Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP)

ANNUAL REPORT
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A. Executive Summary

- **Expanded Research Enterprise:** During FY13, CHIP principal investigators (PIs) launched substantial new U.S. and international, interdisciplinary research initiatives in numerous health behavior domains, such as HIV/AIDS, sexual risk behavior, cancer, autism, exercise science, obesity, nutrition, alcohol and substance use, and health communication. In the context of HIV/AIDS and sexual risk behavior, newly-funded CHIP initiatives included external grants to (1) examine the effects of discrimination and social exclusion on individuals’ likelihood of engaging in risky sexual and substance use behavior, (2) conduct meta-analyses to determine the link between alcohol use and sexual risk behavior, (3) develop mobile phone applications for prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), (4) develop HIV prevention interventions targeting drug users nationally and internationally, (5) promote retention in HIV care, which is strongly related to favorable clinical outcomes in HIV patients, (6) promote adherence to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV and to antiretroviral (ARV) medications to treat HIV, and (7) enhance STI/HIV partner notification in South Africa. In other critical health domains, newly-funded initiatives included external grants to (1) understand ethnic differences related to the successful completion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, (2) continue the largest study to date of psycho-social factors related to the physical and mental health of African American families, (3) examine the effects of media portrayals of substance use and food on adolescent health, (4) develop a music- and movement-based intervention to improve the motor, social, and communication skills of children with autism, (5) understand barriers to weight control in target populations, (6) determine the role that nutritional supplements play in recovery following intense exercise conditioning, (7) examine the adaptability of the modern soldier to a multitude of different demands and environments, and understand the implications for physical performance and resilience, and (8) determine blood sugar response to foods low in carbohydrates. In keeping with CHIP’s focus on health-related dissemination and implementation science, several of CHIP’s new projects are developing interventions that can be immediately and cost-effectively disseminated to the populations that need them most, once the interventions have been proven effective.

- **Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network:** In FY13, CHIP’s multidisciplinary affiliates collaborative network of health behavior change researchers experienced significant growth, bringing its total membership to 177 research affiliates and 43 graduate student 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 who are able to respond within short timeframes to large-scale funding opportunities. In an effort to expand its reach across UConn and broaden its portfolio of health research in areas with especially strong external funding potential, CHIP formed two new multidisciplinary, community-engaged Research Interest Groups in the areas of Cancer and eHealth/mHealth, and significantly expanded its existing Obesity Research Interest Group in FY13.

- **Expanded Collaborations at the Center Level:** During FY13, CHIP continued its efforts to forge new and expand existing collaborations at the Center level. These efforts included inviting the Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), Cameron Faustman, and the Associate Dean and Associate Director of the Cooperative Extension System (CES), Michael O’Neill, to a CHIP Executive Committee meeting in April to discuss how to get more CANR faculty involved with CHIP and foster greater collaborations between CANR, CES, and CHIP. In turn, CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) presented to CANR’s Executive Council. Dr. Cornman also met with the Director of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Michael Willig, to explore possibilities for research collaborations between CHIP and CESE during FY13.

- **Hiring for the Next Generation of CHIP:** During FY13, CHIP conducted a national search for a senior faculty member with expertise in obesity prevention and control. Two top candidates were interviewed and negotiations currently are in progress with a highly qualified candidate.
• **Expanded Expertise along the Cancer Research Continuum:** With the FY13 arrival of two newly hired, renowned health psychologists with expertise in cancer risk (husband and wife Psychology Professor Rick Gibbons and Psychology Research Professor Meg Gerrard), CHIP considerably deepened its existing research expertise in cancer prevention. Examples of some of Dr. Gibbons and Dr. Gerrard’s collaborative research in the area of cancer prevention include: predicting and preventing youth alcohol and substance use, assessing smoking risk behavior and the effectiveness of smoking cessation interventions, applying social psychological theory to interventions for UV protection, and determining psychological and behavioral predictors of HPV vaccination in minority populations. CHIP also has considerable research expertise in cancer survivorship issues.

• **Ongoing Research Portfolio:** Actual total costs expended on CHIP external grants during FY13 were approximately $9 million, including $6.6 million in direct costs and $2.4 million in recovered indirect costs. During FY13, indirect costs returned to the University increased more than 25 percent, compared to FY12. In the past decade, total costs have increased nearly 700 percent (from $1.3 million in FY02 to $9 million in FY13). The total costs of CHIP grants that are currently active are $50.6 million, across all years. Moreover, total costs awarded to CHIP PIs since CHIP’s founding in FY02 are $94.4 million, direct costs are $72.4 million, and indirect costs returned to the University during this interval are $22 million.

• **Growth in New Externally-Funded Research:** In FY13, CHIP again had extraordinary success in attracting external funding for its research, with CHIP PIs receiving new multiple-year external grant awards in excess of $7.2 million.

• **Grants Submitted:** In FY13, CHIP PIs submitted 71 external grant applications, comprising more than $44.8 million in total costs, including nearly $31.8 million in direct costs and nearly $12.9 million in indirect costs. The number of grant submissions in FY13 represents more than a 40 percent increase compared to FY12, and the total value of these submissions represents a nearly 20 percent increase compared to FY12.

• **International Research:** CHIP research continues to be international in scope, with active externally-funded projects in Albania, China, Ethiopia, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand, and Uganda. In fact, nearly 40 percent ($19.6 million) of currently active CHIP grant funding, across all years, involves work in other countries. During FY13, CHIP PIs also submitted grants to conduct work in Canada, Pakistan, and Peru.

• **CHIP Research Investment Capital Awards:** Each year, CHIP holds internal Research Investment Capital (“Seed Grant”) Competitions to stimulate pilot research leading to future external grant applications submitted through the Center. CHIP research investment funds are awarded through a rigorous National Institute of Health (NIH)-style panel review process. In FY13, CHIP awarded seed grants to one CHIP PI, three CHIP-affiliated UConn faculty members, and four CHIP-affiliated graduate students. The winners’ pilot project research topics include developing obesity interventions, comparing different methods that exercise professionals use for prescribing intensity level for running, understanding paternal influences on child and family health, and retaining HIV-positive patients in medical care to improve their health outcomes. For each dollar invested by CHIP in its seed grant program, many dollars in total costs have been awarded to CHIP investigators for large external grant proposals based, in part, on seed grant-funded pilot work, and substantial indirect costs have been returned to the University.

• **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 48 graduate students across multiple departments. University awards also provided funding for 2 of those graduate students. Total yearlong graduate student funding from CHIP grants was $623,353.

• **CHIP Graduate Student Research Accomplishments:** In September 2012, CHIP-affiliated Nursing doctoral student Emily Tuthill became the 11th UConn graduate student working with a CHIP mentor, in as many years, to receive a National Research Service Award (NRSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for her project entitled, *Exclusive Breastfeeding Promotion among HIV+ Mothers: A Theory-Based Approach*. Tuthill is using her

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1 Indirect costs (IDCs) are synonymous with “Facilities and Administrative” costs or F&As.
NRSA to try to change the predominantly non-exclusive breastfeeding behavior of HIV+ South African women, with the ultimate goal of reducing mother-to-child HIV transmission. The 11 NRSAst awarded to CHIP-affiliated graduate students represent a combined amount of nearly $930,000 in total costs awarded. CHIP graduate students have an exceptional track record of winning outside funding from national funding agencies, such as NIH 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. Also during Fall 2012, CHIP-affiliated Psychology doctoral student Megan Clarke became the third CHIP-affiliated graduate student to be named a UConn Farber Fellow since the fellowship was established last year. Farber Fellows are funded through a generous trust established by former Social Psychology faculty member Maurice Farber before he died in 2009. Clarke’s research interests include obesity prevention and intervention for women of childbearing age.

- **CHIP Lecture Series**: CHIP continues to sponsor an impressive series of lectures and events that brought 17 nationally and internationally recognized leaders in health behavior research from 13 different institutions to the University of Connecticut campus in FY13. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including weight loss and obesity prevention, behavioral and pharmacological treatments for pregnant smokers, risk reduction through virtual environments, social network approaches to HIV prevention, and health disparities among men who have sex with men (MSM), among many others. In addition to attending the presentations, PIs, graduate students, other affiliates, and community members 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. A total of 111 individuals met onsite with one or more presenters. During FY13, CHIP had an average onsite lecture participation rate of 26 people per lecture, with additional viewers watching live streamed or archived versions of the presentations (there were a total of 500 online viewings of presentations during FY13).
B. Introduction

In November 2001, the Chancellor and Provost and the Vice Provost for Research of the University of Connecticut identified the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) as a 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, highlighting 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 FY13, these were reviewed at the December 3rd 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 at multiple levels of analysis (e.g., individual, family, community, societal). CHIP disseminates knowledge and cutting-edge interventions through research, capacity-building, structural change, 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 and related systems, the science of health behavior change, and the science and practice of developing, implementing, evaluating, and disseminating effective interventions.

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

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

E. Progress on CHIP Objectives for FY 2013

**Progress on CHIP Research Objectives:**

While CHIP’s roots were in HIV/AIDS research and CHIP continues to be a worldwide leader in that area, over the years, consistent with our mandate from the Board of Trustees, the Center has considerably broadened the health domains in which its investigators are conducting research, increased the quantity of research in these areas, and deepened the quality of that research. In addition to HIV/AIDS, the list of current CHIP health domains in which research is conducted includes other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and sexual risk behaviors, alcohol and substance use, medication adherence and management, exercise science, nutrition, obesity, diabetes, cancer, autism, global health, health disparities, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, health intervention- and measurement-related dissemination and implementation science, health communication and marketing, and select methods to study health behavior. *(For examples of CHIP research within each of these domains, please see Section J on pp. 29-33.)*
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. For each dollar invested by CHIP in its seed grant program, many dollars in total costs have been awarded to CHIP investigators for large external grant proposals based, in part, on seed grant-funded pilot work, and substantial indirect costs have been returned to the University. *(See Section K on pp. 34-39 for more information about CHIP’s internal grant opportunities and this year’s grant winners.)*

A recent addition to the CHIP internal grants program, initiated last year, is a two-year, $50,000 seed grant, which is being jointly funded and sponsored by CHIP and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University. This new opportunity for CHIP researchers to work collaboratively with Yale researchers on innovative HIV prevention research is viewed as a model for future seed grants for CHIP research interest groups in health areas outside of HIV, particularly with respect to fostering increased collaborations between UConn-Storrs and UCHC.

In addition to CHIP’s internal grants program, the Center also provides, when requested, pre-submission reviews of external grant proposals by experts in the field, and sometimes funds a competitive summer stipend to junior faculty who are writing grants, to help them succeed in obtaining external funding. Another CHIP service available to affiliates to help them develop successful CHIP grant proposals is access to previously-submitted, funded CHIP grants to use as models for new grant proposals. Electronic access to model grants 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. 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, our highly skilled PIs and these innovative services at the Center resulted in $7.2 million in externally-funded grants being newly awarded in the past year. *(For the purpose of this report, grants are considered “new” if awarded between May 16, 2012 and May 15, 2013.)*

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

In the past year, CHIP expanded its research in a number of its health research domains outside of HIV. *(For a full list of CHIP health research domains and examples of CHIP research within each domain, please see Section J on pp. 29-33.)*

Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a supplement to her grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Mental Health (NIH/NIMH) entitled “Robot-Child Interactions as an Intervention Tool for Children with Autism.” This project proposes using robot-child interactions as an intervention tool for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) to enhance their motor, social, and communication skills. The project’s results will determine the parameters of robot-child intervention treatment and the feasibility of long-term training interventions using robots for children with ASDs.
Dr. Bhat received a second grant from the Autism Speaks Foundation which is entitled “Embodied Rhythm Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.” While music-based interventions are often delivered to children with ASDs, to date there are no systematic studies investigating the effects of such interventions. This new project proposes to test the effects of a novel “rhythm therapy” protocol on the motor, social, and communication skills of children with ASDs in a pilot randomized controlled trial. Moreover, the research team will develop a training manual of instructions and activities, and a demo CD which can be used by clinicians and parents to incorporate rhythm-based activities into the daily social routines of children.

Frederick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology) received a grant from NIH/National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) entitled, “Factors Influencing the Health Behavior of Young African American Adults.” The Family and Community Health Study (FACHS) is a longitudinal study of psychosocial factors related to the physical and mental health of African American families—the largest such study conducted to date in the US. It began with 900 families and has followed them through six assessment periods (Waves) over 15 years, focusing on the adolescents who were 10 years old at Wave 1 (26 at Wave 6) and their parents. It looks at the impact of stressors, such as racial discrimination, environmental risk, and low socioeconomic status (SES), as well as buffers, such as racial socialization and racial identity on outcomes, including substance use, obesity, and disease. At Wave 5, the researchers also began looking at the interactive effects of gene and environment (G x E) on these outcomes.

Dr. Gibbons received a subcontract from NIH/National Cancer Institute (NCI)/University of Hawaii entitled, “Self-control as a Moderator for Effects of Mass Media on Adolescent Substance Use.” This project uses both experimental/lab and survey methods to examine the effects of media portrayals of alcohol, tobacco, and food on the health behaviors of adolescents. It focuses on self-control as an individual difference factor that moderates the processes underlying media effects (e.g., Do low self-control adolescents pay more attention to risk behavior in movies and are they more likely to recall substance use than adolescents who are higher in self-control?). The survey examines the long-term effects of different levels of media exposure on health behavior.

Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) received a grant from Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) entitled, “Understanding Barriers to Weight Control in Submariners and Their Families.” Obesity rates are increasing in military populations, jeopardizing the health and career trajectories of individual service members and the national security of the U.S. The military and NIH have expressed interest in developing efficacious weight management interventions that are sensitive to the challenges faced by active duty military personnel. The purpose of this project, being conducted in collaboration with researchers at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory (NSMRL) in Groton, CT, is to gather comprehensive data on the unique barriers to weight control for submariners and the interactive effects that the work environment, family, and submarine culture have on weight management.

William Kraemer (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a grant from a private corporation entitled, “Influence of a ... Supplement on Recovery Response after Acute Resistance Exercise.” The use of nucleotide complexes to help in the post-exercise recovery has been an emerging area of study. Prior work has shown that nucleotides may help in the support of the body’s natural cell regeneration processes following exercise. In this study, the effects of this nutritional supplement are being examined in men and women following a resistance exercise workout to determine the repair processes and recovery capabilities for both performance and muscle tissue damage.

Dr. Kraemer received a grant from a private corporation entitled, “The Role of ... Recovery™ Protein in Protecting Muscle and Promoting Recovery from Intense Conditioning.” The use of protein, more specifically whey protein, has been popular for helping the recovery process from resistance training. In this study, the role of protein supplementation is examined to determine how it might be supportive of the recovery process from a series of resistance training workouts. Recovery processes related to protein metabolism as well as performance maintenance are crucial in helping optimize training adaptations. This study seeks to
understand the recovery process from workout sequences when using a protein supplementation program as a nutritional support system in men.

Dr. Kraemer also received a grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) entitled, “Defense Sciences Research and Technology.” Understanding the stress and demands of the modern soldier is important to understanding the recovery processes from various types of missions and training protocols. In this study, the evaluation of various domains of physiological stress as well as other factors related to recovery will be examined. Understanding the recovery process is crucial for better management of soldiers in helping them to adapt to the demanding physical and psychological environments of military service.

Merrill Singer (Ph.D., Anthropology) received a subcontract from NIH/Yale University entitled, “Disparities in HPV Vaccine Completion: Identifying and Quantifying the Barriers.” This study is designed to better understand existing ethnic differences in the rates at which young women complete the full three-inoculation vaccination sequence to prevent HPV infection. It compares young women across ethnic identities who have all received the first inoculation to determine whether and the reasons why they return to their provider to receive the next two doses.

Jeff Volek (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a grant from Atkins Nutritional, Inc. entitled, “Product Testing Using the Net Atkins Count Approach.” Foods that increase blood sugar rapidly can cause a rebound low blood sugar (i.e., the spike and crash phenomena) that is associated with the unstable flow of energy and a host of chronic diseases. Many products marketed as having a low blood sugar impact have not been formerly tested and may cause higher than expected increases in circulating sugar levels. The purpose of this project is to determine the blood sugar response to foods with a low carbohydrate content, and to compare this to foods known to cause a rapid rise in blood sugar.

The newly-funded CHIP grants described above, as well as other newly-submitted CHIP grants, demonstrate how CHIP’s research focus has broadened to include a wide array of health domains outside of HIV. Of the $44.8 million in CHIP grant proposals that were submitted this past year, $25.7 million of them proposed conducting research in domains outside of HIV. (For the purpose of this report, grant proposals submitted between May 16, 2012 and May 15, 2013 are considered “new” submissions in FY13.)

(See Appendix 1 on pp. 48-49 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 PIs received, or were notified they would be receiving, a number of new HIV/AIDS prevention grants during FY13, continuing CHIP’s role as a world leader in this domain. At present, CHIP’s active portfolio of HIV/AIDS prevention grants exceeds $38.8 million in total costs across all years.

Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP) received a subcontract from NIH/University of Alabama entitled, “Integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry_iENGAGE to Control HIV.” This NIMH-funded R01 subcontract develops and evaluates an intervention specifically designed to promote the behavioral factors that lead to rapid and sustained HIV-control in people newly entering HIV care. Integration of demonstrated intervention approaches using one-on-one education and counseling will be employed to promote both retention in care and HIV medication adherence during the first year of HIV care.

