



What's Up?

In the Research & Evaluation (R&E) Division

Department of Native
Hawaiian Health

Issue 'Elua

'Ianauali 2016

Notes from the Director

by Marjorie Mau, MD

Aloha kakou! E Lonoikamakahiki!

Greetings to all of us as we prepare for the New Year 2016!! Our bi-annual newsletter has now evolved into an ANNUAL newsletter. Seems that we have been sooo busy this year that the months flew by - and here we are again ONE YEAR later to share with you about the R&E Divisions updates.

Some of the Division's highlights include the following:

- The Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research's number of peer review publications has grown to 47 papers citing the CNPHDR (P20 MD 000173) with more than 100+ papers from our Center's leadership during the last 4 years.

- The PILI 'Ohana is winding down ... now in its 12th year of NIH funding. Dr. Kaholokula has been awarded a new R01 NIH grant to examine the impact of hula on blood pressure control.

- The Epigenomics Core led by Dr. Alika Maunakea was awarded a K-award to support his research career. The Maunakea Lab has also partnered with Shriner's Hospital to study ketogenic diets and autism spectrum disorder in youth.

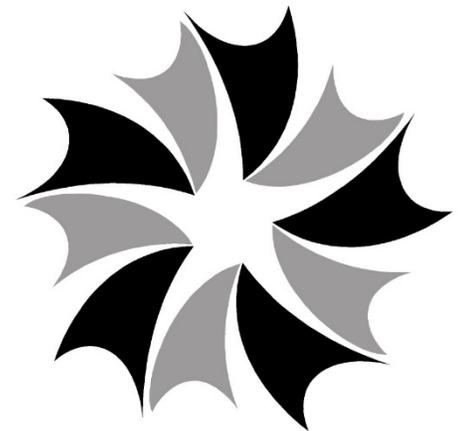
- The Patient Center Medical Home model has been the focal point of a HMSA-funded study led by Dr. Robin Miyamoto and Dr. Amy Wassman.

In this newsletter you will also learn about the highly successful 2015 Summer Research Internship Program and the introduction of a new NIH-funded training program to diversify the biomedical and behavioral research workforce entitled MAHINA and EXITO (PI Kaholokula). We look forward to 2016 with anticipation of the Research & Evaluation division's diverse activities aimed at improving and reversing health disparities among Native Hawaiians, Pacific Island Peoples and other native populations in the Pacific.

To learn more about these and other activities in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health's R&E division please visit the Center's website (www.center4nativeresearch.org)

Hauoli Kalikimaka a me Mele 2016!

Kauka Marjorie Leimomi Mala Mau



*The Center for Native and Pacific Health
Disparities Research*



*New NIMHD Director Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable
and Dr. Marjorie Mau, CNPHDR Director*



Meet our new Community Engagement Director

We are pleased to welcome Ms. **Donna-Marie Palakiko** as the new Director of Community Engagement to the Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research. She will oversee

community engagement activities, nurture on-going relationships with the Ulu Network organizations and collaborate with our partners to improve the health of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Peoples.

Many of you may be familiar with Donna through the Ulu Network. She became involved with the community-based participatory research initiatives at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health. She

also works with the PILI 'Ohana Partnership which designed and implemented the PILI 'Ohana Lifestyle Intervention to 5 community organizations. Donna is also a Program Manager at Ke Ola Mamo and the Community Principal Investigator with the PILI 'Ohana Project.

Donna and Research Assistant Kamuela Werner, will be leading the Ulu Training efforts with the popular "101" series in metabolic health. She will also be facilitating a number of new Ulu Network initiatives.

Learn more about Donna by going to our website at www2.jabsom.hawaii.edu/native or stop by her office in the Gold Bond Building, 1016A in 'Aina. She can be reached at 692-1301 or email dmp@hawaii.edu."



PILI Tech: A new research project to test a web-based weight loss program for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Peoples

by Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH, Coordinator, PILI Ohana project

Overweight and obesity continue to be a growing public health problem affecting many individuals across the United States and here in Hawai'i.

The PILI (Partnerships for Improving Lifestyle Interventions) 'Ohana Program (POP) is an 11-year long, community-based participatory research partnership between the Department of Native Hawaiian Health and four community-based organizations who serve Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Island Peoples. The POP created the PILI Lifestyle Program (PLP) which is a culturally adapted evidence-based, weight loss and weight loss maintenance intervention that has been effectively delivered via face-to-face and DVD.

Additional delivery methods need to be explored in order to reach a larger number of people who may be unable to attend face-to-face sessions for various reasons (e.g., work schedule, family responsibilities). In an attempt to do this, we will be embarking on a new journey during which the PLP will be adapted to be delivered via the internet through a 1-year partnership with Dr. Seunghye Hong, an assistant professor at the UH School of Social Work and funded by the RCMI Multidisciplinary And Translational Research Infrastructure eXpansion (RMATRIX) II Program.

This research project will:

1) Examine the beliefs and preferences of overweight or obese adult Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Island Peoples about an internet-based PLP program, and

2) based on these beliefs and preferences, adapt the PILI PLP for delivery via the internet.

The knowledge gathered from this project will not only provide community insight into the online adaptation of a culturally-tailored, evidence-based intervention for weight loss in Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Island Peoples, but may also inform other online healthy lifestyle interventions in Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Island Peoples and other health disparate groups across Hawai'i, the larger Pacific, and the Continental U.S.



Dr. Claire Townsend Ing with Dr. Seunghye Hong

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIMHD or the NIH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

please visit our website at <http://www2.jabsom.hawaii.edu/pili/>

or like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PILIOhاناProject>.

