Carolina Conference on Queer Youth 2013 was held October 18, 2013 at UNCC Student Union Building

Legends, Statements, and Stars:  
Cultural Competence in working with Youth Involved in House Ball Culture

This training at the Inaugural Carolina Conference on Queer Youth was presented by staff of the Online Safe Space Initiative/Statusboiz/Statusgurlz, a CDC-funded HIV prevention intervention and research study for young African American gay/bisexual men and transgender women in the region. Our presentation provided an overview of the house/ball culture, using examples from the Ball community in the Charlotte region. We presented that ball affiliates can be young adolescents and therefore be a part of middle/high school communities; and it is relevant for educators and administrators in the schools to be familiar and non-judgmental. We focused our presentation on the strengths of the community as well as possible areas of challenge among the youth. The presentation was appropriate for teachers, administrators, middle and high school students with no knowledge of the sub-culture and those with experience who want to learn more.

Session Presenters:

Darrin Johnson, MPA
Project Director, Online Safe Space Initiative
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Diana Rowan, PhD, MSW, LCSW
Principal Investigator, Online Safe Space Initiative
Assistant Professor of Social Work
UNC Charlotte
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Aaliyah Revlon
Statusgurlz Community Representative
Maren Coffman, associate professor in the School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Services, recently received the Marlene Kramer Outstanding Alumni Award for Research in Nursing from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing.

The honor, named after a former dean of UConn’s Nursing School, recognizes distinguished nursing alumni who have demonstrated excellence in nursing research. Coffman’s research interests include access to health care, health literacy and diabetes self-management in Latino immigrants.

Allison Burfield, assistant professor in the School of Nursing, CHHS, has received a highly competitive grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Faculty Scholars program. One of just 12 nursing educators from across the United States to be honored, Burfield will receive a three-year, $350,000 award to promote her academic career and support her research. The Nurse Faculty Scholar Award is given to junior faculty who show outstanding promise as future leaders in academic nursing.

“This award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides a wonderful opportunity to conduct interdisciplinary research that evaluates how we can reduce the use of medications that have an altering effect on perception, emotion or behavior on older adults and better intervene and treat pain,” said Burfield. “The aging population is growing; there are 5.4 million people in the United States and 35.6 million people worldwide who have cognitive impairment and are considered older adults. It is estimated that as many as 80 percent of these populations are suffering with chronic pain. In addition, the World Health Organization reports that there are 7.7 million new cases of older adults with dementia every year. Many of these people may be receiving inappropriate psychoactive medications rather than the safest analgesic(s) for pain, because they are unable to verbalize their pain due to cognitive impairment.”

For her research project, Burfield plans to evaluate the effectiveness of an intervention to assess and treat pain in older adults suffering with dementia. The findings from this study could provide important information into how to improve pain assessment and treatment, improve socialization, reduce the risk of falls and injury, and improve the overall quality of life of those residing in long-term care.
Resumption of NIH Extramural Activities

One of the biggest challenges facing National Institutes of Health after the government shutdown is that it occurred during a peak review period and caused the cancellation of several hundred peer review meetings. On October 22, NIH announced that most of these meetings would be rescheduled to minimize the disruption of the submission/review/Council/award timeline.

While NIH may not be able to preserve the timeline for all applications, at this point it looks as though most will still go to January 2014 council meetings. More details are available in a new NIH Guide notice.

Most of the study sections run by the NIGMS Office of Scientific Review were not affected by the shutdown and will proceed as planned over the next few weeks. While a few meetings will have to be rescheduled, we expect the results of the rescheduled meetings to be available in time for the January council meeting.

The other big challenge facing NIH and the extramural community is the disruption in the application process, since funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) could not be accessed and applications could not be submitted during the shutdown. NIH has rescheduled the submission dates that were lost and extended the dates for those FOAs that were adversely affected. More details are available in the same NIH Guide notice.

Funding Opportunities: AREA; Support for Scientific Meetings; Systems Biology Centers; Bridges to the Doctorate

You may be interested in these recent funding opportunity announcements (FOAs):

*Academic Research Enhancement Award* (Parent R15) (PA-13-313)

**Purpose:** Conduct small-scale research projects that expose students to meritorious research and strengthen the research environment of the AREA- or R15-eligible applicant institution.

