Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP)

ANNUAL REPORT
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A. Executive Summary

• **Expanded Research Enterprise:** During FY11, CHIP principal investigators (PIs) launched substantial new U.S. and international, interdisciplinary research initiatives in numerous health behavior change domains, deepening CHIP’s focus on a number of existing health domains, such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, and autism, and expanding its focus to several new health domains - diabetes, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, and health-related dissemination and implementation science. In the context of HIV/AIDS, newly-funded initiatives included external grants to (1) conduct a randomized clinical trial to test a nurse-delivered, cell-phone-based medication adherence promotion counseling intervention, (2) develop an Internet-based safer sex intervention for HIV-positive men who use the Internet to meet potential sexual partners, (3) conduct implementation-science focused analyses to identify factors associated with the successful implementation of an effective HIV prevention-with-positives intervention, and (4) apply geographic information systems (GIS) to meta-analyses of HIV prevention interventions. In other critical health domains, some of the newly-funded initiatives included external grants to (1) develop and evaluate a nutrition and physical activity intervention for breast cancer survivors capitalizing on the “teachable moment” following diagnosis and treatment, (2) develop novel tools for identifying autism within the first six months of life, (3) develop a tool for determining the most effective components of yoga interventions, and (4) translate an effective weight-loss and exercise intervention for diabetics into a virtual clinician intervention.

• **Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network:** In FY11, CHIP’s multidisciplinary affiliates collaborative network of health behavior change researchers experienced significant growth, bringing its total membership to 137 research affiliates. The resulting community of multidisciplinary expertise, representing nearly all Schools and Colleges within the UConn system as well as more than 30 other institutions, enables CHIP to assemble teams of investigators able to respond within short timeframes to large-scale funding opportunities. This year, nearly 80 percent of new externally-funded CHIP grants involved multidisciplinary collaborations.

• **Ongoing Research Portfolio:** Actual total costs expended on CHIP external grants during FY11 were $8.83 million, including $7.06 million in direct costs and $1.77 million in recovered indirect costs. In the past 10 years, total costs have increased by nearly 600 percent (from $1.3 million in FY02 to $8.83 million in FY11). The total costs of CHIP grants that are currently active involve $48.7 million, across all years, compared to $43.7 million for the same period last year. Moreover, total costs awarded to CHIP PIs since CHIP’s founding in FY02 equal $74.4 million, direct costs equal $57.5 million, and indirect costs returned to the University during this interval equal $16.9 million.

• **Growth in New Externally-Funded Research:** In FY11, CHIP again had extraordinary success in attracting external funding for its research: CHIP PIs received new, multiple-year grant awards in excess of $7.7 million, a significant increase over the new, multiple-year grant awards received during the previous year.

• **Grants Submitted:** In FY11, CHIP PIs submitted 50 external grant applications, comprising more than $45 million in total costs, $31.7 million in direct costs, and $13.3 million in indirect costs. Total costs represented by this year’s submissions are more than double the total costs of CHIP grant submissions during the previous year.

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1 Indirect costs (IDCs) are synonymous with “Facilities and Administrative” costs or F&As.
• **CHIP Research Investment Awards:** Each year, CHIP holds internal research funding competitions to stimulate pilot research leading to future external grant applications to be submitted through the Center. CHIP research investment funds are awarded through a rigorous National Institute of Health (NIH)-style panel review process. In FY11, CHIP awarded seed grants to CHIP Principal Investigator Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) and to four graduate students: Marie Brault (Anthropology), David Finitsis (Psychology), TaShauna Goldsby (Public Health), and Anna Schierberl Scherr (Psychology). Over the years, for each dollar invested by CHIP in its seed grant program, many more dollars are returned to the University from directly-related future external grant funds.

• **International Research:** CHIP research continues to be international in scope, with active externally-funded projects in China, Ethiopia, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, South Africa, and Uganda. In fact, more than 30 percent of currently active CHIP grants involve work in other countries. CHIP’s research portfolio in Africa is especially large, comprising approximately $16.5 million in active grants across all years.

• **CHIP Funding of Graduate Students:** External grants received by CHIP PIs fund a substantial number of graduate students each year. This year, CHIP external grants funded 54 graduate students (most full-time) across multiple departments while internal University awards funded 8 graduate students. Total yearlong graduate student funding from CHIP grants was more than $600,000. This represents a substantial increase over FY10.

• **CHIP Graduate Student Research Accomplishments:** Among other FY11 CHIP graduate student accomplishments, doctoral student Laramie Smith (Psychology) became the tenth graduate student working with a CHIP mentor to receive a prestigious National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) National Research Service Award (NRSA) in as many years. (The 10 NRSAs combined represent nearly $800,000 in total costs awarded). Laramie Smith’s award is the latest example of the exceptional track record CHIP graduate students have at winning outside funding from national funding agencies, such as NIMH and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NRSA is very competitive and one of the most sought-after awards for doctoral support in the social sciences. Moreover, it provides an exceptional opportunity for CHIP graduate students to work collaboratively with their CHIP faculty mentor(s) on their own research project, providing them with the necessary skills and “track record” to successfully pursue additional grant funding after completing their graduate studies.

• **Development of CICATS Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core:** A University focus has been the development and funding of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS). During FY11, CHIP continued to collaborate with several other UConn/UCHC centers and institutes to develop the CICATS Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core. As part of this work, CHIP added a new research position, called a “boundary spanner,” to facilitate the translation of UConn evidence-based health interventions into routine practice. The new CHIP-based boundary spanner is one of three boundary spanners throughout the entire CICATS system and the only boundary spanner on UConn’s Storrs campus.

• **CHIP Lecture Series:** CHIP continues to sponsor an impressive series of lectures and events that brought 16 nationally and internationally recognized leaders in health behavior research from 14 different institutions to the University of Connecticut campus in FY11. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including weight loss and obesity, community approaches to health promotion, social network approaches to HIV prevention, and translation and dissemination of effective interventions, among many others. Many presentations were simulcast from CHIP to the UConn Health Center and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University, as well as to other sites. And this year, for the first time, CHIP Lectures were also available via live webcasts.
B. Introduction

In November 2001, the Chancellor and Provost and the Interim Vice Provost for Research of the University of Connecticut identified the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) as a potential center of excellence at the University. At that time, the University invested startup funds in the Center to begin to position it as a national and international leader in health behavior change research. Since then, with continued University support, CHIP has achieved impressive growth and structural change as a multidisciplinary research center. In November 2007, the University Board of Trustees designated CHIP as one of very few Major University Research Centers.

This report summarizes CHIP’s actions and accomplishments for the past year, supporting the Center’s continued scholarly excellence, growth, and further international recognition.

C. Mission Statement

The CHIP Executive Committee reviews the CHIP mission statement, long-range goals, and research objectives every year. In 2010, these were reviewed at the December meeting, and minor changes were made. The revised mission statement, long-range goals, and research objectives appear below.

Mission Statement: The University of Connecticut’s Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) creates new scientific knowledge and theoretical frameworks in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention. CHIP disseminates theory-based knowledge and new cutting-edge interventions through research, capacity-building, teaching, mentoring, and collaboration at the university, local, state, national, and international levels.

D. Long-term Goals for Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP)

Goal 1: CHIP will provide an interdisciplinary nexus for investigators across the University of Connecticut to stimulate multidisciplinary collaborations and major new funded research initiatives in health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, prevention, and other areas involving health behavior change theory and methods.

Goal 2: CHIP will undertake research to create new scientific knowledge, theoretical frameworks, and methodological advances in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention. This work will focus on understanding the dynamics of health behavior, the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing and disseminating effective interventions to the institutions charged with delivering them.

Goal 3: CHIP will share its expertise in health behavior and health behavior change, capacity building, and technology with local, state, national, and international agencies and organizations performing health behavior change interventions.

Goal 4: CHIP researchers will educate and mentor undergraduate students, graduate students, researchers, faculty, community members, and others in health behavior change theory, the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing and disseminating effective interventions, in order to develop them into skilled researchers and scholars.

E. Progress on CHIP Objectives for FY 2011

Progress on Research Objectives:

While CHIP’s roots are in HIV/AIDS research and CHIP continues to be a worldwide leader in that research arena, over the years, the Center has broadened considerably the health domains in which its investigators are conducting research. The full list of current CHIP health domains in which research is conducted includes HIV/AIDS, sexual behavior, alcohol and substance use, medication adherence and management, obesity, exercise science, cancer, autism, diabetes, health disparities, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, health-related implementation and dissemination science, health communication and marketing, and virtual reality as a method to
study health behavior. (For descriptions of new, active, and recently-completed CHIP research within each of these domains, please see Appendix 1 on pages 44 - 47).

1. **Through our CHIP internal grants programs, mentoring, and technical support to PIs, we will continue to support the development of new, high-quality, innovative, and timely proposals for externally-funded research through CHIP by individual researchers and research teams.**

CHIP supports new research and external grant proposals in several ways. It provides an excellent internal grants program, which supports the pilot research often necessary for its principal investigators (PIs) to obtain large external grants. CHIP internal grant proposals receive mentoring reviews, which improve the research that was proposed, and the strongest proposals are funded. The CHIP internal grants program has often been a critical part of CHIP PIs’ success in winning external grants. According to many CHIP PIs who have received substantial external grants, the grants would not have been possible without seed grant support awarded competitively through CHIP. In fact, over the years, for each dollar invested by CHIP in its seed grant program, many dollars in new, external grant funds have come back to UConn. (See Section J on pages 25 - 27 for more information about CHIP’s internal grant opportunities and this year’s grant winners.)

In addition to CHIP’s internal grants program, when requested, the Center also provides pre-submission reviews of external grant proposals by experts in the field, and funds a competitive summer stipend to junior faculty who are writing grants, to help them succeed in obtaining funding. A relatively new CHIP service available to affiliates is access to previously-submitted, successful CHIP grants to use as models for new grant proposals. Access to model grants is through CHIP’s file server and is provided upon request.

Due to these services and others, CHIP PIs, again this year, developed, submitted and received external grant awards for a substantial number of new proposals in diverse areas of health behavior change. In each case, the grant application and grant award process was facilitated by high quality pre-award services and post-award grants management technical support provided by the Center. These services were augmented when needed by help in searching for possible sources of grant support, assistance with creating research teams to write and submit grants, sending proposals to statistical and methodological experts for feedback as needed, and, as noted above, sending prospective grant applications out for internal or external review to major experts in the field for pre-submission feedback. Together, these innovative programs at the Center resulted in $7.7 million in new externally-funded grants being awarded in the past year. (For the purpose of this report, grants are considered “new” in FY11 if award letters for the grants were received from funders between May 16, 2010 and May 15, 2011. This includes both new grants that already are active and those that will not be active until early in FY12, but it does not include grants for which only a “Just in Time” letter has been received.)

(See Appendix 2 on page 48 and Appendix 3 on pages 49 - 50 for more information about new externally-funded CHIP grants.)

2. **CHIP will continue to deepen its focus on health behavior change in an array of critical health domains.**

In the past year, CHIP deepened its focus in many of its existing health research domains and expanded its focus into several new health domains. New health and health behavior change domains during FY11 involved diabetes, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, and health-related dissemination and implementation science. Health domains within CHIP’s research portfolio with a deepened focus involved HIV/AIDS, cancer, autism, and exercise science. (For a full list of CHIP health research domains and summaries of CHIP research within each domain, please see Appendix 1 on pages 44 - 47.)

For example, CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology) received a National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant to develop, implement, and evaluate a new behavioral intervention designed to capitalize on the “teachable moment” following cancer diagnosis to promote behavior change with respect to healthy eating and exercise in women with breast cancer. Research has found that diet and exercise can
be important factors associated with recurrence and mortality in breast cancer survivors, yet most survivors do not practice them sufficiently. Dr. Park’s intervention will address this important problem.

Dr. Park received three additional grants during the year. One, from the Templeton Foundation, explores the linkage between religiousness/spirituality (R/S) and physical health. It does this by studying the effects of several dimensions of R/S on biomarkers of cardiac functioning and mortality in congestive heart failure patients. While there is evidence that R/S can improve health, to date, little research has explored the physiological links though which this may occur.

Crystal Park’s third new grant, from NIH’s National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), will develop a psychometrically-sound questionnaire that can be used, across diverse populations, in research on yoga therapies. This new measure will allow future research to focus on the effects of different types of yoga therapy on outcomes associated with health and well-being, and may ultimately facilitate the design of more effective yoga interventions.

Dr. Park received a fourth new grant from the VA Connecticut Healthcare System to conduct a longitudinal examination of a large sample of veterans who have recently returned from war to determine the extent to which a range of risk and protective psychosocial variables predict concurrent and subsequent psychological and physical well-being and substance use/abuse.

CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) received a subcontract from NIH/University of Rochester to explore the use of virtual environments to improve health and compliance in diabetics. This research takes the Look AHEAD (LA) intervention, which has been efficacious in weight reduction and in increasing patient physical activity, and translates it into a virtual intervention that is feasible to implement with diabetic patients with fewer human resources than the original LA intervention, using the Internet and mobile devices.

CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received funding from the NIH’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to develop novel tools for early identification of motor, social, and cognitive deficits of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) within the first six months of life. This research will build on Dr. Bhat’s preliminary data and expand her team’s database on fine motor coordination and visual attention impairments of siblings of children with ASD. The results of this study will emphasize that young infant siblings of children with ASD are at risk for sensorimotor delays and caregivers/clinicians need to provide sensorimotor interventions. Moreover, disruptions of fine motor coordination and visual attention will be highlighted as important early markers of ASD.

CHIP PI Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received funding from a large private corporation to study the cholesterol-lowering effects of Triglyceride Recrystallized Phytosterols. He will compare three types of milk for their potential cholesterol-lowering effects.

CHIP PI Deborah Fein (Ph.D., Psychology) is at the “Just in Time” stage of receiving funding from the NIH’s National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to develop and test a video-enhanced program to train caregivers of children with ASD in applying behavioral principles that can benefit children with ASD, and increase their parents’ self-efficacy and lower their levels of stress.

In addition to Dr. Fein’s grant, a number of other submitted CHIP grants reflect CHIP’s broadening focus on an array of health domains outside of HIV: $11.9 million of the $45 million in CHIP grant proposals that were submitted this year proposed conducting research in domains outside of HIV. (For the purpose of this report, grant proposals submitted between May 16, 2010 and May 15, 2011 are considered “new” submissions in FY11).

(See Appendix 3 on pages 49 – 50 for brief abstracts of these and other new grants, and Appendix 2 on page 48 for each new CHIP grant’s funding agency, total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs.)

3. CHIP will continue to be a worldwide leader and to foster new multidisciplinary work in the core problem area of HIV/AIDS.
CHIP principal investigators received, or were notified they would be receiving, a number of new HIV/AIDS prevention grants during FY11, continuing CHIP’s role as a world leader in this domain. At present, CHIP’s active portfolio of HIV/AIDS prevention grants exceeds $39.9 million in total costs across all years.

CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) received a new grant from the NIH’s National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) that involves the design, implementation, and evaluation of a nurse-delivered, cell phone-based HIV adherence enhancement intervention. Specifically, the research, grounded in a self-regulation model, uses unannounced pill counts to monitor antiretroviral (ARV) adherence and guide corrective feedback, and ultimately, to promote enhanced ARV adherence within the context of nurse-driven counseling. In addition to improving the health of individuals living with HIV, high adherence to antiretroviral medications can make it less likely that HIV will be transmitted to others.

CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) received a research supplement from the NIH and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to his South Africa Options prevention-with-positives grant. The supplement is to conduct implementation science-focused analyses to identify factors associated with the successful implementation of the Options intervention in South Africa. These findings will then be used to implement and pilot a new bio-behavioral adaptation of the Options intervention for newly diagnosed South Africans living with HIV who are not yet eligible for antiretroviral therapy.

CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) received a K-18 award from NIH for mentored training in geospatial analysis. He will use this training to create a geospatial landscape of HIV prevention intervention efficacy. This will involve the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data such as economic and political factors, to ascertain if these elements relate to HIV prevention intervention efficacy. Other goals of the project are to perform meta-analyses of the efficacy of HIV prevention intervention trials in the U.S. and in Africa.

CHIP PI Dean Cruess (Ph.D., Psychology) received an NIH grant to design and pilot test a theory-based, online, HIV risk behavior change intervention specifically for HIV-positive men who have sex with men who meet prospective sex partners on the Internet. These individuals are at especially high risk and in significant need of an intervention to lower risk behavior.

CHIP PI Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP) received a subcontract from NIH/Vanderbilt University to develop multicomponent intervention packages for men who have sex with men in China. The goal of the research is to create and pilot test a set of interventions which provide HIV tests and then link individuals to HIV care, in preparation for later community-level randomized clinical trials.

CHIP PI Merrill Singer (Ph.D., Anthropology) received a subcontract from NIH/Yale University to fund CHIP, in conjunction with Yale and the Institute for Community Research (ICR) in Hartford, to collaborate as mentoring institutions for a community-based HIV educational research program. The program will enroll five cohorts of diverse scholars, and address challenges and barriers to underrepresented scholars in community-based HIV/AIDS research.

CHIP submitted grants also reflect CHIP’s deepened focus on the core problem area of HIV/AIDS: $33.1 million of the $45 million in CHIP grants that were submitted this year involved multidisciplinary work in the HIV/AIDS domain. (For the purpose of this report, grant proposals submitted between May 16, 2010 and May 15, 2011 are considered “new” submissions in FY11. For a detailed list of all submitted grants, please see Appendix 14 on pages 78 - 81).

(See Appendix 3 on pages 49 - 50 for brief abstracts of these and other new grants, and Appendix 2 on page 48 for each new grant’s funding agency, total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs.)

4. CHIP will begin to perform increased research with more direct policy Implications.

A new CHIP goal this year involved beginning to perform more health-related research with implications for public policy. Since the inception of this goal, several CHIP projects have adopted this focus.
Dr. Johnson’s new NIH K-18 award for mentored training in geospatial analysis (described in Research Objective No. 3 above) will involve the production of an online global map showing where extant HIV prevention intervention studies have been performed and which populations were involved, and indicating the efficacy of the intervention(s) at focus. The map also will include the date of the original research, which may have implications for whether the findings are still applicable. The goal is for the geospatial map to become a discussion forum for policy makers, local community members, and scholars, as well as a source of locally applicable information on what has been done in a particular geographic area, and what works best to promote HIV prevention.

CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences)’s grant on the impact of food advertisements and public service announcements (PSAs) on child and teen eating and adiposity across media markets will inform the public policy debate on the effects of food marketing on children. It will also provide insights into the extent to which PSAs, which attempt to promote consumption of healthy foods, are effective, and, if so, whether policies can be formulated under which PSAs can be more strategically targeted to specific geographic areas to respond to geographic differences in advertising for unhealthy foods.

CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) is part of a team which has recently published research which could have important policy implications. It showed that vigorous exercise elicited the largest reductions in blood pressure immediately after exercise completion, followed by moderate and then low intensity exercise. Previous research had shown that lower intensity exercise is as effective as more vigorous exercise in lowering blood pressure. This newer work may have significant policy implications and may impact the exercise guidelines of several organizations.

It is expected that CHIP’s focus on public policy will expand in future years.

5. **CHIP will continue to bring local, national, and international researchers together on an ongoing basis from a wide range of health and social science disciplines for lectures, events, and meetings at CHIP to promote cutting-edge, multidisciplinary exchange.**

Since 2002, CHIP has organized a highly successful lecture series for the purpose of identifying and bringing together local, national, and international researchers from diverse academic fields with interests in health behavior change and health behavior change intervention research. The **CHIP Lecture Series** provides a forum for CHIP investigators, affiliates, and research staff to hear presentations about new work in development by leading figures in health behavior change research, and to become familiar with work conducted and published by others within the CHIP network. The series is well attended and is an invaluable context for sharing late breaking findings and trends in health behavior research.

CHIP continued to sponsor the **CHIP Lecture Series** in FY11, bringing 16 nationally- and internationally-recognized leaders in health behavior research from 14 different institutions to UConn for presentations. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including weight loss and obesity, community approaches to health promotion, social network approaches to HIV prevention, and translation and dissemination of effective interventions, among many others. Many presentations were simulcast from CHIP to the UConn Health Center and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University, as well as to other sites. CHIP Lectures also were available via live webcasts for the first time this year. This virtual inclusion of additional colleagues at each presentation greatly enhanced the value and profile of the Lecture Series for the University, as well as the potential of the Series to disseminate cutting edge science. In addition to attending the presentations, PIs, graduate students, other affiliates, and community members at large, were given the opportunity to meet with each presenter one-on-one, as a group, or by telephone, to discuss research interests and possible collaborations. During FY11, CHIP had an average onsite lecture participation rate of 29 people and a total of 145 individuals met with 1 or more presenters.

The **CHIP Lecture Series** is planned and publicized by CHIP administrative staff. Publicity for the events includes posting the series on the CHIP website, sending out announcements through various listservs, and publishing the information on the University Events website and through other venues. To cast as wide a net
as possible for persons interested in CHIP’s lectures, e-mail announcements are sent to current affiliates, prospective affiliates, and members of other research institutions, hospitals, health clinics, and community-based organizations in Connecticut. For those who respond by phone or e-mail to the announcements and/or who attend the lectures in person, CHIP follows up with additional communications, including invitations to future events and meetings, so that CHIP members can connect with interested individuals to explore the potential for research collaboration. A significant number of new affiliates and contacts have been identified through this process.

(For a list of “CHIP Lecture Series” presentations made during the current reporting year, see Appendix 4 on pages 51-52.)

6. CHIP will continue to expand its technology capacity and capitalize on new technology innovations, to efficiently link CHIP affiliates with resources at CHIP and to connect CHIP investigators with colleagues across the State of Connecticut and throughout the world for research collaboration in health behavior change.

CHIP has continued to explore new innovations in information technology (IT) to connect its geographically-dispersed members and to enhance multidisciplinary collaborations. In FY11, CHIP added new IT services to its growing portfolio of services designed to supplement CHIP’s mission: (1) a Dedicated Virtual Private Network (VPN) gateway to connect CHIP’s offsite members to local server and University resources; and (2) a Microsoft Exchange Server collaboration product to deliver electronic mail, calendaring, contacts, and tasks to CHIP’s members. Such innovations in technology offer new collaborative capabilities and access to CHIP’s world-class technology resources to the Center’s affiliates, graduate students, and workforce locally, nationally, and worldwide.

Because of the international scope of CHIP’s research, it is critical to have cost-effective ways to maintain communication among research team members. One such technology, Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP), has been leveraged to break down communication barriers with free Skype-to-Skype calls and low rates for calls to local, national, and international landline and mobile telephones. In addition, CHIP has employed Microsoft Live Meeting to conduct virtual meetings, share presentations and desktop workspaces, and conduct audio/video conferencing. (In FY12, CHIP IT will provide CHIP investigators with the same functionality Microsoft Live Meeting offered, but with a new product, Microsoft Lync 2010 Server.)

Another way that CHIP extends its reach is through its dynamic website. CHIP has enhanced its website by organizing its research resources into “Research Areas,” which focus on the distinct health domains in which CHIP’s researchers have conducted studies. This includes a new categorization of its research projects, lectures, measurement and intervention resources, presentations, and research personnel by health domain. CHIP’s website is a product of continuous improvement with regular updates to featured research, news stories, and announcements.

7. CHIP will continue to expand its work to improve translation and dissemination of behavior change research into clinical and community practice in the U.S. and internationally. Substantial future work in this domain will be done with the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS).

CHIP has had a long history of implementation and dissemination of its health behavior change interventions. Over the years, several externally-funded interventions developed at CHIP have been widely disseminated in the U.S. and internationally.

In FY11, new externally-funded work by Dr. Fisher and his team (described in Research Objective No. 3 above) sought to understand the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the successful implementation of the team’s South Africa Options intervention project. The findings from this newly-funded work will make a contribution to the overall literature on dissemination and implementation research, and will be used to optimize the implementation of the team’s new, next generation, prevention-with-positives pilot intervention study.
This year as well, Dr. Gorin received a subcontract (described in Research Objective No. 2 above) to help translate an effective behavior change intervention (entitled Look AHEAD), which increases weight loss and exercise behavior, into one that can be widely disseminated to diabetics. To date, it has been difficult for clinicians to implement the intervention due to the extended, and expensive, clinical contacts required for intervention efficacy. Dr. Gorin is working to address obstacles to the successful implementation of the intervention by translating Look AHEAD into a virtual clinician intervention program, which will provide ongoing nutrition and physical activity counseling 24/7 from any Internet-connected computer or mobile device.

