Fall 2011

In Translation v.2:no.2 (2011:Fall/Winter)

Matthew J. Cook
University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Dentistry, cook@nso2.uchc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/uchcres_articles

Part of the Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/uchcres_articles/74
Seminar Series Features Expert on Health Disparities

The CICATS Community Engagement Seminar Series on December 8 features Brian Smedley, PhD, an expert on health disparities and the social determinants of health. Smedley oversaw the direction of the Institute of Medicine consensus report Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. He has also written other reports on diversity in the health professions and minority health research policy.

Smedley’s talk entitled “Building Stronger Communities for Better Health: Moving from Science to Policy and Practice” marks the inaugural lecture in the 2011-2012 CICATS Community Engagement Seminar Series. The seminar is free and starts at 4:00 PM in the UConn Health Center’s Low Learning Center. A reception immediately follows. The seminar is sponsored by the Ethel Donaghue TRIPP Center, the Center for Public Health and Health Policy (CPHHP), CICATS, and the Department of Community Medicine at the UConn Health Center, the Institute for Community Research, and the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at UConn-Storrs.

Two-Day Retreat Brings Partners Together

CICATS members were invited to attend an information and planning mini-retreat to explore the future of CICATS and biomedical research at the University and its partner institutions. The Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) was established in 2009 in order to: 1) translate laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients; 2) engage Connecticut communities in clinical research efforts; and 3) train a new generation of clinical and translational researchers.

More than 90 researchers from across all partnering institutions attended the highly successful retreat held on Tuesday evening November 1 & Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at the UConn Cell and Genome Sciences Building.
Currently, Dr. Smedley is Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC. In this position, he oversees the operation of the Health Policy Institute which explores disparities in health and to generate policy recommendations on longstanding health equity concerns.

Prior to joining the Institute, he was co-founder of the Opportunity Agenda, a communications, research, and advocacy organization. He has also worked at the American Psychological Association on a variety of social, health, and education policy topics as Director for Public Interest Policy.

A Detroit native, Smedley holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a doctoral degree in psychology from UCLA.

The event is free but space is limited. It will also be recorded. To register, email csteciak@uchc.edu or call 860-679-7039.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SEMINAR
"Building Stronger Communities for Better Health: Moving from Science to Policy and Practice"

Brian Smedley, PhD
Vice President & Dir. Health Policy Institute

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011
Time: 4:00-5:00 PM with reception to follow
Location: Henry B. Low Learning Center
UConn Health Center
Farmington, CT

Register: Call 860-679-7039 or email csteciak@uchc.edu

continued on page 3
The Tuesday evening session included opening remarks by Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD, CICATS Chief Executive Officer and welcoming remarks by Mr. Sanford Cloud Jr., Esq., UConn Health Center’s Chairman of the Board. Thomas Babor, PhD provided a summary of a qualitative evaluation and Marc Lalande, PhD presented information about the Jackson Laboratories partnership. Mr. Tom Callahan reviewed the Bioscience Connecticut initiative. A wine and cheese reception followed.

On Wednesday, November 2nd speakers included Gualberto Ruáño, MD, PhD, Director of the Genetics Research Center at Hartford Hospital who gave a fascinating lecture on personalized medicine and translational genomics in clinical practice based on his work at Hartford Hospital. Participants then broke into smaller working groups to examine strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for CICATS and regrouped to discuss CICATS’ future goals.

Many excellent ideas were generated from the event. CICATS’ leadership will continue to work together to ensure CICATS’ continued success.
web page that provides fact sheets and ancillary materials to support the dissemination of 13 health innovations created by UConn researchers, and a similar “Measurement Instruments” web page that provides access to measurement instruments, also created by UConn researchers. A third web page, “Dissemination & Implementation Resources,” provides information about relevant websites, funding and training opportunities, literature, archived lectures, and listservs to help Storrs and UCHC researchers and community stakeholders increase their capacity for dissemination and implementation.

As part of her role in educating researchers about D&I science and community-engaged research, Dr. Dugan was instrumental in the planning and promotion of last year’s CICATS Community Engagement seminar series, which featured a variety of well-known speakers. In particular, she organized the four-hour “Getting to Outcomes” workshop in March, which was facilitated by internationally-known speaker Dr. Abe Wandersman from University of South Carolina. The workshop, attended by 35 participants from community-based organizations and academia including both Storrs and the Health Center, was full to capacity and evaluated very favorably. In the year ahead, Dr. Dugan will assist in the planning of the CHIP Lecture Series, inviting speakers to present on dissemination and implementation-related topics including Dr. Daren Anderson from the Community Health Center, Inc. and Lynn Garner from the Donaghue Foundation.

Currently, she is providing consultation on several Storrs and UCHC grants and research studies, educating researchers regarding relevant D&I frameworks and providing feedback during the writing process. She is also working with other CHIP researchers to prepare two manuscripts for publication and submission to the journal Implementation Science.