In addition, Dr. Amico received a new grant from Gilead Sciences, Inc. entitled, “Audio Visual Representation of PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP Rep): Innovations in Informing and Motivating Potential PrEP Users.” This Gilead-funded project will produce a 7- to 10-minute media clip, vetted by medical experts, current PrEP users, and those considering the use of PrEP, that will be widely available to research and demonstration projects as well as websites accessed by the target populations. The media clip depicts HIV infection and possible PrEP HIV prevention mechanisms with an emphasis on the role of adherence. It employs engaging medical animation and visual representation of consistent PrEP use.
John Christensen (Ph.D., Communication) received a subcontract from NIH/University of Pennsylvania entitled, "Developing and Pilot Testing a Mobile Phone-Based HIV/STI Prevention Intervention." The overall goal is to reduce the rate of HIV infection among young African-American men who have sex with men (MSM) through the use of new communication technologies. This spring, Dr. Christensen began designing a bundle of smartphone applications (apps) that will help educate youth about HIV testing and prevention. One of the apps involves a game in which the player interacts with a virtual friend. Together, they overcome barriers to HIV testing such as low perceived susceptibility, access (e.g., cost, time, and location), and fear of receiving a positive test result. This intervention will utilize video and text messaging while also taking advantage of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, a smartphone feature that provides people with detailed information regarding the location of nearby HIV testing sites. After the intervention is developed, its effectiveness will be examined in a six-month randomized controlled trial.

Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) received a new grant from NIH/NIDA entitled, “HIV Prevention and Adherence among Priority Drug Using Populations.” This K02 grant will involve multidisciplinary research with CHIP affiliates and graduate students and will include Dr. Frederick Altice at Yale/CIRA and Yale medical students, undergraduates, and post-doctoral students. This career development grant is designed to support Dr. Copenhaver in a range of activities that will involve interdisciplinary collaborations and increased mentoring of budding investigators and that will collectively improve the development of HIV prevention and adherence intervention approaches targeting drug users nationally and internationally.

Dr. Gibbons received a subcontract from NIH/NIDA/George Washington University entitled, “Discrimination, Drug Use, and Risky Sex Cognitions among Young African Americans.” This project examines the effects of discrimination and social exclusion on the risky cognitions (e.g., willingness to engage in risky sex and drug use) of young Black and White adults. It is a “spin-off” of the FACHS (Family and Community Health Study) project and explores some of the same protective and risk factors of that project — especially perceived racial discrimination and racial identity — except in a controlled lab setting where these factors are manipulated. A focus here is on identifying individual differences in buffers that are potentially modifiable.

Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) received a subcontract from NIH/Miriam Hospital entitled, “Alcohol Consumption and HIV Behavior: Evaluating the Evidence.” For some time, researchers have suggested that inconsistent findings in the literature on the relation between alcohol consumption and HIV risk behavior are related to the assessment methods used and underlying "third variables" that may moderate the association. To date, the relationship between alcohol and risky sex at the global, situational, and event levels has not been comprehensively meta-analyzed nor have moderators (or mediators) of the relationship been systematically evaluated. This project uses meta-analytic methodology to gauge the state-of-the-science, identify gaps, and advance HIV prevention science and practice. Dr. Johnson and his team are examining whether alcohol is directly associated with sexual behavior and determining the efficacy of HIV-related interventions to improve behavioral and biological outcomes. A cultural-specific conceptual model of the association between alcohol consumption and risky sexual behavior will be used to guide the meta-analysis. The conclusions drawn from this meta-analysis will be used to identify geographic-specific prevention priorities and will assist others in the development and implementation of contextual sexual risk reduction interventions to reduce the global incidence of HIV.

Seth Kalichman (Ph.D. Psychology) was recently funded by the NIH for a new grant entitled, “Enhanced STI/HIV Partner Notification in South Africa.” Southern Africa is home to two-thirds of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Although only 10% of the world’s population lives in sub-Saharan Africa, more than 85% of AIDS-related deaths have occurred in this region. Among the most significant factors known to facilitate HIV transmission are sexually transmitted infections (STI). STIs breach protective mucosal barriers and attract immune cells that are susceptible to HIV infection (e.g., CD4+ T cells, macrophages). Both ulcerative and non-ulcerative STIs create portals of entry for HIV to access the bloodstream. People who contract STIs in high-HIV prevalence places, such as South Africa, are therefore among the populations at highest risk for HIV infection in the world. There are surprisingly few evidence-based HIV prevention interventions for STI clinic patients in resource poor settings. Dr. Kalichman’s new grant proposes testing a
theory-based approach to HIV risk reduction and enhanced partner notification counseling tailored for STI clinic patients in South Africa.

Other grants submitted through CHIP during the past fiscal year, but not yet funded, also reflect CHIP’s continued research focus on the core problem area of HIV/AIDS: $19 million of the $44.8 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, 2012 and May 15, 2013 are considered “new” submissions in FY13.)

(See Appendix 1 on pp. 48-49 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 for the past few years has involved conducting more health-related research with implications for public policy. This year, several new CHIP projects involve research with important policy implications.

Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and Dr. Johnson have initiated a project entitled, “SPIRE: Syntheses of Prevention Intervention Research in Exercise,” which has as its primary focus understanding when exercise has its greatest benefits for cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors. This project involves using contemporary, high-quality meta-analytic techniques to analyze the data from hundreds of exercise trials with blood pressure (BP) outcomes to determine the impact of exercise on hypertension (HTN) and cardiovascular health. Exciting new research has shown the importance of targeting modifiable CVD risk factors, such as HTN, with lifestyle interventions such as exercise to avert the development of CVD later in life, so the SPIRE findings will yield valuable information that has significant public policy implications.

Dr. Pescatello is also senior editor of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription (ninth edition), which was published in February of 2013. A new advancement in this edition of the Guidelines is that it removes unnecessary and unproven barriers to beginning a beneficial exercise program, such as a previous requirement that individuals at moderate risk of cardiovascular disease undergo a medical examination and a physician-administered exercise, or stress, test prior to starting an exercise regimen. Instead, the Guidelines reinforce the public health message of physical activity for all people, because the benefits of regular exercise far outweigh the risks. The new pre-participation health screening recommendations will influence the decision making for health care, public health, and exercise professionals conducting exercise testing and exercise programs.

Dr. Johnson’s ongoing project, Syntheses of HIV & AIDS Research Group (SHARP), focuses on understanding how best to use behavior change interventions to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV. Few domains of public health have been the focus of so much research. In the last three decades, hundreds of behavior change interventions have been evaluated, often in randomized controlled trials, but they have had widely varying success. In addition to using meta-analytic analyses to identify the key components of efficacious interventions, SHARP also analyzes how intervention efficacy varies based on population demographics (e.g., race and ethnicity, age, gender) and aspects of the cultural milieu where the trial was conducted (e.g., levels of community stigma in relation to intervention participants). By identifying the intervention components that are most effective at decreasing HIV risk behavior for different populations and communities, SHARP’s research has substantial public policy relevance.

Leslie Snyder’s (Ph.D., Communication) continuing research on tobacco package labeling and associated anti-smoking campaigns is in response to recent changes in federal policies mandating new graphic warnings on tobacco packages. The goal of the research is to inform future policies with respect to tobacco warnings.

Finally, in the international realm, CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) is working closely with the Mozambique Armed Defense Forces on the piloting of a multi-level intervention (being conducted in military hospitals, training academies, and military barracks) to reduce the prevalence of gender-based
violence in the military. If effective, the intervention will be implemented nationwide and have policy implications for how the military functions in Mozambique.

There are other projects currently underway with policy implications, and 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 and health behavior change intervention research. The **CHIP Lecture Series** provides a forum for CHIP investigators, research staff, graduate students, and other CHIP affiliates to hear presentations about new work in development by leading figures in health behavior 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 FY13, bringing 17 nationally- and internationally-recognized leaders in health behavior research from 13 different institutions to UConn for presentations. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including weight loss and obesity prevention, behavioral and pharmacological treatments for pregnant smokers, risk reduction through virtual environments, social network approaches to HIV prevention, and health disparities among men who have sex with men (MSM), among many others. Most presentations were streamed live from CHIP over the Internet and then archived for future viewing on CHIP’s website. 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. During FY13, CHIP had an average onsite lecture participation rate of 26 people per lecture, and additional viewers saw each presentation through live streaming or through archived versions of the presentations (there were a total of 500 online viewings of presentations during FY13). In addition to attending and online viewing the presentations, PIs, graduate students, other affiliates, and community members 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. A total of 111 individuals met onsite with one 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 2 on pp. 50-51.)*

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.**

In FY13, CHIP provided both the technical resources and staff experience needed to effectively link CHIP affiliates and collaborators across a variety of geographic locations. CHIP’s well-known **Lecture Series** is
publicly available on the web via live streaming. Additionally, CHIP has created an archive based on relevant research topics, allowing viewers to filter archived lectures based on their research interests.

During a Cancer Research Mini-Retreat hosted by CHIP PI Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology), CHIP utilized live video teleconferencing to provide researchers from CHIP and UCHC with access to the keynote speaker in Maryland, including her presentation and an interactive Q&A session. CHIP provided the video and audio equipment, the subscription to content sharing services, and the technical staff needed to make this multi-site conference a success. It should be noted that with CHIP’s experience in this area, we can now offer these services as part of CHIP’s portfolio of technical capabilities.

In order to more effectively provide CHIP affiliates and research staff in disparate geographic locations with CHIP’s high quality IT services, CHIP purchased and implemented LogMeIn in FY13. This remote-help platform allows CHIP IT Staff to provide timely and efficient resolutions to problems arising on CHIP-supported machines located anywhere around the globe. LogMeIn provides CHIP IT Staff with remote access to CHIP-supported machines via an instantly available but highly secure and encrypted tunnel, requiring two stages of authentication. This technology has been leveraged to provide remote researchers and staff with help resolving unexpected technical issues while in the field, as well as for regular repurposing or configuration changes to staff machines at remote research sites. This has often saved researchers the direct cost and time-loss associated with physically shipping a machine to CHIP for repair and/or repurposing.

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.**

CHIP has had a long history of dissemination and implementation (D&I) 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.

This year, Autism Speaks funded new work by Dr. Bhat (described initially under Research Objective 2, above) who is conducting a randomized controlled trial to test the efficacy of a novel music-based intervention (“rhythm therapy”) on the motor, social, and communication skills of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Establishing an evidence base for such interventions will lead to increased accessibility and widespread implementation among children with ASDs and their families. The training manual of instructions and activities, and the demo CD that Dr. Bhat is developing, are aimed at promoting dissemination and facilitating implementation of the intervention among clinicians and parents who want to incorporate rhythm-based activities into the daily social routines of children with ASDs.

Also in FY13, Lindsay DiStefano (Ph.D., Kinesiology) continued the research she began last year to assess the outcomes of an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury prevention intervention with United States Military Academy (USMA) cadets. She received a grant for this work from the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) Research and Education Foundation (REF). By evaluating the efficacy of a single dose of the intervention and utilizing a “train the trainers” approach, Dr. DiStefano’s study results could facilitate the dissemination, implementation, and sustainability of lower-extremity injury prevention programs.

CHIP-based Boundary Spanner and Research Scientist Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CHIP) and CHIP Affiliate Stephenie Chaudoir (Ph.D., CHIP) have recently published a manuscript in the journal *Implementation Science* that describes five broad types of factors (i.e., structural, organizational, provider, patient, and innovation-level characteristics) that determine implementation success, and reviews the validated measures available for assessing these five factors. The manuscript also attempts to address a well-known barrier in implementation science and research, namely the lack of conceptual frameworks and validated measures. It is publically available online and has been designated a “highly accessed” article on the *Implementation Science* website. Dr. Dugan is also working on a D&I-focused manuscript with Dr. Cornman that examines the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the successful implementation of the *South Africa Options for Health* prevention-with-positives intervention, an HIV risk reduction intervention developed by CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) and his team. Findings from this study will
provide an understanding of the optimal conditions needed for the successful future dissemination and implementation of Options for Health in South Africa.

In her role as the CHIP-based Boundary Spanner, Dr. Dugan educated other health researchers about D&I Science and provided free consultation to researchers at Storrs and UCHC if they had grants and research studies with D&I components. Dr. Dugan also worked on behalf of CHIP to develop relationships with community-based organizations for the purposes of partnering on innovative health research with real-world impact via dissemination and implementation. Projects included a NIH/NIMHD grant with UCHC’s TRIPP Center and NYU on health equity across the lifespan in men, a Donoghue Foundation grant to scale-up an innovative food pantry intervention in a large urban center in Connecticut, and a grant resubmission to conduct a meta-analysis to assess the utility of physical activity in reducing hypertension and cardiovascular disease. In addition, Dr. Dugan provided researchers with technical assistance in developing strategies and materials required for dissemination (e.g., writing up dissemination plans, creating informational fact sheets, and packaging innovations in user-friendly formats). She also continued to work closely with other CICATS staff to advance its agenda, develop its services, and promote the visibility of CICATS across the UConn system. Such work included providing input for the CTSA application and the Health Disparities Institute (HDI), which is part of the Bioscience Connecticut initiative. CHIP also continued to contribute to the development of the CICATS Federated Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) Innovation Laboratory, by creating necessary infrastructure to strengthen and enhance the amount of D&I research underway at UConn.

In the Fall of 2012, CHIP significantly expanded all dissemination and implementation-related resources on its website to provide updated, user-friendly information to facilitate the adoption of health behavior change interventions developed by CHIP PIs. In particular, CHIP updated its Intervention Resources webpage with seven revised fact sheets that feature current implementation information and links to PDFs of original manuscripts. CHIP also worked with its affiliates to create fact sheets for two new interventions: Dr. Gerrard’s “Skin Cancer/Sun Protection” fact sheet under a new “Cancer” category, and CHIP Affiliate Thomas Van Hoof’s (M.D., Ed.D., Nursing) “Educational Outreach” fact sheet under a new “Health Care Quality” category. CHIP also expanded its Measurement Instruments webpage with 14 new measures/scales developed by CHIP affiliates and added one new category (i.e., Obesity, Nutrition, and Physical Activity), doubling the number of measures listed on the webpage to a total of 33. In the Spring of 2013, CHIP expanded its Dissemination & Implementation Resources webpage, updating the D&I Grants Database, which now lists fourteen current funding mechanisms designed to support dissemination and implementation activities.

Progress on CHIP Administrative Objectives:

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

The Administrative Team continued to work collectively on updating and revising existing guidelines and procedures as well as internal and online forms in the areas of travel, purchasing, grants management (both pre-award and post-award processing), facilities, employment, and payroll. Updates were made to various existing guidelines and procedures in October, and many more were updated in March 2013 due to changing internal and university guidelines. No new guidelines and procedures were needed during FY13, but new guidelines and procedures will continue to be developed as dictated by operational and business needs as well as to ensure CHIP meets University, state, and federal requirements. In addition to the website postings of guidelines and procedures, CHIP distributes relevant new and updated guidelines and procedures via its listservs, and it maintains and provides access to two updated hard copies of the CHIP Guidelines and Procedures manuals in the office of Administrative Manager Susan Hoge.

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 business
meetings, website updates, listserv announcements, emails, promotional slides at Lecture Series events, the CHIP Business Services Survey, as well as announcements at the CHIP Annual Meeting.

At the start of the fall semester in FY13, CHIP sent a “Welcome Back to CHIP” email via its listserv. This email communication, which CHIP distributed to its principal investigators (PIs), research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, contained updates about new members of CHIP’s Executive Committee and new principal investigators, as well as a summary of available CHIP business services with a link to the “Guidelines for Use of CHIP Services” chart on CHIP’s website. The email explained that the chart contains a comprehensive list of all available CHIP services and details about who is eligible (all PIs, UConn-based PIs, affiliates, etc.) for each service.

CHIP also held its Annual Meeting at the start of the fall semester. In addition to inviting four newly-hired, CHIP-affiliated faculty members (Rick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology), Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology), Elizabeth Schifano (Ph.D., Statistics), and John Christensen (Ph.D., Communication)) to give brief presentations about their research at the meeting, CHIP also took the opportunity to highlight the unique CHIP services provided by Dr. Schifano (statistical consultation), Dr. Gerrard (formation of cancer research collaborations), and CHIP-based Boundary Spanner Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CHIP) (dissemination and implementation consultation).

During the spring semester, CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) conducted the annual CHIP Business Services Survey. The results of the survey are summarized in Section I on pp. 25-29.

Throughout FY13, CHIP continued to utilize its website to communicate with CHIP affiliates and potential affiliates about available CHIP business services as well as CHIP research. Specifically, related to services, CHIP used its website to announce CHIP’s annual Research Investment Capital (“Seed Grant”) Competitions, publicize deadlines for the competitions, and announce the winners of the competitions. The Center also highlighted a different Administrative Team member each month and the business services provided by that staff member.

In addition, CHIP regularly used both its listserv and its website to announce upcoming Lecture Series speakers. CHIP also continued to create informational slides, highlighting available CHIP business services and/or upcoming events, and displayed the slides in a continuous loop at the start of each Lecture Series event until the speaker was ready to begin his/her presentation.

10. **CHIP will conduct an annual Business Services Survey in order to evaluate the services that CHIP offers.** The survey will be sent to CHIP research faculty, research staff, graduate students, and other CHIP affiliates. 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.

CHIP offers a range of services and resources to its principal investigators (PIs), research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, including access to internal CHIP grant competitions, the CHIP Lecture Series, announcements about available external funding opportunities, 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, research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, to evaluate the quality of its services through an anonymous online survey. In March of 2013, the annual CHIP Business Services Survey was sent to all CHIP affiliates who work and/or study at the University of Connecticut, and a total of 75 respondents completed and returned it. The feedback provided on the survey was extremely positive with all services viewed as “somewhat useful” to “very useful.” Suggestions for improvements to CHIP services have been reviewed and modifications to its services are being made, as appropriate. (See Section I on pp. 25-29 for additional information on the survey results.)

11. **The CHIP Cost Savings Committee will 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.
The Cost Savings Committee met quarterly to identify and recommend cost-saving measures that will benefit CHIP and the University financially. Relevant procedures and guidelines were created and updated based on the Committee’s findings.