In addition to individual PI-based projects with a Translation, Dissemination, and Implementation focus, CHIP has become increasingly engaged with CICATS at UConn to further its mission of accelerating the translation and subsequent dissemination of UConn health-related innovations and interventions into clinical and community practice. CHIP’s role, specifically, is to interface with University faculty at Storrs and the UCHC to encourage greater faculty interest in performing Dissemination and Implementation (D & I) research, to identify extant UConn “dissemination-ready” intervention and health innovation projects, and ultimately, to increase the number of grants in this area by UConn faculty and their community partners. (These efforts are described in detail in Section O on pages 32 - 34 of this document.)

**Progress on Administrative Objectives:**

CHIP’s Administrative Team is comprised of experienced professionals specializing in the areas of grant and subcontract management, financial planning and processing, human resources, and distribution of research findings and accomplishments. This work includes collaboration with a range of individuals, including specialists at the University and in community, public, and private sectors as well as with other partners and colleagues throughout the world, in order to effectively manage CHIP grants and assist CHIP investigators in conducting important health behavior change research worldwide. The work and success of the Administrative Team is directly interrelated with CHIP’s continued growth and achievement as a leading health behavior research center. The progress noted on the Administrative Objectives below is dedicated to improving business and research-related functions and operations in order to continually advance CHIP’s mission and long-range goals. (For more details on CHIP’s Administrative Team, please see Section S on pages 37 - 38 as well as Appendices 6, 17, and 18 on pages 62 - 63, 108 - 110, and 111, respectively.)

8. The Administrative Team will update and revise existing guidelines and procedures annually (February) and on an as-needed basis. New guidelines and procedures will be developed to address operational needs and to improve and streamline existing administrative processes. One area that will be improved upon is the coordination and collaboration among the members of the Administrative Team at the time of award of newly-funded grants.

The Administrative Team continued to work collectively on updating and revising existing guidelines and procedures as well as internal forms in the areas of travel, purchasing, grants management (both pre-award and post-award processing), facilities, library computer usage, employment and payroll, electronic signature use (for internal use only), IT support, and interview room/computer usage. As-needed updates were made to various existing guidelines and procedures in May 2010 and in December 2010, and then all guidelines and procedures were reviewed and updated again in March 2011. Since these guidelines and procedures are posted on the CHIP website, the annual review date of all CHIP guidelines and procedures was changed to March to better coordinate with the schedule of required website updates. In addition to the website postings of these guidelines and procedures, CHIP continues to have two hard copies of the CHIP Guidelines and Procedures manuals available for general use. New guidelines and procedures will be continually developed based on operational and business needs.

The Administrative Team has successfully addressed the improvement needed in the coordination and collaboration among team members at the time of newly funded grants. Vasinee Long now makes a general e-mail announcement at the time of the award to the Administrative Team so that team members can then follow up directly with the principal investigator (PI) relating to their area of expertise and ensure that necessary actions are taken in a timely fashion.
9. The Administrative Team will work collaboratively to clearly delineate who (CHIP affiliates, active PIs, graduate students, staff, etc.) has access to what CHIP services and then to more widely and efficiently disseminate that information to those who can potentially access these services. To help achieve this objective, new PIs will also be given the opportunity to formally meet with the Administrative Team to learn about the available services and procedures at CHIP. Specific services and opportunities to be addressed in these ways include:

- Internal funding opportunities (CHIP “seed” grants)
- Grant financial management services
- Administrative services
- Research-related services

Various members of the Administrative Team, along with the CHIP Director and Associate Director, created Guidelines for Use of CHIP Services in June 2010. This chart clearly and accurately lists all of CHIP’s services and also indicates who has access to each of the services (e.g., PI, Affiliate, Staff and/or Graduate Student). The services mentioned in the chart are listed under the following headings: Internal Grant Funding Opportunities, Research Support Services, Grants Financial Management Support Services, Personnel & Payroll Support Services, Purchasing Services, Travel Support Services, Facility Support Services, IT Support Services, Dissemination Services, and Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC). This chart was first introduced at the 2010 CHIP Annual Meeting and remains posted on the CHIP website as well. The chart has undergone various changes and continues to be updated as needed and annually each March. This chart is also available and discussed with new PIs during introductory and informative meetings with the Administration Team at the time of new award announcements (see above).

(To learn more about other steps CHIP took during FY11 to more widely disseminate information about CHIP services and eligibility for them, see Administrative Objective No. 12 below and Section G on pages 18 - 19.)

10. The Cost Savings Committee will continue to meet semi-annually to identify and recommend cost-saving measures that can benefit CHIP and the University financially. Relevant procedures and guidelines will be created and updated based on the Committee’s findings.

In FY11, the CHIP Cost Savings Committee met semi-annually to review CHIP operating budget expenditures from past fiscal years and compare them to estimates for the current fiscal year, with the intent and directive of implementing substantial cost savings measures.

One example of cost savings this year was in the area of labor costs. Following the resignation of an employee at the Computer Technical Support Consultant II level, a replacement was hired at the lower classification level of a Computer Technical Support Consultant I. It is also important to note that this position is also supported by several external research grants.

CHIP also significantly reduced costs for miscellaneous services, such as general repairs/materials and sundry operating services.

As we moved toward a more electronic, paperless workplace, we significantly reduced our mail/postage expenses and our paper costs in FY11. We plan to continue to reduce paper use in FY12 by encouraging duplex printing and purchasing printers with that built-in capability.

We are also projecting a stabilization of telephone costs this year. We continue to encourage the use of Skype to avoid toll costs, and in offices with multiple people, phone lines are shared whenever possible. We will also identify individuals who incur the highest phone costs so that we may reevaluate their use.

In the next fiscal year, we will continue looking into further cost savings opportunities. One example is researching how other University departments monitor the use of their office supplies so that we may
reevaluate our Center’s procedures and make adjustments if necessary. For FY12 budgeting purposes, we have already made significant cuts to CHIP’s student labor costs. Furthermore, we are currently seeking additional external funding for the annual CHIP Lecture Series which could, pending our successful outreach efforts, produce a sizeable cost savings.

CHIP will continue to be sensitive and attentive to the current difficult fiscal environment at the University and will be appropriately mindful in making future responsible business decisions.

11. The CHIP Security Committee will continue to review all procedures for maintaining the security of the physical facility, its occupants, and its data, semi-annually and as needed.

The CHIP Security/Data Committee met this year to review and assess physical and technical security issues related to CHIP operations.

During FY11, CHIP continued to experience no known security threats, with no thefts of personal items and no disruptions or breaches to data server service. Acting proactively, the Committee met to discuss how to further improve upon the existing security measures.

Measures taken during the year to improve security included use of “routing forms” when employees end work at CHIP, so that they are immediately removed from the DSX card access system; follow-through with the key sign-in and sign-out system; and inclusion of security guidelines in the CHIP Policies and Procedures manual, which is posted on the website.

CHIP also held a Records Management meeting on January 11, 2011. Betsy Pittman from the Library/Dodd Center was invited to the meeting to educate and update the Administrative Team on the University’s guidelines and procedures on both electronic and paper record management. One recent change that has resulted from this meeting was the creation of CHIP e-mail accounts, which will give CHIP the oversight of e-mail records. Other improvements in this area are ongoing.

Measures also were taken to improve the heating/cooling needs of critical office space containing IT equipment. Specifically, working with various University entities, Facilities installed a separate cooling zone for Ryan Room 214 to meet the increased cooling needs of IT equipment housed there.

In the coming year, the Committee will monitor and maintain current systems, and pursue an improvement of interior signage specifically for CHIP. CHIP has requested additional exterior signage through the appropriate University channels, but that request is currently on hold pending the University’s creation of a new Signage Committee and the Committee’s review of exterior signage needs across campus.

12. CHIP will continue to publicize its activities and its research, not only to scholarly audiences, but also to public health and community audiences.

During FY11, in recognition of the emphasis the University’s academic plan places on public engagement, specifically its strategy of increasing the visibility and accessibility of faculty expertise, CHIP continued to promote the considerable wealth of research expertise represented by its network of 137 principal investigators (PIs) and research affiliates, both to external audiences through local, state, and national media outlets, and to the greater University community through UConn Today and other communications vehicles. Within the past year, CHIP also increased its efforts to publicize CHIP activities, including its Lecture Series (detailed in Research Objective No. 5 above), and the Center’s numerous research support services (detailed in Research Objective No. 1 above) to both existing affiliates and potential affiliates with research interests in health behavior and health behavior change. For more information on these efforts, see the sub-headed section Marketing of CHIP Activities and Services (below).

Outside Media Coverage of CHIP Research Expertise – Community Audiences

The New York Times featured the autism and robotics work of CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and CHIP Advanced Interactive Technologies Center (AITC) Director Timothy Gifford in a front-page article in its
Sunday paper in July. Dr. Bhat (grant PI) and Gifford (grant co-investigator) currently have a CHIP-affiliated federal grant to study the use of robotics to help children with autism make strides with physical development, specifically their gross motor skills, as well as improvements with their communication and social skills. Later in the summer, the Connecticut Post wrote about the researchers’ autism and robotics work. In February, Dr. Bhat and Gifford were interviewed about this research by Fast Company, a business magazine that reports on topics including innovation, digital media, technology, change management, leadership, design, and social responsibility.

In January, CHIP Affiliate Kirstie Cope-Farrar (Ph.D., Communication Sciences) was quoted by Hartford Courant writer Susan Campbell about the mixed messages society sends women about their bodies.

A February CHIP Lecture Series event, which featured Baylor College of Medicine Pediatrics Professor Thomas Baranowski discussing video games’ potential to fight childhood obesity, received coverage from two local media outlets. The Hartford Examiners, part of a national network of news websites dedicated to local news content, ran an article about Baranowski’s talk in advance of the lecture, and the Mansfield-Storrs Patch, part of a similar national network of local news web platforms, covered the event.

Additionally, part-time CHIP Communications/Dissemination of Research Findings Specialist Beth Krane facilitated contact between CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology) and UConn Media Relations Specialist Colin Poitras, who is planning to promote Dr. Park’s research expertise in the health aspects of religion and spirituality to local, state, and national reporters. The outreach to reporters would be timed with an upcoming journal article Dr. Park has had accepted for publication on the detrimental effects religious struggles had on patients with end-stage congestive heart failure (CHF). (One of the four new grants Dr. Park received during FY11 will allow her to further study the role religious beliefs play in congestive heart failure).

**Outside Media Coverage of CHIP Research Expertise – Public Health Audiences**

CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) filmed a 10-minute video for Cardiovascular Clinician, a new website geared toward medical professionals. In the video, she discussed surprising new study results that she and her colleagues had published in a September American Heart Journal article. The findings suggest that vigorous exercise - not moderate exercise, as previously thought - has the greatest blood pressure-lowering effects. CHIP assisted Dr. Pescatello in filming her video in several ways, including reviewing her proposed questions and answers for the video, providing media coaching, and providing a filming location – the CHIP library.

**UConn Today Coverage of CHIP Research Activities**

CHIP’s efforts to reach UConn administrators and non-CHIP-affiliated UConn faculty with CHIP research news included more than a dozen articles posted to University news website UConn Today. CHIP PIs featured in UConn Today during FY11 included Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences), Dr. Park, Dr. Pescatello, Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology), Merrill Singer (Ph.D., Anthropology), Stephanie Milan (Ph.D., Psychology), Dr. Bhat, and Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology). CHIP graduate student Laramie Smith’s receipt of a prestigious NIMH National Research Service Award (NRSA) and the new University-wide Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) role of CHIP research staffer Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/CHIP) also were featured on UConn Today within the past year.

**Marketing of CHIP Activities and Services**

In response to feedback from CHIP’s Executive Committee during FY11, CHIP formed a new Marketing Committee, which benefitted greatly from the involvement of Dr. Snyder. With the committee’s input and guidance, Beth Krane launched several new communications vehicles for publicizing CHIP’s activities and research support services to internal CHIP and internal UConn audiences. *(Those new initiatives are detailed in Section G: Executive Committee on pages 18 - 19.)*

Beth Krane also continued to leverage CHIP’s recently redesigned website, with its media-centric focus, to publish news articles and announcements about CHIP research, events, and services.
Progress on Technology Objectives:

CHIP IT’s mission is to provide specialized technical excellence and the core competencies to work closely and collaboratively with CHIP researchers to perform the type of IT-intensive, cutting-edge, health behavior and health behavior change research which is CHIP’s hallmark. The success of CHIP’s grants is heavily dependent on the availability of its IT staff, which has direct knowledge of health-related research and related methodologies, immediate access to the systems hosting and collecting data, a thorough understanding of the data collection process and underlying IT systems, and strong established relationships with CHIP’s subcontractors’ IT staffs. CHIP IT services, which are specialized and articulated to the Center’s focus on health behavior change, have made it possible for CHIP PIs to win very substantial external grants, which, in turn, have contributed markedly to the University’s reputation, and which have returned significant indirect costs to the University. *(For more details on CHIP IT, please see Section T on pages 38 - 39.)*

In addition to this critical focus of its efforts, CHIP IT addressed the following objectives in FY11:

**13. CHIP will update all mission critical servers to Windows Server 2008 Release 2 to leverage advanced user-centric features, such as DirectAccess (simplify remote access to internal CHIP systems), BitLocker full-disk encryption, and AppLocker application control (decrease spyware/virus occurrences).**

In FY11, CHIP IT transitioned all mission critical servers to Windows Server 2008 Release 2, the latest Windows server operating system, to leverage advances in information security and centralized workstation management. Additionally, the Active Directory was updated to the 2008 R2 functional level to utilize advanced features, such as the centralized storage of BitLocker encryption keys and the AD Recycle Bin (to restore accidental user/computer deletions). Updates to Group Policy (centralized workstation management) have allowed us to exploit AppLocker to prevent the installation of unauthorized software, spyware/malware, and other unwanted applications.

CHIP IT was unable to exploit DirectAccess technologies to streamline remote access to internal CHIP systems due to unforeseen aspects of the University network. However, CHIP IT was able to provide a workaround with the introduction of a dedicated Virtual Private Network (VPN) gateway by Juniper Networks. This technology allows offsite CHIP members to securely access internal CHIP systems and the University network via an intuitive web-based interface ([https://vpn.chip.uconn.edu](https://vpn.chip.uconn.edu)).

**14. CHIP will implement Microsoft Exchange services for CHIP affiliates, faculty, staff, and students. This service will provide new opportunities to increase collaborations with CHIP investigators throughout the world. Additionally, Microsoft Exchange services will replace existing room and equipment reservations systems with a more comprehensive scheduling/calendaring system.**

Microsoft Exchange services have been added to the growing portfolio of IT services designed to enhance collaborations with CHIP investigators locally and throughout the world. CHIP-hosted Exchange Services have granted us the ability to establish large mailboxes for CHIP members. In addition, all users have been given an archive mailbox (50 GB of storage) to retain emails in accordance with University, State, and Federal data retention guidelines. Along with message services, Exchange delivers centralized calendaring, contacts, and tasks. Equipment and room reservations have been integrated into the messaging environment, allowing CHIP members instant access to room scheduling and equipment reservations.

CHIP IT recognizes the critical role messaging plays in the research conducted at CHIP and the administration of the Center. To that end, CHIP IT has built a highly reliable infrastructure to deliver Exchange services. Multiple servers have been deployed, building upon existing investments in centralized storage. Additionally, CHIP IT has deployed hardware load balancers to automatically fail-over and load-balance critical IT services. These technologies have been combined to deliver a highly-reliable messaging environment and will allow us to integrate additional services, such as document management, during the next fiscal year with minimal infrastructure costs.
15. **CHIP will create and deploy a Windows 7-based workstation image to all CHIP Administrative Team workstations. Ongoing efforts will be made to deploy Windows 7 to all CHIP workstations and laptops during FY11.**

In FY11, CHIP IT developed a standard Windows 7-based workstation image and the necessary deployment systems. The standard image establishes a baseline Windows 7 installation for all CHIP workstations and laptops with basic software packages pre-installed. Additionally, the Microsoft Office 2010 suite was introduced with the new software image. Processes have been established to update the image quarterly, track bugs and issues, and identify new software packages for inclusion in the baseline image. The image has been deployed to nearly all existing and new CHIP workstations and laptops.

16. **CHIP will continue to expand its Active Directory to all workstations, laptops, and servers, harnessing centralized management and single sign-on capabilities. Group Policies will be refined to increase overall workstation/laptop security and enhance usability with streamlined Windows configurations and optimizations.**

CHIP IT has continued its Active Directory initiative, requiring that all computers and laptops that come into the IT department be joined to the directory. The Active Directory, a client/server-based technology, simplifies identity management with single sign-on capabilities and centralized access control, and allows for workstation policy deployment via Group Policy. Group Policies continue to be refined to enhance the security of the CHIP computing infrastructure. The deployment of Microsoft Exchange services builds upon this initiative; Exchange leverages Active Directory to attach users to their mailboxes and provide controlled access to shared resources, such as conference rooms and equipment. As CHIP continues to introduce new IT services, the Active Directory will serve a critical role.

17. **CHIP will leverage its Active Directory infrastructure to introduce Office Communications Server. This service will unify communications to increase collaborations via instant messaging, group chat, and audio/video/web conferencing capabilities. Integrating tightly with Microsoft’s Office productivity suite, this service offers new opportunities to share documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and other desktop applications with CHIP investigators, whether located nationally or internationally.**

Due to low demand for Microsoft Live Meeting services and the ability to provide Microsoft Live Meeting on an outsourced basis, it was decided that CHIP IT would not pursue this objective, which would have delivered Microsoft Live Meeting services internally on a dedicated server, as specified. Instead, Office Communications Server has been replaced with a new product, Microsoft Lync 2010 Server. Lync promises to deliver instant messaging, Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP), and advanced video conferencing capabilities. This objective has been revised and moved to FY12’s IT objectives.

*Due to the resignation of Brian Marofsky, Computer Technical Support Consultant II, a lag in replacing him, and other unforeseen urgent demands on IT in FY11, the following FY 11 IT objectives will be completed after the May 15 cut-off date for this FY11 report:

18. **Pending receipt of adequate funding, CHIP will overhaul its existing backup systems with a more robust backup-to-disk-tape model, building upon CHIP’s existing storage infrastructure. New systems will increase backup retention periods and allow for offsite vaulting of data for extended periods of time in accordance with State and Federal data retention guidelines.**

CHIP IT received the necessary funding to acquire the hardware and software to overhaul existing backup systems with a backup-to-disk-to-tape architecture. Systems will be installed and implemented by the end of FY11, and the migration from the existing systems will occur during the summer of 2011 (FY12). Additionally, research will be conducted to ensure retention periods are in alignment with local, State, and Federal regulations.
CHIP will deploy centralized encryption and endpoint protection technologies, consistent with University standards and industry best practices. New systems will be built upon CHIP’s Active Directory and virtualization infrastructure to facilitate rapid deployment and ease of management/administration.

CHIP IT has deployed Microsoft BitLocker encryption, consistent with University regulations regarding sensitive, protected data. Efforts will continue in FY12 to identify all computers with potentially sensitive data and to deploy encryption software where appropriate. Microsoft’s Forefront Endpoint Protection has been identified as the software package for the protection of CHIP’s laptops and workstations. Implementation and deployment will occur in FY12, as outlined within the FY12 Technology Objectives.

F. CHIP Objectives for FY 2012

Research Objectives:

1. Through CHIP’s internal grants programs, mentoring, and technical support to PIs, the Center will continue to support the development of new, high-quality, innovative, and timely proposals for externally-funded research through CHIP, by individual researchers and research teams.

2. CHIP will continue to deepen its focus on health behavior change and to foster new multidisciplinary work in a broad array of critical health domains.

3. CHIP will continue to be a worldwide leader and to foster new multidisciplinary work in the core problem area of HIV/AIDS.

4. CHIP will continue to perform increased research with more direct policy implications.

5. CHIP will continue to bring local, national, and international researchers together on an ongoing basis from a wide range of health and social science disciplines for lectures, events, and meetings at CHIP to promote cutting-edge, multidisciplinary exchange and research.

6. CHIP will continue to expand its technology capacity and capitalize on new technology innovations, to efficiently link CHIP affiliates with resources at CHIP, and to connect CHIP investigators with colleagues across the State of Connecticut and throughout the world for research collaboration in health behavior change.

7. CHIP will continue to expand its work to improve translation and dissemination of behavior change research into clinical and community practice in the U.S. and internationally, including work in conjunction with the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS).

Administrative Objectives:

8. The Administrative Team will continue to update and revise existing guidelines and procedures annually (March) and on an as needed basis. New guidelines and procedures will also be developed to address operational needs and to improve and streamline existing administrative processes.

9. CHIP will continue to publicize and disseminate information about its available business services to affiliates, research faculty, research staff, and graduate students through various means, such as the CHIP Business Services Survey, business meetings, website updates, listserv announcements, promotional slides at Lecture Series events as well as announcements at the CHIP Annual Meeting.

10. CHIP will continue to conduct an annual Business Services Survey in order to evaluate the services that CHIP offers. The survey will continue to be sent to affiliates, research faculty, research staff, and graduate students. Once data is collected and analyzed, a summary report will be created for distribution. The results of this survey will be used to improve upon the business operations at CHIP.
11. The CHIP Cost Savings Committee will continue to meet semi-annually to identify and recommend cost-saving measures that can benefit CHIP and the University financially. Relevant procedures and guidelines will be created based on the Committee’s recommendations.

12. The CHIP Security Committee will continue to review all procedures and guidelines for maintaining and improving the security of the physical facility, its occupants, and its data semi-annually and as needed.

13. Through the work of CHIP’s Public Engagement Committee and the participation of CHIP staff and researchers in the University’s Public Engagement Forum, CHIP will increase its efforts to share its knowledge, expertise, and research findings about health behavior and health behavior change with the University and with various community-based groups and organizations.

14. CHIP will continue to publicize its research, activities, and services to scholarly audiences as well as to public health and community-based audiences.

**Technology Objectives:**

15. CHIP IT will continue to support the extensive, specialized IT needs of CHIP PIs, providing solutions for health behavior and health behavior change applications. Such solutions will enable CHIP researchers to perform and to expand the type of IT-intensive, cutting-edge, health behavior change research which is CHIP’s hallmark. The union between specialized health-behavior change IT staff and CHIP researchers will make it possible to advance the state of the science and leverage information technology to develop highly innovative interventions.

16. CHIP IT will provide the necessary hardware and software, leveraging investments in server virtualization technology, to deliver a platform to host interactive web applications for the purposes of delivering web-based interventions, online assessments, and other content as it relates to the type of research conducted at CHIP. Additionally, CHIP IT will provide basic web development services on a case-by-case basis, largely dependent upon the complexity and system requirements of the research project.

17. CHIP IT will complete the overhaul of its existing backup systems with a more robust backup-to-disk-to-tape model, building upon CHIP’s existing storage infrastructure. New systems will increase backup retention periods and allow for offsite vaulting of data for extended periods of time in accordance with State and Federal data retention guidelines. Additionally, new systems will allow us to extend backups beyond our datacenter to CHIP workstations and laptops, both onsite and offsite.

18. CHIP IT will implement Microsoft’s System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM), building upon our centralized systems, to manage software and operating system deployment, patch management, and hardware and software inventory. Additionally, this platform will be the foundation for Forefront Endpoint Protection 2010, another FY12 CHIP IT objective.

19. CHIP IT will deploy Microsoft’s Forefront Endpoint Protection, an endpoint protection technology, consistent with University information security standards and industry best practices. New systems will be built upon CHIP’s Active Directory and virtualization infrastructure to facilitate rapid deployment and ease of management/administration.

20. CHIP IT will deploy Microsoft’s SharePoint platform, integrated with the CHIP Active Directory and Exchange implementations. Microsoft SharePoint is a web-based content management system with document management capabilities. Functionalities include management and provisioning of intranet portals/websites, document management (versioning/indexing), file management, process/information integration, and collaboration spaces (portals).

**G. CHIP Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee held four meetings in FY11. At each meeting, the Committee was provided with updates on CHIP’s operating budget, grant submissions, newly funded grant proposals, grants management services, IT services, statistical support services, physical facility issues, and CHIP internal grant competitions. Any operational
problems were discussed, and suggestions for improvements were agreed upon. In addition, at each meeting, possibilities for further expanding CHIP’s grant portfolio and breadth of research in health behavior change were elicited from the committee, discussed, and acted upon. As it does annually, the Executive Committee also reviewed CHIP’s mission statement, long-term goals, and research objectives for 2011-12. The Committee made no changes this year to the mission statement and only minor changes to the long-term goals and research objectives. (See page 5 for the Mission Statement and Long-Term Goals, and page 17 for FY 2012 Research Objectives.) Numerous actions were taken based on feedback provided by the Committee. Most noteworthy were the efforts made over the past year to more effectively disseminate information about CHIP services and research accomplishments. These efforts included the following:

- To ensure that CHIP PIs, research staff, affiliates, and graduate students knew what CHIP services they were eligible for, a set of “Guidelines for Use of CHIP Services” was developed and posted on the CHIP website.

