Rural Health Interdisciplinary Research Core (RHIRC)

IDRB Internal Symposium
October 27, 2020
Goal

- To expand the Rural Health Interdisciplinary Research Core (RHIRC) at MARC and UTEP as a regional and global hub and resource for innovative interdisciplinary rural health research.
RHIRC Team

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Rachel Sonne
TX Dept. of State Health Services
Faculty collaborators and affiliations

- **Team Leader:** Thenral Mangadu, MD, MPH., PhD., Associate Professor, **Public Health Sciences.** Director, Minority AIDS Research Center (MARC)

- **RHIROC Collaborators and Affiliations:**
  - UTEP: Ramana Chintalapalle, PhD, (Engineering), Hannah Kang, PhD. (Pharmacy); Manuel Llano, PhD. (Science); Nate V. Robinson P.E., (Engineering); Steve Varela, MA, (Academic Technologies)
  - Southwest Viral Med (SWVM): Ogechika Alozie, MD, MPH, FACP, AAHIVS
  - TTUHSC, UTMB Galveston: Adrian Billings, MD, PhD.
  - TX Office of Border Public Health: Adriana Corona Luevanos, MBA
  - TTUHSC Paul Foster School of Medicine: Bharathi Gadad, PhD.; Shrikanth Gadad, PhD.
  - TX Department of State Health Services: Rachel Sonne, MD, MPH.
Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-orientated and Time-bound (SMART) Objectives

1. Annually build capacity through meaningful outcome-orientated partnerships with interdisciplinary faculty and stakeholders;

2. Establish the infrastructure (IDRB) and seed funding toward larger scale multi-institutional extramurally funded research
Objectives contd.

3. Submit at least 3 large scale national and/or international interdisciplinary rural health research grant proposals per year;

4. Enhance RHIRC’s technological innovation capacity and infrastructure toward rural health services and policy gaps

5. Prepare an interdisciplinary and modern health workforce advancing rural health care.
only regionally located rural health interdisciplinary core of its kind
focus on the bio–psycho–social aspects of rural health disparities for current global rural health priorities
Multiple research approaches
capitalize on
  ◦ best practices and strategies implemented in interdisciplinary research at Minority AIDS Research Center (MARC)
  ◦ integration the combined data, methodologies, concepts, knowledge and skills of our RHIRC team
Implementation:
Occurs in Stages and on a Continuum

Initial Implementation
Assessment, new knowledge built on evidence, Convergent/translational models and partnerships

Adapt, Maintain, Expand
Systems approach, Modify and Expand based on lessons learned: Better Practices; Dissemination: local and Global

Sustain and Innovate
Enhance structural capacity to sustain our Rural Health Hub
## Planned Outcomes 06/2020 to 06/2025

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intended Outcomes (annual)</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary /convergence research funding opportunities identified</td>
<td>Across campus and inter-institutional <strong>Interdisciplinary collaborations and action research</strong>;</td>
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<td># of grant proposals submitted; # of grant proposals funded; Total Research Expenditure per year</td>
<td>UTEP’s growth as a <strong>Rural Health Professionals Training</strong> Institution;</td>
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<td># of publications, patents, policy briefs and other scholarly products; # of student trainees; # of new faculty and disciplines integrated in research; # of community members served</td>
<td>UTEP’s presence as a <strong>rural IDR hub/resource</strong> for regional and global stakeholders;</td>
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<td>Reduction of barriers to care and improved quality of care in rural communities;</td>
<td>Advancing of UTEP’s R1 goals</td>
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Submitted one grant proposal to DHHS Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) (RHIRC members: Drs. Mangadu, Billings, Sonne & Ms. Corona with community partner Aliviane Inc.)

HRSA awarded $1 Million overall for Rural Opioid Response Implementation and CBPR (09/2020– 08/2023)

Timeline Fall 2020

- Move into IDRB 09/2020–10/2020
- RHIRC meetings to plan semester-specific objectives
  - Research Questions and Designs
  - Funding Opportunities and matching team expertise to each opportunity
  - Resources inventory to leverage
  - Scholarly Products
  - Professional Development

- Begin Implementing RCORP Grant
RHIRC Teaming Statement

- Core values:
  - social justice
  - interdisciplinary research teams in multiple settings
  - innovative and flexible strategies
  - convergence research program
  - complex research questions/real-world issues
  - interdisciplinary and/or translational research
  - ongoing reflection and program monitoring
  - aligned with UTEP R1 mission and objectives.
Questions/Comments?

Thank you!