**Application due date:** Standard dates apply

**NIGMS contact:** Jean Chin, 301-594-2485

*NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings* (Parent R13/U13) (PA-13-347)

**Purpose:** Coordinate high-quality scientific conferences that are relevant to the scientific mission of NIGMS and other participating NIH components

**Application due date:** Standard dates apply

**NIGMS contact:** Ann Hagan, 301-594-4499

*NIGMS National Centers for Systems Biology* (P50) (PAR-13-351)

**Purpose:** Promote pioneering research, research training, education and outreach programs focused on systems-level inquiries of biomedical phenomena within the NIGMS mission

**Letter of intent due date:** 30 days prior to the application due date

**Application due dates:** October 23, 2013; October 23, 2014

**NIGMS contacts:** Paul Brazhnik and Peter Lyster, 301-451-6446

*Bridges to the Doctorate* (R25) (PAR-13-341)

**Purpose:** Promote partnerships/consortia between colleges or universities granting a terminal master’s degree and institutions that offer the doctorate degree, with the goal of increasing the pool of master's degree students from underrepresented backgrounds who pursue research careers in the biomedical and behavioral sciences and who are trained and available to participate in NIH-funded research

**Application due dates:** November 1, 2013; September 25, 2014; September 25, 2015

**NIGMS contact:** Michelle R.J. Hamlet, 301-594-3900

The Bridges to the Doctorate Web site offers additional details about the program, including FAQs and application resources.

NIH To Require Tracking of Graduate and Undergraduate Students

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) will soon require an Electronic Research Administration (eRA) Commons ID for all graduate and undergraduate students who participate in NIH-funded projects for at least one person-month of effort or more. This information should be included on NIH Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR) and is an effort to improve data on NIH-supported students. Refer to Notice Number: NOT-OD-13-097 [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-097.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-13-097.html)

As of October 18, 2013, a warning will be generated when an RPPR is submitted that lists individuals in a graduate or undergraduate student role who have not established an eRA Commons ID. Then, beginning on October 1, 2014, RPPRs lacking the eRA Commons ID for graduate and undergraduate students will receive an error and the RPPR will not be accepted by NIH.
Preparation Training & Workshops

Research & Economic Development

Preparing an IRB Protocol Application

Event Date:
November 19, 2013 - 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Event Location:
College of Health and Human Services Room 330

Presentation will provide a detailed discussion of the IRB protocol application.
Registration is required.
http://research.uncc.edu/preparing-irb-protocol-application-10

CHHS Research Training

Brown Bag Concept Reviews:
Please contact us if you are formulating a research question and would like to present your concept to an open forum of faculty and graduate students for an informal brown bag session. These are on demand and will be scheduled as needed.

Research Mentor Speaker Series:
If you or someone you know can provide an interesting presentation on how to be a successful investigator, please contact Dr. Blanchette. We will be hosting a monthly research mentor speaker series featuring prominent research investigators from the college, university and external organizations. Our goal is to provide faculty and graduate students with new insight on how to strengthen their research programs.

Mock Study Section:
Please contact Vikki Cherwon if you have interest in serving on the CHHS Mock Study Section. If you have served as a peer reviewer on a study section or have aspirations to in the future, please use this opportunity to get a sense of the process as well as help your colleagues prepare for their grant submission by providing constructive feedback and scoring. The committee will meet monthly and reviewer assignments will mimic NIH formats. Term appointments will be 6 months with the opportunity for renewal.

CHHS Research Office Contacts

- Chris Blanchette, PhD, MBA, Associate Dean of Research
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- Vikki Cherwon, Research Officer, Pre-Award
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- Elizabeth Mace, Post Award Administrator
  CHHS 483 ~ 704-687-7885 ~ emmace@uncc.edu

In the future, we would like to add your new publications when they occur and other research activities, speaking engagements, etc. to this weekly newsletter. Please forward to Vikki or Elizabeth to be added to the next edition.