- A CHIP marketing team was created that included CHIP Communications/Dissemination of Research Findings Specialist Beth Krane and CHIP PI and Executive Committee Member Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences). They met several times and developed a plan for increasing accuracy of knowledge about CHIP’s services. They also created a set of questions for the 2011 CHIP Business Services Survey to assess how to most effectively disseminate information to CHIP affiliates and research staff.

- Several informational PowerPoint slides on CHIP services were developed that were presented at the inception of CHIP Lecture Series events.

- To reach a broader audience and increase the breadth of internal grant submissions, emails announcing the grant competitions were sent out earlier in the semester (compared to previous years) and on multiple occasions. Additionally, an announcement about the grant competitions was posted on the CHIP website home page as soon as the details about them became available, and information about the benefits of the internal grants and the application process for them was presented prior to CHIP Lecture Series presentations. And finally, new CHIP departmental liaisons (one in each department where CHIP has affiliates) were identified, and they were asked to post information about the internal grant competitions on their departmental listservs.

- Frequently updated announcements were posted on the CHIP website about significant accomplishments by CHIP PIs and researchers, including newly funded grants, research findings, publications, and awards.

- “CHIP Research News” e-mails were sent to affiliates and relevant individuals both inside and outside UConn (including key UConn administrators). These e-mails provided headlines and story summaries with links to full articles on CHIP’s website for those who were interested in reading more.

Based on discussions with the Executive Committee about how to foster and increase research collaborations with other universities in the region, the following actions will be taken in FY 12:

- Paul Cleary, Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University, will attend a CHIP Executive Committee meeting next fall to discuss how CIRA and CHIP can collaborate more effectively on research. With each Center having different strengths and areas of expertise, creating research collaborations between the two could be extremely beneficial to both institutions.

- Speed talks (very brief, informal, informational presentations) by researchers from CHIP, CIRA, and Brown University will be conducted next year to help researchers learn about each other’s research interests and existing projects. The speed talks will be topic-driven and could include such topics as HIV/AIDS, nutrition and obesity, and exercise science, among others.

H. CHIP Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network

In FY11, CHIP added new research affiliates to its multidisciplinary affiliates collaborative network of researchers with interests in health behavior and health behavior change, bringing its total membership to 137 research
affiliates. CHIP also streamlined its membership application and approval process to ensure and document that each of its affiliates meets its membership criteria. Affiliation applications can now be found on CHIP’s website.

CHIP continued its efforts to expand multidisciplinary collaborations with appropriate members of relevant UConn schools, departments, and centers, considering new requests for affiliation from individuals whose research interests are consistent with CHIP’s mission. In the past year, there has been increasing involvement, which has led to new grant applications and/or funded grants, with members of several UConn-Storrs departments, as well as with individuals and groups at the UConn Health Center and other institutions.

In summary, as in previous years, CHIP continues to add affiliates from throughout the UConn system and beyond who conduct research in the areas of health behavior, health risk dynamics, and health behavior change, with the long-term goal of continually enhancing its research network and promoting the University as a premier institution of health behavior and health intervention research.

(See Appendix 5 on pages 53 - 61 for a list of CHIP principal investigators and research affiliates.)

CHIP Affiliation and Benefits

Potential CHIP affiliates are identified through new and existing research collaborations, through direct communications between CHIP and other UConn departments and centers, and through the CHIP Lecture Series and other CHIP functions. Faculty with health-related research interests who express interest in CHIP are sent a formal invitation to affiliate. The benefits of being a CHIP affiliate are many, and, as the Center continues to grow, CHIP services to its affiliates to help them scale-up and succeed in health behavior change research are reviewed and enhanced. Several services of note include providing CHIP affiliates with pre-submission statistical, methodological, and content review of their external grant proposals; the CHIP Lecture Series that showcases leading scholars from diverse fields of health research; assistance in searching for external grant opportunities; extensive pre- and post-award support; and competitive pilot funding for developing research projects/interventions that will increase the likelihood of affiliates securing external grant funds in the future.

(See Appendix 6 on pages 62 - 63 for a list of services provided by CHIP and the administrative staff members responsible for each service.)

Selected New Multidisciplinary Affiliates Research Collaborations

CHIP’s efforts to enhance multidisciplinary collaboration resulted in several new partnerships formed or furthered during FY11. In fact, in FY11, almost 80 percent of new CHIP grants (received between May 16, 2010 and May 15, 2011) involved multidisciplinary collaborations. In addition to some of the more traditional multidisciplinary collaborations found among CHIP researchers, such as those between psychologists, other behavioral scientists (e.g., anthropologists, communication scientists), and public health professionals, including UConn Health Center faculty, some of the new types of CHIP multidisciplinary collaborations formed within UConn during the past year, as reflected in CHIP’s submitted grants, included partnerships between psychologists and geographers, between communication sciences and nursing researchers, and between anthropologists, statisticians, ecologists, and evolutionary biologists.

The projects described below provide a sampling of some of the CHIP multidisciplinary collaborative grants recently funded.

1. **Visual Attention and Fine Motor Coordination in Infants at Risk for Autism:** CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology) has been awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop novel tools for early identification of motor, social, and cognitive deficits of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) within the first six month of life. If the aims of her study are achieved, Dr. Bhat will identify reliable behavioral markers for early diagnosis of ASD and indicate that early detection of ASD is possible between three and six months of age through fine motor and visual attention markers. For her project, Dr. Bhat is collaborating with two faculty members in UConn’s Psychology Department – CHIP Affiliate and Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology Deborah Fein and Psychology Professor James Green.
2. **Internet-based STI/HIV Prevention for HIV+ Internet Users:** New CHIP PI Dean Cruess (Ph.D., Psychology) has been awarded a grant from NIH’s National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to design an online behavioral health intervention to help reduce the STI/HIV risks associated with Internet-initiated sexual liaisons among men who have sex with men (MSM). This work is particularly significant as Internet-based venues, such as websites, chat rooms, blogs and bulletin boards, are becoming an increasingly popular means for HIV-positive MSM to meet potential sex partners. Dr. Cruess is collaborating with CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology), who is grant co-investigator, and also with colleagues in Public Health, Nursing, and Psychology from other research institutions, including the University of Minnesota, the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at Medical College of Wisconsin, and the University of Wyoming.

3. **Geospatial Factors in HIV Prevention Trial Outcomes:** CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) has been awarded a grant from NIH/NIMH, which covers an intensive period of mentored training in geospatial conceptualization and analysis with a focus on an application to HIV prevention trials. With this grant, Dr. Johnson plans to build on his internationally-recognized expertise in meta-analysis and success in using meta-analysis to evaluate which tested HIV prevention interventions are most effective. A goal of the training is to enable Dr. Johnson and his Synthesis of HIV/AIDS Research Project (SHARP) to create a searchable map, which would allow anyone - including other scholars, community public health workers, and public policy makers – to click on a specific location and have, at their fingertips, pertinent information about the effectiveness of any HIV/AIDS interventions studied in that region of the world. His mentor on the grant is CHIP Affiliate Ellen Cromley, an independent geographer.

4. **Development of a Translational Tool to Study Yoga Therapy:** CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology) has been awarded a grant from the NIH’s National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) to develop a translational tool for researchers that will allow scientists to explicitly describe and compare their yoga interventions as well as to implement appropriate control groups in clinical trials. The project is novel because, even though evidence suggests yoga benefits both physical and mental health, researchers have yet to compare various styles of yoga and assess specific components, such as breathing, poses, or a teacher’s specific approach, to identify what works most effectively. Dr. Park is collaborating with colleagues in Public Health, and Health Policy and Management from Boston University and University of California San Diego.

5. **Targeting the Teachable Moment: A Lifestyle Intervention for Breast Cancer Survivors:** Dr. Park also has been awarded a grant from NIH’s National Cancer Institute (NCI). The study will test the first intervention for breast cancer survivors to explicitly capitalize on the “teachable moment” following diagnosis and treatment to provide motivation for sustained healthy eating and exercise behavior change. Dr. Park’s collaborators include CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) and CHIP Affiliate Thomas Blank (Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies), both grant co-investigators, as well as a physician affiliated with Hartford Hospital, who also is a co-investigator.

6. **Cholesterol-Lowering Effects of Triglyceride Recrystallized Phytosterols:** CHIP PI Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology) has been awarded a grant from a large private corporation to determine whether the level of fat in milk affects the efficacy of plant sterols in the milk to lower cholesterol. The study also will assess the effects of plant sterols in milk on LDL particle size and other metabolic parameters associated with cardiometabolic risk. Dr. Volek’s co-investigators on the grant include CHIP PI William Kraemer (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and UConn Nutritional Sciences Professor Maria Luz Fernandez, and UConn Nutritional Sciences Assistant Professor Richard Bruno.

I. **Results of 2011 CHIP Affiliates Survey**

CHIP offers a range of services to its principal investigators (PIs), affiliates, research staff, and graduate students, including access to internal CHIP grant competitions, assistance with grant preparation, pre- and post-award grant support, IT services, and more. To ensure that the services that CHIP provides are meeting the needs of its consumers, each year CHIP asks PIs, affiliates, research staff, and graduate students to evaluate the quality of its services through an anonymous online survey.
One hundred individuals completed the 2011 CHIP Affiliates Survey in March of this year, and results were very favorable in all categories. Examples of the comments made by the respondents are the following:

- “CHIP does an amazing job, and I have been extremely impressed with developments that have been made.”
- “Thank you for your support. The admin folks are great to work with and make it possible to get and implement funding.”
- “I can’t express enough the valuable grant support CHIP provides; without it, it would be impossible to do my job. Thank you.”
- “Overall, I love everything about CHIP. Keep up the great work!”

A summary of the survey results related to key services follows.

**CHIP Internal Grants for PIs and Affiliates**

CHIP offers 5 different internal grant opportunities to UConn-affiliated faculty and graduate students (i.e., seed grants for new investigators, seed grants for experienced PIs in health behavior, pilot project grants for graduate students, summer stipends for faculty for grant development, and grants for conference development) as a way to foster research in health behavior and, ultimately, successful external grant applications. Each internal grant application is rigorously evaluated by a panel of CHIP reviewers that is similar to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) review panel, and applicants are provided with detailed written feedback from the reviewers. The 2011 CHIP survey asked respondents to indicate whether they had ever applied for a CHIP internal grant and, if so, whether it benefited their research. Of the 100 respondents, 20 indicated that they had previously applied for and were awarded an internal grant. Seventeen (85.0%) of the 20 who were awarded one or more grants since CHIP’s inception in FY02 reported that the grants had helped further their research.

Over the history of CHIP’s internal grant competition, many people have applied for a CHIP grant and not been awarded one. Despite that, only 4 of 100 respondents on the survey reported having this experience, so our feedback in this area is very limited. That being said, 3 of the 4 respondents who applied for a grant and were not awarded one reported that applying for the grant furthered their research. Overall, there were many positive comments about the internal grant opportunities, including the following:

- PI who received a seed grant for experienced PIs: “This was essential for getting the ... R21 from NCI recently funded.”
- PI who received a seed grant for experienced PIs: “Although our findings were not as expected, we have helpful additional findings that will support further research and funding. Thank you for the valuable support.”
- PI who received a seed grant for new investigators: “Manuscripts are in preparation for submission to peer-reviewed journals for publication review.”
- PI whose graduate students have received pilot project grants: “Although I am a CHIP PI, I completed this because of the value to the graduate students that I am major advisor of.

(See Section J on pages 25 - 27 and Appendices 7 through 12 on pages 64 – 72 for more information about CHIP’s internal grants.)

**CHIP Pre-Submission Grant Services: Expert Review and Statistical Analysis**

CHIP offers services to assist researchers with pre-submission reviews of their external grant proposals as well as with pre-submission reviews of the proposed analyses, power analyses, and research design. When asked to indicate whether they had made use of these research support services in the past year, 6 respondents indicated that CHIP had arranged for expert researchers to review their grant proposals prior to submission to an external funder, and 9 said they had received statistical support from a CHIP-funded statistician. When asked how helpful these services were, 5 of 6 respondents said the grant reviews were “very helpful,” and one indicated that they were “somewhat
helpful.” Regarding the helpfulness of the statistical services, 4 of 9 respondents said the services were “very helpful,” 4 said they were “somewhat helpful,” and one individual reported that the statistical support “did not help in any way.” One of the PIs voiced concern on the survey about the statistical support, stating: “There’s a disconnect in the analysis programs they use and what we use, which makes solutions one-shot and not long-term. Meaning, they can analyze one set of data but that won’t help you become independent for the next one.” In contrast, another PI commented very positively about the support he/she received: “Dr. Chen was very helpful in moving our statistical analyses forward for a manuscript we are in the process of finalizing. Thank you.”

(See Appendix 17 on pages 108 - 110 for more information about these and other CHIP services.)

**CHIP Lecture Series**

The CHIP Lecture Series brings world-renowned researchers to UConn to make presentations on a range of topics related to health behavior, and it also provides opportunities for researchers and graduate students to meet individually with the presenters to discuss research ideas and possible collaborations. Fifty-one respondents indicated that they had attended at least one CHIP Lecture Series presentation in the past year, and 26 had watched one or more presentations online (webstreamed or archived) on the CHIP website, for a total of 66 unique respondents who attended or watched at least one presentation. When asked for their feedback on the presentations, 15 (23.8%) of the 63 who provided feedback indicated that the presentations were “very helpful” to their research, 29 (46.0%) responded that the presentations were “somewhat helpful” to their research, and 18 (28.6%) indicated that the presentations helped them to “identify potential research collaborators.” Only one person (1.6%) indicated that the CHIP Lecture Series presentations had “not helped in any way.” The comments about the Lecture Series were very positive and included the following:

- “The Lecture Series is a great benefit for UConn, CHIP, and affiliates.”
- “The Lecture Series is an excellent resource, especially the feature that allows us to view them online.”

(See Appendix 4 on pages 51 - 52 for a list of CHIP Lecture Series presentations.)

**CHIP’s Pre-Award and Post-Award Grant Services**

Services that are critical to obtaining grants and managing them once awarded are pre-award and post-award grant services. A total of 31 out of 100 survey respondents indicated that they had utilized CHIP pre-award services once or more during the past year. Of the 30 respondents who used these services and rated their helpfulness, 24 (80.0%) respondents indicated that the services were very helpful, 4 (13.3%) reported that the services were “somewhat” to “very helpful,” and 2 (6.7%) responded that the services were “somewhat helpful;” none of the respondents indicated that the services were “not helpful.” Thirty-three respondents indicated that they had used post-award grant services in the past year. Twenty-five (75.8%) of these individuals reported that the services were “very helpful,” 6 (18.2%) rated the services as “somewhat” to “very helpful,” and one person (3.0%) rated the post-award services as “somewhat helpful.” There was one respondent (3.0%) who rated the post-award services as “very helpful” except for assistance with effort reporting, which he/she indicated had “not helped in anyway.” The comments provided by respondents about pre- and post-award grant services were overwhelmingly positive, as exemplified by the following:

- “This service is invaluable to the work I do. In fact, without it, I could not do the work I do.”
- “The CHIP support staff is invaluable for processing all the necessary paper work.”
- “This service [assistance with budget projections] is more than very helpful. I feel very committed to the graduate students I bring to the University of Connecticut. Without Vasinee's [grants management] expertise in this regard, I could not keep track of things and the students would suffer.”
- “We work with Melissa Stone [assists Vasinee Long with grants management], who is an amazing help with all of our budgetary needs.”
• “The office assistants, Melissa Stone [assists with grants management] and Sarah Bothell [manages CHIP budget], were excellent at helping with budgeting issues.”

**Other CHIP Administrative Services**

Other administrative services include assistance with hiring staff, payroll, human resources/labor relations, purchasing, and travel. All of these services are critical to PIs being able to conduct their research projects as cost- and time-efficiently as possible. Twenty-four of the 100 respondents indicated that they had sought assistance from the CHIP administrative team one or more times in the past year for the hiring of students and/or research staff, processing of payroll, and/or human resources issues. Twenty-one (91.3%) of the 23 respondents who rated the services indicated the services were “very helpful,” and the other 2 respondents (8.7%) rated the services as “somewhat” to “very helpful.” Similarly, in terms of assistance with travel, 29 respondents reported utilizing these services one or more times in the past year, and 27 respondents (93.1%) rated these services as “very helpful” and 2 (6.9%) rated them as “somewhat helpful.” Of the 27 respondents who reported receiving assistance with purchasing on at least one occasion, 24 (88.9%) rated the assistance as “very helpful” and 3 (11.1%) as “somewhat helpful.” Some of the comments made on the survey about these services included the following:

- Assistance with processing payroll: “I am a graduate student and am always very grateful for the prompt processing of payroll issues by CHIP.”
- Assistance with purchasing: “Melissa [in charge of purchasing at CHIP] has been very helpful and is always on top of things.”
- Assistance with travel: “Excellent and thorough assistance with travel reimbursement.
- Assistance with travel: “The University red tape makes this very frustrating, but Sarah [in charge of travel at CHIP] considerably reduces the frustration.”

**CHIP IT Services**

Section T: “Ongoing Technology Initiatives” on pages 38 - 39 provides more information about IT services, which include assistance with IT purchases, project management, hardware and software issues, network issues, file server management, and data/file backup. As CHIP research and grants have become progressively more technologically sophisticated, the availability of quality IT support articulated to the health behavior change needs of CHIP PIs has become an absolute necessity. Of 100 survey respondents, 39 indicated they were assisted with IT issues one or more times in the past year, and all 39 of the respondents rated the services they received as “somewhat helpful” to “very helpful.” The comments provided by respondents were consistently positive and included comments such as “The IT guys are great” and “CHIP’s IT team is so helpful.”

*(For a complete list of CHIP services and who is eligible for them, see Appendix 17 on pages 108 - 110.)*

**Communication about CHIP Services**

This year, questions were added to the survey that assessed effective forms of disseminating information about CHIP’s services, resources, and research accomplishments to CHIP PIs, affiliates, staff, and students. Out of 95 respondents who answered the question about how they would prefer to receive CHIP news and announcements, 50 (52.6%) respondents reported that they wanted to get this information in the form of an electronic newsletter, 36 (37.9%) indicated that they wanted news alerts sent via email with summaries and links to full articles on CHIP’s homepage, and 9 (9.5%) indicated preferring an alternative form of communication (e.g., printed newsletter, articles and announcements posted on CHIP’s homepage). When respondents were asked which CHIP email communications sent via the listserv they found to be valuable, 78.3% responded that the lecture announcements were valuable, 75.0% indicated that the funding announcements were, and 75.0% said that the research news announcements were valuable. In terms of CHIP’s website, all but five (5.3%) of 95 respondents indicated visiting the website at least once since the start of the 2010-11 academic year. Fifty-four respondents (56.8%) reported visiting CHIP’s website 1 to 5 times in the past year, 23 respondents (24.2%) visited it once a month, and (13) 13.8% indicated going to the website once a week or more. Of those who visited the website on at least one occasion,
84.3% visited the Staff Directory, 59.6% went to the CHIP Lecture Series portion of the website, 48.3% visited the Research Resources section, 31.5% went to the CHIP Administrative Services webpage, and 32.6% went to the IT Support section of the website.

J. CHIP Research Investment Capital ("Seed Grant") Competitions

Annually, CHIP conducts five competitions for CHIP seed grant funds. The purpose of these competitions is to provide pilot and seed grant resources to investigators to stimulate new research in health behavior change at UConn of the type and quality that is likely to lead to external funding. Historically, some of CHIP's largest and most successful external grants were made possible because they were able to include critical pilot data that was paid for by one of the seed grant competitions described below:

1. **Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators (PIs)** - Provides funds to established CHIP investigators to support new research development initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications in the areas of health behavior change and health risk prevention.

2. **CHIP "Seed Grant" Opportunities for New Investigators** - Provides funds to investigators who are more junior and have not previously received significant external funding in health behavior change, to support new research development initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications in the area of health behavior change.

3. **Pilot Projects in Health Intervention and Prevention Research for Graduate Students** - Provides graduate students with the opportunity to prepare independent research proposals for original pilot work while in graduate school and to have their proposals reviewed by a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-style panel. Priority is given to promising research likely to develop into a larger study and garner external funding (e.g., a National Research Service Award through the National Institute of Mental Health).

4. **CHIP Grant Development Stipend Competition for Junior Faculty** - CHIP offers summer stipends to junior faculty who are CHIP affiliates to assist them with writing successful grant applications to obtain external funding for research in health behavior change. Specifically, CHIP provides $5,000 stipends to be paid during the summer months, to financially support junior faculty for the time they devote to writing a grant proposal for external submission before the end of the summer. Winners of the competition receive mentoring, statistical and methodological consultation (if needed), and help with the grant submission process from the CHIP business team. In the application for the stipend, prospective awardees are asked to describe the focus of the grant application to be written, how it contributes to the research literature, the type of grant (R21, R03) to be applied for, and to show evidence that the funding agency has interest in supporting this type of work. The proposals are reviewed by an internal NIH-style review panel within CHIP.

5. **CHIP Conference Development Grant** - CHIP provides funding on occasion to CHIP investigators for conferences that stimulate innovative, multidisciplinary, and/or multi-institutional collaboration in health behavior change research. Funds are provided to invite key national and international researchers to CHIP and UConn to share recent work in new, underexplored areas, or at the intersection of disciplines. Conference topics and/or themes should lead to new, multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional project development as well as to new scholarship in the area of health behavior change.

**Grant Review Process for CHIP Research Investment Capital Competitions**

Calls for proposals for these competitions are sent to all CHIP affiliates and prospective affiliates in early to mid-fall of each year. Reviews are performed in February of the following year, and funds are awarded before the end of each fiscal year. *(Please see App. 7 through 12 on pages 64 - 72 for this year's announcement for each of these competitions.)*

An important component of the CHIP internal research funding competitions is mentoring. All proposals submitted receive mentoring reviews from a rigorous NIH-style review panel that provides guidance on how to improve the proposal for subsequent external review, whether the project is ultimately funded by CHIP or not. The competition
process also includes a “reviewer mentoring” component that involves senior reviewers coaching selected junior reviewers on the review process.

The review meetings for all CHIP grant competitions are structured and conducted as typical NIH study section meetings at which primary and secondary reviewers give their initial scores, then their reviews, followed by discussion and final scoring. The review panels are charged with making funding recommendations, so reviews are scored by open polling, followed by the group deriving consensus scores. The panels also have the power to revise the budgets in the grants, in the way that NIH panels can make budget recommendations.

CHIP Administrative Specialist Stacey Leeds provides communication and logistical assistance for the faculty and graduate student review process. CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher reviews the recommendations of the committee and makes final funding decisions, consistent with CHIP’s budget.

Results of CHIP Research Investment (“Seed Grant”) Capital Competitions

The proposals which are submitted in response to the announcements in Appendices 7 through 12 on pages 64 - 72, constitute the “seed corn” from which future CHIP research grant proposals emerge. It is critical that CHIP has the funds to support these competitions each fiscal year, because availability of these funds can have impact on the success of future CHIP external grant submissions, the breadth of the scientific work emerging from CHIP research, as well as the indirect costs (IDCs) CHIP can return to the University. In the coming year, targeted outreach will again occur to generate an expanded breadth of submitted proposals for CHIP internal research funding.

This past year, the CHIP Review Committee was chaired by CHIP PIs Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences), and Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology). Committee members also included CHIP PI Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology), and CHIP Affiliate Matthew Kostek (Ph.D, Kinesiology). Doctoral student Laramie Smith (Psychology) also participated.