The Committee identified telephone and office supply costs as two specific areas that could produce significant savings. Consequently, emails were sent to all CHIP faculty, staff, and students about the following cost-saving measures:

- Skype can be used for free or at a substantially reduced cost, instead of long-distance phone calls.
- Office supplies must be used for CHIP-related projects only.
- Printers must be used for CHIP-related projects only.
- Print two-sided copies whenever possible.
- Set black-and-white printers (not color) as default printers.

Sign-out sheets were posted on CHIP’s office supply cabinets to allow for more efficient and accurate monitoring of the use of CHIP office supplies. In addition, CHIP Administrative Team staff offered assistance with installing Skype, and instructions for duplex printing and resetting default printers, if needed.

In the next fiscal year, CHIP will continue to maintain these cost-saving measures. CHIP also is seeking additional external funding for the annual CHIP Lecture Series which, pending successful outreach efforts, could produce a sizeable cost savings.

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

12. 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 twice this year to review and assess physical and technical security issues related to CHIP operations.

During FY13, CHIP continued to experience no known security threats, disruptions to activity in the building, or breaches to data server service. CHIP reviewed its meeting room and key sign-out procedures, and the policies and procedures of reporting a loss or damage to CHIP/State-owned property.

Other measures continued during the year to improve security included continued 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; review of security guidelines in the CHIP Policies and Procedures manual, which is posted on the website; and improved interior signage, specifically for the non-CHIP entities.

CHIP IT also recently added a network-based camera monitoring system to its data center. In both normal light and zero light conditions, CHIP will have a detailed and searchable video log of every individual who enters and leaves the data center.

In the future, the committee will expand to formally include the maintenance and ongoing operation of the building; thus, the committee will be renamed the “Facility/Security Committee.”

13. CHIP will expand its efforts to publicize and share its knowledge, expertise, and research findings about health behavior and health behavior change with the University, with other academic institutions and scholarly audiences, and with various community-based groups and organizations.
During FY13, in recognition of the increasing emphasis the University is placing on public engagement, CHIP continued to promote the considerable wealth of research expertise represented by its network of 177 principal investigators (PIs) and research affiliates. CHIP publicized its activities and research to external community audiences through outside media outlets and the CHIP website; to the greater University community through UConn Today and CHIP Research News (CRN) emails, among other communication vehicles; and directly to public health audiences through its developing partnerships with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and other community-based, health-related organizations.

**Outside Media Coverage of CHIP Research Expertise**

During FY13, national media outlets including The New York Times and the NBC Nightly News featured CHIP PI Deborah Fein’s (Ph.D., Psychology) published research findings which indicate that some children who are accurately diagnosed with autism in early childhood may not show symptoms as they grow older.

CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) garnered international media attention (from Bloomberg News) during the past year for her work as senior editor of the ninth edition of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)’s Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription (GETP9). The news coverage highlighted advancements in the ninth edition of the Guidelines including the elimination of unnecessary and unproven medical barriers (such as a medical examination and a physician-administered exercise or stress test) that often prevent or delay individuals at moderate risk of cardiovascular disease from beginning beneficial exercise programs.

**UConn Today and UConn Magazine Coverage of CHIP Research Activities**

CHIP’s efforts to reach UConn administrators and non-CHIP-affiliated UConn faculty during FY13 with CHIP research news included articles posted to University news website UConn Today. CHIP PIs featured in UConn Today included newly-hired, CHIP-affiliated faculty members Rick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology), Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology), and John Christensen (Ph.D., Communication). UConn Today also posted articles detailing Dr. Fein’s autism research findings (mentioned above), CHIP PI Leslie Snyder’s (Ph.D., Communication) new NCI-funded tobacco grant, the medical and health geography research of CHIP Affiliate Debarchana Ghosh (Ph.D., Geography), and Dr. Pescatello’s role as senior editor of ACSM’s Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription Ninth Edition, mentioned above.

UConn Magazine solicited a column from former CHIP graduate student-turned-UConn Health Center faculty member and CHIP Affiliate Susan Kiene (Ph.D., Community Medicine and Health Care) for its special Summer 2012 international edition. Dr. Kiene’s column detailed her exposure to international research while being mentored by CHIP investigators and how her international experiences at CHIP led her to pursue her own program of international HIV prevention research.

**CHIP Research News Emails**

During FY13, CHIP distributed a “Welcome Back to CHIP” email highlighting new CHIP people, services, and research; and two “CHIP Research News” (CRN) e-mails to CHIP affiliates and other relevant individuals both inside and outside UConn (including key UConn administrators). The CRN e-mail news alerts provided headlines and story summaries with links to full articles on CHIP’s website for those who were interested in reading more. The articles featured Dr. Gerrard’s unique role at CHIP; the new research of Dr. Snyder, CHIP PI Lindsay DiStefano (Ph.D., Kinesiology), and CHIP PI Anjana Bhat; and Dr. Pescatello’s role as editor of the ACSM GETP9 (detailed above). A link to summaries of the eight 2012–13 CHIP Research Investment Capital “Seed Grant” Competition winners and their projects also was included in the second CRN email.

**CHIP Website**

CHIP also used its website, with its media-centric focus, to publish news articles and announcements about CHIP research, events, and services. (For more details on how CHIP publicized its business services and special events, please refer to Administrative Objective No. 9, above.)
**Progress on CHIP Technology Objectives**

14. CHIP IT will complete a number of security initiatives, known as CHIP’s secureU initiatives. These initiatives are designed to enhance CHIP’s security posture and the protection of its intellectual property. CHIP has built upon the University’s secureU initiatives, augmenting the requirements where necessary, to increase the protection of human subject-related research data.

The Information Technology (IT) team at CHIP has made significant progress toward its security initiatives:

- After distributing Identity Finder on a trial group of computers, it was discovered that the software was making some computers difficult to use. For this reason, the IT team pursued other means of protecting the computers (e.g., hard drive encryption).

- The BitLocker program has been fully deployed, and CHIP IT has established procedures for ensuring that all laptops and desktops that come through the IT office have the Trusted Computing Platform configured and BitLocker enabled. BitLocker is a full disk encryption feature that protects all data and documents on one’s computer. It provides a level of security that even prevents the hard drive from being read if it has been moved to another computer or there is a significant hardware change. The hard drive continues to be inaccessible until a special key is entered.

- The consolidation of system logs has been completed and all VMWare servers have been configured to transmit all logging data to the UITS Splunk log collection servers. Splunk allows for the ability to search, report, monitor and analyze real-time streaming and historical IT data generated by various IT systems from one place. Splunk can also troubleshoot application problems and investigate security incidents in minutes or seconds, as well as correlate and analyze complex events that span multiple systems.

- The network has successfully been separated into many logical segments. This allows CHIP IT to set granular security access between different portions of the network and provides CHIP IT with the ability to either deliver or limit services on an individual or group basis.

15. Contingent upon funding and institutional commitment, CHIP IT will initiate a project to completely revamp the CHIP website, with a target completion date no later than the end of FY14. In FY13, CHIP IT will formalize a website committee and begin establishing the system requirements, specifications, and interface design concepts. Additionally, this group will conduct a feasibility assessment and usability study to determine the key shortfalls in current design and prioritize strategic initiatives for the development of the next generation of the CHIP website.

The website committee held a series of meetings and developed a base set of requirements for the new website design. They successfully generated two separate lists. The first list defined the areas of the website that either needed improvement or were not sufficient to meet the current needs of the organization. The second list outlined the specific requirements a new website must meet in order to properly function and service the needs of CHIP and its researchers and staff.

As the committee wrapped up the first phase of the project, one of its key members resigned from CHIP to take another position at UConn. As a result, the committee was not able to effectively continue with the website renovation project. In the interim, CHIP has instituted a series of upgrades and modifications to the existing website, which has resulted in the current website having greater flexibility. This objective will be reassessed once the necessary resources are available.

16. CHIP IT will implement Microsoft’s System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) 2012 as part of its ongoing managed desktop initiative. Microsoft’s SCCM will enable CHIP IT to manage software and operating system deployment, software update and patch management, and conduct hardware and software inventory from a centralized administrative console. Additionally, this platform will provide CHIP
affiliates with a software portal, where they can select CHIP software and install it without the
intervention of CHIP IT personnel.

The process of implementing SCCM is a substantial undertaking as it is not a single software package but a
suite of applications and services that are managed from the SCCM control panel. CHIP’s new head of IT will
be starting the next stage of this implementation in the coming fiscal year by rolling out the PKI
infrastructure. A PKI (public key infrastructure) enables users of an unsecure public network such as the
Internet or University network at large to securely and privately exchange data through the use of a public
and a private cryptographic key pair that is obtained and shared through a trusted authority. The public key
infrastructure provides for a digital certificate that can identify an individual or an organization, and
directory services that can store and, when necessary, revoke the certificates. Several of the components of
SCCM have successfully been implemented. For example:

- Forefront is being effectively utilized to protect our computers against viruses and spyware.
- BitLocker has been installed and through the use of encryption, is currently protecting the hard
drives from unauthorized access.
- A deployment server is in full usage for standardized software and settings on CHIP computers and
laptops through the use of a deployment image. This means that when a new computer is
purchased, CHIP IT can install their base image and replace the software and operating system that
are originally provided by the manufacturer. Consequently, when computers leave the IT office, they
are identical, with the same software on them. This level of uniformity reduces the time to solution
for end user issues.

This project will provide substantial gains in the management, portability, and availability of CHIP’s
technology initiatives and will continue to be part of CHIP IT’s active projects.

F. CHIP Objectives for FY 2014

CHIP 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 expand 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 increase its research with 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 (including biomedical) and social science disciplines for lectures, events, and meetings
at CHIP to promote cutting edge, multidisciplinary exchange and research.

6. CHIP will foster innovative research that uses emerging and cutting edge technologies (e.g., social media
platforms, mobile phone applications, websites, sensors) to assess and modify health behavior.

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.
CHIP Administrative Objectives:

8. The Administrative Team will update and revise existing guidelines and procedures annually (in October) and as needed. In addition, new guidelines and procedures will continue to be developed to address operational needs and to improve and streamline existing administrative processes.

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

10. CHIP will conduct an annual Business Services Survey in order to evaluate the services that CHIP offers. The survey will be sent to CHIP research faculty, research staff, graduate students, and other CHIP affiliates at UConn. 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 Budget Oversight & Cost Savings Committee will meet bi-monthly and as needed to review the status of the CHIP operating budget, and 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 Facilities & Security Committee will meet semi-annually and as needed to identify and address facility issues and to review all procedures and guidelines for maintaining and improving the security of the physical facility, its occupants, and its data.

13. CHIP will expand its efforts to publicize and share its knowledge, expertise, and research findings about health behavior and health behavior change with the University, with other academic institutions and scholarly audiences, and with various community-based groups and organizations.

CHIP Technology Objectives:

This past year has seen some significant changes at CHIP with the departure of the Center’s previous Director of Technology, Jonathan Gill, and the arrival of his replacement, Christopher Tarricone. During FY14, CHIP will refocus and realign its Information Technology initiatives while still continuing the advancement of technology available to CHIP PIs and research groups. The major goals for FY14 include:

14. Improvement to the security and resiliency of CHIP’s sensitive research data: CHIP has made significant investments in the area of data storage infrastructure. In a continuing effort to ensure that this information is always available, CHIP will be expanding its data backup and recovery infrastructure. In the coming fiscal year, CHIP’s IT team will be working with the University IT community to find a secure offsite location as a backup repository. The first step in this two-part objective will be to find a place to store CHIP backup data so that if something were to happen to CHIP’s server room, virtually no data would be lost. The second step will be to identify the needs, objectives, and costs in providing continuing services should there be a catastrophic event at the CHIP facility.

15. Provide effective collaboration tools for PIs, research teams, and their respective project communities through the use of SharePoint: SharePoint is a Web application platform that can be used to provide intranet portals, document and file management, collaboration, social networks, extranets, and websites, as well as a variety of other capabilities. One of the most significant features of SharePoint is the ability to share information while allowing users to set a granular level of security. In an effort to increase the ease with which research groups can communicate with their members while still maintaining CHIP’s IT goal of high availability, CHIP will be rolling out a SharePoint cluster in the coming year. A SharePoint cluster is, at a minimum, a set of servers that are running SharePoint in tandem. Should there be some type of failure that would take one of the servers off-line, people would still be able to continue to use SharePoint with no interruption. Since SharePoint is built on a separate foundation of services, there will be two parts to this roll-out. The first phase of the project will be built around a highly available SQL server cluster. Once that
service is properly configured and running, the second phase of the project, the actual implementation of SharePoint, will occur.

16. **Develop a Public Key Infrastructure that will lay the groundwork for more secure communications and centralized administration of computer systems:** The need to protect data and ensure that the people who are accessing it are in fact who they say they are from an electronic perspective is becoming more important than ever. To this end, CHIP IT is going to start rolling out a CHIP Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). Some of the more popular benefits include secure e-mail, encrypted file systems, and digital signatures on documents. This will also lay the groundwork for additional projects in the future for centralized management and easier access to CHIP’s environment for PIs, researchers, and affiliates.

G. **CHIP Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee held four meetings in FY13. 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. As it does annually, the Executive Committee also reviewed CHIP’s mission statement, long-term goals, and research objectives for 2013-14, and made some minor changes to them. (See Sections C and D on p. 6 for the latest version of the Mission Statement and Long-Term Goals, and Section F on pp. 19-21 for the FY 2014 Research Objectives.)

A substantial portion of the Executive Committee’s efforts this past year focused on assisting with the search for a senior faculty member with expertise in obesity prevention and control. The Committee helped identify and contact researchers from other institutions nationwide who might qualify and be interested in the position. Four members of the Executive Committee (Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology), Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication), and Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) served on the search committee for the position, which was headed by CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP). Other members on the Executive Committee helped interview the top two candidates and provided feedback. As a result of the Executive Committee’s efforts, negotiations are underway with a highly qualified candidate.

The Executive Committee also worked to expand CHIP’s collaborative relationships with other departments at UConn. In particular, they invited the Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), Cameron Faustman, and the Associate Dean and Associate Director of the Cooperative Extension System (CES), Michael O’Neill to an Executive Committee meeting in April to discuss how to get more CANR faculty involved with CHIP and how to foster greater collaborations between CANR, CES, and CHIP. A variety of ideas were discussed, many of which will be implemented in the coming year.

H. **CHIP Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network**

In FY13, 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 177 research affiliates and 43 graduate student affiliates.

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 with members of several UConn-Storrs departments, as well as with individuals and groups at the UConn Health Center and other institutions, which have led to new grant applications and/or funded grants.

During FY13, CHIP also continued its efforts to forge new and expand existing collaborations at the Center level. These efforts included inviting the Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), Cameron Faustman, and the Associate Dean and Associate Director of the Cooperative Extension System (CES), Michael O’Neill, to a CHIP Executive Committee meeting in April to discuss how to get more CANR faculty involved with CHIP and how to foster greater collaborations between CANR, CES, and CHIP, as discussed in the preceding Section G: Executive Committee. In turn, CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) made a presentation about CHIP to the CANR Executive Council, which is chaired by Gregory Weidemann, Dean and
Director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. And then in April of 2013, Dr. Cornman met with Kristi Gafford who is Chief of Staff for Executive Vice President for Health Affairs & Dean of School of Medicine Frank Torti, to discuss possible collaborations between UCHC and CHIP. And in May, she met with the Director of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE), Michael Willig, to discuss how to foster research collaborations between their two centers. Lastly, Dr. Cornman has been working with Vice Provost for Global Affairs Daniel Weiner, Ph.D. on developing a possible collaborative relationship with the private educational institution Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya in Herzliya, Israel.

CHIP Affiliation and Associated Benefits

As indicated above, potential CHIP affiliates are identified through a variety of means, including new and existing research collaborations, direct communications between CHIP and other UConn departments and centers, initiation by UConn Deans and Department Heads, 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 become an 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 research are reviewed and enhanced on a regular basis. 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 behavior 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 4 on pp. 64-65 for a list of services provided by CHIP and the administrative staff members responsible for each service.)

CHIP Research Interest Groups

During FY13, a key aim of CHIP-based Boundary Spanner Alicia Dugan’s (Ph.D., CHIP) work was to expand CHIP’s existing multidisciplinary, community-engaged Research Interest Group (RIG) in the area of Obesity and to help form two new RIGs in the areas of Cancer and eHealth/mHealth. RIGs provide a forum for researchers from a variety of disciplines, campuses, and the community to work collaboratively and seek funding opportunities to conduct innovative research on specific health topics.

- Dr. Dugan worked closely with CHIP Principal Investigator (PI) Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology), Chair of the Obesity Research Interest Group (ORIG), to increase ORIG membership among obesity-related researchers from Storrs, the UConn Health Center (UCHC), and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. In FY13, the group added 28 new members, and now has 67 members in total. Of the new members, 12 are from UCHC (Occupational Medicine, The Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP), Community Medicine, Psychiatry, Public Health); seven are from Storrs (Allied Health Sciences, Nutritional Sciences, Kinesiology, Anthropology, Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS)); and nine are from area hospitals/clinics (CT Children’s Medical Center, Hartford Hospital Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center, Hospital of Central CT, Surgical Weight Loss Center). One highlight of the group’s FY13 activities was the organization of an extremely well-received event, sponsored by CHIP and CICATS, entitled “Obesity from Bench to Bedside: Potential for Cross-Campus Research Collaborations.” The one-and-a-half hour symposium featured presentations by four UConn obesity researchers followed by an open networking session. Sixty people attended, a much higher number than expected, and 57 people viewed the event online (nine live and 48 on-demand). For Fall 2013, the Obesity RIG’s goals are to identify major funding opportunities for obesity research and to hold a social networking event so that members can find partners for submitting grant applications.

