)
- Facilitates the ability of emerging, junior scholars, and accomplished faculty of the IDR team to develop and enhance their mentorship capabilities through collaboration with UTEP academic leaders, advisors, and other supporting units.

**Goal:** Explore the food and housing insecurity (FHI) impact among (n=2,757) UTEP college students

**Current Efforts & Future Directions**

- Manuscript of cross sectional study among (n=2,757) UTEP students in submitted mode (November. 2020). **Authors:** Moya, E., Crouse, M., Wagler, A., Schober, G., Ayala, J., & Garcia, A. Interdisciplinary team representing social work, mathematics, education, rehabilitation sciences and psychology.
- 2\(^{nd}\) Study IRB recently approved and scheduled to be launched in mid October
- Preliminary Findings:
  - 720 (26%) participants know of any UTEP student who was homeless
  - 1,269 (48%) experienced food shortage and are unable to afford more food
  - 1,488 (57%) could not afford to eat balanced meals
  - 1,100 (42%) ate less since there was not enough money for food
  - 1,000 (37%) went hungry due to not having enough money for food

**Student IDR Pipeline:** Training & Capacity Building on Food and Housing Insecurities

Moya, E., (PI) & Crouse, M., (Co-I)

Supported by UTEP Interdisciplinary Research and Education Program (IDRE), Seed Funding
Second FHI Study

**Purpose:** Examine the FHI among students during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Design:** Cross-sectional study

**Online survey will address:** 1) General characteristics, 2) Housing security, 3) Food security, and 4) Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

**Research questions:**
- What is the proportion of UTEP students who report housing insecurity?
- What is the proportion of UTEP students who face food insecurity?
- What is the proportion of UTEP students impacted by COVID-19?
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Project Timeline

- 2016: EdTech-HPV
- 2017: HPV Across the Lifespan
- 2018: CKAP Pilot
- 2019: Seed Funding
- 2020: 
- 2021: 
- 2022: 
- 2023: 
- 2024: 
Expected Collaborative Outputs/Outcomes

Cancer Projects 1 & 2

• To identify critical information related to HPV vaccine uptake, early screening processes for HPV-associated cancers, and HPV literacy in Mexican-origin Hispanic females and males.

• Provide novel insight and direction for (1) the reduction of the deleterious effects of HPV in Hispanics of Mexican origin, (2) normalize the HPV vaccine such that all eligible age groups complete the vaccine series and are protected against cancer associated HPV strains, and (3) establish UTEP and the El Paso region as critical drivers of behavioral research.

Cancer Project 3

• Inform cultural and linguistic competent education strategies with the purpose of engaging youth & young adults to adopt lifestyle behaviors aimed at reducing their cancer risk

Cancer Project 4

• Create mentoring and meaningful research experiences to include training in community-based research frameworks, methods like Photovoice to document health inequalities and strategies to address, and participating in COURI and BUILD Scholar symposiums where student present their research work.
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Grant Submissions

Title: Implementing Community-based Approaches to Increase SARS-CoV-2 Testing among an Underserved and Vulnerable Hispanic Population
Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health
Total federal funds requested: $1,057,000.00
PI: Robert A. Kirken
Co-Investigators: Gabriel A. Frietze, Michael J. Kenney, Bibiana M. Mancera, Eva M. Moya, Margie E. Padilla
Submission date: September 8, 2020

SEBI behavioral grant
Title: Identifying and assessing behavioral factors within a Vulnerable Population of Hispanics to Increase COVID-19 Testing, Prevention Strategies, and future vaccine uptake
Funding Agency: National Institutes of Health
Total federal funds requested: $942,944.00
PI: Robert A. Kirken
Co-Investigators: Gabriel A. Frietze, Bibiana M. Mancera, Eva M. Moya, Margie E. Padilla
Submission date: September 8, 2020

Title: Use of Photovoice to make visible mental health of transgender migrants in Ciudad Juarez and El Paso
Funding: PIMSA
Approved budget: $10,000
PI's: Eva Moya & Marisela Gutierrez (UACJ)
Co-PI's: Silvia Chavez-Baray (UTEP), Perla Chaparro (EPISD), Oscar Esparza & Hector Padilla (UACJ), Maria Ines Barrientos (COLEF)
The team will strengthen its collective capacity to design research studies and experiences to address multi-generational communities of Hispanics, primarily of Mexican-origin, and increases the power of our investigations and the likelihood of obtaining statistically significant outcomes.

- Project findings are likely to generalize to other Hispanic and communities of color, medically underserved, or rural populations experiencing similar health concerns regarding modifiable cancer risk and protective factors.

- **Engaging and supporting current and future health providers** working in underserved regions provides additional skills and exposure for students to develop into researchers to effectively investigate health disparities in underserved populations.

- Generate, publish and disseminate peer-review publications and leverage grants to expand research and translate findings.
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