In March 2011, the CHIP Review Committee funded a $1,500 seed grant for each of the following CHIP graduate student affiliates:

- Marie Brault (Anthropology) for a proposal entitled, Antecedents and Outcomes of Sterilization for Low-Income Married Women in Mumbai, India
- TaShauna Goldsby (Public Health) for a proposal entitled, The Influence of Ethnicity on Post Exercise Hypotension: A Meta-Analysis of Acute Exercise Trials
- David Finitsis (Psychology) for a proposal entitled, Psychosocial Predictors of Medication Adherence in Organ Transplant Patients
- Anna Schierberl Scherr (Psychology) for a proposal entitled, Understanding for Whom and How Couples-Based Approaches to Weight Loss May Be Successful

The CHIP Review Committee also awarded $15,000 to a CHIP faculty member affiliate:

- CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) for a grant proposal entitled, Optimal Intervention Content to Prevent Sexual Transmission of HIV

Brief descriptions of each of these new seed grant projects are below:

Antecedents and Outcomes of Sterilization for Low-Income Married Women in Mumbai, India: Anthropology graduate student Marie Brault, working with CHIP Affiliate Stephen Schensul (Ph.D., Community Medicine and Health Care), and her advisor, CHIP Affiliate Pamela Erickson (Ph.D., Anthropology), will use her seed grant to examine the factors contributing to female surgical sterilization (tubal ligation). The results of her research may contribute to greater understanding of the meaning and impact of sterilization for low-income, married women in Mumbai, India. Her research also may help assess the needs of women for pre- and post-sterilization education and counseling. CHIP seed grant funding will allow Brault to conduct a portion of her research in low-income communities and sterilization camps in Mumbai during the summer of 2011.
Psychosocial Predictors of Medication Adherence in Organ Transplant Patients: Psychology graduate student David Finitsis, working with his advisor and CHIP PI Dean Cruess (Ph.D., Psychology), will assess measures of personality, psychopathology, social support, and quality of life in roughly 100 patients who are listed renal transplant candidates, to identify potential psychosocial predictors of medication adherence or non-adherence. Existing research suggests as many as 60 percent of failed kidney transplants are a result of medication adherence issues. Through his pilot research, Finitsis plans to lay the groundwork for the development of specific treatment interventions to help kidney transplant recipients experience optimal kidney function and quality of life.

The Influence of Ethnicity on Post-Exercise Hypotension: A Meta-Analysis of Acute Exercise Trials: Public Health doctoral student TaShauna Goldsby, working with her advisors and CHIP PIs Dr. Johnson and Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), will use her seed grant to meta-analyze the existing research literature to quantify the magnitude of blood pressure reductions that result from acute exercise and to meta-analyze the literature to determine the influence of ethnicity on post-exercise hypotension. Non-Hispanic blacks have the highest rate of hypertension and the greatest risk of death from hypertension of any ethnic group. Goldsby’s findings will advance scientific knowledge about the effectiveness of exercise as anti-hypertensive therapy and provide insight into the ethnic/racial disparities that exist for the prevention and control of hypertension.

Understanding for Whom and How Couples-Based Approaches to Weight Loss May Be Successful: Psychology doctoral student Anna Schierberl Scherr, working with her advisor and CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) will collect qualitative data in focus groups from couples in which one partner has successfully lost weight and reports that the other partner was supportive in the process. Schierberl Scherr’s research will reignite research on couples-based approaches to weight loss, largely unexplored since the 1980s, in light of increasing empirical support for the impact of social networks on weight. This study will serve as preliminary work for a couples-based behavioral weight loss intervention by identifying strategies and characteristics of couples who have successfully promoted weight loss.

Optimal Intervention Content to Prevent Sexual Transmission of HIV: This seed grant will provide additional support to Dr. Johnson’s successful Synthesis of HIV/AIDS Research Project (SHARP), which identifies factors that underlie the efficacy of HIV risk-reduction interventions through a series of meta-analyses. SHARP’s meta-analyses inform public health officials, community-based interventionists, and scientists about which interventions work best, which components of the interventions have the largest impact, how these components operate through different mechanisms, and the circumstances under which HIV risk-reduction interventions are most likely to produce lasting change.

Christine N. Witzel Award

The Christine N. Witzel Award is another research award offered through CHIP to support an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled full-time in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), who wishes to do research in women’s health. Eligibility is based on (1) academic promise, (2) a recommendation by a faculty member associated with CHIP, and (3) the submission of a three-to-five page proposal that includes a description of an innovative research project in women’s health issues and a corresponding budget. Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to, specific health issues for women and gender differences in the experience of health issues. Priority consideration is given to students whose proposals show particular promise for future funding from a federal agency or private foundation.

During FY11, CHIP gave two Witzel Awards of $1,500 each. The winners were Psychology graduate student Nicole Overstreet for her project entitled, Body Shame and Sexual Risk Taking in Virtual Environments, and Psychology doctoral student Anna Schierberl Scherr for her project entitled, Autonomous or Controlled Support? Understanding How Significant Others May Help or Hinder Women’s Weight Loss Attempts.

Eileen Pitpitan and Ann Cheney, both former winners of the award, reviewed all submissions.

K. New Externally-Funded Research Initiatives by CHIP Principal Investigators

In FY11, CHIP Principal Investigators (PIs) were awarded $7.7 million of new external funding to direct multidisciplinary research activities in the health domains of HIV/AIDS, sexual behavior, medication adherence,
exercise science, autism, cancer, diabetes, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, and health-related dissemination and implementation science.

(For the purpose of this report, grants are considered “new” in FY11 if award letters were received from funders between May 16, 2010 and May 15, 2011. This includes both new grants that already are active and those that will not be active until early in FY12, but it does not include grants for which only a “Just in Time” letter has been received.)

(A list of these grants, their funding agencies, and the total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs associated with each is contained in Appendix 2 on page 48. Brief summaries of new grant awards are contained in Appendix 3 on pages 49 - 50).

L. Active CHIP Research Grants

For actual research expenditures in FY11 alone, there was $8.83 million in total costs expended on external CHIP grants, $7.06 million in direct costs, and $1.77 million in recovered indirect costs. In the past 10 years, total costs have increased substantially from FY02 (from $1.3 million to $8.83 million).

(Total costs reported above are actual research expenditures for the period beginning July 1, 2010 and ending May 25, 2011 and projected research expenditures for the period beginning May 26, 2011 and ending June 30, 2011. By comparison, financial figures reported for CHIP newly awarded grants and submitted grant proposals are budget figures for the period beginning May 16, 2010 and ending May 15, 2011).

For financial summaries of CHIP grant total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs over the last several fiscal years, see the three figures immediately below.

(For a current list of CHIP Active and Awarded Grants, see Appendix 13 on pages 73 - 77).
Actual Total Costs Per Year Expended on External CHIP Grants

Actual Direct Costs Per Year Expended on External CHIP Grants

Actual Indirect Costs Per Year Recovered from External CHIP Grants*

*Lower IDCs in FY11 are due, in part, to an increased proportion of subcontract expenditures, which are subject to IDC on the first $25,000, and some new grants with mandated IDC rates of 0%, 8%, and 10%
Distribution of # of Current CHIP Grants by Department
(Out of 59 Total Grants as of May 15, 2011)

- Psychology: 40.68%
- Comm Sci: 5.08%
- Kinesiology: 28.81%
- CHIP: 15.25%
- Allied Health: 3.39%
- Sociology: 1.69%
- Statistics: 1.69%
- Anthropology: 3.39%

Distribution of Current CHIP Grant Dollars by Department
(Total Costs across All Years of Grants as of May 15, 2011)

- Psychology: 69.53%
- Comm Sci: 8.74%
- CHIP: 4.86%
- Kinesiology: 8.47%
- Allied Health: 5.01%
- Sociology: 1.28%
- Anthropology: 0.24%
- Statistics: 1.86%
M. Submitted CHIP Grant Applications

Through May 15, 2011 of FY11, CHIP Principal Investigators (PIs) had submitted 50 external grant applications comprising $45 million in total costs, $31.7 million in direct costs, and $13.3 million in indirect costs. (For details of these submitted grants, see Appendix 14 on pages 78 - 81). The total costs represented by new grant submissions during this reporting period (May 16, 2010 through May 15, 2011) is more than double the total costs represented by new grant submissions during the corresponding period of time last year.

(Those grants that were submitted in FY11 that have already been funded are listed both in Appendix 2 on page 48 and in Appendix 13 on pages 73 – 77 as well.)

N. Dissemination of CHIP Interventions

In the past year, CHIP continued to build on its history of research dissemination and implementation, making significant gains in achieving its goal of improving the translation and dissemination of health behavior change research into clinical and community practice in Connecticut, nationally, and internationally. A major effort in this regard involved the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core. For instance, UConn recently created a new research position at CHIP, called a “boundary spanner,” to facilitate the translation of UConn evidence-based health interventions into routine practice. The new CHIP-based boundary spanner is one of three boundary spanners throughout the entire CICATS system and the only boundary spanner on UConn’s Storrs campus. The boundary spanner joins a team of CHIP researchers who are working on dissemination and implementation projects. (CHIP’s involvement in CICATS and the new boundary spanner role are described fully in Section O on pages 32 -34.)

In addition, this year several CHIP principal investigators (PIs) have engaged in new dissemination activities and received new CHIP grants, or submitted new grant proposals through CHIP, for work with substantial dissemination and implementation components.

In FY11, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) published a case study on a CHIP evidence-based intervention to reduce alcohol-related HIV risk behaviors in sub-Saharan South Africa and encouraged healthcare providers in developing countries to use it. A randomized controlled trial showed that the Phaphama (Zulu for “Wise Up”) intervention, developed and tested by CHIP Principal Investigators (PIs) Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) and Leickness Simbayi (Ph.D., Psychology) of the South Africa Human Sciences Research Council, reduced unprotected sexual acts by 65 percent and that the behavior change was sustained over a six-month period. Dr. Kalichman’s Southeastern HIV/AIDS Research and Evaluation (SHARE) project also disseminated a telephone-based pill count protocol to researchers nationwide, which SHARE developed for objectively measuring medication adherence. This protocol was designed by SHARE as part of its “HIV Treatment Adherence-Risk Reduction Integrated Intervention Project (In the Mix),” the results of which were published in the American Journal of Public Health during the spring semester.

During FY11, new externally-funded work by CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) and his team (described in Section E on pages 5 - 17) sought to understand the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the successful implementation of the team’s South Africa Options intervention project. The findings from this newly funded work will make a contribution to the overall literature on dissemination and implementation research, and will be used to optimize the implementation of the team’s new, next generation, bio-behavioral prevention-with-positives pilot intervention study.

This year as well, CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) received a subcontract (also described in Section E on pages 5 - 17) to widely disseminate an effective weight loss and exercise behavior change intervention, entitled Look AHEAD, to diabetics. Because implementation of this intervention in the clinical care setting has been challenging, due to the extended and expensive clinical contacts required for intervention efficacy, Dr. Gorin is working to translate Look AHEAD into a virtual intervention program, which will provide ongoing nutrition and physical activity counseling 24/7 from any Internet-connected computer or mobile device. Additionally, Dr. Gorin and her collaborator CHIP Affiliate Michelle Cloutier (M.D., Pediatrics), a UCHC faculty member and a pediatric pulmonologist at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, have submitted a grant to continue their work.
disseminating known behavioral strategies for weight control into a high risk population of urban, low-income African American and Latino mothers of 2- to 4-year-old children in Connecticut. The submitted grant would extend their work to families with grade school-aged children and teenagers as well.

In addition to the new CHIP D&I activities detailed above, the Center has a well-established track record in dissemination and implementation of health-related interventions, which has included the addition of three CHIP interventions to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Intervention.

Dr. Kalichman previously developed two HIV prevention interventions that are listed in the CDC’s Compendium: Healthy Relationships, a multi-session, group-level HIV risk reduction intervention for people living with HIV (PLWH), and NIA: A Program of Purpose, a video-based, motivational skills-building, small group, HIV prevention intervention for heterosexual African American men living in urban areas. Healthy Relationships is one of the most widely disseminated HIV prevention interventions in the world.

The Options/Opciones Project (PI: Dr. Fisher), which is a healthcare provider-delivered HIV prevention intervention for PLWH who are in clinical care, has been disseminated broadly throughout the U.S. and Africa since it was first developed in 2000. Options is listed in the CDC’s Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions as a promising intervention. In FY11, Options was funded by PEPFAR (U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) to be adapted, implemented, and evaluated in 5 military hospitals in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Uganda (PI: CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cormann (Ph.D., CHIP)), and it was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to be implemented and evaluated in 16 public healthcare clinics in South Africa (PI: Dr. Fisher). In FY11, as mentioned above, Dr. Fisher received new NIH/NIMH funding to study the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the most successful dissemination of the intervention.

In addition to the three interventions listed in CDC’s Compendium, CHIP PI Robert Broadhead (Ph.D., Sociology) developed and evaluated an HIV prevention intervention for intravenous drug users over several years. Entitled the Peer-Driven Intervention (PDI), it seeks to reduce HIV transmission among injection drug users (IDUs) by using active IDUs to educate their IDU-peers in HIV prevention and to recruit their peers to attend enhanced HIV prevention services, for which they earn nominal rewards. The model was demonstrated to be effective, and Dr. Broadhead received extensive funding to disseminate the model globally, including in China, Ukraine, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, and U.S.

Additionally, in FY11, the CHIP Lecture Series continued to bring to campus well-known speakers who do cutting-edge research on dissemination and implementation (including the UConn Health Center’s Dr. Judith Fifield) and to make these presentations available in archived form through the CHIP website as well as through live webcasts and broadcasts. CHIP also co-hosted several CICATS PORT Core lectures focused on dissemination and implementation during FY11 (see Section O below for more details). And the CHIP website includes a section on Dissemination and Implementation as a resource for researchers and public health organizations wishing to adopt health behavior change interventions developed at CHIP.

O. CICATS PORT CORE Update

This year, CHIP contributed extensively to the Practice-Oriented Research Translation (PORT) Core of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) and its mission of accelerating the translation of health-related discoveries into clinical and community practice.

Consistent with the PORT Core mission, the CHIP-based Boundary Spanner has collaborated with other PORT boundary spanners to launch the Boundary Spanner Work Group, which meets monthly to develop and execute strategies for creating partnerships among previously disconnected University researchers and community-based organizations (CBOs). (CHIP Boundary Spanner Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/CHIP) is one of three UConn boundary spanners and the only boundary spanner on the Storrs campus. The other two UConn boundary spanners are based at the UConn Health Center and at the Institute for Community Research in Hartford). In an effort to promote CICATS/PORT Core, the CHIP boundary spanner, in collaboration with the other PORT boundary spanners, is currently developing a brochure that concisely provides information about CICATS/PORT Core (i.e., mission, benefits

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of membership, services available, and opportunities for research partnerships) and the boundary spanner role in facilitating collaboration among academics, CBOs, and funders. The brochure will be available in Summer 2011. The CHIP-based Boundary Spanner has also initiated contact with two of the PORT Core Interest Groups (CIGs), the Occupational Health Research Group and the Multidisciplinary Obesity Research Group (under the direction of CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology)), to discuss strategies for promoting multidisciplinary collaboration among UConn faculty with similar topical research interests and to assist with the dissemination of their health innovations. In March 2011, the CHIP-based Boundary Spanner joined the University’s Public Engagement Forum as a representative of CICATS/PORT Core. The Forum is an integral component of the Provost’s Commission on Public Engagement, which seeks to expand the transformational impact of the University throughout the region, a mission that parallels that of CICATS/PORT Core.

In FY11, CHIP was closely involved in the planning and promotion of the PORT Core Community Engagement Seminar Series, which featured a variety of well-known speakers on the topics of community engagement and dissemination and implementation. For each seminar (most of which took place at the UConn Health Center), CHIP distributed seminar information to a contact list it developed of Listserv administrators from all relevant academic departments/programs on the Storrs campus (e.g., Allied Health Sciences, School of Nursing, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Nutritional Sciences, Psychology). CHIP also made each seminar available for viewing through live webcasts at the Storrs campus. Another major contribution CHIP made to the PORT Core seminar series was organizing a four-hour Getting to Outcomes workshop in March 2011, which was facilitated by nationally-known speaker Dr. Abe Wandersman. The workshop, attended by 35 participants from community-based organizations and academia (both researchers and practitioners), was full to capacity and evaluated very favorably.

(For a complete list of PORT Core Community Engagement Seminar Series speakers, please see Appendix 4 on pages 51 - 52.)

In FY11, CHIP contributed to the further development of the Federated Dissemination and Implementation Innovation Laboratory, an essential component of the PORT Core, by creating infrastructure needed to support D&I initiatives across the University system. One of CHIP’s contributions this year built upon D&I Laboratory work carried out in FY10 where CHIP created a database of potentially dissemination-ready health innovations developed by UConn researchers (with information provided by the Office for Sponsored Programs and the UConn-Storrs Institutional Review Board). Drawing from this database, CHIP reached out to twenty percent of the 50 PIs identified as having promising interventions to discuss and plan specific strategies for the effective and widespread dissemination of their work (e.g., establishing relationships with community partners, packaging innovations in user-friendly formats). To further expand its inventory of UConn-developed health innovations and identify those that would most readily benefit from targeted dissemination efforts, CHIP conducted an online survey of health researchers from across the University system (e.g., the Health Center, Storrs campus). The survey gathered detailed information about researchers’ psychosocial and biomedical health innovation research, as well as their interest in utilizing CICATS/PORT Core resources to facilitate the dissemination and implementation of their innovations. In collaboration with the Community-based Boundary Spanner, CHIP may also help to develop a parallel version of this survey for distribution to community-based organizations in the State of Connecticut to assess their organizational needs and interest in developing research partnerships with UConn investigators.

Also in support of the D&I Laboratory, CHIP has significantly expanded dissemination and implementation-related resources on its website. The Intervention Resources webpage provides fact sheets and ancillary materials to support the widespread dissemination of 13 evidence-based health innovations created by CHIP researchers. Similarly, the Measurement Instruments webpage provides access to measurement instruments created by CHIP researchers. The Dissemination & Implementation Resources webpage provides access to relevant websites, literature, webinars, and listservs to help researchers and community stakeholders increase their capacity for dissemination and implementation. These three webpages are among the most popular subpages on the CHIP website, with Intervention Resources receiving 5 to 10 hits per day, Measurement Instruments receiving 10 to 20 hits, and D&I Resources 8 to 15 hits per day. Finally, the new Ongoing Research Resources webpage facilitates collaboration between researchers and community stakeholders (e.g., Hartford Childhood Wellness Alliance) by providing web space for project information and password-protected file sharing.
In addition to these web resources, CHIP is working on developing new resources designed to foster dissemination and implementation (D&I) activities across the University. The D&I Grants Database identifies over a dozen funding mechanisms designed to support dissemination and implementation activities. The CHIP-based team is currently working on creating a D&I Measures Compendium, which will provide researchers with a synthesis and searchable database of validated measurement tools designed to assess D&I-related constructs. Additionally, the team is working on creating a D&I Research Design web resource that will provide links to articles and webinars regarding D&I-friendly research designs that provide alternatives to randomized controlled trials. These resources will be added to the CHIP website in Summer 2011.

P. Selected Current CHIP PI Publications and Presentations

Many highly prestigious scholarly books, book chapters, and journal articles were published and numerous important presentations were delivered by CHIP Principal Investigators (PIs) and their research associates during the fiscal year from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. These PIs include: Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP), Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Robert Broadhead (Ph.D., Sociology), Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences), Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP), Dean Cruess (Ph.D., Psychology), Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology), Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology), Ofer Harel (Ph.D., Statistics), Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology), Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology), William Kraemer (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Carl Maresh (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology), Stephanie Milan (Ph.D., Psychology), Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology), Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Leickness Simbayi (Ph.D., Psychology), Merrill Singer (Ph.D., Anthropology), Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences), and Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology). The list of publications and presentations in the Appendix does not include publications and presentations by our Ph.D. affiliates who did not have active CHIP grants during the fiscal year; that list would be much longer. The list also does not include publications and presentations some of our PIs have made in areas unrelated to health behavior change.

(See Appendix 15 on pages 82 – 99 for selected CHIP PI publications and presentations during the last fiscal year.)

Q. CHIP Graduate Student Highlights, Research Achievements, Publications, Presentations, and Grant Awards

Graduate students working with CHIP principal investigators (PIs) benefit tremendously from the unique research, collaborative, professional, and mentorship opportunities available through the Center. CHIP graduate students consistently publish in many of the most prestigious peer-reviewed journals in their field, present at professional conferences around the world, and secure internal and external funding for research projects. Moreover, they provide an invaluable asset to CHIP PIs as substantial contributors to collaborative research projects and grants.

This year, CHIP external grants funded 54 graduate students (most full-time) across multiple departments, while internal University awards funded 8 graduate students. (CHIP funded a total of 57 graduate students this year, as five graduate students had funding through both CHIP external grants and internal University awards).

Total yearlong CHIP funding for graduate students was more than $600,000, a marked increase over last year’s nearly $485,000 for 53 graduate students. One reason for the increase is that CHIP’s FY10 Annual Report did not capture one pay period, whereas this year’s report is comprehensive, covering the period from May 23, 2010 through May 22, 2011. Two additional reasons are that CHIP had more full-time graduate student funding rather than part-time funding, and the Center also had more returning graduate students moving from one pay level to the next, which resulted in pay increases.

The pie chart below shows the number of graduate students in each department that were funded by CHIP grants. And the graph that follows demonstrates the increasing amount of CHIP grant funds spent on graduate students over time.
A full list of CHIP graduate student publications, presentations, awards and honors can be found in Appendix 16 on pages 100–107. Below are just a few highlights of notable CHIP graduate student achievements during FY11.

In the fall of 2010, CHIP-affiliated Psychology doctoral student Laramie Smith (Psychology) won a prestigious National Research Service Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award (NRSA) from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for her project entitled, HIV Care Utilization: A Theory-based Approach to Retention in Care. Laramie Smith is the tenth psychology graduate student working with a CHIP mentor to receive an NRSA in as many years. (The 10 NRSA combined represent nearly $800,000 in total costs awarded). Her award is the latest example of the exceptional track record CHIP graduate students have at winning outside funding from national funding agencies, such as NIMH and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NRSA is very competitive and one of the most sought-after awards for doctoral support in the social sciences. Moreover, it provides an exceptional opportunity for CHIP graduate students to work collaboratively with their CHIP faculty mentor(s) on their own research project, providing
them with the necessary skills to successfully pursue additional grant funding after completing their graduate studies.

Smith will use her NRSA to develop and test a theory-based intervention to support retention in HIV medical care for people living with HIV (PLWH) who are tenuously engaged in care. Very few researchers currently are working in the field of engagement in HIV medical care. CHIP PI Rivet Amico (Ph.D., Psychology) is one of Smith’s co-sponsors for the NRSA and one of a few experts in the field nationally. CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) is Smith’s other co-sponsor for the NRSA, and is the University’s PI on the grant. Smith credits CHIP’s supportive atmosphere and researcher services, including the annual internal research grant competitions (see Section J on pages 25 - 27 for more details), with helping her to win her NRSA.

Another FY11 graduate student accomplishment of particular note is CHIP-affiliated Public Health doctoral student TaShauna Goldsby’s selection for inclusion in the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)’s 2011-2012 Leadership and Diversity Training Program. Goldsby was selected from what the ACSM described as “a record number of highly qualified applicants.” Goldsby’s participation in the program helps to ensure diversity in ACSM’s membership and the future leadership of the organization as well as future leadership in the field of public health research. Goldsby also won an internal CHIP grant for graduate students during FY11. For a brief summary of her internal CHIP grant project, see Section J on pages 25 -27.

Each year, CHIP holds annual internal “seed grant” competitions for its graduate students (see Section J on pages 25 – 27 for more details). The pilot data graduate students collect from these seed grants often leads to the successful pursuit of external awards, like the NRSA, and other significant external funding. This year, one of the four CHIP graduate students who won a $1,500 CHIP internal seed grant is using the funding to conduct a portion of her research in Mumbai, India (Anthropology graduate student Marie Brault: Antecedents and Outcomes of Sterilization for Low-Income Married Women in Mumbai, India). This is the first time a CHIP graduate student is using a seed grant award to conduct international research. Past CHIP graduate student NRSA winners and a winner of the Christine N. Witzel Award for an undergraduate have used their awards to conduct international research, reflecting the influence of CHIP’s growing international research portfolio. (See Appendix 16 on pages 100 – 107 for a list of other selected graduate student awards, honors, and grants as well as select graduate student publications and presentations.)

R. CHIP Post-Doctoral Investigators

During FY11, Drs. Tania B. Huedo-Medina, Brian R. Kupchak, Nnenna Ohalete, Joanne Cunningham, and Frances Fleming Milici served as postdoctoral researchers/investigators at CHIP. CHIP post-docs collaborate with CHIP principal investigators (PIs) on funded research while typically pursuing their own independent research. Many former CHIP post-doctorates have gone on to have their own significant, independently-funded research portfolios. Furthermore, CHIP post-docs also have gone on to procure tenure track positions at major research institutions.