- In the Fall of 2012, CHIP PI Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology) and Dr. Dugan launched CHIP’s new Cancer Research Interest Group (CRIG) with the goal of building a world-class research team dedicated to studying and intervening along the entire cancer control continuum from primary prevention to early detection/diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life issues. Twenty UConn health researchers joined the CRIG immediately in the fall and then the group nearly doubled its membership (to 36) as a result
of a CRIG-sponsored Cancer Research Mini-Retreat, entitled “Working Together,” that was organized together with CHIP Affiliate Cheryl Oncken (M.D., M.P.H., Department of Medicine) and Lori Bastian (M.D., M.P.H., Department of Medicine) and held on April 22nd. Twenty-six people attended the meeting, which was designed to facilitate introductions and explore common interests among cancer researchers at CHIP and UCHC for the purposes of planning for large multidisciplinary grant proposals. The day included two round table discussion sessions on cancer-related topics (e.g., education, prevention, psychosocial predictors of cancer, survivorship), a keynote address by Rebecca Ferrer, Ph.D. (Health Scientist and Program Director, National Cancer Institute), and an open networking session. The CRIG now has 33% of its membership from UCHC (prior to the retreat, less than 1% were from UCHC).

- In the Spring of 2013, CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) and Dr. Dugan launched CHIP’s third RIG – the eHealth/mHealth RIG. This RIG is focused on electronic health and mobile health, which refer to the use of mobile technologies, social media, web-based interventions, sensors, and other new technologies to assess and modify health behavior. Twenty members joined the group immediately, and members agreed to use the group to (a) identify potential research collaborators (in academia, private industry, and community), (b) share information (about relevant conferences, funding opportunities, and publications), and (c) identify technical expertise available at UConn and elsewhere for research projects (e.g., CHIP’s Advanced Interactive Technology Center, UConn’s Digital Media Center). To encourage communication among members, a document of brief bios was created to share members’ eHealth/mHealth research, their methodological specialties, community partners, populations and geographies of interest. A next step for the group will be to decide on the most useful format for sharing information among members (e.g., website, listserv, Facebook, Dropbox, Google Drive), and then seek out relevant funding and conference opportunities.

CHIP Collaborative Project Teams (CPTs)

In addition to working with the three CHIP RIGs, another of Dr. Dugan’s major goals as boundary spanner in FY13 was to facilitate the formation of new collaborative community project teams (CPTs) that bring together CHIP investigators with faculty from various UConn health-related academic departments and professionals from community-based organizations around Connecticut (e.g., Community Health Centers, Inc., Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Connecticut Northeast District Department of Health). Each team has identified an innovative research project that it aims to conduct collaboratively with a community-engaged focus, and has either applied for funding or has the goal of applying for funding in FY14.

One new project team includes collaborators from CHIP (Dr. Cornman, Dr. Dugan, former CHIP Research Assistant Carolyn Lagoe, M.A.) and Community Health Centers Inc., who are developing a grant application for NIH funding to study the feasibility and effectiveness of a mobile phone app (developed by GINGER.io) for managing patients’ chronic pain. Another new project team, involving researchers from CHIP (Drs. Gerrard and Dugan) and a health advocate for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, is working on the development of a community-responsive cancer control initiative for tribal members. The project has already received funding via a faculty grant awarded to Dr. Gerrard, for conducting pilot work on HPV vaccination in the Summer of 2013. A third new project team includes investigators from CHIP (Drs. Cornman and Dugan) and UConn’s Physical Therapy program (CHIP Affiliate Susan Glenney, Ph.D.), the UConn Cooperative Extension System (Cathleen Love, Ph.D., Department of Extension), and the Connecticut Northeast District Department of Health; the goal of their research project is to identify the individual, organizational, and community-level factors that have contributed to the apparent success of the “Follow the Fifty” program, a community-based women’s heart health initiative. The group plans to conduct preliminary evaluation research and then apply for a larger grant to replicate and/or disseminate the program on a broader scale, possibly throughout the state.

Selected New Multidisciplinary Affiliates Research Collaborations

CHIP’s efforts to enhance multidisciplinary collaboration resulted in several new partnerships formed or furthered during FY13. The projects described below provide a sampling of some of the CHIP multidisciplinary collaborative grants recently awarded by external funders:
1. **Embodied Rhythm Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders**: CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a new grant from the Autism Speaks Foundation, which involves collaborating with three other UConn researchers: Professor Linda Neelly who has a joint appointment in the School of Music and Neag School of Education, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology Brandi Simonsen-Gaines, and CHIP PI Deborah Fein from the Psychology Department. While music-based interventions are often delivered to children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), to date there are no systematic studies investigating the effects of such interventions. This new project proposes to test the effects of a novel “rhythm therapy” protocol on the motor, social, and communication skills of children with ASDs, using a pilot randomized controlled trial.

2. **HIV Prevention and Adherence among Priority Drug Using Populations**: CHIP PI Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) received a new K02 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Dr. Copenhaver’s career development grant involves collaborations with CHIP Affiliate Dr. Frederick Altice at Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) and with Yale medical students, undergraduates, and post-docs. The grant is designed to support a range of activities involving interdisciplinary collaborations and the mentoring of budding investigators. The grant aims to improve the development of HIV prevention and adherence intervention approaches targeting drug users nationally and internationally with the ultimate goal of improving the HIV pandemic.

3. **Defense Sciences Research and Technology**: CHIP PI William Kraemer (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a new grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) that involves collaborations with UConn Professors of Molecular and Cell Biology Linda Strausbaugh and Rachel O’Neill. In this study, the evaluation of various aspects of physiological stress and the factors related to recovery from that stress will be examined. Understanding the stress and demands on the modern soldier and the recovery processes involved in recovery from missions and training protocols is crucial for better management of the soldier and helping him/her adapt to the demanding physical and psychological environments of military service.

4. **Factors Influencing the Health Behavior of Young African American Adults**: New UConn faculty member and CHIP PI Frederick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology) transferred his ongoing NIH/NIDA grant from Dartmouth College to CHIP during FY13. Dr. Gibbons’ grant involves collaborators from the fields of clinical psychology, genetics, psychiatry, sociology, developmental psychology, and family studies. The Family and Community Health Study (FACHS) is a longitudinal study of psychosocial factors related to the physical and mental health of African American families, and is the largest such study conducted to date in the US. The study enrolled 900 families, which it has followed across six Waves of assessment over 15 years, focusing on the adolescents who were 10 years old at Wave 1 (26 at Wave 6) and their parents. It looks at the impact of stressors, such as racial discrimination, environmental risk, and low socioeconomic status (SES), as well as buffers, such as racial socialization and racial identity on outcomes including substance use, obesity, and disease. At Wave 5, the researchers also began looking at interactive effects of genes and environment (G x E) on these outcomes.

5. **Self-control as a Moderator for Effects of Mass Media on Adolescent Substance Use**: Dr. Gibbons also transferred a subcontract with NIH/National Cancer Institute (NCI)/University of Hawaii involving multidisciplinary collaborations with co-investigators in the fields of communication, family medicine, and pediatrics. This project uses both experimental/lab and survey methods to examine the effects of media portrayals of alcohol use, smoking, and food on the health behaviors of adolescents. It focuses on self-control as an individual difference factor that moderates the processes underlying media effects (e.g., do low self-control adolescents pay more attention to risk behavior in movies, and are they more likely to recall substance use than adolescents who are higher in self-control?). The survey work looks at the long-term effects of different levels of media exposure on health behavior.

Additionally, a number of grant proposals submitted during FY13 represented multidisciplinary teams involving CHIP affiliates from a number of departments, such as Allied Health Sciences, Communication, Geography, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Psychology, Statistics, and UCHC.
In summary, as in previous years, CHIP has continued to foster multi-disciplinary research collaborations by creating novel opportunities for researchers to meet and by adding new affiliates to its network from across the UConn campuses and beyond who conduct research in the areas of health behavior, health risk dynamics, and health behavior change. CHIP’s long-term goal is to continually expand and enhance its research network and to promote the University as a premier institution of health behavior and health behavior intervention research.

(See Appendix 3 on pp. 52-63 for a list of CHIP principal investigators and research affiliates.)

I. Results of 2013 CHIP Affiliates Survey

CHIP offers a range of services to its principal investigators (PIs), research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, 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 its PIs, research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates to evaluate the quality of its services through an anonymous online survey.

This year, the survey was sent only to CHIP affiliates who work and/or study at the University of Connecticut and not to affiliates from other institutions and organizations who have limited access to CHIP resources. A total of 75 individuals (28 Faculty, 4 Research Scientists, 9 Research Assistants/Associates, 26 Graduate Students, and 8 respondents who did not indicate their role) completed the 2013 CHIP Business Services Survey in March of this year, and the results were very favorable in almost all categories. Examples of the comments made by the respondents are the following:

- “Overall, the CHIP admin team does a great job, and I could not do my work without their support.”
- “I could not do the research I do at UCONN without CHIP. Thank you.”
- “I am happy with the services I've gotten. Keep up the great work!”
- “All my experiences with the grant people at CHIP have been very positive. They are extremely capable and efficient.”
- “I have never had an issue with any services related to CHIP. I feel very fortunate as a graduate student to have access to such wonderful facilities. Thank you!”

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

CHIP Internal Grants for PIs and Affiliates

CHIP offers five different internal grant opportunities to UConn-affiliated faculty and graduate students (i.e., seed grants for new health behavior investigators, seed grants for experienced PIs in health behavior, pilot project grants for graduate students, summer stipends for junior 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 using procedures similar to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) review panel, and applicants are provided with detailed written mentoring feedback from the reviewers.

The 2013 CHIP Business Services Survey asked respondents to indicate whether they had ever applied for a CHIP internal grant and, if so, how it impacted their research. Of the 75 respondents, 31 reported that they had previously applied for a CHIP internal grant, and 21 of those 31 had been awarded at least one internal grant. When those who had been awarded CHIP grants were asked the impact of the internal grants on their research, the answers were quite varied but consistently positive:

- “Pushed me towards a new direction of research (more health-focused) that is now very interesting to me.”
- “A wonderful opportunity for budding investigators to fund their pilot work. Keep it up!”
“A great opportunity for graduate students to learn about the process of grant writing and designing our own research projects.”

Feedback from the 10 respondents who applied but did not get funded for a CHIP internal grant was also very positive as exemplified by the following:

- “I did not receive funds but the process of applying was very educational since I have never worked with an NIH format grant before.”
- “It helped me to develop grant proposals that I used later for larger grant funding opportunities.”

(See Section K on pp. 34-39 and Appendices 5-11 on pp. 66-79 for more information about CHIP’s internal grants.)

**CHIP Research Support Services: Expert Review and Statistical Analysis**

CHIP services to researchers include pre-submission reviews of external grant proposals by expert researchers as well as statistical assistance with research design, power analysis, and data analyses. Of the individuals who completed the survey, only one indicated that she had received a pre-submission statistical review of her grant proposal during this past year, and she rated the service as “very useful.” Three other respondents indicated that they had utilized this service in previous years, and two of them rated it as “very useful” and one as “somewhat useful.”

Professor Elizabeth Schifano and advanced graduate student Gyuhyeong Goh from the UConn Department of Statistics have an office at CHIP, and they are each available for about ten hours per week during the academic year to provide statistical advice and assistance for CHIP-related research and externally funded grant proposals. Eleven respondents indicated that they had received statistical support from Dr. Schifano and/or Mr. Goh during the past year. When asked to rate the helpfulness of the statistical support, six respondents said the services were “very useful,” four respondents reported that the statistical support “was somewhat useful,” and one person did not rate the helpfulness. Comments about the statistical support provided by Dr. Schifano and Mr. Goh were consistently positive, as exemplified by the following:

- “Elizabeth was accessible and quite willing to spend time reviewing my paper and making suggestions for completing the analyses.”
- “I consulted with Gyuhyeong Goh, the doctoral student under Dr. Schifano, about my methodology for a grant proposal, and it was very helpful in designing the study and selecting the correct approach to use.”

(See Appendix 14 on pp. 96-101 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-six of the 75 respondents indicated that they had attended at least one CHIP Lecture Series presentation in the past year, and 23 reported that they had watched one or more presentations online (web streamed or archived) on the CHIP website, for a total of 59 unique respondents who attended or watched at least one presentation. Twenty-three (39.0%) of those respondents indicated that the presentations were “very useful” to their research, 33 (55.9%) responded that the presentations were “somewhat useful” to their research, and three (5.1%) indicated that the presentations were “not at all useful.” The comments about the Lecture Series were generally very positive and included the following:

- “Some presentations were extremely high quality and very useful to my research.”
- “It helps to keep you current on research related to your areas of interest. It also is good networking.”
- “Many times they helped me to generate new research ideas or new collaborations.”
CHIP’s Pre-Award and Post-Award Grant Services

Pre- and Post-award grant services are critical to obtaining grants and managing them once awarded. A total of 20 out of 75 survey respondents indicated that they had utilized CHIP pre-award services one or more times during the past year. Of the 20 respondents who used these services, 17 (85%) respondents indicated that the services were “very useful,” and three (15%) responded that the services were “somewhat useful;” none of the respondents indicated that the services were “not at all useful.”

Twenty-two respondents indicated that they had used post-award grant services in the past year. Of the 21 respondents who used these services and rated their usefulness, 19 (90.5%) respondents reported that the services were “very useful,” and two (9.5%) rated the services as “somewhat useful.” The comments provided by respondents about pre- and post-award grant services were very positive, as can be seen from the following examples:

- “They were great! Very kind, very understanding, very accommodating, and very easy to work with.”
- “All my experiences with the grant people at CHIP have been very positive. They are extremely capable and efficient.”
- “Local CHIP team is excellent!”
- “This is a very useful service.”
- “I couldn’t have done it without Vasinee.”
- “Vasinee/Melissa were very helpful.”
- “Invaluable!”

Other CHIP Administrative Services

Other CHIP administrative services include assistance with hiring staff, payroll, human resources/labor relations, travel, and purchasing. All of these services are critical to PIs being able to conduct their research projects as cost- and time-efficiently as possible. Eighteen of the 75 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. All 18 respondents who reported using one or more of these services rated these services as “very useful.” Examples of comments made about these services are the following:

- “I cannot imagine how time-consuming it would have been to hire a research assistant if Susan had not been there to assist me and do a good portion of the work. She does a fabulous job supporting PIs in the hiring of staff.”
- “This is a very useful service.”

In terms of assistance with travel, 24 respondents reported utilizing these services on at least one occasion in the past year. Of the 24 respondents, 22 (91.7%) rated these services as “very useful,” one rated them as “somewhat useful,” and one (4.2%) indicated that they were “not at all useful.” The comments made about travel services were consistently positive:

- “Despite being new to CHIP and travel, Beth Haight did a very good job assisting with travel. She was very responsive, sought out information when she did not know the answer, and was a pleasure to work with. She is a great addition to CHIP!”
- “They are fabulous! Made booking travel arrangements a breeze.”
- “Very helpful and prompt!”
A total of 28 respondents indicated receiving assistance with purchasing on at least one occasion in the past year. Of the 26 respondents who rated the usefulness of these services, 22 (84.6%) rated them as “very useful,” four (15.4%) as “somewhat useful,” and no one rated them as “not at all useful.” Examples of the comments made on the survey about purchasing services are the following:

- “Melissa is extremely competent at making purchases. She made the process as painless and straightforward as it could be.”
- “Melissa is great and a huge help! Always very friendly and helpful.”
- “This is a very useful service.”

**CHIP IT Services**

CHIP IT services 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 research needs of CHIP PIs has become an absolute necessity.

Of 75 survey respondents, 33 indicated they were assisted with IT issues one or more times in the past year. Of those respondents, 24 (72.7%) indicated that the IT services they received were “very useful,” and nine (27.3%) reported that the services were “somewhat useful.” Feedback about the quality of the services provided was predominantly positive:

- “I could not have run my grant without it. Jon/Sam were great.”
- “Very helpful.”
- “I've used IT services in the past and have always been very satisfied. Sometimes email responses take time, but the services are done very well.”

In contrast, several respondents voiced concerns and frustration about CHIP IT’s inconsistent availability and responsiveness. Of 32 respondents who rated IT’s availability, four (12.5%) respondents indicated that IT was “always available” when they needed them, 16 (50%) said they were “available most of the time,” and 12 (37.5%) reported that IT was “sometimes available, sometimes not” when needed. This was a challenging year for CHIP IT with the head of IT leaving in mid-December for another position at University of Connecticut, resulting in CHIP IT being understaffed for four months until a replacement could be found. The lack of adequate staffing to address PIs’ and others’ IT needs in a timely manner is clearly reflected in their comments on the survey:

- “The initial set up of my office and lab computers was quick and efficient. However, service was frustratingly unpredictable thereafter, and at times it was impossible to even contact Sam when a problem arose.”
- “Not immediately responsive (possibly due to staff turnover).”
- “They have always been very available for me, but not anymore since the end of last year.”
- “At times, service was slow.”
- “CHIP IT needs to become better organized, more available, and communicate more frequently and more effectively with PIs and staff about their availability and status of IT requests.”

Chris Tarricone was hired at the end of April to head CHIP IT. The Director and Associate Director have been working closely with him to apprise him of PIs’ and others’ concerns and to strategize how best to resolve them. With CHIP IT now fully staffed, the Director and Associate Director are fully confident that measures will be implemented to improve CHIP IT’s availability and responsiveness.

*(For a complete list of CHIP services and who is eligible for them, see Appendix 14 on pp. 96-101.)*
CHIP Website

Questions were included on the survey to assess how frequently people visited the CHIP website in the past year, the areas of the website they most frequently visited on the website and found to be most useful, and how navigable they regarded the website to be. All but five (7.4%) of 68 respondents indicated visiting the website at least once in the past year, with half of them visiting the website between two and six times, and 29 (42.7%) respondents going to the website at least once per month. Those who visited the website during the past year reported visiting many different sections of the website, but the most frequently visited sections were the following: CHIP Directory (69.4%), CHIP Lecture Series (56.5%), CHIP Research Areas (40.3%), CHIP News & Announcements (40.3%), CHIP IT Support (32.3%), CHIP Research Resources (30.6%), and CHIP Administrative Services (21.0%). The three areas of the website they regarded as the most useful were the CHIP Directory (68.4%), CHIP Lecture Series (45.6%), and CHIP Research Resources (31.6%).