Understanding and Reducing Ethnic Disparities in Preventable Hospitalizations

by Tetine Sentell, PhD, CNPHDR project PI

Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders suffer disproportionately from both diabetes and cardiovascular disease morbidity and mortality and often lack access to effective chronic disease management and/or culturally appropriate care. Potentially preventable hospitalizations are defined by the Agency of Health Care Research and Quality as those that could be avoided with better primary care. These are a focus of considerable policy attention recently due to new Medicare rules which penalize hospitals with high rates of preventable readmissions specifically.

Few studies have examined potentially preventable hospitalizations and re-hospitalizations for diabetes and cardiovascular disease among Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, despite the high cost, significant personal impact, and policy relevance of these potentially preventable hospitalizations.



Dr. Tetine Sentell with research nurse Malia Younga

In our 5-year study, we have been working to resolve this research gap using both qualitative and quantitative analyses. From quantitative analyses, we have learned that Native Hawaiians and some Asian American subgroups have significant disparities in potentially preventable hospitalizations for diabetes and heart disease. From qualitative analyses, we have found that patients' stories of the precipitating background factors were critical to understanding why patients had the problems that led to these potentially preventable hospitalizations. Reasons included six themes: extreme social vulnerability (homeless, poverty, limited social support); health care system interaction issues (e.g., poor coordination with providers); lack of knowledge; behavioral health issues (e.g., substance abuse, mental health problems); denial of illness; and practical problems (e.g., just forgot, too busy).

We have also engaged stakeholders to consider the next steps from these findings. We are now in our fourth year of funding and are using stakeholder input and the findings from earlier project years input to develop and pilot test an intervention to reduce potentially preventable readmissions at Queens Medical Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS AND OTHER CENTER FUNDED STUDIES:

visit our website at:

<http://www2.jabsom.hawaii.edu/native/index.htm>

Summer Research Interns 2015

Last year's Summer Research Internship consisted of 5 undergraduate students from Hawaii that are attending or have recently graduated from various colleges in Hawaii and around the continental United States. They came from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Dartmouth College, Amherst College, Whitman College, and Claremont McKenna College. They worked with various projects and principal investigators affiliated with the Department of Native Hawaiian Health. To learn more about the projects they worked on and for more information on the summer internship program, email dnhsri@hawaii.edu. Applications for the 2016 SRI program are now being accepted.



Students after their final poster presentations. From Left to Right: Program director, Dr. Amy Wassman, Program coordinator, Mona Cardejon, Kyle Obana, Chantell Balaan, Andie Conching, Tanner Hoke, Sean Terada, program co-coordinator, Crystal Morton

Increasing the Biomedical Sciences Workforce

by Samantha Herrera, MSW, assistant, Mahina/ Build EXITO and Shelley Soong, MPH/MEd, coordinator, Mahina/ Build EXITO

The Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) is aimed at growing the next generation of researchers by providing opportunities for University of Hawai'i students to gain experience in health disparities research. Two National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded grants have been awarded to the project's Principal Investigator, Dr. Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula (DNHH Chair), to implement programs to accomplish this goal.

Māhina Program

The Māhina International Indigenous Health Research Training Program is based on educating a core of native students about the social, cultural, and historical determinants to indigenous well-being whilst teaching them culturally grounded conceptual models, and research ethics and protocols by which to frame their work. A true representation of indigenous collaborative solutions, the Māhina program was developed as the result of a partnership between the University of Washington, the DNHH, and the University of Auckland. The program provides a unique research training opportunity in both traditional biomedical and behavioral research, including a 10 week health research training opportunity in New Zealand.



BUILD EXITO Program

The University of Hawai'i's BUILD EXITO (Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity/Enhancing Cross Disciplinary Infrastructure and Training at Oregon) program is a health research training pathway program focused on encouraging and supporting students to successfully pursue careers in health-related research. Supported as part of a larger NIH-funded initiative with BUILD EXITO primary institution Portland State University, BUILD EXITO scholars begin the pathway program after choosing a field of study in the health sciences, and completing their 1st year of college at any of the UH-'Oahu campuses. Students then continue to earn their degree over the next three years at UH Mānoa, receiving dedicated advising and mentoring, paid research experiences, and specialized courses and academic opportunities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MĀHINA OR BUILD EXITO:

<http://mahina.iwri.org/>

<http://www.pdx.edu/undergraduate-pathways-to-research-careers//>

contact Samantha Herrera sherrera@hawaii.edu

Māla Day with the R & E Division

Each month, a division within the DNHH is responsible to mālama (take care of) the māla (garden) at JABSOM. The R & E Division was fortunate enough to end 2015 in the māla, weeding, learning about the various native plants and even trying some of the la'au (medicines made from the plants in the garden). If anyone is interested in learning more about māla days, taking a tour of the māla, or even help to keep the māla clean, please contact Kamuela Werner at kamuelaw@hawaii.edu.



Some of the R & E division from L to R: Ka'ahukane Leite-Ah Yo, Dr. Michael Corley, Kamuela Werner, Mona Cardejon, Sheri Koike, Christian Dye, Nash Witten, Kimberley Spencer

What's
Up?
In the
Research
&
Evaluation
(R&E)
Division

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Honolulu, HI 96813

Upcoming events:

- ESAC, April 2016
- Summer Research Internship, June – August 2016
- He Huliau, Fall 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Go to our website at: <http://www2.jabsom.hawaii.edu/native/index.htm> or

Email: native@hawaii.edu