- Tania B. Huedo-Medina, Ph.D., joined the research team of CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D, Psychology) in 2006, and continues to contribute work on the grant Syntheses of HIV/AIDS Research Project II. Dr. Huedo-Medina was a post-doctoral Associate Research Scientist at CHIP from 2006 until February 2011 when she became an Assistant Research Professor in the Psychology Department. She holds a Ph.D. in Quantitative Methods from the University of National Long Distance Education (UNED) in Madrid, Spain, specializing in practical and theoretical methodological issues for meta-analysis in Social and Clinical Psychology. Dr. Huedo-Medina has expertise in developing mathematical assumptions for methods in multilevel analysis, including meta-analysis and studying their performances using simulated Monte Carlo data. She has also developed expertise in applying those complex statistical methods to different topics in health promotion. She is currently working on meta-analyses for HIV prevention, developing complex coding schemes to more accurately understand the relationship between intervention content delivered and health outcomes. She is also developing statistical assumptions for research synthesis to be able to apply that methodology in a wider number of conditions and with more precise estimates. Dr. Huedo-Medina also collaborates with CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) on the efficacy of exercise interventions for cancer patients and survivors and to reduce blood pressure.
• Brian R. Kupchak, Ph.D., Medical Technologist (American Society of Clinical Pathologists), joined the research team of CHIP PI Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology) to contribute work on the grant, *Investigation of Whey Protein Supplementation for Physiologic Enhancement to Resistance Training and Dietary Regimes in Young Adults*. Dr. Kupchak was a post-doctoral fellow in the Kinesiology Department at UConn from 2008 to 2010. In 2011, Dr. Kupchak became a faculty member in the Kinesiology Department. He holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, focusing on Adiponectin and Progesterone receptors and their effects on zinc and iron transport in yeast. Dr. Kupchak’s primary research interests include examining the physiological and molecular effect of nutrition and exercise on the coagulation and fibrinolytic systems as well as understanding the mechanisms underlying stress-induced stroke, Myocardial Infarctions, and Deep Vein Thrombosis. He is also interested in investigating the health benefits of whey protein on antioxidant, inflammatory, vascular, and endocrine markers.

• Nnenna Ohalete, Ph.D., joined the research team of CHIP Affiliate Pamela Erickson (Ph.D., Anthropology) in the spring of 2009 and continues to contribute work on her PHRESH grant. Dr. Ohalete was a post-doctoral fellow from the School of Nursing. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of San Diego. She is currently working on a research project entitled, *Inter-Personal Factors in Condom Use and Non-Use Amongst Emerging African American Adults*. Dr. Ohalete’s research interest areas are in HIV/STDs and fathering.

• Joanne Cunningham, Ph.D., joined the research team of CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) in 2009 and continued in the role of project manager for the W. Montague Cobb Institute/National Medical Association (NMA) Options Project until December 2010. Prior to joining CHIP, Dr. Cunningham was the project coordinator for a National Institute of Health (NIH)-funded study of premenstrual dysphoric disorder at the PMS and Perinatal Research Program at Yale University. Dr. Cunningham completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Geriatric Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University. She received her doctorate in Anthropology and Psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her prior research includes looking at the aging beliefs and self-rated health expectations of older community-dwelling adults living in New York State, and issues of self and cultural models of emotion in Dublin, Ireland. In addition to her work and interest in HIV secondary prevention, Dr. Cunningham’s research interests include emotions, aging, and mental health issues across the lifespan. She is particularly interested in how patients’ illness beliefs function as barriers to care.

• Frances Fleming Milici, Ph.D., joined CHIP’s Center for Health Communication and Marketing in January 2010 as a Research Specialist for CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication Sciences) on her NIH/National Cancer Institute-funded research project, “Impact of Food Ads and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on Child and Teen Eating and Adiposity across Media Markets.” While in this position, she designed content analyses of TV fast food advertising and PSAs about health. She also examined the changes over time (2004-2010) in the amount of advertising for both healthy and unhealthy foods across various types of TV programming (Child, Prime Time, Sports) as well as on the Internet. Dr. Fleming Milici finished working on this project in February 2011. She completed her Ph.D. in Communication Sciences at UConn in 2006.

S. CHIP Administration

During FY11, the CHIP Administrative Team consisted of CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology); CHIP Associate Director Deborah Corman (Ph.D., CHIP); Susan Hoge, Administrative Manager I; Vasinee Long, Grants and Contracts Specialist; Melissa Stone, Administrative Services Specialist II; Sarah Bothell, Administrative Services Specialist II; Diane Willcutts, Program Assistant I (ended employment March 1, 2011); Jonathan Gill, Computer Technical Support Consultant III; Brian Marofsky, Computer Technical Support Consultant II (ended employment February 18, 2011); Mark Juliano, Computer Technical Support Consultant (began employment April 25, 2011); Stacey Leeds, part-time Administrative Specialist; Beth Krane, part-time University Specialist; and Donna Hawkins, Temporary University Specialist (began employment April 14, 2011). In addition, CHIP continued to have the support of two part-time IT undergraduate students as well as one part-time administrative student.

The staffing changes included Brian Marofsky resigning from his position, effective February 18, 2011. A recruitment search was initiated for a full-time Computer Technical Support Consultant I, and Mark Juliano was hired as a result.
Diane Willcutts resigned from her position, effective March 1, 2011, and Donna Hawkins was hired on April 14, 2011 as a temporary replacement.

The CHIP administrative staff continues to operate as a highly competent administrative team that has vast experience with and expertise in organizational, operational, and grants management.

(A list of current CHIP administrative tasks and the people responsible for each of them is included in Appendix 6 on page 62 - 63, and the CHIP Organizational Chart is shown in Appendix 18 on page 111).

T. Ongoing Technology Initiatives

Advanced technology for health behavior research at CHIP is being pursued in seven interrelated IT initiatives. Progress in many of these domains has been significant. Each of these initiatives has great potential to enhance multidisciplinary research development among CHIP investigators and to attract substantial external research funds. The seven initiatives comprise the following:

1. **Continuous improvement of the CHIP website** to feature health behavior change research, news stories, and announcements with an appealing, media-centric presentation.

2. Creation of **multimedia production capability at CHIP** to advance sophisticated use of visual media and information technology in health behavior change intervention and prevention research.

3. Development of **webcasting and videoconferencing capability at CHIP** to enhance health behavior change research development and the dissemination of the lectures from the CHIP Lecture Series.

4. Development and maintenance of **electronic questionnaires, web-based survey capabilities, and interactive voice response (IVR) data collection capabilities**.

5. Creation of a **CHIP electronic archive** to make the CHIP Lecture Series and scholarship tools developed at the Center available to CHIP investigators and others, nationally and internationally.

6. Development of **innovative information technology systems** to support CHIP’s mission, specifically the dissemination of theory-based knowledge and development of cutting-edge, technology-driven, health behavior change interventions.

7. Development of **immersive virtual technology expertise** for the advancement of health behavior change research. *(For a full description of CHIP’s Advanced Interactive Technologies Center (AITC), which includes Virtual Reality (VR) capabilities, see Section V on page 40 and Appendix 19 on pages 112 – 114).*

**Continuous Development of the CHIP Website**

CHIP has continued to enhance its web presence through new media submissions, multimedia broadcasting, and new presentation selections. Over the course of the past year, Webmaster Keith Woodward worked to increase search engine presence and organize information into identified health domains (Keith Woodward worked as CHIP’s webmaster until his graduation from UConn on May 8, 2011. CHIP IT student worker Sam Salorio has since assumed his webmaster responsibilities). These optimizations have helped to enhanced CHIP’s online presence and the wealth of information available to the public audience. Users have immediate access to hundreds of archived CHIP Lecture Series broadcasts, intervention resources, dissemination and implementation resources, and archived presentations given by CHIP researchers.

**Use of Multimedia for Intervention Development**

In FY11, CHIP IT purchased three high-resolution digital camcorders to enhance and offer new multimedia capabilities. CHIP has a history of using cutting-edge media in research to deliver health behavior change interventions to targeted populations. Use of high-quality multimedia in empirically-validated, theory-based health behavior change interventions has been shown both to increase the effectiveness of intervention delivery and reduce the cost of disseminating interventions in community settings. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and
other funders have a strong interest in funding projects that employ such media to enhance the reach, impact, and cost-effectiveness of health behavior change interventions among at-risk populations.

**Webcasting and Videoconferencing**

In the past few years, CHIP has made a substantial investment in developing the capacity for webcasting and videoconferencing at the Center, which was further enhanced with the acquisition of live media streaming technology in a joint venture with the Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL). CHIP leverages webcasting (the delivery of live video-based content via the Internet) to broadcast its Lecture Series events in real time, in addition to providing content on demand via the CHIP website. During FY11, CHIP’s IT team webcast 15 Lecture Series events. Meetings at CHIP can harness videoconferencing technology to engage colleagues at remote locations. We expect this technology to allow us to reduce travel and permit rapid and effective communication and decision-making among individuals at three or more sites simultaneously without the need for specialized videoconferencing hardware.

**Electronic Questionnaires, Web-Based Survey Capability, and Interactive Voice Response**

A number of CHIP investigators conduct survey research on health behavior change. One element of this CHIP technology initiative is to support CHIP investigators in the use of electronic, web-based, and interactive voice response (IVR) survey capabilities. This approach allows automation of a number of survey functions including the streamlining of data collection and data entry. LimeSurvey, an open-source software package, is being considered as a new service to deliver web-based surveys. Continuous development in this area will ensure that CHIP investigators, affiliates, and graduate students have access to cutting-edge web-based survey and data collection software.

**CHIP Electronic Archive**

Over the years, CHIP researchers have published many articles, made numerous presentations, and developed many interventions, manuals, and measures related to health behavior and health behavior change. In addition, each year, CHIP has sponsored bi-weekly talks during the Fall and Spring semesters by health behavior researchers from around the world. One of CHIP’s goals has been to provide easy and ongoing access to this wealth of information and resources. This is being accomplished by creating the equivalent of an "Electronic Archive" in which all of this information is moved onto an electronically-searchable medium that can be accessed by students, researchers, and collaborators. To that end, CHIP has harnessed multiple mediums to disseminate different elements of this information: (1) UConn Library Digital Commons, (2) NIH’s PubMed Central, (3) the CHIP website with sections dedicated to dissemination and implementation of CHIP interventions and research areas that organize research projects, lectures, measurement and intervention resources, presentations, and research personnel by health domain, (4) CHIP Lecture Series podcasts, available within the Apple iTunes Library, and (5) archives available on the CHIP website of the CHIP Lecture Series and more recent Lecture Series webcasts.

**Innovations in Information Technology (IT) Systems**

In the past few years, CHIP has made considerable investments in its information technology infrastructure to support CHIP and its technology-driven health behavior and health behavior change interventions. Through cutting-edge advancements in technology, we have bridged the gap between geographically-dispersed investigators, cohorts, and affiliates with innovations in video conferencing and collaborative tools. With server virtualization technology, we have the capability to host project-specific virtual servers, encouraging new and highly innovative online interventions with central data collection capabilities. Recent security enhancements protect our valuable research data, increase reliability for client/server-based interventions and data collection, and open the door to new interventions that may involve personal health information. CHIP strives to be a leader in information technology as it applies to the advancement of health behavior and health behavior change research.

**U. CHIP Physical Facility Update**

Central to CHIP’s impressive growth is the CHIP research facility at 2006 Hillside Road on the Storrs campus. Since taking occupancy of the facility in March 2003 and its renovated second floor in July 2007, CHIP investigators and administrative staff have worked to establish it as a highly productive site for collaborative, multidisciplinary
research in health behavior change. The resulting dramatic growth over the past years has shown convincingly that
having the ability to house investigators from multiple disciplines and their research teams in a single site greatly
facilitates the evolution and the conduct of collaborative, multidisciplinary research. Since moving into the facility
eight years ago, CHIP investigators have competed successfully for $74.4 million in total costs in new grants.

The current CHIP research facility provides office space for 18 faculty members, Ph.D.s, and post-docs; 15 research
associates; up to 10 Center staff members; 19 graduate student researchers; and 5 student workers who represent a
variety of key disciplines, the vast majority of whom are funded by external grants. At CHIP, affiliated faculty
members, post-docs, graduate students, undergraduate students, CHIP staff members, and project-related support
staff are accommodated and have access to critical research space. Often, CHIP-affiliated faculty members are
housed with their graduate students and grant-funded staff to conduct their research as a unit. In the CHIP research
facility, faculty members, post-docs, and students from Allied Health, Anthropology, Communication Sciences,
Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutritional Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, and related fields work together on research
projects, and apply for additional funding together. This includes many of the most productive researchers at the
University, several of whom have consistently had external funding in excess of one million dollars per year. This
enhanced multidisciplinary environment has vast benefits for UConn, resulting in improved research and additional
funding opportunities, as well as unique opportunities for mentoring students and junior faculty.

A very substantial amount of funded research is conducted in the CHIP research facility, which has ten small
interview cubicles for conducting research, a focus group room with 10 large overstuffed chairs to create a relaxing
environment for participants, four meeting and presentation rooms that can also be used for research, and a small
library for CHIP’s health behavior change resources. The main first floor conference room where meetings and
presentations are held is outfitted with multimedia presentation capability. On the second floor, there is a large
University-operated, long-distance learning media classroom that can house about 60 people for the CHIP Lecture
Series, and which can also be reserved for large research projects. The CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center
(AITC), which includes a Virtual Reality (VR) Laboratory, is also housed on the second floor.

V. CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC)

The CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC) provides researchers in the University community with
access to high-end interactive technology. The CHIP AITC’s software, equipment, and personnel expertise can be
utilized on a time-and-material cost basis to provide researchers with all of these capabilities without having to incur
the entire costs of acquiring the equipment and expertise to effectively utilize it. The CHIP AITC offers services in
animation, motion capture, interactive simulations, web-based interactives, virtual reality (VR), and other types of
advanced interactive technology. CHIP AITC staff can create complete applications to serve researchers’ specific
needs. The CHIP AITC also has a full line of interactive equipment that researchers can use to run experiments
utilizing the interactive content.

Interactive technology, including VR, has been demonstrated to be an effective tool for research. For instance,
researchers can utilize VR to provide a rich medium for immersing participants into complex environments for the
purposes of testing their responses. This capability enables researchers to place participants in situations that would
be cost-prohibitive, socially unacceptable, dangerous, or even impossible in the real world. In summary, VR and
other interactive applications, which the CHIP AITC now make available to the entire University, extend the reach of
researchers in a cost-effective and repeatable way.

(To read the CHIP AITC’s detailed FY11 Annual Report, please see Appendix 19 on pages 112 – 114).

W. CHIP Public Engagement Committee

Through its health promotion intervention research trials and the dissemination of its work in Connecticut, the
United States, and places worldwide, CHIP research has helped to improve public health in communities near and
far. In addition to promoting multidisciplinary scholarly research and its dissemination that affects critical health
outcomes for individuals and community-level health, CHIP also is committed to being an active and involved
member of the community in areas relevant to its mission. In the past year, CHIP contributed to a number of
community activities in the areas of HIV/AIDS and the promotion of public health:
In FY10, CHIP formed a new committee tasked with expanding the Center’s public engagement activities. Over the past year, the committee met to discuss how to leverage CHIP researchers’ unique expertise to benefit the university, local, state and northeastern U.S. communities as well as to build on existing CHIP public engagement activities through established research projects nationwide and overseas.

CHIP Associate Director and Principal Investigator (PI) Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) has been serving as the CHIP representative and member of the UConn Public Engagement Forum (CHIP Administrative Manager Susan Hoge serves as back-up representative). The Forum meets monthly to determine how to foster engagement in a variety of forms across the University community and thereby extend the impact the University has throughout the state and beyond. Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CICATS/ CHIP), a CHIP Research Scientist and Boundary Spanner for the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, also is now a member of the Forum and attends the monthly meetings.

In October of 2010, CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and Tim Gifford (CHIP AITC Director) presented their robotics research to students and families participating in UConn Family Weekend.

In February of 2011, Dr. Cornman and Susan Hoge met with Gina DeVivo Brassaw (Program Specialist, Office of Community Outreach) and Jen Heller (Student Leader for 2011 Spring HIV/AIDS Immersion Program Collaboration-NY Trip) to discuss how CHIP researchers could assist with community outreach and education of students involved in the HIV/AIDS Immersion Program. Community contacts in Atlanta and Philadelphia were provided to Gina and Jen. And then in April of 2011, Dr. Cornman provided a training workshop on HIV/AIDS to a dozen students who were going to participate in the Spring HIV/AIDS Immersion Program in New York City.

Individual CHIP PIs also regularly make significant contributions to the community in ways that draw on their unique expertise. CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) and his Southeastern HIV/AIDS Research and Evaluation (SHARE) Project again this year conducted public engagement activities benefitting its research participants in Atlanta, where Dr. Kalichman has had federal grants for 15 years. Those activities included:

- Starting a lending library of paperback books for their research participants in Atlanta.
- Hosting a luncheon in Atlanta to share the results from an important HIV/AIDS intervention study with hundreds of HIV-positive community members who participated in the study.
- Conducting a community needs assessment, in which more than 700 HIV-positive individuals living in Atlanta were interviewed to determine what services they most needed. SHARE published the findings from the needs assessment in a report entitled, “Falling through the Cracks: Unmet Health Service Needs among People Living with HIV/AIDS, Atlanta, Georgia,” printed 100 copies of the report to date, and has been distributing them to community-based organizations and public health officials.

In addition, Dr. Kalichman continues to donate the royalties from his book entitled, Denying AIDS: Conspiracy Theories, Pseudoscience, and Human Tragedy, for the purchase of antiretroviral medications for individuals with HIV who cannot access them. Dr. Kalichman also asks the six UConn doctoral students he currently is mentoring through his National Institutes of Health (NIH)/ National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Social Processes of AIDS Training Grant to use their skills to conduct service projects for local community-based organizations serving people living with HIV. During FY11, under his direction, his students conducted projects for Willimantic’s Perception Programs, which provides substance abuse treatment services and AIDS prevention services, and Hartford’s Tabor House, which provides a home for homeless people living with HIV.

CHIP PI Stephanie Milan (Ph.D., Psychology) serves as a member of the Connecticut Medicaid Managed Care Women’s Health Subcommittee, providing recommendations to the Medicaid council about evidence-based interventions to promote the health of low-income women and children. Dr. Milan also serves as a consultant for Community Health Center, Inc., helping to build research infrastructure to enhance evidence-based clinical care for low-income patient populations in Connecticut, and she serves as a member of the organization’s community advisory board for adolescent health services. Lastly, she is a member of the New Britain YWCA Board of Directors.
CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) is an active member of the Hartford Childhood Wellness Alliance, a working collaboration among community organizations, schools, local and regional government, advocacy groups, healthcare centers and practitioners, and researchers aimed at preventing and decreasing childhood obesity in Hartford. She also serves on the Mansfield Public School's Wellness Policy Advisory Council, a board of parents, educators, and health experts that meets regularly to guide school policies related to nutrition, physical activity, and general health issues in the Mansfield elementary and middle schools.

CHIP PI Deborah McDonald (Ph.D., Nursing) is serving as co-investigator on an unfunded study at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center addressing ways to improve pain outcomes for surgical patients who take opioids for their chronic pain.

Many other CHIP faculty and graduate students have performed similar work to help their communities.
Appendices
CHIP principal investigators (PIs) conduct research related to health behavior, health risk behavior, and health behavior change across a range of academic disciplines and health domains. Since the formation of CHIP in FY02, CHIP PIs have successfully secured research grants totaling more than $74.4 million to study the dynamics of health behavior and health risk behavior within specific populations and to develop interventions to reduce risk behaviors and support healthy behaviors.

At present, CHIP has $48.7 million in active grants across all years in the following health domains: HIV/AIDS, sexual behavior, alcohol and substance abuse, medication adherence and management, obesity, exercise science, cancer, autism, diabetes, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, health disparities, health-related dissemination and implementation science, health communication and marketing, and virtual reality (VR) as a method to study health behavior.

(A list of the active CHIP grants for FY11 is provided in Appendix 13 on pages 73 - 77.)

A description of select new, active, and recently completed externally-funded CHIP research within each health domain follows.

**HIV/AIDS**

Much CHIP research to date has been conducted in the area of HIV risk behavior including understanding the dynamics of risky behavior, creating HIV prevention interventions for at-risk and HIV-positive populations, creating family planning interventions for HIV-positive individuals, creating interventions to improve antiretroviral medication adherence, performing meta-analyses of existing HIV interventions to determine which ones are most effective, and improving the handling of missing data in HIV prevention trials.

Five new grants were received in the area of HIV/AIDS during FY11, including projects to (1) conduct implementation-science focused analyses to identify factors associated with the successful implementation of an effective HIV prevention-with-positives intervention, (2) develop an Internet-based intervention for HIV-positive men who use the Internet to meet potential sexual partners, (3) apply geographic information systems (GIS) to meta-analyses of HIV interventions, particularly to examine the role economic and political factors in different locations play in the effectiveness of the interventions, (4) conduct a randomized clinical trial to test a nurse-delivered, cell-phone-based, theory-based HIV medication adherence counseling intervention, and (5) train diverse scholars in community-based HIV/AIDS research.

CHIP’s HIV/AIDS research has grown increasingly international and, over the years, has included grant-funded projects conducted (not all currently active) in China, Ethiopia, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

**SEXUAL BEHAVIOR**

CHIP research on sexual behavior includes the development and evaluation of interventions for pregnancy prevention, prevention of sexually transmitted infections other than HIV, and HIV prevention interventions. For instance, there is a new grant project that will design an online behavioral health intervention to help reduce the STI/HIV risks associated with Internet-initiated sexual liaisons among men who have sex with men (MSM). This work is particularly significant as Internet-based venues, such as websites, chat rooms, blogs, and bulletin boards are becoming an increasingly popular means for HIV-positive MSM to meet potential sex partners.

Other projects in this area include meta-analyses of existing safer sex interventions and family planning campaigns, and use of virtual reality (VR) technology to measure study participants’ rapid, emotion-based reactions to condoms.

**ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE**

CHIP alcohol use research includes interventions addressing alcohol-related HIV risk behaviors in HIV-positive individuals and in men and women in South Africa, as well as alcohol-related obstacles to antiretroviral medication
adherence. Another line of CHIP alcohol-related research involves studying the impact of an exercise regimen on college students’ hazardous drinking behavior.

CHIP substance use research comprises risk reduction interventions for injection drug users including interventions for newly released HIV-infected prisoners transitioning back into the community, and high risk HIV-negative and unknown status individuals participating in methadone maintenance drug treatment. Other CHIP research in this domain includes an intervention using exercise to reduce drug use among cocaine users and an intervention using place-based social marketing to reduce youth drug use at parties.

Much of CHIP’s research in this domain has been internationally-based, including research performed (not all currently active) in China, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

**MEDICATION ADHERENCE AND MANAGEMENT**

In the realm of medication adherence, CHIP investigators have created a novel software program to increase HIV-positive patients’ adherence to antiretroviral medications. This technology is designed to meet the specific needs of HIV-positive individuals for whom medication adherence is especially challenging. Other CHIP research on medication adherence is targeting individuals with poor literacy skills and recently released prisoners transitioning back into the community. During FY11, a new grant was received in this area to conduct a randomized clinical trial to test a nurse-delivered, cell-phone-based, theory-based HIV medication adherence counseling intervention.

In the realm of medication management, CHIP investigators have developed a user-friendly software program for older adults with hypertension to learn more about their medications and potentially dangerous drug interactions. The program, which runs on a tablet computer, has been licensed to a company that provides web-based monitoring and management solutions to improve the quality and reduce the cost of care for patients with chronic conditions.

**OBESITY**

CHIP obesity research seeks to understand and change the social and environmental factors contributing to our nation’s obesity epidemic.

Ongoing CHIP obesity research projects include: (1) working with parents and pediatricians in Hartford to address childhood obesity in children as young as two years of age, (2) studying the cultural contexts of health disparities among adolescent girls, with a specific focus on overweight/obesity and reproductive health in Latina and African American girls known to be at greatest risk with regard to these two health outcomes, (3) involving spouses or partners in weight loss efforts, and (4) analyzing the impact of food advertisements and public service announcements (PSAs) on child and teen eating habits and weight.

An obesity research interest group at CHIP includes faculty members from UConn’s Psychology, Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutritional Sciences, Pediatrics, Public Health, and Communication Sciences departments with a common interest in understanding, preventing, and treating obesity and related co-morbidities.

**EXERCISE SCIENCE**

CHIP investigators from UConn’s top-ranked Kinesiology Department have grants in exercise genomics, which involves studying how genetic variations influence the effects of exercise on health outcomes, such as blood pressure, and muscle size and strength.

Other lines of exercise science research at CHIP involve studying statins’ effects on muscle function; exercise as an intervention for hazardous drinking college students, for non-treatment seeking adults with alcohol disorders, and for cocaine abusers; and the use of prize incentives to promote physical activity in HIV-positive substance abusers and weight loss in college students. CHIP researchers from the Kinesiology Department also are comparing the immediate aftereffects of aerobic and ischemic handgrip exercises on blood pressure and vascular function.
CHIP Kinesiology researchers also are studying the role of acute and chronic ingestion of whey protein on the body’s response to resistance training and metabolic and hormonal responses to foods low in carbohydrates. Among the new CHIP exercise science grants received during FY11, one will determine whether the level of fat in milk affects the efficacy of plant sterols in the milk to lower cholesterol.