When asked to rate how “easy or difficult” it was to navigate the CHIP website and find what they need, 21 (33.9%) of 62 respondents said that it was “very easy” to navigate the website, 31 (50%) reported that it was “somewhat easy,” eight (12.9%) rated it as “neither easy nor difficult,” and two (3.2%) individuals indicated that it was “somewhat difficult” to navigate.

J. CHIP Health Domains

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 $94.4 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 $50.6 million in active grants across all years in the following health domains: HIV/AIDS, other STIs and sexual risk behaviors, alcohol and substance use, medication adherence and management, exercise science, nutrition, obesity, diabetes, cancer, autism, global health, health disparities, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, health intervention and measurement-related dissemination and implementation, and select methods to study health behavior.

(A list of the active CHIP grants for FY13 is provided in Appendix 12 on pp. 80-87).

A brief description of each health domain follows.

HIV/AIDS

CHIP’s roots are in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment research, although its mission and its work have become much broader over the years. 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 interventions to improve antiretroviral medication adherence, and performing meta-analyses of existing HIV interventions to determine which ones are most effective. New projects launched in this area during FY13 include work to enhance STI/HIV partner notification in South Africa and a project to develop a mobile phone app to help prevent HIV/STIs, among others.

Of particular note, three CHIP interventions are included in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions, which lists the premier interventions developed, implemented, and evaluated in the U.S. to date. They include:

- **Healthy Relationships**, a multi-session, group-level HIV risk reduction intervention for people living with HIV (PLWH), which is one of the most widely disseminated HIV prevention interventions in the world.

- **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.
• **Options/Opciones Project**, a healthcare provider-delivered HIV prevention intervention for PLWH who are in clinical care, which has been disseminated broadly throughout the U.S. and Africa since it was first developed in 2000.

In addition to the three interventions listed in CDC’s *Compendium*, the **Peer-Driven Intervention (PDI)** developed by a CHIP PI 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. The model was demonstrated to be effective and has been disseminated globally, including in China, Ukraine, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, and U.S.

As indicated above, CHIP’s HIV/AIDS research has grown increasingly international over the years. The Center’s research portfolio in Africa has been especially large, comprising approximately $17.8 million in active grants across all years.

**OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs) AND SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIORS**

CHIP research on other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and sexual risk behaviors includes the development and evaluation of interventions for pregnancy prevention; meta-analyses of existing safer sex interventions and family planning campaigns; use of virtual reality (VR) technology to measure study participants’ rapid, emotion-based reactions to condoms; development and evaluation of an intervention to support the reproductive health of people living with HIV (PLWH) in India; identification of the barriers and predictors of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine use in at-risk populations; and the new work noted above to enhance partner notification around potential HIV/STI exposure in South Africa and to develop a mobile phone app for preventing HIV and other STIs.

**ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE**

CHIP alcohol and substance use research includes risk reduction interventions for injection drug users as well as interventions addressing alcohol-related HIV risk behaviors and alcohol-related obstacles to antiretroviral medication adherence in various target populations. Other lines of CHIP alcohol and substance use research involve interventions to reduce excess drinking in college students, interventions using exercise to reduce hazardous drinking behavior and drug use, and a study exploring gender differences in addictive behaviors among returning veterans. New projects in this health domain in FY13 include a laboratory-based study examining the effects of discrimination and social exclusion on the willingness of young Black and White adults to engage in risky sex and drug use, and a second study using meta-analysis to assess alcohol consumption and HIV risk behavior.

Much of CHIP’s past or present research in this domain has been internationally-based, including research performed in China, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

**MEDICATION ADHERENCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Examples of CHIP research in the realm of medication adherence include a novel software program investigators created to increase HIV-positive patients’ adherence to antiretroviral medications and a theory-based, cell phone-delivered HIV medication adherence counseling intervention currently being developed and tested. New research in this area during FY13 includes development of an intervention to promote retention in care and medication adherence during the first year of HIV treatment and the development of a seven-to-ten minute video clip to promote consistent use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (Prep) among current and potential Prep users.

CHIP research on medication adherence targets a variety of at-risk populations including men who have sex with men (MSM), individuals with poor literacy skills, and recently released prisoners transitioning back into the community.

**EXERCISE SCIENCE**

CHIP investigators from UConn’s top-ranked Kinesiology Department have grants covering a broad range of exercise science areas, including exercise genomics, medications’ effects on muscle function, and exercise regimens as interventions for alcohol and substance use, and for obesity. They are also studying the impact of exercise on the
management of chronic diseases, such as hypertension, and on cancer survivors’ quality of life, as well as researching ways to improve athletic performance.

New research in this area during FY13 includes work to examine the adaptability of the modern soldier to a multitude of different demands and environments, and to understand the implications for physical performance and resilience.

Additionally, during FY13, CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) served as editor of the latest edition of the American College of Sports Medicine’s *Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription (ninth edition)*, considered the international go-to resource for those who prescribe exercise.

**NUTRITION**

A number of CHIP interventions across health domains include nutrition and/or physical activity components. Additionally, CHIP researchers in UConn’s Kinesiology Department have grants to study metabolic and hormonal responses to foods low in carbohydrates, the role of acute and chronic ingestion of whey protein on the body’s response to resistance training, and how the level of fat in milk affects the efficacy of plant sterols in the milk to lower cholesterol. New CHIP-funded pilot work in this area seeks to provide insight into paternal influences on child eating behaviors, diet quality, physical activity, and weight, with the ultimate goal of developing interventions to prevent childhood obesity using parents as the agents of change.

**OBESITY**

CHIP obesity research seeks to understand and change the individual, social, and environmental factors contributing to our nation’s obesity epidemic. Examples of 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 weight/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.

New work in this area during FY13 includes (1) an external grant addressing barriers to weight loss in submariners, (2) a CHIP-funded pilot study to develop a virtual health coach app to promote weight loss and maintenance of weight loss, (3) pilot research to understand possible paternal influences on childhood obesity, and (4) pilot research to understand the potential of infant sleep training to positively affect new mothers’ sleep and, consequently, postpartum exercise and weight loss patterns.

There is an Obesity Research Interest Group at CHIP that includes faculty members from a number of disciplines with a common interest in understanding, preventing, and treating obesity and related co-morbidities. During FY13, the group significantly increased its membership and hosted a well-received seminar, among other activities.

**DIABETES**

CHIP diabetes research includes 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. Another line of CHIP diabetes research involved the development, implementation, and evaluation of a theory-driven diabetes self-care intervention.

**CANCER**

CHIP cancer research historically has focused on quality-of-life issues for cancer survivors and interventions to address survivors’ heightened risk for cancer reoccurrence, second primary cancers, and many other diseases. An example of such work is a nutrition and physical activity intervention currently being developed for breast cancer survivors targeting the “teachable moment” following diagnosis and treatment. A recently-funded line of CHIP cancer prevention research involves evaluating the effectiveness of new cigarette warning labels on cigarette packages that are intended to discourage tobacco use.
With the FY13 arrival of two newly-hired, renowned health psychologists with expertise in cancer risk (husband and wife Psychology Professor Rick Gibbons and Psychology Research Professor Meg Gerrard), CHIP considerably expanded its research expertise along the cancer continuum. Examples of some of Dr. Gibbons and Dr. Gerrard’s collaborative research in the area of cancer prevention include: examining the effects of media portrayals of smoking, alcohol use, and food on the health behaviors of adolescents, assessing smoking risk behavior and the effectiveness of smoking cessation interventions, applying social psychological theory to interventions for UV protection, and determining psychological and behavioral predictors of HPV vaccination in minority populations. Additionally, Dr. Gerrard’s unique role at CHIP is to increase multidisciplinary cancer research collaborations across UConn campuses and to continue to expand CHIP’s research expertise along the entire cancer continuum. In this capacity, she chairs CHIP’s recently-formed, multidisciplinary Cancer Research Interest Group, among other responsibilities.

**AUTISM**

Examples of CHIP autism research include a study of the impact of robots on the gross motor, fine motor, and social communication skills of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs); the development and evaluation of novel tools for identification of motor, social, and cognitive deficits associated with ASDs within the first six months of life; and the creation and evaluation of theory-based training videos for parents of children with ASDs to help them support and supplement their children’s therapy at home.

New work in this area during FY13 includes a novel music- and movement-based intervention to improve the motor, social, and communication skills of children with autism, with the goal of providing an evidence base for such interventions.

**GLOBAL HEALTH**

During this past year, CHIP researchers continued to design, implement, evaluate, and disseminate theory-based, but highly practical, health behavior change interventions for at-risk populations around the world. In fact, with $19.6 million in active international grants, across all years, roughly 40 percent of CHIP’s research funding currently supports work in other countries. CHIP researchers currently have externally-funded projects in Albania, China, Ethiopia, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand, and Uganda that involve health behavior change interventions designed or adapted for those countries, with sustainability in mind and the potential to save countless lives.

Much of CHIP’s international work is in the core problem area of HIV/AIDS, a research arena in which CHIP continues to be a worldwide leader. CHIP’s international HIV/AIDS work includes the development and evaluation of interventions that support the healthy behavior of people living with HIV (PLWH). This includes interventions that address PLWH’s barriers to safer sexual behavior, such as alcohol use, drug use, and gender-based violence, as well as interventions that promote optimal adherence to life-saving antiretroviral medications. A CHIP research team also recently studied how geospatial factors, such as environment, culture, and politics, can affect the efficacy of HIV prevention interventions, with the ultimate goal of assembling a geospatial landscape of HIV prevention interventions around the world and publishing an interactive map on the Internet, so that it can become an international resource for researchers, public health workers, and policy makers.

Select examples of CHIP international research in other health areas include a recent line of autism research in Albania focused on screening, diagnosis, and parent training for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), and a completed health communication study evaluating the effectiveness of communication campaigns focused on reproductive health and family planning in developing countries.

**HEALTH DISPARITIES**

CHIP health disparities research includes mentoring scholars from under-represented racial and ethnic backgrounds in community-based HIV research; studying the cultural contexts of health disparities among adolescent girls, with a specific focus on reproductive health and weight/obesity; and addressing childhood obesity in African American and Latino preschoolers in Hartford. New research in this area during FY13 involves a grant to study disparities in HPV vaccine completion.
**COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO MEDICINE**

CHIP research in this area includes exploring the linkage between religiousness/spirituality (R/S) and physical health, and developing a translational tool for researchers that will allow them to explicitly describe and compare different types of yoga interventions in clinical trials. Although evidence suggests that 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 in terms of improving health. The translational tool being developed through a current CHIP external grant will allow researchers to do so.

**HEALTH INTERVENTION- AND MEASUREMENT-RELATED DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE**

Increasingly, new and submitted CHIP grants include significant dissemination and implementation components. One example of this is a research project examining the intervener, organizational, and other characteristics associated with the successful implementation of an effective HIV prevention-with-positives intervention. Another example is a grant to translate an effective behavior change intervention for overweight and obese Type 2 diabetics into a virtual program that can be accessed 24/7 on the Internet from anywhere in the world. Work also continues on a lower extremity injury prevention program with a train-the-trainers component; the study is intended to evaluate the potential for widespread dissemination in this manner. Currently being developed, theory-based training videos for parents of children with autism also have the potential to be widely disseminated.

During FY13, a new music-based intervention for children with autism includes the development of parent training materials and the delivery of the intervention by parents, part of the time.

**HEALTH COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING**

Recent examples of CHIP health communication and marketing research include a study evaluating the effectiveness of new graphic cigarette warning labels on cigarette packages, and a study analyzing the impact of food advertisements and public service announcements (PSAs) on child and teen eating habits and weight.

During FY13, new work in this area includes a grant to develop a mobile phone app for STI/HIV prevention, and a grant to evaluate self-control as a moderator of mass media effects on adolescent substance abuse.

**SELECT METHODS TO STUDY HEALTH BEHAVIOR**

CHIP also has expertise in select methods for studying health behavior, including geographic information systems (GIS), meta-analysis, handling missing data in prevention trials, and virtual reality (VR) and other advanced interactive technologies.

During spring 2013, the eHealth/mHealth Research Interest Group (RIG) was formed. The focus of the RIG is on electronic health and mobile health, which refers to the use of mobile technologies, social media, web-based interventions, sensors, and other new technologies to assess and modify health behavior. Twenty members joined the group, and members agreed to use the group to identify potential research collaborators (in academia, private industry, and community), share information (about relevant conferences, funding opportunities, and publications), and identify technical expertise available at UConn and elsewhere for research projects (e.g., CHIP’s Advanced Interactive Technology Center, UConn’s Digital Media Center). A new research project in this area during FY13 involves developing a mobile phone app to prevent STIs/ HIV.

A CHIP investigator recently received an NIH-mentored training grant in geospatial analysis, and he is using his training to create a geospatial landscape of HIV prevention intervention efficacy. This will involve the use of GIS data, such as economic and political factors, to ascertain if these elements relate to HIV prevention intervention efficacy. The same investigator has received three consecutive five-year grants from NIMH to conduct meta-analyses of existing HIV prevention interventions to determine which ones are most effective.

Another CHIP investigator has a grant to improve the handling of missing data in HIV prevention trials.
Finally, several years ago, a CHIP-administered federal grant to study sexual risk behavior in VR environments led to the creation of the CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC), described in Section R on pp. 43-44 in more detail. CHIP’s AITC, which is now a fee-for-service center available to the entire University, offers hardware, software, and personnel capabilities to produce and support interactive and VR research. In addition to working on the sexual risk behavior grant (which is using VR technology to measure study participants’ rapid, emotion-based reactions to condoms), AITC staff members are currently working with researchers from a number of disciplines on projects or grant proposals involving interactive or VR technologies.

K. 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 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 the PIs were able to conduct pilot studies funded by one of these annual seed grant competitions, and thus include critical pilot data in their proposals.

Of particular note, in addition to holding these five longstanding, annual seed grant competitions, CHIP also launched a new, biannual joint seed grant program with Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) last year to spur collaborative, innovative research in the area of HIV/AIDS. More details about this new program can be found below, following the descriptions of the five longstanding, annual seed grant competitions:

1. Seed 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 and health risk prevention.

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

3. Seed Grant Funding Opportunities for Pilot Projects 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. Annual CHIP Grant Development Summer 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. 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 Grant Funding for Conference Development - CHIP provides funding on occasion to CHIP investigators for conferences that stimulate innovative, multidisciplinary, and/or multi-institutional collaboration in health behavior 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.
6. CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Program - A new joint seed grant program was announced in FY12 as a strategic initiative to strengthen the CHIP-CIRA collaborative partnership. In January 2012, the CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Program announced that it would award $50,000 in funding to a research team comprised of an investigator from each research center (i.e., CHIP and CIRA) for innovative HIV/AIDS pilot research leading to future external grant funding.

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 late fall of each year. Reviews are performed in spring of the following year, and funds are awarded before the end of each fiscal year. (Please see Appendices 5 through 11 on pp. 66-79 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 found in Appendices 5 through 11 on pp. 66-79, 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 Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) and Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology). Due to the large number of submissions, two review committees were formed. Committee members for the Principal/New Investigator reviews included CHIP-based Boundary Spanner Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CHIP), CHIP PI Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Human Development & Family Studies), CHIP PI Ofer Harel (Ph.D., Statistics), CHIP PI Stephanie Milan (Ph.D., Psychology), and doctoral students Marie Brault (Anthropology), Erin Lenz (Psychology), and Robert Low (Psychology). Review committee members for the Pilot Projects for Graduate Students included CHIP Affiliate Pamela Erickson (Ph.D., Anthropology), CHIP PI Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology), CHIP PI Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences), CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology), and CHIP PI Katie Martin (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences). Doctoral students David Finitis (Psychology) and Kristen Riley (Psychology) also participated.

In March, 2013, the Principal/New Investigator Review Committee awarded one $15,000 grant to a CHIP PI and three $7,500 grants to New CHIP Investigators:

- CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication) for a grant proposal entitled, “Development and Pilot Test of a Virtual Coach App on Weight Loss and Maintenance.”
In March 2013, the Pilot Projects for Graduate Students Review Committee funded four $1,500 seed grants for the following CHIP graduate student affiliates:

- Megan Clarke (Psychology) for a proposal entitled, “The Impact of Infant Sleep on Maternal Health Behaviors.”
- Evan Johnson (Kinesiology) for a proposal entitled, “Two Methods of Running Intensity Prescription and Related Lipid Response.”
- Laramie Smith (Psychology) for a proposal entitled, “‘60 Minutes for Health’: A Theory-based Intervention for People Living with HIV.”
- Emily Tuthill (Nursing) for a proposal entitled, “Translation and Testing Content Validity of the IIFAS for Use in South Africa.”

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

**CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication), “Development and Pilot Test of a Virtual Coach App on Weight Loss and Maintenance”**

CHIP PI Dr. Snyder and co-investigators CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) and CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC) Director Timothy Gifford will use their CHIP PI seed grant funding to develop a virtual health coach application (app) and test the feasibility of using the app, along with existing consumer-based, self-monitoring tools to promote weight loss in adults. Specific aims for the seed grant include: (1) developing a working model of a theory-based, engaging virtual coach weight-loss app that will take individuals through a tailored intervention to promote a healthy diet, physical activity, weight loss, and maintenance of weight loss, (2) exploring factors related to adherence to daily self-monitoring of diet and physical activity, energy balance, and weight using widely-available consumer technologies, (3) testing the feasibility of an intervention based on the app in combination with self-monitoring in a small sample of ethnically-diverse overweight adults and adults looking to maintain recent weight loss, and (4) exploring issues related to future improvements in the intervention and potential means of its dissemination. The pilot data and beta version of the app generated by the CHIP PI seed grant will be used to support an NIH grant application aimed at the prevention and treatment of overweight status in adults.

