Mission

University of Connecticut’s Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP) provides an interdisciplinary nexus for investigators and Centers across the University to stimulate research collaborations and major newly-funded initiatives that create scientific knowledge and theoretical frameworks in health behavior at multiple levels of analysis (e.g., individual, family, community, policy). Health is broadly defined and includes physical and mental health, and outcomes with critical implications for health. Work at the intersection of behavior and biology, and at the intersection of science and public policy are encouraged. InCHIP disseminates its research and cutting-edge health behavior change interventions through publishing, structural change, capacity-building, teaching, mentoring, and collaborating at the university, local, state, national, and international levels.

Long-Range Goals

Goal 1: InCHIP will support UConn investigators and Centers in conducting research to create new scientific knowledge, theoretical frameworks, health behavior change interventions, and methodological advances associated with health and health behavior. This work will focus on understanding the dynamics of health behavior and related systems, on the science of health behavior change, on research to inform policy, and on the science and practice of developing, implementing, evaluating, and disseminating effective health behavior change interventions.

Goal 2: InCHIP will take a leadership role in fostering a team science approach that leverages the strengths and expertise of investigators and other professionals trained in diverse fields, to scientifically address multi-factorial issues in health and health behavior.

Goal 3: InCHIP will share its expertise in health behavior, policy, capacity building, and technology with local, state, national, and international organizations engaged in improving public health.

Goal 4: InCHIP researchers will educate and mentor undergraduate students, graduate students, researchers, faculty, community members, and others in the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing, implementing, evaluating, and disseminating effective interventions.

Origins of InCHIP

• In the late 1980s, InCHIP began as the UConn AIDS Risk Reduction Project (ARRP) in response to the rise of HIV as a major threat to life and health. ARRP’s research focused on theory and the psychosocial factors that influence HIV preventive behaviors in individuals.

• In the fall of 2001, InCHIP received funds from the UConn Office of the Chancellor to serve as a multidisciplinary center for the study of health behavior and health behavior change across the University.

• In the summer of 2001, InCHIP became the Center for Health/HIV Intervention and Prevention (CHIP).

• In the spring of 2006, to better reflect the increasing diversity of health-related research conducted by its investigators, CHIP was renamed the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP).

• In January 2016, UConn Provost Mun Choi approved making the Center into an Institute, with the name “Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy,” or “InCHIP,” for short.

Sharing Research Findings

An important part of InCHIP’s mission is to disseminate cutting-edge, theory-based health promotion interventions and research findings to academic institutions, scholarly audiences, and community-based organizations. InCHIP publicizes its activities and research to external community audiences through outside media outlets, UConn Today, and the InCHIP website; to the University community through the InCHIP Weekly Digest, its InCHIP Research News e-newsletter, and video interviews with researchers, among other communication vehicles; and directly to public health audiences through events open to the community, including the InCHIP Lecture Series and InCHIP Research Interest Groups’ events and activities. InCHIP also posts regularly to its Facebook and Twitter pages to announce the Lecture Series and other InCHIP events, tweet live updates from the Lecture Series presentations, and share its health behavior-related research news.

Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy

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Overview of InCHIP

- An interdisciplinary research institute dedicated to the study of the dynamics of health risk behavior and the processes of health behavior change in individuals and at-risk populations.
- Serves as a nexus for investigators at UConn and other institutions to form cross-disciplinary collaborative partnerships for the development of health behavior and health policy research initiatives.
- Headed by Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Jeff Fisher, PhD and Associate Directors Deborah Cornman, PhD and Amy Gorin, PhD.
- Comprised of a network of investigators from nearly all Schools and Colleges within UConn as well as from other universities, hospitals, and community organizations across the country and throughout the world. InCHIP’s network enables it to assemble research teams able to respond to research and funding opportunities as they arise.
- InCHIP researchers have launched major new health behavior initiatives in the US and globally in a variety of areas:
  - Alcohol and Substance Use
  - Autism
  - Cancer
  - Complementary and Alternative Approaches to Medicine
  - Diabetes
  - Digital Health
  - Dissemination and Implementation Science
  - Exercise Science
  - Global Health
  - Health Disparities
  - Health Policy
  - HIV
  - Obesity
  - School and Child Health
  - Sexual Risk Behavior/Reproductive Health
  - Treatment Adherence and Retention in Care
- Housed in a 14,000-square foot facility in J. Ray Ryan building at UConn-Storrs.

InCHIP Core Services

InCHIP Cores offer “one-stop shopping” to facilitate collaboration and innovative research among researchers at UConn. From the creation of an initial research idea to the implementation of a funded project, InCHIP provides services and support at each step of the process.

- **Administrative Core** provides exceptional tailored pre-award and post-award services and support to InCHIP affiliates.
- **Community-Engaged Health Research Core** facilitates the development of successful research partnerships between UConn researchers and community-based organizations, by creating linkages, providing guidance and training on how to effectively and cooperatively conduct community-engaged research, and assisting with community-engaged strategic and project planning.
- **Intervention Core** provides expertise and support to UConn researchers, helping them design, implement, evaluate and disseminate innovative health behavior interventions.
- **Training and Development Core** offers a variety of services to UConn researchers, including training in grant writing, faculty mentors, seed grant funding, research team development, and expert assistance with developing grant proposals.

Internal Seed Grant Competitions

- InCHIP hosts annual seed grant competitions to support faculty and graduate student investigators in pilot research studies and in the development of new multidisciplinary research collaborations that are likely to lead to externally-funded projects in health behavior.

Research Interest Groups (RIGs)

- InCHIP has five multidisciplinary Research Interest Groups (RIGs), which provide a forum for researchers from across disciplines, campuses, and the community to work collaboratively on innovative research in specific health domains.
  - Cancer RIG
  - eHealth/m-Health RIG
  - Interprofessional Healthcare RIG
  - HIV RIG
  - Obesity RIG
- In addition to the RIGs, InCHIP is home to the Collaboratory on School and Child Health, whose mission is to facilitate innovative and impactful connections across research, policy, and practice arenas relevant to school and child health.

InCHIP Sponsored Lectures

- Each year, the InCHIP Lecture Series hosts about 20 world-renowned researchers across a multitude of health domains.

InCHIP Highlights

- Strong institutional and grant support have made it possible for InCHIP to frequently serve as a catalyst for collaboration on and development of new, often large-scale health behavior research.
- Since its inception as a Center in 2001, InCHIP has increased its externally-funded research spending from $1.3M per year to $11.1M per year.
- As of FY17, InCHIP had $56.1 million in active external grants across all years.
- Over 400 affiliates with interests in health risk dynamics and health behavior change and health policy currently participate in InCHIP sponsored events and research.
- InCHIP has been instrumental in attracting and retaining prominent new faculty with strong research portfolios in health behavior to UConn.
- InCHIP has been instrumental in recruiting and funding exceptional graduate students to attend UConn. Graduate student funding from InCHIP grants in FY18 was approximately $593,000.
- Since 2003, InCHIP graduate students have been awarded 11 prestigious individual NIH/NRSA grants.