CANCER

CHIP cancer research has focused on (1) quality-of-life issues for adolescent and young adult cancer survivors, including the development of new health-related quality-of-life measures, (2) the perceptions of couples dealing with cancer regarding the disease’s impact on self, partner, and marriage, and (3) the knowledge and attitudes of gay men toward prostate cancer and other Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgendered (GLBT) health issues.

A new grant received in this area during FY11 will study the impact of a lifestyle intervention for breast cancer survivors that attempts to capitalize on the “teachable moment” that often occurs after diagnosis and treatment.

AUTISM

An interdisciplinary team of CHIP researchers, including kinesiologists and psychologists, has a federal grant to study the impact of using robots as intervention tools for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The team’s preliminary research in this area shows that children with and without autism respond well to robot interactions, such as playing imitation games. The project’s robot-child interactions will provide a novel approach for helping children with autism simultaneously improve gross and fine motor skills as well as social communication skills.

During FY11, a new grant in this area was received to develop novel tools for early identification of motor, social, and cognitive deficits of ASD within the first six months of life. The goals of the study are to identify reliable behavioral markers for early diagnosis of ASD and to indicate that early detection of ASD is possible between three and six months of age through fine motor and visual attention markers.

DIABETES

A new subcontract from NIH/University of Rochester will allow for the translation of a proven, intensive lifestyle intervention for overweight adults with Type 2 Diabetes into a virtual clinician intervention tool to make it more practical for time-pressured healthcare providers to integrate the intervention into routine patient care. To date, this intervention has been difficult to implement, due to the extended and expensive clinical contacts required for intervention efficacy.

HEALTH DISPARITIES

CHIP Health Disparities research currently focuses on the cultural contexts of health disparities among adolescent girls, with a specific focus on reproductive health and overweight/obesity in Latina and African American girls known to be at greatest risk with regard to these two health outcomes.

Other CHIP work addressing health disparities includes a grant to target childhood obesity in African American and Latino preschoolers in Hartford.

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO MEDICINE

A new grant in this area is funding the development of a translational tool for researchers that will allow scientists to explicitly describe and compare their yoga interventions as well as to implement appropriate control groups in clinical trials. The project is particularly significant, because, although evidence suggests yoga benefits both physical and mental health, researchers have yet to compare various styles of yoga and assess specific components, such as breathing, poses, or a teacher’s specific approach, to identify what works most effectively.

Another new grant will allow for the exploration of the linkage between religiousness/spirituality (R/S) and physical health. It will do this by studying the effects of several dimensions of R/S on biomarkers of cardiac functioning and
mortality in congestive heart failure patients. While there is evidence that R/S can improve health, to date, little research has explored the physiological links though which this may occur.

HEALTH-RELATED DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

Two new grants received during FY11 have significant dissemination and implementation components, as do several grants submitted through CHIP during FY11.

One of these grants seeks to understand the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the successful implementation of an effective HIV prevention-with-positives intervention. The findings from this newly-funded work will make a contribution to the overall literature on dissemination and implementation research, and will be used to optimize the implementation of the team’s new, next generation, bio-behavioral prevention-with-positives pilot intervention study.

The other new grant with a dissemination and implementation focus will translate an effective behavior change intervention (entitled *Look AHEAD*), which increases weight loss and exercise behavior, into one that can be widely disseminated to diabetics. To date, this has been a difficult intervention to implement, due to the extended, and expensive, clinical contacts required for intervention efficacy. The researchers will translate *Look AHEAD* into a virtual intervention program which will provide ongoing nutrition and physical activity counseling 24/7 from any Internet-connected computer or mobile device.

HEALTH COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING

A recently launched line of CHIP health communication and marketing research involves analyzing the impact of food advertisements and public service announcements (PSAs) on child and teen eating habits and weight.

CHIP health communication and marketing research completed during FY11 includes the development of an HIV prevention video game geared toward young urban adults, place-based social marketing to prevent youth drug abuse, and the meta-analysis of health communication campaigns.

VIRTUAL REALITY AS A METHOD TO STUDY HEALTH BEHAVIOR

Advanced interactive technologies, including virtual reality (VR), allow researchers to immerse subjects in situations that would be cost-prohibitive, dangerous, or even impossible in the real world. VR also lets researchers monitor subjects’ real-time responses to various scenarios, making it a valuable tool for social science research.

At CHIP, a federal grant to study sexual risk behavior in VR environments has led to the creation of the CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC), with hardware, software, and personnel capabilities to produce and support interactive and VR research.

CHIP’s AITC is now a fee-for-service center available to the entire University. In addition to working on the sexual risk behavior grant (which is using virtual reality (VR) technology to measure study participants’ rapid, emotion-based reactions to condoms), AITC staff members currently are working with researchers from a number of disciplines, including Nursing and Engineering, on projects or grant proposals involving interactive or VR technologies.

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**TOTAL GRANT AWARD**: 15

$7,728,615 | $5,767,107 | $1,961,508

Department:  
AN Anthropology  
CH CHIP  
K Kinesiology  
PSY Psychology
APPENDIX 3: New Externally-Funded Grant Summaries

**Amico, Rivet (CHIP)** received a $221,113 grant from NIH/Vanderbilt University Medical Center entitled, “Multi-component Intervention Packages for Chinese MSM.” The goal of this study is to develop and pilot test culturally competent and effective Test and Link-to-Care (TLC)-based HIV prevention intervention packages for men who have sex with men (MSM) in China in preparation for a future community-level, randomized clinical trial there. The specific aims are to: (1) Conduct a systematic review of the literature and mathematical modeling to guide the selection of HIV prevention interventions for MSM in China; (2) Conduct a pilot study to evaluate the feasibility, acceptability and initial efficacy of multi-component TLC intervention packages among MSM in China; and (3) Refine and finalize menu-driven HIV prevention packages and design a multi-site randomized clinical trial in 12 Chinese cities to evaluate its impact on HIV seroincidence among Chinese MSM. The rapid rise of the HIV epidemic among Chinese MSM and the comprehensive disease prevention networks in China provide a unique environment for conducting a large-scale, community-based clinical trial.

**Bhat, Anjana (Physical Therapy)** received a $146,630 R03 award from the NIH/National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) entitled, “Visual Attention and Fine Motor Coordination in Infants at Risk for Autism.” The broad objectives of this research are to develop novel tools for early identification of motor, social, and cognitive deficits of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) within the first six months of life. The research team’s preliminary data suggest that siblings of children with ASD tested at 3 and 6 months have reaching and grasping coordination deficits as well as excessive visual exploration during reaching and object exploration tasks. Moreover, siblings of children with ASD show difficulty shifting visual attention during an associative learning task. Through this project, the team will build on its preliminary data and expand its database on fine-motor coordination and visual attention impairments of the ASD siblings population. The results of this study will emphasize that young infant siblings of children with ASD are at risk for sensorimotor delays, and caregivers/clinicians need to provide sensorimotor interventions. Moreover, disruptions of fine-motor coordination and visual attention will be highlighted as important early markers of ASD.

**Dean Cruess (Psychology)** received a $667,830 grant from NIH/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) entitled, “Internet-based STI/HIV Prevention for HIV+ Internet Users.” Dr. Cruess will use this grant to design an online behavioral health intervention to help reduce the STI/HIV risks associated with Internet-initiated sexual liaisons among men who have sex with men (MSM). This work is particularly significant as Internet-based venues, such as websites, chat rooms, blogs, and bulletin boards are becoming an increasingly popular means for HIV-positive MSM to meet potential sex partners. Dr. Cruess is collaborating with CHIP Principal Investigator Seth Kalichman (Psychology), who is grant co-investigator, and also with colleagues in public health, nursing and psychology from other research institutions.

**Jeffrey Fisher (Psychology)** received a $483,205 grant from NIH/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) entitled, “Supplement to Integrating HIV Prevention into Clinical Care for PLWHA in South Africa.” Dr. Fisher’s supplemental grant is to conduct implementation-science focused analyses to identify factors associated with the successful implementation of the Options intervention in South Africa. These findings will then be used to implement and pilot a new bio-behavioral adaptation of the Options intervention for newly diagnosed South Africans living with HIV who are not yet eligible for antiretroviral therapy.

**Amy Gorin (Psychology)** received a $92,860 subcontract from NIH/University of Rochester entitled, “Using Virtual Environments to Improve Health and Compliance in Diabetes.” This research takes the Look Ahead (LA) intervention, which has been efficacious in weight reduction and in increasing patient physical activity, and translates it into a virtual intervention that is feasible to implement with diabetic patients with fewer human resources than the original LA intervention, using the Internet and mobile devices. This virtual clinician intervention tool will make it more practical for time-pressured healthcare providers to integrate the intervention into routine patient care. To date, it has been difficult to implement this intervention in the clinic setting, due to the extended, and expensive, clinical contacts required for intervention efficacy.

**Blair Johnson (Psychology)** received a $145,610 grant from NIH/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) entitled, “Geospatial Factors in HIV Prevention Trial Outcomes.” Dr. Johnson was awarded a year-long career advancement award in September 2010, in order to learn geographical analysis techniques and use them in his ongoing meta-
analyses of HIV prevention outcomes. As part of this award, he plans to (1) to assemble geotemporal landscapes of HIV prevention trials that will eventually be published on an interactive website, and (2) identify and analyze geotemporal patterns in the efficacy of HIV prevention trials, with specific foci on trials in the United States and Africa.

Seth Kalichman (Psychology) received a $2,831,583 grant from NIH/National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism entitled, “Nurse Delivered Cell-Phone HIV Adherence Intervention.” Dr. Kalichman will conduct a randomized clinical trial to test a cell phone-delivered, theory-based HIV medication adherence counseling intervention. Adherence to antiretroviral (ART) medication is necessary to achieve HIV suppression, and non-adherence can lead to treatment resistant genetic variations of HIV. The intervention includes integrating unannounced pill counts and corrective counseling sessions delivered via cell phone and text messages. CHIP Affiliate Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Psychology) is grant co-investigator.

Crystal Park (Psychology) received a $2,035,461 grant from NIH/National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine entitled, “Development of a Translational Tool to Study Yoga Therapy.” This study will develop a standardized assessment tool that can be used to measure and compare different yoga therapies. Dr. Park’s team will conduct focus groups, direct observations, and personal interviews with yoga students and teachers in an attempt to identify and measure important aspects of yoga so that better research on yoga interventions can be done.

Crystal Park (Psychology) received a $384,730 R21 award from NIH/National Cancer Institute (NCI) entitled, “Targeting the Teachable Moment: A Lifestyle Intervention for Breast Cancer Survivors.” This project is a randomized clinical trial comparing the effectiveness of the teachable moment-focused intervention, specifically designed for breast cancer survivors, with a standard lifestyle change intervention.

Crystal Park (Psychology) received a $200,000 award from the Templeton Foundation entitled, “Religion/Spirituality and Congestive Heart Failure: Physiological Pathways of Health.” This project extends a new module onto a previous study of CHF patients funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA). In the original project, Dr. Park collected data on a large number of psychosocial and religious/spiritual variables and health-related quality of life. In the new module, the research team will collect biomarkers and healthcare utilization from participants’ entry into the study to the present in order to examine the influence of spirituality on physical health.

Crystal Park (Psychology) received a $15,051 award from the VA Connecticut Healthcare System entitled, “Gender Differences in Addictive Behaviors among Returning Veteran.” This is a longitudinal examination of a large sample of recently-returned OEF/OIF veterans. The research team will determine the extent to which a range of risk and protective psychosocial variables predict concurrent and subsequent psychological and physical well-being and substance use/abuse.

Merrill Singer (Anthropology) received a $63,001 subcontract from NIH/Yale University entitled, “Community-Based HIV Educational Research Program for Diverse Racial & Ethnic Groups.” This grant addresses the documented challenges and barriers to the advancement of underrepresented, disadvantaged, ethnic minority, and disability scholars in the field of community-based HIV/AIDS research. As part of the grant, the research team will provide an intensive six-week Summer Institute for 20 such scholars at the advanced post-doctoral and junior faculty level. The Summer Institute will deliver a research education curriculum, training, and professional development opportunities to enrolled scholars; develop and roll out a mentoring typology that addresses structural and individual barriers to advancement of program participants in community-based HIV research; and evaluate the effect and efficacy of the overall education program on scholars, mentors, and their respective organizations.

Jeff Volek (Kinesiology) received a $150,879 award from a large private corporation entitled, “Cholesterol Lowering Effects of Triglyceride Recrystallized Phyosterols.” This project will determine if daily consumption of a novel plant sterol incorporated into milk can lower blood cholesterol levels in people with moderate risk for heart disease. We will also determine if the plant sterol impacts other risk factors for heart disease.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title / Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/30/10</td>
<td>Susan Michie &lt;br&gt;University College London</td>
<td>“Advancing the Science of Behavior Change”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/07/10</td>
<td>Sarah Kobrin &lt;br&gt;National Cancer Institute</td>
<td>“The Integration of Health Behavior Theory into Successful NCI-Funded Cancer Screening Intervention Proposals”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14/10</td>
<td>Traci Mann &lt;br&gt;University of Minnesota</td>
<td>“Will Dieting Cure the Obesity Epidemic?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21/10</td>
<td>Hortensia Amaro &lt;br&gt;Northeastern University</td>
<td>“The Boston Consortium Model on Integrated Addiction and Trauma Treatment”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/04/10</td>
<td>Jen Harman &lt;br&gt;Colorado State University</td>
<td>“Differences between perceived vulnerability and perceived risk: Implications for health theory and interventions”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/11/10</td>
<td>Alex Rothman &lt;br&gt;University of Minnesota</td>
<td>“How Can We Capitalize on Connections between Theory and Practice: Perspectives from the Study of Health Behavior Change”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/18/10</td>
<td>Mallory Johnson &lt;br&gt;University of California, San Francisco</td>
<td>“Relationship Factors and HIV Treatment Adherence”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/02/10</td>
<td>Ellen K. Cromley &lt;br&gt;Institute of Community Research</td>
<td>“GIS and Health Promotion”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/09/10</td>
<td>Michael Lowe &lt;br&gt;Drexel University</td>
<td>“Self-Control and the Treatment of Obesity: Should we ask obese individuals to change themselves or change their food environments?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/03/11</td>
<td>Judith Fifield &lt;br&gt;UConn Health Center</td>
<td>“Promoting Adoption of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviors among African American Women in the Church”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/17/11</td>
<td>Samuel Friedman &lt;br&gt;National Development &amp; Research Institutes</td>
<td>“Risk Networks, Group Sex and Other Risk ‘Nodes,’ and HIV Transmission”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/24/11</td>
<td>Thomas Baranowski &lt;br&gt;Baylor College of Medicine</td>
<td>“Serious Play: Videogames for Diet and Physical Activity Change”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/17/11</td>
<td>Dan Montano &amp; Danka Kasprysk &lt;br&gt;Battelle Institute</td>
<td>“Zimbabwe: A Decade of HIV Prevention Research”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/31/11</td>
<td>C. Michael White &lt;br&gt;University of Connecticut</td>
<td>“Comparative Effectiveness Reviews and Evidence-based Practice”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Title / Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 05/05/11  | Ron Stall  
*University of Pittsburgh*       | “An Update on Syndemics Research among MSM”                                  |
| 05/12/11  | Ralph DiClemente  
*Emory University*         | “Adolescents, Abstinence and STDs”                                            |

*Following lectures were simulcast to CHIP by Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title / Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 09/23/10  | Wan Yanhai  
*Beijing Aizhixing Institute*       | “Six Year Experience of Managing an HIV/AIDS NGO in China”                    |
| 01/20/11  | Robert Heimer  
*Yale University*                  | “The Past, Present and Future of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Russia”            |

*CICATS-PORT SEMINAR Series 2010-11 (CO-SPONSORED BY CHIP)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title / Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10/28/10  | Sarena Seifer  
*Community-Campus Partnerships for Health* | “Advancing Health Equity through Community-University Research Partnerships” |
| 11/11/10  | Joseph Trimble  
*Western Washington University* | “Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research with Ethnocultural Populations” |
| 12/01/10  | Bjorn Olsen  
*Harvard University*               | “Translational Research - Good Things Happen When Science Meets Clinical Reality” |
| 02/10/11  | Douglas Brugge  
*Tufts University*                | “Building University Commitment for Community Engaged Research”               |
| 3/24/11   | Abe Wandersman  
*University of South Carolina*     | “Getting to Outcomes”                                                         |
APPENDIX 5: CHIP PIs and Research Affiliates

Those Principal Investigators (PIs) with an asterisk following their names submitted grants through CHIP during FY11. In other sections of this report, CHIP lists as PIs only CHIP researchers who have active grants or had active grants during any part of FY11.

Principal Investigators (PIs)

K. Rivet Amico, Ph.D.
Research Associate II, CHIP
Research Scientist

Anjana Bhat, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, UConn

Robert S. Broadhead, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology, UConn

Simon Cheng (Hsu-chih), Ph.D.*
Associate Professor of Sociology, UConn

Dean Cruess, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, UConn

Michael M. Copenhaver, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Allied Health Sciences, UConn

Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D.
Associate Director of CHIP
Research Scientist

Lisa Eaton, Ph.D. Psychology*
Assistant Research Professor of Psychology, UConn

Pamela I. Erickson, Ph.D.*
Professor of Anthropology and Community Medicine, UConn

Deborah Fein, Ph.D.
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology, UConn

Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D.
Director of CHIP
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology, UConn

Amy Gorin, Ph.D
Assistant Professor of Psychology, UConn

Ofer Harel, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Statistics

Blair T. Johnson, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, UConn

Michael Joseph, Ph.D.*
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, UConn
Seth C. Kalichman, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, UConn

William Kraemer, Ph.D.
Professor of Kinesiology, Uconn
Professor of Medicine, Center on Aging

Carolyn Lin, Ph.D.*
Professor of Communication Sciences, UConn

Carl Maresh, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor & Department Head of Kinesiology, Uconn
Director of Human Performance Laboratory

Kerry L. Marsh, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, UConn

Deborah McDonald, Ph.D., R.N.*
Associate Professor of Nursing, UConn

Stephanie Milan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology, UConn

Crystal L. Park, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, UConn

Linda S. Pescatello, Ph.D.
Professor of Kinesiology, UConn

Leickness Simbayi, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist, Psychology, UConn, and Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

Merrill Singer, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology, UConn

Leslie B. Snyder, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication Sciences, UConn
Director of Center for Health Communication & Marketing

Jeff Volek, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Kinesiology, Uconn

CHIP Research Affiliates

UConn College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

V. Bede Agocha, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology and African-American Studies

David A. Atkin, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication Sciences

Keith M. Bellizzi, Ph.D., MPH
Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies
Hart Blanton, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

Preston A. Britner, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Associate Department Head of Human Development and Family Studies

Ross Buck, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication Sciences and Psychology

Claudia Carello, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

Ann M. Cheney, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor of Anthropology

Mary Crawford, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor of Psychology
Research Specialist, CHIP

Dipak K. Dey, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor and Head of Statistics

Kirstie M. Farrar, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Communication Sciences

Kristin A. Kelly, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science

Cyr E. M’Lan, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Statistics

Melissa A. Tafoya, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences

James Watt, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Communication Sciences

UConn College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Pouran Faghri, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.M.
Professor of Health Promotion and Allied Health Sciences

UConn School of Business

Narasimhan Srinivasan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Marketing

UConn - Neag School of Education

Lindsay J. DiStefano, Ph.D., ATC
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

Brian Kupchak, Ph.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor of Kinesiology

Jaci VanHeest, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Kinesiology

Ana Lourdes Volek, Ph.D.
Research Specialist, CHIP

UConn School of Nursing

Elizabeth H. Anderson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Nursing

William D. Barta, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in Residence, Nursing

Xiaomei Cong, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Nursing

Colleen Delaney, Ph.D., AHN-BC, R.N.
Associate Professor of Nursing, Coordinator Graduate Community Health Track

Patricia J. Neafsey, Ph.D.
Professor of Nursing (Pharmacology)

Deborah A. Shelton, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.A., B.C.
Professor of Nursing, Director for Research & Evaluation-Correctional Managed Healthcare

Thomas J Van Hoof, M.D., Ed.D
Associate Professor of Nursing

UConn School of Social Work

Karen Bullock, Ph.D.
Research Specialist, Social Work

Michie N. Hesselbrock, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor of Social Work

Brenda Kurz, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Social Work

Cheryl A. Parks, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research & Professor, School of Social Work

Lisa Werkmeister-Rozas, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Social Work

Cristina Mogro-Wilson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Social Work

UConn Health Center, School of Dental Medicine

Mark D. Litt, M.D.
Professor of Behavior Sciences and Community Health

Marie Latortue, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical Research, Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences
Julie A. Wagner, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Behavior Sciences and Community Health

UCconn Health Center, School of Medicine

Ann M. Ferris, Ph.D.
Professor of Nutritional Sciences
Co-Director of the Center for Public Health and Health Policy
Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

Danielle Barry, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Calhoun Cardiac Center

Michelle M. Cloutier, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, UCHC
Director of Asthma Center, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

Kevin D. Dieckhaus, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, AIDS Program, Department of Medicine

Judith A. Fifield, Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine
Director of Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy

Richard H. Fortinsky, Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine, Center on Aging

Bruce E. Gould, M.D.
Professor, Center for Public Health
Associate Dean for Primary Care

David I. Gregorio, Ph.D., M.S.
Professor, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care
Director of Graduate Program in Public Health

Victor M. Hesselbrock, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
Associate Chair for Research Director of the Alcohol Research Center

Yifrah Kaminer, M.D., M.B.A.
Professor of Psychiatry, Alcohol Research Center

Zita Lazzarini, J.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

Karina Lora, Ph.D.
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Public Health & Health Policy

Nancy M. Petry, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

Jack Ross, M.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases, Hartford Hospital
Juan C. Salazar, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Associate Professor of Pediatrics*  
*Head, Pediatric HIV/AIDS Program, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center*

Stephen L. Schensul, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care*

Howard Tennen, Ph.D.  
*Distinguished Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care*

Minakshi Tikoo, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care*

Keith A. vom Eigen, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.  
*Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine*

**CHIP – University of Connecticut**

Demetria Cain, M.P.H.  
*Research Assistant, Psychology*

Sarah Christie, M.P.H.  
*Research Assistant II*

Ellen K. Cromley, Ph.D.  
*Academic Specialist*

Sarah Diamond, Ph.D.  
*Research Associate*

Caroline Redding, M.S.R.  
*Research Assistant*

B. Grace Sullivan, Ph.D., APRN, CNP  
*Associate Research Scientist & Medical Anthropologist*

**Bradley University - Peoria, IL**

Stephenie R. Chaudoir, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

**Brown University – Providence, RI**

Susan M. Kiene, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Medicine (Research)*

Cynthia Rosengard, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Medicine (Research)*

Michael D. Stein, M.D.  
*Professor of Medicine and Community Health, School of Medicine*

**Colorado State University – Fort Collins, CO**

Jennifer J. Harman, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*
Duke University – Durham, NC

Marcella H. Boynton, Ph.D.
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Transdisciplinary Prevention Research Center

Eastern Connecticut State University – Willimantic, CT

Carlos A. Escoto, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Geeta Pfau, Ph.D.
Assistant Director of Health Services

John Hopkins School of Public Health – Baltimore, MD

Michelle R. Kaufman, Ph.D.
Research & Evaluation Officer, Center for Communication Programs

Institute for Community Research – Hartford, CT

Marlene J. Berg
Associate Director of Training

Mark R. Convey, M.A.
Ethnographer

Kim E. Radda, R.N., M.A.
Director of Research Administration/IRB Administrator

Jean J. Schensul, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist and Founding Director, ICR, Hartford

Thomas Taaffe, Ph.D
Research Associate

Margaret R. Weeks, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI

Douglas K. Hartman, Ph.D.
Professor of Literacy and Technology

National Cancer Institute - Bethesda, MD

Rebecca Ferrer, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences

David B. Portnoy, Ph.D.
Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program Fellow

Northern Rivers University – Sydney, Australia

Hudson Birden, M.A.
Senior Lecturer, Public Health and Clinical Leadership

Ohio State University – Columbus, OH
Ann A. O’Connell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Educational Policy & Leadership

Private Industry
Aaron Smith-McLallen, Ph.D.