**CHIP Affiliate Kari Adamsons (Ph.D., Human Development & Family Studies), “Supporting Fathers during the Prenatal Period to Improve Family Health Outcomes.”**

CHIP Affiliate Dr. Adamsons will use her New Investigator seed grant to conduct and evaluate a pilot program to increase pre- and post-natal involvement of soon-to-be fathers, with the ultimate goal of improving expectant mother and fetal health and child health after birth. The pilot program will promote parenting knowledge and skills, promote the importance of fathers’ role both during pregnancy and after birth, and provide social support from other fathers. The program will be part of a short-term longitudinal study. Fathers will be recruited between three and six months into the pregnancy (allowing for completion of the program before the birth of the child). Fathers will be randomized into either the treatment group or services-as-usual group. All fathers will be given a set of pre-test measures to assess prenatal care usage, health, and parenting knowledge. Programs will last for eight weeks, meeting once every other week for 1½ hours. After program completion and again at child age 3 and 6 months, both groups of fathers will be given surveys. Groups will be compared on involvement, efficacy, and health outcomes.
both pre- and post-natally. It is anticipated that promoting fathers’ competence and increasing fathers’ investment in parenting will increase fathers’ involvement pre- and post-natally, resulting in health benefits such as mothers’ increased prenatal care and abstinence from alcohol/smoking, decreased incidence of low birth weight and pre-term babies, and lower infant mortality. Father involvement also is associated with psychological, cognitive, social, behavioral, and health benefits for children.


The New Investigator seed grant-funded work of CHIP PI Dr. Tania Huedo-Medina ultimately may benefit other CHIP investigators who are using meta-analysis, a methodological strength of CHIP’s, in their research. The reanalysis of studies’ individual-level data has been recognized as the gold standard for combining evidence from existing studies. Individual participant data meta-analysis makes it possible to use advanced modeling strategies to examine links and complexity between behavioral and biological variables among diverse populations. However, precise metric transformations among factors that presume to measure the same variable are needed. Dr. Huedo-Medina’s team will identify approaches to statistical harmonization, which could be used when individual participant data from different sources are integrated. Although statistical methods for harmonization have been proposed, there has not been a comparison of effect sizes when they are used and no transformation metric has been suggested. The research team will review the statistical developments to combine different measures when complex concepts, such as behavior change on HIV prevention or adherence to treatment, are measured by individual items or scales. As the project progresses, Dr. Huedo-Medina and her team will document their work in scholarly journals in addition to writing guidelines for practitioners and scholars.

**CHIP Affiliate Amy R. Mobley (Ph.D., Nutritional Sciences), “The Forgotten Parent: Paternal Influences on Young Children’s Eating Behaviors”**

CHIP Affiliate Dr. Mobley and co-investigators CHIP Affiliate Dr. Adamsons and CHIP PI Dr. Gorin will research and provide insight into paternal influences on child eating behaviors, diet quality, physical activity, and weight. The New Investigator seed grant will provide the resources to conduct one-on-one interviews with up to 150 fathers of preschool-age children. These formative results will be used to develop and evaluate effective childhood obesity prevention programs using parents as the agents of change with focused inclusion of the father. Specifically, the overall aims are: (1) identifying the relationship of paternal feeding practices and feeding styles on child eating style, diet quality, and weight status, (2) evaluating the relationship between paternal diet quality, physical activity, and weight status on the diet quality, physical activity, and weight status of their preschool age children, and (3) evaluating the influence of father-reported maternal and paternal perceptions of the role of the father on his preschool child’s feeding practices, diet quality, and body weight. The research team notes that the parent of a young child is a key player in the child’s weight status due to genetic influences on weight as well as the food environment they provide and the feeding process they employ with the child. However, most of the research surrounding modifiable factors associated with child obesity, such as diet, physical activity, and feeding practices, has been one-sided, often ignoring the father of the child. This research attempts to correct that deficit.

**Megan Clarke (Psychology), “The Impact of Infant Sleep on Maternal Health Behaviors”**

Under the guidance of Dr. Gorin, Psychology doctoral student Megan Clarke will collect quantitative data regarding infant sleep patterns, parents’ use of sleep training, and maternal psychosocial health and physical activity levels. Clarke’s hypothesis is that mothers who sleep train their infants will sleep more, have lower levels of postpartum depression (PPD), and engage in more physical activity. Data collected from this pilot study potentially could establish a relationship between infant sleep training, maternal physical activity levels, and postpartum weight loss. Clarke ultimately could use her pilot data to inform the development of an intervention designed to support mothers in behavioral sleep training of infants and in increasing their postpartum physical activity levels. This work could be significant because it would provide a targeted approach for a high-risk time for weight gain for women of childbearing age – during pregnancy and the postpartum period.
Evan Johnson (Kinesiology), “Two Methods of Running Intensity Prescription and Related Lipid Response”

Under the guidance of Kinesiology Professor Lawrence Armstrong, CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), and Kinesiology Assistant Professor Elaine Choung-Hee Lee, Kinesiology doctoral student Evan Johnson will compare two methods of exercise intensity prescription during a six-week running training program. Of the four components of aerobic exercise prescription (frequency, intensity, duration, and type) outlined by the American College of Sports Medicine, intensity presents the greatest challenge to exercise prescription. Johnson’s study will involve two groups undergoing running training programs, identical except for the method in which running intensity is prescribed. The first group will have exercise intensity prescribed via heart rate (HR), corresponding to specific percentages of peak oxygen uptake, while the second group will have intensity prescribed via the psycho-physiological rating of perceived exertion (RPE), corresponding to the same percentages of peak oxygen uptake. Additionally, running performance and cardio-metabolic risk factors will be measured before and after the six-week running training program to determine if differences in intensity prescription manifest in differences in exercise performance and/or health outcomes. Johnson hypothesizes that the group with intensity prescribed via HR will match more closely the target intensities than the group with intensity prescribed via RPE, a finding that can be used in performance and clinical settings to optimally prescribe exercise.

Laramie Smith (Psychology), “‘60 Minutes for Health:’ A Theory-Based Intervention for People Living with HIV”

Under the guidance of CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) and CHIP PI K. Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP), Psychology doctoral student Laramie Smith will evaluate a theory-based, single-session, 60-minute intervention to strengthen retention in HIV medical care over a six-month period among HIV-positive patients with a recent history of poor retention in care in the Bronx. Improving retention in HIV care is critical to ensuring optimal long-term health of people living with HIV. Successful interventions supporting sustained retention in HIV care additionally should ensure the significant reduction of HIV-disease burden and HIV-viral load responsible for most HIV transmission in the U.S. The retention in care interventions evaluated to date have targeted structural or social drivers of access to care vs. individual-level determinants of care utilization. They also have failed to provide an appropriate control condition for testing intervention efficacy. Smith, by contrast, will focus on individual-level determinants of care utilization and use a randomized, controlled study design. Her proof-of-concept pilot study aims to evaluate the intervention’s efficacy in: (1) improving retention to patients’ next few clinic visits over a six-month period, (2) promoting change in the individual-level, theory-based determinants of retention in care, and (3) testing if changes in behavioral determinants predict changes in retention in care behavior at six months.

Emily Tuthill (Nursing), “Translation and Testing Content Validity of the IIFAS for use in South Africa.”

Under the guidance of Dr. Fisher, Nursing doctoral student Emily Tuthill will use her CHIP seed grant funding to conduct work that is vital to the successful completion of her NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA) project. Through her NRSA, Tuthill seeks to change the predominantly non-exclusive breastfeeding behavior of HIV+ South African women, with the ultimate goal of reducing mother-to-child HIV transmission. With her CHIP seed grant funding, Tuthill will employ bilingual translators to have the validated Iowa Infant Feeding Attitudes Scale (IIFAS) translated into isiZulu and back-translated. Tuthill also will have content experts evaluate the cultural understandability, clarity, and fit of the tool and will make modifications to ensure a culturally-adapted tool. The resulting culturally-adapted instrument will effectively measure Tuthill’s target constructs in the NRSA project (intention towards exclusive breastfeeding, information, motivation and behavioral skills).

Christine N. Witzel Award

The Christine N. Witzel Award is another research award offered through CHIP to support an undergraduate or graduate student 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 FY13, CHIP gave a $1,500 Witzel Award to Marie Brault, an Anthropology doctoral student, for her project entitled, “Married Young Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health in Low-income Communities in Mumbai, India.” For adolescent girls in low and middle-income countries, marriage after menarche is common. Young wives face a range of social and health problems including limited education, coercive sex and violence, maternal mortality, and increased STI/HIV risk. Consistent with this global picture, almost 50 percent of women in India marry below the legal age of 18. Brault’s Christine Witzel Award-funded project uses a mixed methods approach to understand the processes involved as a girl transitions from her natal family to her husband’s family and the impact of these processes on her sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in low-income communities in Mumbai, India. Specifically, this project will examine how natal family dynamics shape young women’s agency and social networks, how these factors continue to be shaped during marriage, and measure SRH in terms of sociocultural and biological factors. This project examining the challenges married adolescents in low-income communities in Mumbai face will form the basis for Brault’s dissertation and also will inform future interventions to improve the quality of life of married adolescents. Brault’s advisor is CHIP Affiliate Stephen Schensul (Ph.D., Community Medicine and Health Care, UCHC).

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

In FY13, CHIP Principal Investigators were awarded $7.2 M of new external funding to direct multidisciplinary research activities in the health domains of HIV/AIDS, STIs and Other Sexual Risk Behavior, Medication Adherence, Exercise Science, Nutrition, Obesity, Autism, Cancer, and Health Communication.

(A list of these grants, their funding agencies, and the total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs associated with each is contained in Appendix 1 on pp. 48-49).

M. Active CHIP Research Grants (as of May 15, 2013)

For actual research expenditures in FY13 alone, there was an estimated $9 million in total costs expended on external CHIP grants, $6.6 million in direct costs, and $2.4 million in recovered indirect costs. In the past 10 years, total costs have increased substantially from $1.3 million in FY02 to an estimated $9 million in FY13.

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 (Figures 1, 2, and 3).
Figure 2: Actual Direct Costs Per Year *Expended on* External CHIP Grants

Figure 3: Actual Indirect Costs Per Year *Recovered from* External CHIP Grants
Figures 4 and 5 (below) show the distribution of CHIP grants and CHIP grant dollars by academic department.

**Figure 4: Percentage of Current CHIP Grants by Department**
(Out of 68 Total Grants as of May 15, 2013)

- Psychology: 71.16%
- Communication Science: 4.41%
- CHIP: 14.71%
- Kinesiology: 22.06%
- Anthropology: 4.41%
- Allied Health: 3.39%
- Statistics: 2.94%
- Human Development & Family Studies: 1.47%
- Human Development & Family Studies (Out of 68 Total Grants as of May 15, 2013)

**Figure 5: Distribution of Current CHIP Grant Dollars by Department**
(Total Costs across All Years of Grants as of May 15, 2013)

- Psychology: 71.16%
- Communication Science: 2.81%
- CHIP: 4.47%
- Kinesiology: 6.78%
- Anthropology: 0.21%
- Human Development & Family Studies: 5.01%
- Allied Health: 5.01%
- Statistics: 1.78%
- Human Development & Family Studies (Total Costs across All Years of Grants as of May 15, 2013)
N. Submitted CHIP Grant Applications (as of May 15, 2013)

Through May 15, 2013 of FY13, CHIP Principal Investigators had submitted 71 external grant applications comprising $44.8 million in total costs, $31.8 million in direct costs, and $12.9 million in indirect costs. Of these grants, as noted above, $7.2 million in total costs from 18 grants have already been funded thus far this fiscal year.

(Appendix 13 on pp. 88-95 lists all submitted grants. Of those submitted grants, those that already have been funded are also listed both in Appendix 1 on pp. 48-48 and in Appendix 12 on pp. 80-87.)

O. CHIP Graduate Student Highlights

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.

External grants received by CHIP PIs fund a substantial number of graduate students each year. This year, CHIP external grants funded 48 graduate students across multiple departments. University awards also provided funding for two of those graduate students. Total yearlong graduate student funding from CHIP grants was $623,353.

In September 2012, CHIP-affiliated Nursing doctoral student Emily Tuthill became the 11th UConn graduate student working with a CHIP mentor, in as many years, to receive a National Research Service Award (NRSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for her project entitled, Exclusive Breastfeeding Promotion Among HIV+ Mothers: A Theory-Based Approach. Tuthill is using her NRSA to try to change the predominantly non-exclusive breastfeeding behavior of HIV+ South African women, with the ultimate goal of reducing mother-to-child HIV transmission. Tuthill’s co-sponsors on the NRSA are CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology) and Jacqueline McGrath (Ph.D., Nursing). (The 11 NRSA’s awarded to CHIP-affiliated graduate students represent a combined amount of nearly $930,000 in total costs awarded). Tuthill’s award is one of the latest examples of the exceptional track record CHIP graduate students have at winning outside funding from national funding agencies, such as NIH 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 mentors on their own research project, providing them with the necessary skills to successfully pursue additional grant funding after completing their graduate studies.

During the fall of 2012, CHIP-affiliated Psychology doctoral student Megan Clarke became the third CHIP-affiliated graduate student to be named a UConn Farber Fellow. Farber Fellows are funded through a generous trust established by former Social Psychology faculty member Maurice Farber before he died in 2009. (The first two Farber Fellows were named last year – CHIP-affiliated Psychology doctoral students Benjamin Meagher and Anna Schierberl Scherr). The trust will provide Clarke, whose advisor and mentor is CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology), 20 hours of funding a year, matched by her department, $8,000 for summer research funding for two summers, and tuition remission and health benefits; Clarke will have the trust for two years, until she completes her degree. Students who receive Farber awards have to maintain a 3.5 grade point average, demonstrate research productivity, and complete their degrees in a timely manner. Clarke’s research focuses on how teachable moments can be optimized to improve health behaviors in groups that are at risk for significant weight gain. In particular, she is interested in factors associated with decreases in physical activity in at-risk groups, such as young adults transitioning to college and women in the postpartum period.

During the spring of 2013, a graduate of UConn’s Psychology doctoral program who was affiliated with CHIP and mentored by CHIP Director Dr. Fisher during her studies at UConn, returned to UConn as a keynote speaker for the CHIP Cancer Research Interest Group’s Cancer Research Mini Retreat “Working Together.” Rebecca Ferrer, now a health scientist and program director with the National Cancer Institute (NCI)’s Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch of its Behavioral Research Program, delivered a talk entitled, “Scientific Priorities and Upcoming FOAs at the National Cancer Institute.”
P. CHIP Postdoctoral Investigators

During FY13, Drs. Jinhyouk Jung and Charikleia (Cleo) Protogerou continued to serve as postdoctoral researchers/investigators at CHIP. CHIP postdocs collaborate with CHIP principal investigators (PIs) on funded research while typically pursuing their own independent research. Many former CHIP postdocs have gone on to have their own significant, independently-funded research portfolios. Furthermore, CHIP postdocs also have gone on to procure other important research-related appointments at major research institutions. For example, during FY13, former CHIP postdoc, Dr. Eileen V. Pitpitan, who worked on two of CHIP PI Seth Kalichman’s projects (Multilevel Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa and Alcohol-related HIV Risks among South African Women) for two years, accepted a fellowship at University of San Diego’s Division of Global Public Health in the Department of Medicine.

Here are brief descriptions of CHIP’s FY13 postdoctoral researchers:

- Jinhyouk Jung, Ph.D., joined CHIP in May 2011 as a Post-doctoral fellow for CHIP PI Ofer Harel (Ph.D., Statistics), and he continues to work on Dr. Harel’s National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) research project, Dealing with Missing Data in HIV Prevention Trials. Dr. Jung’s research interests include missing data imputation, case-cohort study for survival data, generalized extreme-value distribution modeling, and image analysis.

- Charikleia (Cleo) Protogerou, Ph.D., worked with the research team of CHIP PI Blair T. Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) through August 2012 on his Syntheses of HIV & AIDS Research Project (SHARP), and then returned to Athens, Greece, where she is working as a health psychologist. Her work with SHARP focused on the success of behavioral interventions to reduce the risk of HIV for adolescents across the world, considering social structural predictors of trial efficacy. She also worked on a systematic review of meta-analyses focused on the same behavioral interventions.

Q. CHIP Administration

During FY13, the CHIP Administrative Team consisted of CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology); CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cormman (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; Bethanne Haight, Financial Assistant I (hired October 5, 2012); Donna Hawkins, Program Assistant I; Jonathan Gill, Computer Technical Support Consultant III; Christopher Tarricone, Computer Technical Support Consultant III (hired April 22, 2013); Samuel Salorio, Computer Technical Support Consultant I; Stacey Leeds, part-time University Specialist; Beth Krane, part-time University (Dissemination) Specialist; and Kathleen Moriarty, part-time University (Grants) Specialist. In addition, CHIP continued to have the support of up to four part-time undergraduate work-study students throughout the fiscal year.

Two staffing changes to the Administrative Team occurred during FY13. First, Sarah Bothell resigned from CHIP as of July 6, 2012 to accept another position in the Office of Animal Care at the University. Bethanne Haight was hired on October 5, 2012 to replace Sarah. Jonathan Gill resigned from CHIP as of December 14, 2012 to accept a position in UITS at the University. He was retained at CHIP one day per week through April 30, 2012 to facilitate an effective transition until his replacement was hired. Christopher Tarricone was hired as Jonathan’s replacement on April 22, 2013.

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 4 on pp. 64-65, and the CHIP Organizational Chart is shown in Appendix 15 on pp. 102.)

R. CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC)

The CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC), which grew out of CHIP Principal Investigator Kerry Marsh’s (Ph.D., Psychology) federal grant to conduct health behavior-related virtual reality (VR) research, now
provides researchers in the University community with access to an expanded array of high-end interactive technology and services in mobile applications (apps), animation, motion capture, interactive simulations, web-based interactives, VR, robotics, and advanced computing analysis. CHIP AITC Director Timothy Gifford and his staff can create complete applications to serve researchers’ specific needs. CHIP AITC also has a full line of interactive equipment, such as robots, tracking devices, and display equipment, which researchers can use to run experiments utilizing the interactive content. CHIP AITC’s interactive applications extend the reach of researchers in a cost-effective, controlled, and realistic way. Data from pilot CHIP AITC studies can be used to support large external grant applications involving these technologies.

During FY 13, CHIP AITC developed new capabilities to deliver interactive content over the web and through mobile devices. CHIP AITC recently adopted several new software platforms that give it the capability to reach more mediums. These include the commercially available Unity platform and the SimCoach platform developed by the Institute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California. CHIP AITC also is developing large-scale installation tracking capabilities for use in exhibit spaces. It also acquired its first wireless head-mounted display device (HMD), allowing participants to walk, untethered, through immersive experiments.

(To learn more about the CHIP AITC, including some of its active projects during FY13, please see Appendix 16 on pp. 103-104.)

S. 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. The resulting continued 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 ten years ago, CHIP investigators have competed successfully for $79.7 million in total costs in new grants.

The current CHIP research facility provides office space for 16 faculty members, Ph.Ds., and post-docs; 15 research associates; up to 9 Center staff members; 25 graduate student researchers; and 11 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 have their offices near 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 Sciences, Anthropology, Communication, Kinesiology, Nursing, Nutritional Sciences, Psychology, and related fields work together on research projects, and apply for 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 substantial amount of funded research is physically conducted in the CHIP research facility, which has ten small interview cubicles for conducting research, a focus group room with nine 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 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 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.

T. Public Engagement

For the third consecutive year, CHIP participated in the University’s Public Engagement Forum (PEF), which is a central branch of the Office of Public Engagement. CHIP was represented on the PEF by CHIP-based Boundary
Spanner Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., CHIP), whose role is similar to that of the PEF and consists essentially of cultivating university-community relationships, creating forums for dialogue about community needs, and identifying community-based projects in order to extend the impact the University has throughout the state and beyond. During the past year, Dr. Dugan served as a member of the PEF’s Engaged Scholarship subcommittee, which is working to develop a template that UConn researchers can fill out to create a profile of their community-engaged projects and use for widespread dissemination. She is also a member of the PEF’s Programs and Partnerships subcommittee, which created and launched a university-wide survey to assess faculty interest in networking opportunities and professional development workshops that support public engagement at the University.

In addition, Dr. Dugan continued the boundary spanning work she began in FY12 to expand and strengthen CHIP’s relationship with Commissioner Jewel Mullen (M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), with the goal of developing collaborative projects among CT DPH and CHIP researchers that have real-world impact in Connecticut. Dr. Dugan invited DPH researchers to attend the CHIP Lecture Series presentations and to join one or more of CHIP’s three Research Interest Groups. CHIP and CT DPH also have had preliminary discussions about the possibility of seeking a funding opportunity for a collaborative CHIP-DPH research project, likely focused on obesity.

During FY13, Dr. Dugan also continued to develop CHIP’s relationship with Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) to spark new HIV/AIDS research collaborations among CHIP and CIRA investigators. In July, she attended a meeting with CIRA and CT DPH that focused on future collaboration via practical research projects to prevent disease and enhance health in Connecticut, particularly in urban centers that bear the greatest burden.

During FY13, CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) represented the Center through a number of public engagement activities:

- Dr. Cornman was invited to serve on UConn’s new Global Affairs Advisory Board, which is headed by Vice Provost for Global Affairs Daniel Weiner, Ph.D. Dr. Weiner is the University’s chief academic officer for international affairs and is responsible for the development and oversight of a wide variety of university initiatives relating to international efforts. Dr. Cornman and the other members of the Advisory Board will assist Dr. Weiner with producing UConn Global: A Strategic Plan and will propose strategies for deepening global education at the University of Connecticut. The Advisory Board will also make recommendations about the allocation of Global Affairs resources, including for the implementation of the strategic plan.

- Dr. Cornman served as the UConn/CHIP representative on Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA)’s Executive Committee and participated in their meetings and events. CIRA is an NIMH-funded HIV research center that brings together scientists from 25 different disciplines and three institutions including Yale University, CHIP, and Institute for Community Research. CIRA’s mission is to support the conduct of interdisciplinary research focused on the prevention of HIV infection and reduction of negative consequences of HIV disease in vulnerable and underserved populations nationally and abroad. The CIRA Executive Committee meets monthly to provide guidance and oversight to CIRA.

- Dr. Cornman worked with the University’s Office of Community Outreach to provide an HIV training workshop to 10 UConn undergraduate students participating in the NYC HIV/AIDS Spring Alternative Break. On April 11, 2013, Dr. Cornman conducted a brief workshop on global HIV incidence and prevalence, epidemiology of HIV in U.S., U.S. national HIV policy, and relevant research findings on HIV.

In the past year, individual CHIP PIs also regularly made significant contributions to the community in ways that drew on their unique expertise. Four examples are the following:

- During FY13, CHIP Principal Investigators John Christensen (Ph.D., Communication) and Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication), and CHIP Affiliates Kristine Nowak (Ph.D., Communication) and James Watt (Ph.D., Communication) participated as part of UConn’s recently formed Digital Initiatives Group, representing CHIP as well as their department. The Digital Initiatives Group is headed by Tim Hunter (Ph.D., Fine Arts and Business), Chair of the new Digital Media Department. In April, Drs. Nowak, Snyder, and Watt presented at a conference
held on campus for members of the UConn community who are interested in digital media and networking with others around this topic. Some members of the Digital Initiatives Group also met with Cigna to explore future collaborations in research, training, and internships, including Drs. Christensen, Nowak, Snyder, and Watt. Finally, there was an initial meeting with Jackson Labs (involving Drs. Christensen, Nowak, and Snyder) to explore collaborations around games for genomics education.

- CHIP PI Stephanie Milan (Ph.D., Psychology) continued to serve as a consultant for Community Health Center, Inc., helping to build a research infrastructure to enhance evidence-based clinical care for low-income patient populations and to address health disparities for underserved women in central Connecticut. She also served as a member of the organization’s community advisory board for adolescent health services. One example of community-based participatory research that Dr. Milan conducted in this capacity involved soliciting feedback from Latina teens and their parents on barriers to exercise within their school and community and on how to improve access to out-of-school physical activity programs. In addition, Dr. Milan is a member of the New Britain YWCA Board of Directors.

- CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) continued as 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 served 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.

- Dr. Cornman developed an online training workshop for healthcare providers about the use of Motivational Interviewing to support healthy behavior among their patients. The workshop, which was entitled, *Options: An Evidence-Based Intervention that Uses Motivational Interviewing*, was one of 13 workshops provided during SOA AID Nederland’s “Online Learning Week,” in October and November of 2012. This workshop was part of an online accredited international training program for healthcare providers about HIV/STI care.

### Conclusion

During FY13, CHIP experienced tremendous growth on multiple fronts. The Center submitted 40 percent more grants this year than in FY12, which resulted in CHIP PIs being awarded over $7.2 million in new grant funding. Moreover, CHIP increased the amount of indirect costs it returned to the University by 25 percent. And with the Fall 2012 arrival of two new faculty members from Dartmouth College who focus on cancer risk behavior, CHIP significantly expanded its research expertise along the entire cancer continuum. CHIP also continued to grow its Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network via increased outreach to various strategic units on campus and to off-campus entities such as the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Yale University’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), as well as through the creation of two new Research Interest Groups (Cancer and eHealth/mHealth) and the significant expansion of a third existing Research Interest Group (Obesity). All of these achievements, together with others detailed in this report, set the stage for CHIP’s continued success in FY14.
Appendices
## APPENDIX 1: New CHIP Grants Awarded in FY13

### APPENDIX 1: New CHIP Grants Awarded FY13 (May 16, 2012 - May 15, 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Total Costs Awarded</th>
<th>Total Direct Costs Awarded</th>
<th>Total Indirect Costs Awarded</th>
<th>Yrs</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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<td>Principal Investigator</td>
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<td>End Date</td>
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**Department:**
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- AN   Anthropology
- CH   CHIP
- CS   Communication Science
- PSY  Psychology
- KIN  Kinesiology
- STAT Statistics
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| 08/30/12 | Kelly Brownell  
*Yale University*                                         | “Is There the Courage to Change the American Diet?”                                                                                           | UConn Dept. of Human Development & Family Studies  
Connecticut Children’s Medical Center                                                               |
| 09/13/12 | Michael Copenhaver  
*University of Connecticut*                                     | “Adapting Evidence-based Interventions for Optimal Implementation with Drug Users”                                                            | UConn Dept. of Allied Health Sciences                                                                |
| 09/27/12 | Audrey Pettifor  
*University of North Carolina*                                    | “Young Women & HIV Risk in Sub-Sahara Africa: Moving Beyond the Individual to Address Structural Drivers of the Epidemic”                   | UConn Office of the Vice President for Research                                                       |
| 10/18/12 | Janice Krieger  
*Ohio State University*                                             | “The Role of Uncertainty and Social Networks in Medical Decision-making: Predicting Uptake of the HPV Vaccine”                               | UConn Office of the Vice President for Research                                                       |
| 10/25/12 | Stephen Ross, Delia Furtado  
& Kenneth Couch  
*University of Connecticut*                                     | “The Economics of Health Behavior and Outcomes”                                                                                               | UConn Dept. of Economics                                                                               |
| 11/29/12 | Juan Salazar  
*University of Connecticut Health Center*                          | “Venereal Syphilis in Columbia: Where Immune-biology Sets the Stage for the Uncontrolled Spread of the Disease”                               |                                                                                                       |
| 12/06/12 | Rigoberto Lopez  
*University of Connecticut*                                         | “Beverage Choice of U.S. Households: Determinants and Obesity Consequences”                                                                   |                                                                                                       |
| 01/31/13 | Jose A. Bauermeister  
*University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for Research* | “HIV/AIDS Disparities among Black and Latina YMSM in the Detroit Metro Area”                                                                    | UConn Office of the Vice President for Research                                                       |
| 02/07/13 | Patrick A. Wilson  
*Columbia University*                                           | “Using a Situational Framework to Understand Mood, Well-being, and HIV Risk among Ethnic Minority MSM”                                       |                                                                                                       |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title / Topic</th>
<th>Lecture Co-Sponsors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/21/13</td>
<td>Peter C. Trask <em>Sanofi, Inc.</em></td>
<td>“In the Absence of Adherence: Identified Issues across the Cancer Continuum”</td>
<td>UConn Office of the Vice President for Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/07/13</td>
<td>Udi Davidovich <em>Amsterdam Health Services</em></td>
<td>“New Realities in the Prevention of HIV among MSM: the Trials and Tribulation of Risk-reduction Strategies other than Condom Use”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/28/13</td>
<td>Cornelius Rietmeijer <em>Rietmeijer Consulting, CO</em></td>
<td>“Prevention Paradox: HIV Decline May Lead to STI Increase”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/04/13</td>
<td>Cheryl Oncken <em>University of Connecticut Health Center</em></td>
<td>“Behavioral and Pharmacological Treatments for Pregnant Smokers”</td>
<td>UConn Dept. of Kinesiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/11/13</td>
<td>Carolyn Aldwin <em>Oregon State University</em></td>
<td>“Healthy Aging: Is ‘Common Sense’ Wrong”</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/18/13</td>
<td>Pouran Faghri <em>University of Connecticut</em></td>
<td>“Worksite Weight Loss Intervention using Contingency Management of Financial Incentive for At-Risk Employees”</td>
<td>UConn Dept. of Kinesiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/25/13</td>
<td>Annette Stanton <em>University of California at Los Angeles</em></td>
<td>“How and for Whom? Toward Developing Maximally Effective Psychosocial Interventions for Adults Living with Chronic Disease”</td>
<td>UConn Depts. of Human Development &amp; Family Studies, &amp; Kinesiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/02/13</td>
<td>Lynn Miller <em>University of Southern California</em></td>
<td>“Socially Optimized Learning in Virtual Environments (SOLVE): the Promise of Interactive and Intelligent Technologies for Reducing Risky Sexual Behaviors”</td>
<td>Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, UConn Dept. of Psychology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 3: CHIP PIs and Research Affiliates

**Principal Investigators (PIs)**

K. Rivet Amico, Ph.D.
*Research Scientist, CHIP*

Keith M. Bellizzi, Ph.D., MPH
*Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies*

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

Thomas Blank, Ph.D.
*Professor of Human Development and Family Studies*

Thomas E. Buckley, M.P.H.
*Assistant Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice*

Nicola Bulled, Ph.D.
*Adjunct Professor of Anthropology*
*Associate Research Scientist, CHIP*

Claudia Carello, Ph.D.
*Professor of Psychology*
*Director of the Center for the Ecological Study of Perception & Action (CESPA)*

John Christensen, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Communication*

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

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

Dean Cruess, Ph.D.
*Professor of Psychology*

Lindsay J. DiStefano, Ph.D., A.T.C.
*Assistant Professor of Kinesiology*

Lisa Eaton, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies*

Kirstie M. Cope-Farrar, Ph.D.
*Associate Professor of Communication*

Deborah Fein, Ph.D.
*Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology*
Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D.
Director of CHIP
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology

Meg Gerrard, Ph.D.
Research Professor of Psychology

Frederick Gibbons, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

Amy Gorin, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

Ofer Harel, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Statistics

Tania Huedo-Medina, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, Allied Health Sciences

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

Seth C. Kalichman, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

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

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

Katie S. Martin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Allied Health Sciences

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

Stephanie Milan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

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

Linda S. Pescatello, Ph.D.
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Kinesiology

Stephen L. Ross, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics

Beth S. Russell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies
Elizabeth D. Schifano, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Statistics

Merrill Singer, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology

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

Jeff Volek, Ph.D.
Professor of Kinesiology

CHIP Research Affiliates

UConn College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kari Adamsons, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

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

Robert S. Astur, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

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

Saraswathi Bellur, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication

Hart Blanton, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

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

Robert Broadhead, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Sociology

Edna Brown, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

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

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

Mary Crawford, Ph.D.
Emerita Professor of Psychology and Women Studies
Amanda Denes, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication

Dipak K. Dey, Ph.D.
Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Statistics
Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Inge-Marie Eigsti, Ph.D.
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Pamela I. Erickson, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology and Community Medicine

Debarchana Ghosh, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Geography

Sara Harkness, Ph.D., M.P.H.
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Idethia Shevon Harvey, Dr.Ph, M.P.H.
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Sangwook Kang, Ph.D.
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Kristin A. Kelly, Ph.D.
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Carolyn Lin, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication

Alice E. Veksler, Ph.D.
Graduate Faculty of Communication

James Watt, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Communication

UConn College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Pouran Faghri, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.M.
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Maria-Luz Fernandez, Ph.D.
Professor of Nutritional Sciences

Amy R. Mobley, Ph.D., R.D.
Assistant Professor of Nutritional Sciences

UConn School of Business

Narasimhan Srinivasan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Marketing

UConn - Neag School of Education
Susan S. Glenney, P.T., D.P.T.
Assistant Clinical Faculty in Residence of Kinesiology

Michael Joseph, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

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

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

James M. O'Neil, Ph.D.
Professor of Educational Psychology and Family Studies Psychology

Jaci VanHeest, Ph.D.
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Ana Lourdes Volek, Ph.D.
Assistant Research Professor of Kinesiology and Extension

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

Patricia J. Neafsey, Ph.D.
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Thomas J. Van Hoof, M.D., Ed.D.
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William L. Baker, Pharm.D.
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Michelle L. Breland, Ph.D.
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Megan J. Ehret, Ph.D.
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C. Michael White, Ph.D.
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Linda K. Frisman, Ph.D., M.Ed., N.C.C.
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Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Michie N. Hesselbrock, Ph.D.
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Brenda Kurz, Ph.D.
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Cristina Wilson, Ph.D.
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Cheryl A. Parks, Ph.D.
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Lisa Werkmeister Rozas, Ph.D.
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Marie Latortue, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical Research, Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences

Julie A. Wagner, Ph.D.
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UConn Health Center, School of Medicine

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Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care
Director of the Center for Public Health and Health Policy

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Lisa C. Barry, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor, Center on Aging

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Director of Asthma Center, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

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

Carolyn Drazinic, M.D.
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Judith A. Fifield, Ph.D.
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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.
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Associate Dean for Primary Care

David I. Gregorio, Ph.D., M.S.
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Director of Graduate Program in Public Health

Victor M. Hesselbrock, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
Scientific Director of the Alcohol Research Center

Yifrah Kaminer, M.D., M.B.A.
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Susan M. Kiene, Ph.D.
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Interim Physician in Chief, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

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*Leader, Global Healthcare Project, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center*

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Zhu Wang, Ph.D.
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*Senior Biostatistician of Research, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center*

**CHIP – University of Connecticut**

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*Associate Research Scientist and Nursing Research Analyst*

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Assistant Professor of Psychology

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

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Clinical Researcher, Metabolic Services

Institute for Community Research – Hartford, CT
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Director of Research Administration/IRB Administrator

Jean J. Schensul, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist and Founding Director
Margaret R. Weeks, Ph.D.
Executive Director

John Hopkins School of Public Health – Baltimore, MD
Michelle R. Kaufman, Ph.D.
Research & Evaluation Officer, Center for Communication Programs

Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI
Douglas K. Hartman, Ph.D.
Professor of Literacy and Technology

Mount Sinai Hospital – New York, NY
Ashley M Fox, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Health Evidence and Policy, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

National Cancer Institute - Bethesda, MD
Rebecca Ferrer, Ph.D.
Program Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
North Carolina State University – Raleigh, NC
Karen Bullock, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.
Associate Professor of Social Work

