Introduction to the first newsletter

NOCEMHD is the comprehensive Center of Excellence (COE) of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC). CUMC has had an NIMHD COE since 2003, first named Columbia Center for the Health of Urban Minorities (CHUM) under the leadership of Olveen Carrasquillo, MD. Dr. Carrasquillo moved to the University of Miami in May of 2009 where he became chief of the Division of General Medicine. Since then, the center has been directed by José Alejandro Luchsinger, MD MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology. CHUM was renamed NOCEMHD in January of 2011 to emphasize the community and the broad mission of the center. The primary mission of NOCEMHD is to serve as a COE in research in minority health and health disparities at CUMC. However, NOCEMHD also carries out significant career development and community outreach activities. This newsletter intends to provide updated information about our center activities to an institutional, community, and national professional audience in order to build collaborations with the ultimate goal of improving minority health and eliminating health disparities. This Newsletter will be produced bimonthly. A separate community newsletter will also be produced in English and in Spanish and on a bimonthly basis. More information about our center history, structure, and activities can be found at our website (NOCEMHD.cumc.columbia.edu).

HIGHLIGHTS

New funding! NOCEMHD was awarded 3 new grants in September including 2 supplements and a U24 award (details next page).

New space! NOCEMHD moved to a renovated wing in the 9th floor of the Presbyterian Hospital Building on 09/26/11. This new space has state of the art energy saving technology following the Green Initiative of Columbia University.

Northern Manhattan Coalition for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NOCOMHD). NOCOMHD is a coalition of the 4 schools of CUMC (Dental Medicine, Nursing, Physicians and Surgeons, Public Health) and New York Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH). NOCOMHD will be administratively supported by the administrative core of NOCEMHD. NOCOMHD’s mission is to serve as a forum for networking and collaboration among investigators and faculty interested and active in minority health and health disparities at the 4 Schools of CUMC and NYPH. Each NOCOMHD component will host a quarterly retreat to showcase its work and seek collaborations. The first planning meeting of NOCOMHD was held on 09/12/11. The first NOCOMHD retreat is tentatively scheduled for November of 2011. An exact date and venue will be announced.

New Project. NOCEMHD will be starting the Northern Manhattan Study of Metabolism and Mental Health (NOMEM: PI: J. Luchsinger, J. Manly). NOMEM is a cohort study of 1200 Hispanics aged 55 to 64 years at baseline intended to study the interplay of metabolic conditions (pre-diabetes, diabetes) with mental health (cognition, depression).

Hosted Summer Students. NOCEMHD provided research internships for 2 minority students in collaboration with the MEDPREP program lead by Hilda Hutcherson, Dean of Diversity Affairs.

The Northern Manhattan Center of Excellence in Comparative Effectiveness Research to Eliminate Disparities (NOCERED) is completing its first year. NOCERED is seeking collaborations to support and conduct comparative effectiveness research in minority health and health disparities.
About our ongoing projects

Northern Manhattan Community Outreach Project (NOCHOP; leader: W. Palmas, MD; Clinicaltrials.gov identifier NCT00787475) is a randomized trial of a 12 month community health worker intervention compared to usual care in 360 Hispanic persons with poorly controlled type 2 diabetes. NOCHOP is expected to complete recruitment in September 2011. The study will be completed in September of 2012. For referrals, please contact Casandra Almonte (ca2344@columbia.edu).

Diabetes Control and Memory Impairment in Minority Elderly (DIADEM; Leader: J. Luchsinger, MD) is a cohort study of 609 persons with diabetes with the objective of studying predictors of memory impairment among persons with type 2 diabetes. DIADEM is closed to recruitment.

Counseling Adults to Control Hypertension (COACH; leader: O. Ogedegbe, MD; NCT01180673) is a randomized trial of 12 month community based intervention to improve blood pressure control among African American and Hispanic elderly. COACH completed recruitment in June of 2011 and is expected to finish in June of 2012.

Northern Manhattan Caregiver Intervention Project (NOCIP; PI: J. Luchsinger; NCT01306695) is a 6 month randomized trial comparing the New York University Caregiver Counseling Intervention to a community health worker intervention in 160 Hispanic caregivers of persons with dementia. Recruitment in NOCIP will be open until at least February of 2012. For referrals, please contact Gabriela Torres (gt2254@columbia.edu).

Recent publications


Type 2 diabetes and ethnic disparities in cognitive impairment. Noble JM, Manly JJ, Schupf N, Tang MX, Luchsinger JA. Ethn Dis (in press). This article reports that a significant proportion of ethnic disparities in cognitive impairment may be due to diabetes disparities. Data collection for this study and the work of co-authors was supported by P01AG07232 (PI: R. Mayeux).

NEW FUNDING!

Northern Manhattan Initiative for Minority Involvement in Clinical Trials (NIMICT) (PI: Boden-Albala, Luchsinger; U24MD006961), funded in response to RFA-MD-11-005. NIMICT will establish a toolbox to improve recruitment of minorities in clinical trials. NIMICT is a partnership of the Community Engagement Core Resource of the Irving Institute for Clinical Translational Research (UL1RR024156), the Department of Neurology, NOCEMHD, and NOCERED.

Environmental health disparities in NOCEMHD (PI: Link, Luchsinger, March; 3P60MD00206-09S1), funded in response to RFA-MD-11-008. The goal of this project is to establish the Contextual Health Disparities-Core (COHD) in NOCEMHD. The COHD is a collaboration with the Center for Study of Social Inequalities and Health in the Mailman School of Public Health.

Bioethics in NOCEMHD (PI: Appelbaum, Lewis-Hernandez, Luchsinger; 3P60MD00206-09S2). The goal if this project is to conduct a 1 year bioethics program to address unresolved bioethics issues in minority health research.

COLLABORATION, TRAINING, AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Seeking junior faculty for pilot projects. We are applying to establish a Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) in response to RFA-AG-12-012. We are seeking early investigators from underrepresented minorities for pilot projects related to aging research.

Career development and ancillary studies: We are interested in supporting ancillary studies in our ongoing and future projects, including proposals for loan repayment programs, K awards, small grants (R03, R21) and R01 projects.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NOCEMHD Director: José Alejandro Luchsinger MD MPH, jal94@columbia.edu
NOCEMHD Manager: Cynthia Morel, BS, cm2632@columbia.edu

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