St. Louis University – St. Louis, MO
Jeremiah Weinstock, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Southern Connecticut State University - New Haven, CT
Jean M. Breny-Bontempi, Ph.D., MPH
Associate Professor of Public Health

State University of New York (SUNY) - Purchase, NY
Anthony Lemieux, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Syracuse University – Syracuse, NY
Lori A.J. Scott-Sheldon, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Health and Behavior

University of Alabama – Birmingham, AL
Wynne E. Norton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health

University of Colorado—Boulder, CO
Angela Bryan, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

University of Exeter - United Kingdom
Charles Abraham, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY
Thomas W. Miller, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry, College of Medicine

University of South Carolina – Columbia, SC
Matthew Kostek, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology
Director, Laboratory of Muscle and Translational Therapeutic Research

Mark Macauda, MPH, Ph.D.
Research Associate, Arnold School of Public Health

University of Toronto
Paul A. Shuper, Ph.D.
Independent Scientist, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health
University of Western Ontario – London, Ontario, Canada

William A. Fisher, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Psychology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology

Vanderbilt University – Nashville, TN

Chandra Y. Osborn, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Marijn de Bruin
Assistant Professor of Communication Science

Western New England College – Springfield, MA

Jason Seacat, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Yale University – New Haven, CT

Frederick L. Altice, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Director of Clinical and Community Research
Director of HIV in Prisons Program

Robert S. Astur, Ph.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry
Director of Virtual Reality Lab, Institute of Living

Ruth M. Arnold, Ph.D.
Associate Research Scientist, School of Medicine

John F. Dovidio, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

Gerald H. Friedland, M.D.
Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health
Director of AIDS Program

Michael J. Kozal, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Infectious Diseases

Sheryl LaCoursiere, Ph.D., R.N.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Medical Informatics

Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, Ph.D.
Professor & Director of Center for Eliminating Disparities Among Latinos

Gwendolyn Thomas, Ph.D.
Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Medicine

Robin Whittemore, Ph.D., APRN
Associate Professor of Nursing
APPENDIX 6: CHIP Business Office Functions and Responsibilities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Office Function</th>
<th>1st Staff Member</th>
<th>2nd Staff Member</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable/Out-of-Pocket Reimbursements (not exceeding $499)</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Annual Report</td>
<td>Beth Krane</td>
<td>Debbie Cornman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grant Budgets/Expenses</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grant Pre-Submission/Applications</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications/Dissemination of Research Findings</td>
<td>Beth Krane</td>
<td>TBN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room and Pod/Key/Equipment Sign-Out</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities – Report Problems at CHIP</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities – New Space Assignments</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Jeffrey Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Management (Pre-Award &amp; Post-Award)</td>
<td>Vasinee Long</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources/Personnel (Faculty &amp; Staff)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Deborah Cornman/ Jeffrey Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory on Loan/ACT-40s</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Management/Support</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
<td>Mark Juliano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Purchasing Advice/Quotations</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
<td>Mark Juliano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keycards (Proximity Cards)</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
<td>Mark Juliano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor/Union Relations (Staff &amp; Students)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Deborah Cornman/ Jeffrey Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Series</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISTSERV Management</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mail Service</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETID Requests</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Tags</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participant Incentives/Cash Advances</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll (Faculty, Staff, &amp; Students)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell/ Donna Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Service Agreements (PSAs)</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Vasinee Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing – CHIP</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing – Grants</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Office Function</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Staff Member</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Staff Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Employment/Issues (Graduate Student, Student Labor, &amp; Work Study)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications (Landlines, Cell Phones, &amp; Smart Phones)</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel – Authorizations and Reimbursements</td>
<td>Sarah Bothell</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Administration/Management</td>
<td>Mark Juliano</td>
<td>Jonathan Gill</td>
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APPENDIX 7: Announcement of Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP PIs

Date: 9/23/2010
To: CHIP Principal Investigators
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director of Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Annual Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators

(Individuals who have external grants through CHIP or submitted through CHIP)

Established PIs with grants through CHIP may apply for funds to support new research development initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications to be submitted through CHIP in the areas of health behavior change and health risk prevention. Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of the research plan based on internal and/or external reviews
- Completed project’s likelihood to elicit external funding
- Importance of the research question
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially proposals testing new methodologies, theories, and/or new domains in need of pilot data
- Composition of the research team (preference will be given to interdisciplinary work)
- Relevance of the work to the mission of CHIP
- Extent to which the project demonstrates collaboration with community-based organizations may be a plus.
- Priority will be given to principal investigators who have one or fewer CHIP internal grants project underway at a time. Funds from previous CHIP grants should be expended and/or closed out.

In addition, we will also consider where the PI is in his/her funding cycle (e.g., at the start of a large grant vs. at the end), and the track record of the PI in realizing outcomes (e.g., external grants) from his or her previous CHIP internal grants.

All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP.

Guidelines for Submission for Research Investment Development Funds

1. Applications must be for work that will assist markedly in the submission of new substantial external grant applications, to be submitted through CHIP by a specified target date.

2. Applications should describe the scope of the work, its contribution to the field, and its potential interest to a particular funding agency. Applications should be modeled after the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ PHS 398 (http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html) and include:
   - Face page
   - Description of the work, performance sites, and key personnel
   - Research grant table of contents
   - Detailed budget (generally $15,000 or less)
   - Biographical sketch of the investigator and other key personnel
   - Research plan (maximum 10 pages, which can be single-spaced, not including reference list) to include:
Sections 2 and 3 of the Research Plan portion of PHS 398, specifically:

2. Specific aims
3. Research strategy
   a. Significance
   b. Innovation
   c. Approach

- Explanation of how this research will be used to acquire external funding (e.g., type of award, funding agency), and why this preliminary research assists the investigator’s ability to receive external funding.
- References
- Appendices are not required nor encouraged and should not be used to circumvent the
- 10-page maximum.
- Format: Times New Roman, font size 12, and 1-inch margins.

3. Include a line item budget for all costs involved, which should normally be for pilot research, staff, participant and travel costs, and costs associated with grant development and submission, and only infrequently for equipment.

4. Applications must be predominantly the work of the PI, and for the benefit of the PI’s own research program. Applications written primarily by graduate students or others in the PI’s name will not be considered.

5. Applications must be accompanied by a certification letter indicating that any external grant applications which derive from the seed grant research will be submitted through CHIP.

6. Send a brief letter of intent electronically by Wednesday, December 15, 2010, that includes an overview and estimated total project cost to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit final applications electronically only by Tuesday, February 1, 2011, to Stacey Leeds.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this opportunity at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
APPENDIX 8: Announcement of CHIP Seed Grant Competition for New Investigators

Date: 9/23/2010
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Director of Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Annual CHIP “Seed Grant” Development Opportunities

The Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) will support new research development efforts and pilot work leading to future grant applications submitted through CHIP by the applicant. These grants are only open to CHIP affiliates who have not previously received significant external funding in health behavior change. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate are here: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

All grants funds must be expended within two years of the award date; unexpended funds will revert to CHIP.

Guidelines for Distribution of “Seed Grant” Funds

1. Applications for receipt of funds must be for work that will assist markedly in the submission of new, substantial, external grant applications by a specified target date and that will be submitted for external funding through CHIP.

2. Applications should describe the scope of the work, its contribution to the field, and the potential interest to a particular funding agency. Proposals should be modeled after the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ PHS 398 (http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html). Thus, proposals should include:
   - Face page
   - Description of the work, performance sites, and key personnel
   - Research grant table of contents
   - Detailed budget (less than $7,500).
   - Line item budget for all costs involved for pilot research, staff, participant and travel costs, and other costs associated with grant development and submission, and only infrequently for equipment.
   - Biographical sketch of the investigator and other key personnel
   - Research plan (maximum 10 pages, not including reference list), reflecting Sections 2 and 3 of PHS398, i.e.,
     - Specific aims
     - Research strategy
       - Significance
       - Innovation
       - Approach
     - Explanation of how this research will be used to acquire external funding (e.g., type of award, funding agency) and why the preliminary research assists the PI’s ability to receive external funding.
   - References
   - Appendices are discouraged, and should not be used to circumvent the 10-page description limit.
   - Format: Times New Roman, font size 12, can be single-spaced, and 1-inch margins.
• Certification letter that any future external grant applications resulting from the pilot work will be submitted through CHIP

3. Applications must be predominantly the work of a Principal Investigator (PI) and for the benefit of the PI’s research program. Applications written primarily by graduate students or others in the PI’s name will not be considered.

4. Send a brief letter of intent electronically by Wednesday, December 15, 2010, with an overview of your project and a preliminary estimated total cost to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit final application electronically only by Tuesday, February 1, 2011, to Stacey Leeds.

**Priority for funding will be based on:**

• Scientific merit of the research plan
• Completed project’s likelihood to elicit external funding
• Importance of the research question
• Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially a proposal testing new methodologies and/or theories, or new areas in need of pilot data
• Composition of the research team (e.g., cross-disciplinary work will be given preference)
• Principal Investigator has one or fewer CHIP internal grants underway at the time. Funds from other CHIP internal grants should be expended and/or closed out
• Relevance to the mission of CHIP
• Extent to which the project demonstrates collaboration with community-based organizations may be a plus

CHIP projects may be in any area of health behavior or health behavior change.

Please contact Jeff Fisher at 860-486-4940 and jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
APPENDIX 9: Announcement of Pilot Project Support for CHIP Graduate Students

Date: 9/23/2010
To: CHIP Affiliates and Colleagues
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director of Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Annual Funding Competition for Pilot Projects for Graduate Students in Health, Intervention, and Prevention Research

Deadlines
Letter of Intent: December 15, 2010
Application: February 1, 2011

Purpose
To conduct preliminary research in any health area related to the overarching goals of CHIP (i.e., to study the dynamics of health risk behavior and processes of health behavioral change in individuals and at-risk populations). Priority is given to promising research likely to develop into a larger study and garner external funding (e.g., an NRSA proposal through NIMH).

Eligibility
CHIP graduate student affiliates are invited to apply. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate are here: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

Allowable costs
Funds may be used to support routine research-related expenses (but not the investigator’s salary) such as payment of participants, copying of research material (e.g., questionnaires, consent forms), specialized equipment (e.g., micro-cassette recorder/transcriber), or paying research assistants with specialized skills necessary for the proposed project (e.g., fluency in Spanish). Funds may not be used to support travel to conferences, routine office equipment (e.g., computers), or student tuition and/or fees.

Letter of Intent
Prior to submitting proposals, investigators should submit a letter of intent providing a descriptive title of the proposed project, a short abstract (maximum of 250 words), the research area (e.g., nutrition, communication, psychology), an estimated total cost for the project, and the name, phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address of the student investigator proposing the work and his or her CHIP-affiliated sponsor. Furthermore, the letter should include a statement by the student’s adviser indicating that the advisor has read and approves of the proposal and will ensure high quality work by the student. Submit the letter of intent electronically by the above date to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Final proposals should be submitted electronically only by the above date to Stacey Leeds.

Guidelines for Submission
Proposals should be modeled after the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ PHS 398 (http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html). Proposals should include:

- Face page
- Description of the work, performance sites, and key personnel
- Research grant table of contents
- Detailed budget (not to exceed $1,500).
- Biographical sketch of the student and other key personnel
• Research plan (maximum 5 pages, not including reference list), which corresponds to PHS 398’s Research Plan, Sections 2 and 3, i.e.,
  1. Specific aims
  2. Research strategy
     a. Significance
     b. Innovation
     c. Approach

• Information on how this research will ultimately be used to acquire external funding (e.g., type of award such as NRSA proposal, and why this preliminary research assists the investigator’s ability to receive external funding).

• References

• Format: Times New Roman, font size 12, can be single-spaced, and 1-inch margins, submitted electronically only.

Review Process
Graduate students who have not submitted proposals will be given an opportunity to participate in the review process. In this context, they will be mentored by faculty with prior reviewing experience. The review committee may be composed of the following individuals:

• Four CHIP graduate students (two with previous external grant funding and two without previous grant funding)
• Two CHIP-affiliated post-doctorates
• Two CHIP PIs

Funding will be awarded based on the:

• Scientific merit of the research plan
• Completed project’s likelihood to elicit external funding
• Importance of the research question
• Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially proposals that test new methodologies and/or theories and new to research areas in need of pilot data
• Composition of the research team (e.g., interdisciplinary)
• Relevance to the mission of CHIP

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this opportunity at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
APPENDIX 10: Announcement of CHIP Grant Development Stipends

Date: 9/23/2010
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Jeff Fisher, Director of Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Annual CHIP Junior Faculty Grant Development Summer Stipend Competition

CHIP offers summer stipends to UConn junior faculty who are CHIP affiliates to assist them with writing successful grant applications in health behavior change. We are seeking applications from CHIP-affiliated UConn junior faculty to compete for the stipend. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate are here: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

- Applications should describe the focus of the grant application to be written, how it contributes to the literature, the type of grant (R21, R01), the agency, and any funding mechanism under which the grant will be submitted.
- Applications should also specify, in some detail, the work you will do on the grant during the period covered by the CHIP stipend. Evidence that the funding agency is interested in the area under study will be helpful.
- Your CHIP application may be a maximum of five single-spaced pages, not including reference list.
- Applications should contain, in brief form, the content of the Research Plan, Sections 2 and 3 of PHS 398, which is the form used by NIH and all Public Health Services agencies. Specifically:
  1. Specific aims
  2. Research strategy
     a. Significance
     b. Innovation
     c. Approach
- The document should be formatted using Times New Roman, Font Size 12, and one-inch margins.

PHS 398 may be downloaded from http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

Applications for this stipend will be reviewed by a CHIP internal grants committee, by NIMH grant review rules. We propose to fund one or two successful applicants for Summer 2011, at $5,000 each, to be paid to successful applicants as a stipend when the grant application is submitted to an external funding agency.

While the grant is being prepared, CHIP will mentor the grant writer and will also send the proposal, before it is submitted to the funder, for external review by the major experts in the field. We may also send the proposal to program officials at NIH for feedback. All feedback can be incorporated in the final external grant application.

Those selected for the CHIP Grant Development Stipend cannot do summer teaching in 2011 during the period of the stipend.

Send a brief letter of intent electronically by Wednesday, December 15, 2010, to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. The final application is due electronically only by Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Please include a current curriculum vitae and a recommendation from an appropriate University Department Head.

If you have questions regarding this opportunity, please contact Jeff Fisher at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
Date: 9/23/2010
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Jeff Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Conference Development Grant

CHIP requests proposals from affiliates at the University of Connecticut for conferences that could be convened for the purpose of stimulating innovative, multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaboration in research related to CHIP's mission. Funds are available for one and possibly two small conferences to invite key national and international researchers to CHIP and to the University of Connecticut to share recent work in new, under-explored areas, or at the intersection of disciplines. Conference topics and/or themes should lead to new, multidisciplinary and/or multi-institutional project development, as well as to new scholarship in the area of health behavior change. Conferences should lead ultimately to new grant applications submitted through CHIP. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate are here: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

Guidelines for submission of conference development grants:

1. Applications for conference development funds should demonstrate how the conference may lead to significant new research collaboration and scholarship relevant to CHIP’s mission.

2. The topic of the conference, key participants and research questions to be explored, contribution of the meeting to field (or fields) of interest, scholarship goals, and potential for new collaborative endeavors should be described in the application. Please indicate conference organizers, keynote speakers, number of invitees, anticipated attendance, prospective dates for the meeting, partnering institutions, and other funding sources being pursued. Proposals should be no more than ten pages, which can be single-spaced, not including references, using Times New Roman 12 font and one-inch margins.

3. There should be a line item budget for all costs involved, which should be for organizational costs, travel, and costs associated with conference planning, development, and implementation. Please note that preference will be given for funding proposals which involve cost sharing with other individuals or entities (i.e., CHIP pays only part of the cost of the conference, which has received commitments of support from others as well.) Normally, CHIP’s contribution will be $2,500 or less.

4. Include with your proposal the names of two external reviewers (from outside University of Connecticut) and two internal reviewers (at University of Connecticut) whose expertise would be relevant to review your proposal. Only one internal reviewer may be affiliated with CHIP.

5. Send a brief letter of intent electronically that includes a total cost estimate by December 15, 2010, to Stacey Leeds at c.stacey.leeds@uconn.edu. Submit applications electronically only to Stacey Leeds by February 1, 2011.

If you have questions regarding this opportunity, please contact me at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu.
APPENDIX 12: Announcement of Reviews to Assist with Grant Development

Date: 9/23/2010
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Jeff Fisher, Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: Pre-Submission Grant Review (for individuals planning to submit external grants through CHIP)

I am pleased to announce an opportunity for research development support through CHIP. CHIP affiliates at the University of Connecticut who are in the process of preparing grant proposals for submission to external funding agencies may apply to CHIP for an internal review by one or more experienced CHIP investigators prior to submission of the grant. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate are here: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

If CHIP does not have expertise “in house,” you may suggest experts who could provide a helpful review (e.g., former members of an NIMH review panel). CHIP will pay an honorarium to them for their review. This mechanism provides investigators with the opportunity to have their proposal reviewed by CHIP investigators or others with extensive experience in successful grant writing and grant review for federal agencies, or other large funding entities.

In addition to reviews of content, CHIP will also arrange for reviews of statistics or methodology if deemed critical to the success of a grant proposal.

Guidelines for application to CHIP for internal review of proposals

1. Individuals wishing to apply for internal review of an external grant proposal should contact the Director of CHIP by letter or email at least 2 months prior to the submission date for the external grant. This permits the Director time to select, notify, and obtain consent and a review from qualified reviewers.

   The letter should be accompanied by an abstract, and a brief description of the project that addresses the scope of the work, its anticipated contribution to the field, and its interest to a particular funding agency. The letter should also indicate key personnel and collaborators on the grant.

2. Proposals being submitted to CHIP for external review should be more or less completely written and in the final format required by the funding agency prior to CHIP sending them out for external review. Grants for external review should be sent at least a month before the submission deadline so the reviewer’s comments can be incorporated into the final grant application.

   Please include with your request the names and contact information of two internal reviewers at CHIP and two external reviewers (outside of CHIP) whose expertise would be relevant to review your proposal.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this opportunity at 860-486-4940 or jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu
### APPENDIX 13: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Total Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY11 Direct Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY11 Indirect Costs Awarded</th>
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<th>Yrs</th>
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<th>End Date</th>
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<td>NIH/NIAAA</td>
<td>Alcohol-Related HIV Risks among South African Women</td>
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### APPENDIX 13: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

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<th>Yrs</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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<td>Gender Differences in Addictive Behaviors Among Returning Veterans</td>
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<td>Effect of a Hydrolyzed Whey Protein Fraction (NOP-47) on Vascular Function in Overweight Older Men and Women</td>
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Department:  
AHS  Allied Health Sciences  
AN  Anthropology  
CH  CHIP  
CS  Communication Sciences  
K  Kinesiology  
PSY  Psychology  
SO  Sociology  
ST  Statistics
## APPENDIX 14: CHIP Submitted Grants (May 16, 2010 - May 15, 2011)

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<th>End Date</th>
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<td>End Date</td>
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<td>NIH/NICHD</td>
<td>Social Context of Sexual and Reproductive Behavior of Inner City, Minority, Emerging Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fein, Deborah</td>
<td>PSY</td>
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<td>$681,261</td>
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<td>1/1/11</td>
<td>6/30/13</td>
<td>NIH/NIMH</td>
<td>Teaching Skills to Toddlers: A Program for Caregivers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisher, Jeffrey D.</td>
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<td>$420,498</td>
<td>$79,502</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/1/10</td>
<td>8/31/11</td>
<td>NIH/NIMH</td>
<td>Supplement to Integrating HIV Prevention into Clinical Care for South African PLWHA</td>
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<td>Gorin, Amy</td>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>$6,775</td>
<td>$837</td>
<td>$7,612</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7/1/11</td>
<td>6/30/16</td>
<td>NIH/Wellpoint Foundation/CCMC</td>
<td>Developing Age and Culturally Appropriate Messaging to Reduce Obesogenic Behaviors in Hartford’s Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorin, Amy</td>
<td>PSY</td>
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<td>$92,527</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7/1/11</td>
<td>6/30/16</td>
<td>NIH/Drexel Uni.</td>
<td>Environmental and Acceptance-Based Innovations for Weight Loss Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1/1/12</td>
<td>12/31/16</td>
<td>NIH/Drexel Uni.</td>
<td>Environmental and Acceptance-Based Innovations for Weight Loss Maintenance (Resubmission)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>7/1/11</td>
<td>6/30/16</td>
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<td>Reducing Television Viewing During Behavioral Obesity Treatment in Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorin, Amy</td>
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<td>$143,809</td>
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<td>1/1/12</td>
<td>12/31/16</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Enhancing Support at Home for Weight Loss: A Self-Determination Theory approach</td>
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<td>3/1/17</td>
<td>NIH/U. Tennessee</td>
<td>Effects of a Singular Message to Lower Dietary Energy Density on Long-Term Weight Loss and Diet Nutrient Quality</td>
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<td>Johnson, Blair T.</td>
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<td>8/31/16</td>
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<td>Social Environmental Factors in the Efficacy of HIV Prevention and ART Adherence Trials (SHARP IV)</td>
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<td>9/1/11</td>
<td>9/1/12</td>
<td>NCASF</td>
<td>The Role of Mechanical Load in the Development of Tendinopathy</td>
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<td>Kalichman, Seth C.</td>
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<td>$3,538,505</td>
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<td>End Date</td>
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<td>5/31/12</td>
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<td>Research Project Evaluation of the Effects of a Novel Mouthguard</td>
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<td>Lin, Carolyn</td>
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<td>7/1/11</td>
<td>6/30/13</td>
<td>NIH/NIAAA</td>
<td>A Social Drinking Journey via a Virtual Reality World</td>
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<td>McDonald, Deborah N</td>
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<td>6/30/15</td>
<td>NIH/NINR/NIAMS</td>
<td>The Effect of a Virtual Pain Coach on Older Adults’ Osteoarthritis Pain</td>
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<td>Milan Stephanie K</td>
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<td>Physical Activity Interventions for Non-Treatment Seeking Alcohol Use Disorders</td>
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<td>Pescatello, Linda K</td>
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<td>$691,313</td>
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<td>6/30/12</td>
<td>ACSM</td>
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<td>11/30/13</td>
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<td>The Importance of Modality as a Determinant of the Antihypertensive Effects of Exercise</td>
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<td>The American College of Sports Medicine Evidenced Based Prevision of the Exercise and Hypertension Position Stand</td>
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<td>Dept</td>
<td>Direct Costs Requested</td>
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<td>Yrs</td>
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<td>End Date</td>
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<td>NIH/Columbia University</td>
<td>Community-based Participatory Intervention Development for Vulnerable Women in Kabul</td>
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<td>8/31/12</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Youth and Environmental Sustainability (YES): Participatory Action Research on the Human Impacts of Environmental Degradation</td>
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<td>$35,135</td>
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<td>1/1/11</td>
<td>12/31/11</td>
<td>Private Corporation</td>
<td>Cholesterol Lowering Effects of Triglyceride Recrystallized Phytosterols</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volek, Jeff</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>$384,897</td>
<td>$35,316</td>
<td>$420,213</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4/1/11</td>
<td>12/31/12</td>
<td>Private Corporation</td>
<td>Effect of Incremental Increases in Dietary Carbohydrate on Saturated Fat Levels and Blood Borne Risk Markers for Cardiovascular Disease</td>
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<td>TOTAL PROPOSAL BUDGET</td>
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<td>$31,675,347</td>
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Department:  
AHS  Allied Health Sciences  
AN  Anthropology  
CH  CHIP  
CS  Communication Sciences  
K  Kinesiology  
PSY  Psychology  
SO  Sociology  
ST  Statistics
APPENDIX 15: Selected FY11 Scholarly Publications, Presentations, and Awards by CHIP PIs

- PIs and Affiliates’ names are **bolded** in the PI section.
- Graduate Students’ names are **bolded** in the Graduate Student section. Their names are followed by (g) in the PI section.
- Research staff members’ names are followed by (r.s.) in the PI section. Those research staff members who also are Affiliates also have their names bolded.

**Articles**


Kalichman, S. C., & Grebler, T. (r.s.) (2010). Stress and poverty predictors of treatment adherence among people with low-literacy living with HIV/AIDS. Psychosomatic Medicine, 72, 810—816. doi:10.1097/PSY.0b013e3181f01be3


**Book chapters**


Singer, M. (in press). Medical anthropology and public policy: Using research to change the world from what it is to what we believe it should be. In M. Inhorn & E. A. Wentzell (Eds.), Medical anthropology at the intersections. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.


**Books**


**Published Conference Proceedings (full paper)**


Conference Proceedings and Presentations


Ash, G. I. (g), Kostek, M. A., Angelopoulous, T. J., Clarkson, P. M., Gordon P. M., Moyna, N. M., ... Pescatello, L. S. (2010, November). Glucocorticoid Receptor (NR3C1) genetic variants associate with physical activity. Presentation at the Regional Meeting of the New England Chapter of American College of Sports Medicine, Providence, RI.


Bhat, A., Palatinus, K. (g), Mhadeshwar, A., Gifford, T. (r.s.) (g), & Marsh, K. (2011, April). Development of interpersonal synchrony in children between 4-8 years of age: Implications for training and special populations. Poster session presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Montréal, Quebec, Canada.


Harel, O., Stratton, J. & Aseltine, R. (2011, April). Designed missingness to better estimate efficacy of behavioral studies. Presentation at the Tenth Conference on Health Survey Research Methods, Peachtree City, GA.


Huedo-Medina, T. B. (r.s.), Johnson, B. T., Boynton, M. H., & Warren, M. R (r.s.). (2010, April). Prevention efforts succeed best where they are most needed: Individual vs. social-structural predictors of HIV prevention intervention efficacy and the explanatory potential of intergroup theory. In M. H. Boynton, & B. F. Fuemmeler (Chair), Human health and the nested nature of the variables we use to understand it: The utility of the simultaneous implementation of multiple levels of analysis in the modeling of health behavior. Symposium conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavior Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Presentation at the Regional Meeting of the New England Chapter of American College of Sports Medicine, Providence, RI.


King, D., Potter, C., Pless, A., Schuster, J., Park, C., King, L., ... Moore, J. (2010, May). Coping during captivity and long-term physical and mental health: Vietnam repatriated POWs. Poster session presented at the Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.


Lally, M., Susca, C., Marsh, K., Bhat, A. (2011, May). The effects of robot-child interactions on joint attention and verbalizations patterns of typically developing children and children with ASDs/ADHD between 4-10 years of age. Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Diego, CA.


Palatinus, K. (g), Menacherry, P., Gifford, T. (r.s.) (g), Marsh, K., & Bhat, A. (2011, May). *Intrapersonal and interpersonal synchrony in typically developing children and children with ASDs/ADHD between 4-10 years of age.* Poster session presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research, San Diego, CA.


Park, C. L., & Blank, T. O. (2010, September). *Personal characteristics and coping as predictors of using yoga to deal with cancer among midlife cancer survivors.* Poster session presented at the Symposium on Yoga Therapy and Research, Himalayan Institute, Honesdale, PA.


Pescatello, L. (2010, November). *Leptin and leptin receptor genetic variants associate with habitual physical activity levels.* Presentation at the New England American College of Sports Medicine, Providence, RI.


Pescatello, L. (2011). *Career bits of advice from the wayward wanderer.* Presentation at the Department of Exercise Science EXS Majors Night, Dr. Frank Frangione Lecture, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT.


Keynote and Plenary Lectures at National and International Conferences


Singer, M. (2010, July). Syndemic modeling of infectious and chronic interaction and health effects. Keynote Speaker, Second Annual Workshop in Dynamic Modeling for Health Policy: Chronic and Infectious Disease Interactions, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada.

Singer, M. (2011, March). The syndemic orientation in health disparities. Keynote Speaker, El Centro: Center for Excellence for Health Disparities Research, University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies, Coral Gables, FL.

Invited Scholarly Colloquia, Presentations, and Symposia


Fisher, J. D. (2010, October). *Prevention for positives.* Invited presentation at University of Zimbabwe Department of Psychology, Harare, Zimbabwe.


Fisher, J. D. (2011, March). *Changing HIV risk behavior.* Invited colloquium at Distinguished Professor Address, Department of Psychology, Storrs, CT.


Gorin, A. A. (2010, November). *For better or worse? Weight loss and weight gain among couples.* Invited talk at National Cancer Institute, Dyadic Processes Across the Cancer Continuum Invited Conference, Bethesda, MD.

Gorin, A. A. (2010, November). *Health starts at home: How the physical and social home environment can impact weight management.* Invited talk at the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine, Providence, RI.

Harel, O. (2010, October). *Inferences on missing information under multiple imputation and two-stage multiple imputation.* Invited presentation at the Missing Data Approaches in the Health and Social Sciences: A Modern Survey Meeting, McGill University and CRM Statistics Laboratory, Montréal, Quebec, Canada.


Harel, O. (2011, April). *Designed missingness to better estimate efficacy of behavioral studies.* Invited presentation at the 10th Conference on Health Survey Research Methods, Atlanta, GA.

Harel, O. (2011, April). *Strategies for data analysis with two types of missing values.* Invited presentation at the Statistical Center for HIV/AIDS Research and Prevention (SCHARP), Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA.


Harel, O. (2011, May). *Strategies for data analysis with two types of missing values.* Invited presentation at the Department of Statistics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.

Harel, O. (2011, May). *Strategies for data analysis with two types of missing values.* Invited presentation at the Statistics seminar Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
Johnson, B. T. (2010, June). *Attitudes and attitude change*. Invited presentation at the Four-day Graduate-Level Workshop, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Johnson, B. T. (2010, June). *Toward 100% evidence-based sports medicine: Achieving the gold standard*. Invited presentation at the Pronouncements Committee, American College of Sports Medicine, Baltimore, MD.


Milan, S. (2011). *Integrating research and clinical practice*. Member of Panel Discussion to Graduate and Medical Students at the University of Nairobi/Kenyatta Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya.


Pescatello, L. (2010, November). *Genome-wide association study identifies three ancestral loci shared with Neandertal as important for skeletal muscle volume in young males*. Invited presentation at the American Society of Human Genetics, Washington, DC.


Pescatello, L. (2011, Month). *Career bits of advice from the wayward wanderer*. Invited presentation at the Department of Exercise Science EXS Majors Night, Dr. Frank Frangione Lecture, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT.

Pescatello, L. (2011, Month). *The science and art of exercise prescription for healthy and clinical populations*. Invited presentation at the General Clinical Research Center seminar series, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT.

Siddique, J., & Harel, O. (2010, October). *Generating multiple imputations from multiple models to incorporate model uncertainty in nonignorable missing data problems*. Invited presentation at the Department of Preventive Medicine (Biostatistics), Northwestern University, Chicago, IL.

Siddique, J., & Harel, O. (2010, November). *Generating multiple imputations from multiple models to incorporate model uncertainty in nonignorable missing data problems*. Invited presentation at the Prevention Science and Methodology Group, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL.

Singer, M. (2010, February). *Illicit drug injection and syringe mediated epidemics: Comparing the USA and China*. Visiting Ethnographer, Department of Anthropology, St. Mary’s College, St. Mary’s City, MD.


Smith, L. R. (g), Christie, S. (r.s.), Shuper, P. A., Pillay, S., MacDonald, S., Ngcobo, N., & Fisher, J. D. (2010, August). Positive prevention through working with health care workers in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa): The state of


Snyder, L. B. (2011, February). *The intervention they don’t want to miss: Results of a randomized control trial using a safer-sex video game to impact urban young heterosexual African-American men*. Invited presentation to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA.


Volek, J. (2010, October). *Old and new paradigms in carbohydrate nutrition*. Invited presentation at Performance Nutrition Symposium, National Strength and Conditioning Association and Abbott Nutrition, Columbus, OH.

Volek, J. (2010, October). *The Top 7 things you can expect from your body by using Carnipure® prior to and after exercise*. Invited presentation at Supply Side West, Las Vegas, NV.


**Awards**


Singer, M. (2010). Service-Learning Faculty Fellowship, academic year 2010-2011, Office of Service-Learning and Institute for Teaching and Learning, University of Connecticut.
APPENDIX 16: Selected CHIP Graduate Student Publications, Presentations, Research Projects, and Achievements

- PIs and Affiliates’ names are bolded in the PI section.
- Graduate Students’ names are bolded in the Graduate Student section. Their names are followed by (g) in the PI section.

Articles


Book Chapters


Conference Proceedings and Presentations (short paper, abstract, or poster)


Hernandez, D. (2010, July). Subsidization of fruits and vegetables in two urban supermarkets leads to increases in purchasing and intake of these foods, as well as weight loss. Presentation at the 11th Annual International Congress on Obesity, Stockholm, Sweden.
Hernandez, D. (2010, October). *Subsidization of fruits and vegetables in two urban supermarkets leads to increases in purchasing and intake of these foods, as well as weight loss.* Poster session presented at the 28th Annual Conference of The Obesity Society, San Diego, CA.


Fisher, J. D., & Smith, L. R. *Overview of prevention for people living with HIV: past, present, and possible future directions.* Presentation at the 18th Annual International AIDS Conference, Vienna, Austria.


Pillay, S., Shuper, P. A., Moodley, K., MacDonald, S. P., Christie, S., Cornman, D. H., ... Smith, L. R., ... Fisher, J.D. (2010, July). *Correlates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in an HIV infected population on highly active Antiretroviral Therapy in South Africa (SA).* Poster session presented at the 18th Annual International AIDS Conference, Vienna, Austria.


White, A. C., & Evans, K. N. P. M. (2010, November). *Using emotional communication to address conspiracy beliefs in health education messages.* Poster session presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Denver, CO.


**Grants**

Ash, G., CHIP Seed Grant for Graduate Student Pilot Projects, awarded by the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut. March 2010 — June 2010. *A Pilot Study of the Comparison of the Immediate After Effects of Aerobic (AE) and Ischemic Handgrip (IHG) Exercise on Blood Pressure (BP) and Vascular Function Among Adults with High Blood Pressure.* $1500. [Mentor: Linda Pescatello]


Goldsby, T., American College of Sports Medicine. *The Influence of Ethnicity on Post Exercise Hypotension: A Meta-analysis of Acute Exercise Trials.* Purpose: To meta-analyze the literature to quantify the magnitude of the BP reductions that result from acute exercise, i.e., PEH. To meta-analyze the literature to determine the influence of ethnicity on PEH. July 2011 – June 2012. $5000. [Mentors: Linda S Pescatello & Blair T. Johnson]


Schierberl Scherr, A., CHIP Seed Grant for Graduate Student Pilot Projects, awarded by the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut. April 2011-September 2011. *Understanding for whom and how couples-based approaches to weight loss may be successful.* $1500. [Mentor: Amy Gorin]

Tan, J. Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation. 2010 – 2012. $12,199.

**Selected Honors & Awards**

Ash, G. Graduate Mentor, Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. 2010.


Ballard, K. Neag School of Education Helen Reynolds Scholarship Recipient, University of Connecticut. 2010.
Ballard, K. Outstanding Graduate Student Scholar in Exercise Science, University of Connecticut.

Brown, J. Graduate Mentor, Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. 2010.

Brown, J. Graduate School Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut. 2010.

Goldsby, T. Leadership and Diversity Training Fellow, American College of Sports Medicine, Indianapolis, IN. 2011


Gregory, P. Outstanding Academic Achievement Award from the Department of Physical Education and Human Performance, Central Connecticut State University.


Tan, J. Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Connecticut. 2011. $2,000.

Tan, J. Advanced Training Institute Travel Grant, American Psychological Association. 2010.

Tan, J. Methodological Studies Award, Center for Research on Families, University of Massachusetts - Amherst. 2010.

**Guidelines for Use of CHIP Services**

revised March 14, 2011

- Note that access to CHIP services is only for work performed within CHIP’s mission.
- Any exception to these guidelines needs prior approval from the CHIP Director and/or Associate Director.

**Notes:**
- *CHIP affiliates* are individuals who are performing research, or scaling up to perform research, that is consistent with CHIP’s mission. Affiliates must fill out an affiliation form (available on the CHIP website) and be approved by the Director and Associate Director, or their designee.
- **CHIP affiliates and graduate students with active CHIP external or internal grants become CHIP PIs** and are eligible for associated services.
- ***CHIP graduate student employees who are also affiliates*** may be eligible for services in both of the right most columns below, as appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHIP SERVICES</th>
<th>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</th>
<th>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</th>
<th>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIP INTERNAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grants for PI’s</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grants for New Investigators</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X PI must be from UConn</td>
<td>X Must be CHIP Affiliate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot Project Grants for Graduate Students</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>UConn faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Faculty Stipends for Grant Development</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>UConn faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for Conference Development</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X PI must be from UConn</td>
<td>X Must be CHIP Affiliate</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of your CHIP external grant proposals by outside experts prior to submission to external funder (with approval from Director)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to samples of awarded internal and external grants provided as a learning tool with Director or Associate Director approval and University NET ID</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become member of a CHIP-L Listserv</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtain University affiliate NET ID for CHIP related work with Director/Associate Director approval</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to CHIP’s Microsoft Live Meeting software (for web based conferencing)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend CHIP Lecture Series and access all presentations via pod casts and web site (available to the general public)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to methodological and statistical pre-review of proposals and statistical support for other health related research work with approval from Director &amp; Associate Director</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP GRANTS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit a CHIP affiliated grant with approval from Director &amp; Associate Director</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X w/ official UConn title</td>
<td>X Must be a CHIP affiliate</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRE-AWARD (EXTERNAL GRANT APPLICATION) SERVICES:</strong> assistance with Internal Proposal Review Form (IPR) &amp; the Significant Financial Interest Review Form (SFR), budget, consortium agreements, actual grant application submission &amp; review of submission for compliance/requirements</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X Academic dept approval required for external grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POST AWARD (GRANT ADMINISTRATION) SERVICES:</strong> assistance with pre-award coding, set-up of awarded budget, PSAs and paying invoices, re-budgeting and cost transfers, no cost extensions, budget projections, effort reporting, progress reports and carryover and award closeout</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHIP PERSONNEL &amp; PAYROLL SUPPORT SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with hiring staff, undergraduate and graduate students</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with payroll processing of staff, undergraduate and graduate students</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with staff-related human resources/labor relations issues</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHIP PURCHASING SUPPORT SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with making purchases, payment of invoices and reimbursements &amp; cash advances for participant incentives</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRAVEL SUPPORT SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with making flight reservations &amp; reconciling travel expenses when travel is funded by a CHIP grant</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X UConn employees working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X If funded by CHIP grant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel safety information and assistance</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITY SUPPORT SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to reserve a CHIP conference or interview room for research, based on availability</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to obtain office space at CHIP (building and office access) with approval from Director</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check out available equipment (Laptop, Polycom Pod, Skype Speakerphone &amp; Digital Video Cameras) for use for CHIP related business and research</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHIP IT SUPPORT SERVICES (for CHIP grant related equipment and work only)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation services to plan IT involvement in future research grant</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with CHIP grant related IT purchases (computers, hardware &amp; software)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with project management (setting up &amp; managing servers, system analysis)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with CHIP grant purchased hardware &amp; software issues (failures, warranty requests upgrades, email, research software packages)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with network issues and server management</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term data storage on CHIP’s server with secure access</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP DISSEMINATION SERVICES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Krane - communications, public relations, dissemination of research findings</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
<td>X When working under direction of CHIP PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post on website: affiliate biopage, research measures, and conference presentations.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP ADVANCED INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER (AITC)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation to build hardware and software and provide personnel capabilities to produce and support virtual reality (VR) research</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee-for-service AITC support</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This chart indicates the percentage of each position that is funded by the CHIP Ledger 4 account. During FY11, on average, 80% of Deborah Cornman’s position, 15% of Jonathan Gill’s position, and 50% of Mark Juliano’s position were funded by various research grants.

**For part of FY11, this position was a Program Assistant I position which was funded 33% from Dr. Fisher’s Psychology Ledger 4 Indirect accounts.**
**Mission Statement**

The mission of the AITC is to provide access to advanced interactive equipment in conjunction with production, development and operational services to the University of Connecticut community. The AITC enables researchers to take advantage of advanced technology without the need to master new techniques or acquire expensive hardware. The AITC takes emerging equipment and practices and applies them to practical applications in ways that provide new opportunities for users to achieve their goals. The AITC provides services for applications involving interaction between both participants and equipment, and multiple participants mediated by technology. The AITC supports research applications as well as practical, deployable applications that can directly benefit impacted populations.

**History**

In 2006, CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology) received a seed grant from CHIP to use VR as an experimental medium for her research. Based partly on the results of this initial work, Dr. Marsh was awarded a significant grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to continue research along these lines. In 2008, this funding enabled the establishment of a modest Virtual Reality (VR) Lab at CHIP. In the summer of 2008, Marsh and VR expert Timothy Gifford, now CHIP AITC Director, proposed to CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) that the capabilities of the VR Lab be made available to other CHIP researchers and to the greater University community. Dr. Fisher responded by authorizing the procurement of additional equipment to support the growth of the VR Lab, and the Lab began to be utilized by additional CHIP researchers.

In 2009, CHIP submitted a proposal to UConn’s Service Center and Cost Recovery Committee (SCCRC) to become a service center. On October 1, 2009, the committee approved the creation of the CHIP AITC as a service center with Timothy Gifford as CHIP AITC director. The CHIP AITC has a broader focus than the original CHIP VR Lab, providing access to interactive technology beyond basic virtual reality equipment. As a service center, the CHIP AITC provides services to both the CHIP community and to the University as a whole. The CHIP AITC can also provide service to commercial customers with no affiliation to the University.

**Fiscal Year 2011**

Fiscal year 2011 marked the first full year of operation for the CHIP AITC. During the past year, the CHIP AITC served three clients and produced several useful deliverables for each client. The CHIP AITC also hired two technical support personnel and one administrative team member, and developed several administrative processes and policies for managing the service center, which has evolved into a resource for the entire University community and researchers from outside institutions as well as CHIP investigators.

**Clients**

**CHIP Affiliate Deborah McDonald (Ph.D., Nursing)**

For Dr. McDonald, the CHIP AITC produced a Spanish version of her virtual pain coach application this year. The original version of the virtual pain coach was developed for Dr. McDonald last year to teach elderly patients how to talk with their doctors about their pain.

**CHIP PI Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology)**

For Dr. Marsh this year, the CHIP AITC produced a set of codes that acquires data from a six-sensor wireless tracking system and records the data in compatible data formats. The CHIP AITC also created a mobile sensor mounting system to house the tracking system. The system was built from off-the-shelf components. These efforts enhance Dr. Marsh and her grad students’ ability to utilize the tracking equipment.

**Peter Luh (Ph.D., Engineering)**
The CHIP AITC is producing an interactive simulation and visualization simulation of emergency evacuation scenarios in the Babbidge library. These visualizations will mirror data from numerical simulations created by Dr. Luh’s team with Dr. Marsh as a collaborator on this grant. These immersive simulations will give insight into participants’ reactions to the evacuation situation. These actions and reactions will help the researchers assess if the actions of the simulated people are realistic for the given circumstances. This will enable the researchers to tune and validate the numerical simulations.

**Staff and Administrative Development**

Director Timothy Gifford brings 20 years of experience from private industry in filmmaking, computer graphics, software development, simulation, robotics, and VR to the CHIP AITC. Timothy Gifford provides the vision for the development and growth of the CHIP AITC as well as design and production direction for each application it produces. Christian Wannamaker (M.S., Computer Science), a graduate of UConn’s School of Engineering, provides software development and support. CHIP Administrative Manager Susan Hoge and CHIP Administrative Services Specialist Sarah Bothell provide invaluable administrative support to the CHIP AITC. Their time is covered by the CHIP AITC center usage fee.

Over the past year, the CHIP AITC has created and implemented several policies and practices to ensure smooth operation and fiscal transparency. Susan Hoge, Sarah Bothell, and Carolyn Pantano, a student employee of the CHIP AITC, have worked diligently to set up the processes. The CHIP AITC has worked closely with Dr. Fisher and Lori Hanson-Roy CPA, Manager of Cost Analysis, of the University Accounting Office to insure close adherence to University policies. Other recent efforts have involved exploring how the CHIP AITC and CHIP IT will work together without overlapping services. Timothy Gifford and CHIP IT Director Jonathan Gill have worked on a process for how the CHIP units will interact with each other and how the two units can best serve CHIP researchers. CHIP AITC and CHIP IT communicate regularly to ensure that both are aware of the other’s activities and any potential opportunities for collaboration.

**Forms**

The CHIP AITC has created a series of forms and paperwork for interacting with their clients. The first is the service request form on the website. Through this form, interested entities can submit a description of a proposed project that they would like to have completed. Based on this information, CHIP AITC staff sets up a meeting with the potential client and discuss the client’s needs and goals. AITC staff members then fill out a proposal quote form. This form details the work to be completed and the timeframe. It includes an estimate of the personnel, equipment, and center usage costs associated with completing the project. This information is then used by the potential client for acquiring the necessary funds, such as through a grant application. Once the client has received the funding and is ready to start production, CHIP AITC staff then complete a production quote. This document is similar to the proposal quote except that it is updated to reflect current costs and the current requirements of the project, which may have changed since the proposal submission. Each of these forms must be reviewed and signed by the CHIP Director, the CHIP AITC Director, and the client. The CHIP AITC also has created equipment rental forms and spreadsheets to keep track of any equipment that has been rented and when it will be returned.

**Accounting**

Clients are charged for each hour worked to provide the required production and development services. The clients are also billed a Center usage fee based on the number of hours that the technicians work or the equipment is used. The fee covers equipment maintenance, overhead, and administrative costs. The CHIP AITC bills its clients on a monthly basis. At the start of each month, invoices are created and sent to clients to get their approval for the previous month’s usage. Information for the invoices comes from the Usage Log. Once the client approves the invoice, it is sent to Sarah Bothell, and she then bills the client for the specified amount. For equipment rentals that exceed one month, the CHIP AITC still bills on a monthly basis. A standard email request is sent to the client renting equipment at the beginning of each month asking for the amount of hours the equipment was used for the previous month. An invoice is created based on the amount of hours the equipment is used, and the client is billed.
Infrastructure

The CHIP AITC has specialized equipment for VR applications including head-mounted displays, data gloves, magnetic tracking systems, and optical tracking systems. The CHIP AITC also has a wide selection of production workstations with several software packages designed for use in the animation and game development market. These packages are used for the specialized task of producing interactive applications.

During FY11, the CHIP AITC acquired low-budget items, such as tools and software necessary for operations, and worked on identifying additional equipment that would extend the capability of the Center. The staff also organized CHIP AITC facilities to aid in equipment tracking and upkeep. In addition, the staff has been working with labs on campus to make those labs’ equipment available to other researchers through the CHIP AITC. In this situation, the CHIP AITC would administer the operation and billing, while the original lab would maintain ownership and house the equipment. The first group with which the CHIP AITC may implement this is the Center for the Ecological Study of Perception and Action (CESPA) within the Psychology Department.

**Facility**

The CHIP AITC is currently located in rooms 202, 203, and 223 in the J. Ray Ryan Building. Administration, client meetings, and production are carried out in room 203. Room 223 provides additional office space for production staff. Room 202 provides lab space where VR display equipment and motion tracking systems are housed. The high tech classroom on the second floor of Ryan can also be used as a large volume interactive lab where a participant can walk around an area as large 900 feet square without encumbrance. There is a small storage room off of room 202 where the Center stores equipment when not in use.

The CHIP AITC has a small satellite office in the Psychology labs on the Greater Hartford campus of UCONN. This office houses some production equipment and can support interactive activities with equipment brought from the main location.

**Marketing**

The CHIP AITC is beginning efforts to market its services to CHIP and the greater University community. Staff members are developing introductory mailings that are being sent to deans and department heads and other key stakeholders. The staff is offering to give presentations to departments that are interested in AITC’s services. The CHIP AITC also is creating a brochure that can be disseminated electronically. The CHIP AITC webpage on CHIP’s website also went through a series of upgrades in FY11 to reflect the growing capabilities of the CHIP AITC.

**Future Goals**

One goal for the coming year is to educate the University community about the CHIP AITC. The Center will market its services and the opportunities that the CHIP AITC provides. This ultimately should generate more usage that will continue to feed the growth of the Center. The long-term goal is for the CHIP AITC to continue to grow and evolve to better provide services at increasing cost-effectiveness and quality.

**Conclusion**

After the CHIP AITC’s first full year in operation, the Center’s policies and practices are more structured. The CHIP AITC continues to grow its infrastructure and personnel. The CHIP AITC has provided high quality work to researchers who were able to access these technologies at a fraction of the cost that it would take using traditional research equipment funding models. Fiscal year 2011 continued the CHIP AITC’s record of successfully meeting its mission through job completion and capability growth.
A special thank you to Susan Hoge, Beth Krane, and Shannon Carrigan for the countless hours that they spent on the 2011 CHIP Annual Report. We also thank the following individuals at CHIP for their important contributions:

- Colin Barr
- Sarah Bothell
- Alicia Dugan
- Timothy Gifford
- Jonathan Gill
- Donna Hawkins
- Stacey Leeds
- Erin Lenz
- Vasinee Long
- Sam Salorio
- Katelyn Sileo
- Laramie Smith
- Melissa Stone
- Keith Woodward