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

Private Industry
Sarah Christie, M.A.
Mark R. Convey, M.A.
Sarah Diamond, Ph.D.
Monika Doshi, M.P.H.
Nathan Geffen, B.S.
Matthew Kostek, Ph.D.
Joseph McManus, M.P.H
Mark Samos, M.A.
Thomas Taaffe, 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., M.P.H.
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State University of New York (SUNY) - Purchase, NY
Anthony Lemieux, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

United State Food and Drug Administration – Rockville, MD
David B. Portnoy, Ph.D., M.P.H
Social Scientist, Center for Tobacco Products

University at Albany School of Public Health – Albany, NY
Jennifer Manganello, Ph.D., M.P.H.
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University of Alabama – Birmingham, AL
Wynne E. Norton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Health Behavior

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Ann M. Cheney, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

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

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

University of Hartford – Hartford, CT
Jeffrey P. Cohen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Economics

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

University of South Carolina – Columbia, SC
Mark Macauda, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Practice and Placement Coordinator, 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

University of Western Sydney – Sydney, Australia
Hudson Birden, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer, University Centre for Rural Health, North Coast

Vanderbilt University – Nashville, TN
Chandra Y. Osborn, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Wageningen University, Wageningen, the Netherlands
Marijn de Bruin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication Science
Western New England University – Springfield, MA

Jason D. Seacat, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology

Western Virginia University – Morgantown, WV

Deborah A. Shelton, Ph.D., R.N., NE-BC, C.H.H.P., F.A.A.N.
Professor and Associate Dean for Nursing Research

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

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 and Director of Center for Eliminating Disparities among Latinos

Gwendolyn Thomas, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Medicine

Robin Whittemore, Ph.D., APRN
Associate Professor of Nursing
# APPENDIX 4: CHIP Business Office Functions and Responsibilities (as of May 15, 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Office Function</th>
<th>1st Staff Member</th>
<th>2nd Staff Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable/Out-of-Pocket Reimbursements (not exceeding $499)</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP Annual Report</td>
<td>Beth Krane</td>
<td>Deborah Cornman/</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grant Budgets/Expenses</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIP Seed Grant Pre-Submission/Applications</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications/ Marketing and Research Finding Dissemination</td>
<td>Beth Krane</td>
<td>TBN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Room and Pod/Key/Equipment Sign-Out</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities – Report Problems at CHIP</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities – New Space Requirements</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Jeffrey Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Opportunity Emails (weekly) &amp; Custom Funding Searches</td>
<td>Beth Krane</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</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/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jeffrey Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory &amp; Inventory on Loan/ACT-40s</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Management/Support</td>
<td>Chris Tarricone</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Purchasing Advice/Quotations</td>
<td>Chris Tarricone</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keys</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keycards (Proximity Cards)</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
<td>Chris Tarricone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor/Union Relations (Staff &amp; Students)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Deborah Cornman/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jeffrey Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Series</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
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<tr>
<td>LISTSERV Management</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mail Service</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>NETID Requests</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Tags</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant Incentives/Cash Advances</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll (Faculty, Staff, &amp; Students)</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</td>
<td>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>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</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>Purchasing – Grants</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Stacey Leeds</td>
<td>Susan Hoge</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; Blackberries)</td>
<td>Donna Hawkins</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel – Authorizations and Reimbursements</td>
<td>Bethanne Haight</td>
<td>Melissa Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Administration/Management</td>
<td>Sam Salorio</td>
<td>Chris Tarricone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 5: Seed Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators

Date: 11/1/2012
To: CHIP Principal Investigators
From: Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention

Re: Seed Grant Development Opportunities for CHIP Principal Investigators
(Individuals who have external grants through CHIP or submitted through CHIP)

Deadlines

- Letter of Intent: Friday, December 14, 2012
- Application: Friday, February 1, 2013

Purpose & Eligibility

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 submitted through CHIP in the areas of health behavior and health behavior change.

Guidelines for Submission for Research Investment Development Funds

1. Applications for funds must be for work that will assist markedly in the submission of new substantial external grant applications that will be submitted for external funding 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 must 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) and budget justification for all costs involved for pilot research, staff, participant and travel costs, and other costs associated with grant development and submission, and in rare instances, for equipment.
     - NOTE: All grants funds must be expended within two years of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP.
   - Biographical sketches of the investigator and other key personnel.
   - Research plan (maximum 10 single-spaced pages, not including References list and Human Subjects section), reflecting Sections 2 and 3 of the Research Plan portion of PHS 398, specifically:
     - Section 2. Specific aims
     - Section 3. Research strategy
       - a. Significance
       - b. Innovation
       - c. Approach
   - References.
• **Brief** Human Subjects section, if applicable.

• Appendices are discouraged and should **not** be used to circumvent the 10-page description limit.

• Explanation of how this research will be used to acquire external funding (e.g., type of award, funding agency), and why this preliminary research enhances the PI’s ability to receive external funding.

• Applications must be submitted as one PDF document in the following format: Times New Roman, font size 12-point, 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 the 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 **Friday, December 14, 2012**, with a title, an overview of your project, and a preliminary estimated total cost to Stacey Leeds at **stacey.leeds@chip.uconn.edu**.

5. Submit your final application **electronically** by **Friday, February 1, 2013** 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 a new methodology, new theory, or new area in need of pilot data.

• Composition of the research team (preference will be given to interdisciplinary work).

• 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 (community collaborations will be regarded positively).

In addition, we will 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.

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

Please contact Debbie Cornman at 860-208-3035 or at **deborah.cornman@uconn.edu** with any questions regarding this opportunity.
Date: 11/1/2012
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D.
   Associate Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention

Re: CHIP Seed Grant Development Opportunities for New Investigators

Deadlines

- Letter of Intent: Friday, December 14, 2012
- Application: Friday, February 1, 2013

Purpose

The Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) supports new research development efforts and pilot work leading to future grant applications submitted through CHIP by the applicant.

Eligibility

These grants are only open to CHIP affiliates who have not previously received significant external funding in health behavior. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate can be found at: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

Guidelines for Submission for “Seed Grant” Funds

1. Applications for funds must be for work that will assist markedly in the submission of new substantial external grant applications that will be submitted for external funding 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 must 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 (less than $7,500) and budget justification for all costs involved for pilot research, staff, participant and travel costs, and other costs associated with grant development and submission, and in rare instances, for equipment.
     - NOTE: All grants funds must be expended within two years of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP.
   - Biographical sketches of the investigator and other key personnel.
   - Research plan (maximum 10 single-spaced pages, not including References list and Human Subjects section), reflecting sections 2 and 3 of the Research Plan portion of PHS 398, specifically:
     - Section 2. Specific aims
     - Section 3. Research strategy
       - a. Significance
b. Innovation

c. Approach

- References.
- **Brief** Human Subjects section, if applicable.
- Appendices are discouraged and should not be used to circumvent the 10-page description limit.
- Explanation of how this research will be used to acquire external funding (e.g., type of award, funding agency), and why this preliminary research enhances the PI’s ability to receive external funding.
- Applications must be submitted as one PDF document in the following format: Times New Roman, font size 12, 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 the 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 **Friday, December 14, 2012**, with a title, an overview of your project, and a preliminary estimated total cost to Stacey Leeds at stacey.leeds@chip.uconn.edu.

5. Submit your final application **electronically** by **Friday, February 1, 2013** 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 a new methodology, new theory, or new area in need of pilot data.
- Composition of the research team (preference will be given to interdisciplinary work).
- 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 (community collaborations will be regarded positively).

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

Please contact Debbie Cornman at 860-208-3035 or at deborah.cornman@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
Date: 11/1/2012  
To: CHIP Affiliates and Colleagues  
From: Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D.  
Associate Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention  

Re: Seed Grant Funding Opportunities for Pilot Projects for Graduate Students  

Deadlines  
- Letter of Intent: Friday, December 14, 2012  
- Application: Friday, February 1, 2013  

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 behavior 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 NIH).  

Eligibility  
CHIP graduate student affiliates are invited to apply. Applications to become a CHIP graduate student affiliate can be found at: [http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/](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., microcassette 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, student 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 of intent should include a statement by the student’s adviser indicating that the advisor approves of the project, will oversee the student’s work on the full 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.  

Guidelines for Submission for “Seed Grant” Funds  
1. Applications should describe the scope of the work, its contribution to the field, and its potential interest to a particular funding agency. Applications must be modeled after the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ PHS 398 ([http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html](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 (not to exceed $1,500) and budget justification for all costs involved for pilot research, staff, participant and travel costs, and other costs associated with grant development and submission, and in rare instances, for equipment.
  o NOTE: All grants funds must be expended within two years of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP.
- Biographical sketch of the student and other key personnel.
- Research plan (maximum 5 single-spaced pages, not including References list and Human Subjects section), reflecting sections 2 and 3 of the Research Plan portion of PHS 398, specifically:
  o Section 2. Specific aims
  o Section 3. Research strategy
    a. Significance
    b. Innovation
    c. Approach
- References.
- Human Subjects section, if applicable (i.e., Protection of Human Subjects, Inclusion of Women and Minorities, Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table, Inclusion of Children).
- Letters of support from the research performance site and collaborating faculty should be included in an appendix and should indicate appropriate linkage and support for conducting the proposed study at the selected location(s).
- Applications must be submitted as one PDF document in the following format: Times New Roman, font size 12, single-spaced, and 1-inch margins.
- In fairness to all applicants, any application that does not follow the basic format used by PHS 398 may not be accepted.

2. Send a brief letter of intent electronically by Friday, December 14, 2012, with a title, an overview of your project, and a preliminary estimated total cost to Stacey Leeds at stacey.leeds@chip.uconn.edu.

3. Submit your final application electronically by Friday, February 1, 2013 to Stacey Leeds.

**Review Process**

The review committee may be composed of the following individuals:

- Two CHIP graduate students (one with previous external grant funding and one without previous grant funding).
- Two CHIP-affiliated post-doctorates.
- Two CHIP PIs.

NOTE: Graduate students who do not submit proposals during a given CHIP seed grant cycle have the opportunity to participate on the review committee. In this context, they will be mentored by faculty with grant review experience.

**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 a new methodology, new theory, or new research area in need of pilot data.
- Composition of the research team (preference will be given to interdisciplinary work).
- Relevance to the mission of CHIP.
- Extent to which the project demonstrates collaboration with community-based organizations (community collaborations will be regarded positively).

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

Please contact Debbie Cornman at 860-208-3035 or at deborah.cornman@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
Date: 11/1/2012  
To: CHIP Affiliates  
From: Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D.  
    Associate Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention  
Re: Annual CHIP Grant Development Summer Stipend Competition for Junior Faculty  

Deadlines
- Letter of Intent: Friday, December 14, 2012  
- Application: Friday, February 1, 2013

Purpose & Eligibility
CHIP offers summer stipends to UConn junior faculty who are CHIP affiliates, to assist them with writing successful grant applications in health behavior. We are seeking applications from CHIP-affiliated UConn junior faculty to compete for the stipend.

Applications to become a CHIP affiliate can be found at: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

Guidelines for Submission for Summer Stipend
1. Applications for the summer stipend should describe the focus of the grant proposal that will be written, how it will contribute to the literature, the type of grant (R21, R03), the agency, and any funding mechanism under which the grant will be submitted.

2. Applications should also specify, in some detail, the work that will be done on the grant proposal during the period covered by the CHIP stipend. Evidence that the funding agency is interested in the area under study would be helpful.

3. Applications must contain, in brief form, the content of the Research Plan, as represented by Sections 2 and 3 of PHS 398 (http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html), a References list, and a Human Subjects section, if applicable. This is the format used by NIH and all Public Health Services agencies. Specifically:
   - Section 2. Specific Aims.
   - Section 3. Research Strategy.
     1. Significance.
     2. Innovation.
     3. Approach.
   - References.
   - Brief Human Subjects section, if applicable.

4. Any letters of support from the research performance site(s) and collaborating faculty can be included in an appendix and should indicate appropriate linkage and support for conducting the proposed study at the selected location(s).

5. Applications can be a maximum of 5 single-spaced pages, not including the References list, Human Subjects section (if applicable), and appendices.
6. Applications must be submitted as one PDF document in the following format: Times New Roman, font size 12-point, single-spaced, and 1-inch margins.

7. In fairness to all applicants, any application that does not follow the basic format used by PHS 398 may not be accepted.

8. Send a brief letter of intent electronically by Friday, December 14, 2012 to Stacey Leeds at stacey.leeds@chip.uconn.edu.

9. Submit your final application electronically by Friday, February 1, 2013 to Stacey Leeds.

Applications for this stipend will be reviewed by a CHIP internal grants committee, using NIH grant review rules. We propose to fund one or two successful applicants for the summer of 2013, 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 (if applicable) 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 2013 during the period of the stipend.

Please contact Debbie Cornman at 860-208-3035 or at deborah.cornman@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
APPENDIX 9: CHIP Grant Funding for Conference Development

Date: 11/1/2012
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D.
   Associate Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
Re: CHIP Grant Funding for Conference Development

Deadlines
- Letter of Intent: Friday, December 14, 2012
- Application: Friday, February 1, 2013

Purpose & Eligibility
CHIP requests proposals from CHIP Ph.D.-level 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. Conferences should lead ultimately to new grant applications submitted through CHIP.

This opportunity is only available to CHIP affiliates. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate can be found at: 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 collaborations and scholarship relevant to CHIP’s mission.
2. The topic of the conference, key participants, research questions to be explored, contribution of the meeting to the 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.
3. Proposals should be no more than 10 single-spaced pages, not including references, using Times New Roman 12 font and one-inch margins.
4. There should be a line item budget and budget justification for all costs involved. Acceptable costs include the costs associated with conference planning, development, and implementation (e.g., travel and hotel costs for speakers, food costs for conference attendees).
5. Please note that significant 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, so commitments of financial support from others are expected). Normally, CHIP’s contribution will be $2,500 or less.
6. 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.
7. Send a brief letter of intent electronically that includes a total cost estimate, by Friday, December 14, 2012 to Stacey Leeds at stacey.leeds@chip.uconn.edu.
8. Submit your final applications electronically to Stacey Leeds by Friday, February 1, 2013.

Please contact Debbie Cornman at 860-208-3035 or at deborah.cornman@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
Date: 11/1/2012
To: CHIP Affiliates
From: Deborah H. Cornman, Ph.D.
    Associate Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention

Re: Pre-Submission Grant Review (for individuals planning to submit external grants through CHIP)

CHIP affiliates at the University of Connecticut who are in the process of preparing a grant proposal for submission to an external funding agency may apply to CHIP for a review of their grant prior to submitting it. The review can be conducted internally by one or more experienced CHIP investigators or it can be sent outside of CHIP to experts in the relevant field.

If CHIP does not have expertise “in house,” you may suggest experts who could provide a useful review (e.g., former members of an NIMH review panel). CHIP will pay an honorarium to them for their review.

This service provides investigators with the opportunity to have their proposal reviewed by CHIP investigators or relevant others with extensive experience in the field of focus as well as with successful grant writing and/or grant review experience.

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

This service is only open to CHIP affiliates. Applications to become a CHIP affiliate can be found at:
http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/

Guidelines for Application to CHIP for Internal Review of Proposals

1. Individuals wishing to apply for a review of an external grant proposal should contact CHIP Director Jeff Fisher at jeffrey.fisher@chip.uconn.edu or CHIP Associate Director Debbie Cornman at deborah.cornman@uconn.edu by email at least 2 months prior to the submission date for the external grant. This permits the Director/Associate Director time to select, notify, and obtain consent from qualified reviewers as well as affords sufficient time to the reviewers to thoroughly review and provide detailed feedback on the proposal.

   Your email request 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 email should also indicate key personnel and collaborators on the grant.

2. The grant proposal that is being submitted for CHIP review should be more or less completely written and in the final format required by the funding agency prior to CHIP sending it out for review. Whereas the email requesting a pre-submission grant review should be submitted at least 2 months in advance, the actual grant proposal should be sent to Jeff Fisher or Debbie Cornman at least one month prior to the external grant submission deadline so that there is sufficient time for the reviewer to complete the review and for you to incorporate the reviewer’s comments 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 highly relevant to review your proposal.

   Please contact Debbie Cornman at 860-208-3035 or at deborah.cornman@uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.
APPENDIX 11: CIRA/CHIP Grant for Pilot Projects in HIV/AIDS Prevention Research

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT (REVISED)
CIRA/CHIP Multi-Institutional Pilot Grants

NEW DEADLINE!! LETTERS OF INTENT: Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Original Release Date: January 24, 2012
Revised Date: February 16, 2012

To: CIRA and CHIP Principal Investigators
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D., Director, Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
        Paul D. Cleary, Ph.D., Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
Subject: Grant for Pilot Projects in HIV/AIDS Prevention Research

Purpose
The Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University and the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at the University of Connecticut will provide joint funding for a pilot project in HIV/AIDS prevention research that will be carried out collaboratively by CHIP and CIRA investigators. Proposed projects should be consistent with CIRA’s mission to support the conduct of research on the prevention and treatment of HIV infection and the reduction of the negative consequences of HIV disease in vulnerable and underserved populations nationally and abroad, and CHIP’s mission to advance the science of health behavior change and health risk prevention. In this round of funding, preference will be given to projects that emphasize translational/implementation research that focuses on priority populations identified in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf) or research projects that address the HIV epidemic in international settings.

Implementation research is defined as the systematic study of how a specific set of activities and designed strategies are used to successfully integrate an evidence-based public health intervention within specific settings (e.g., a primary care clinic, community center, or school).

Funding Available
One pilot project will be funded under this announcement with a maximum award of $50,000. All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award, no later than June 30 2014. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP and CIRA.

Eligibility
Faculty and research scientists at CIRA and 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 by a CHIP-CIRA research team (i.e., the grant should appear to have an equal likelihood of being ultimately submitted through either CHIP or CIRA with a substantial subcontract to the other). Proposals will require at least two PIs, one from CIRA and one from CHIP, who will make equal contributions to the proposed research and have roughly equal expenditures. Applicants must demonstrate intent to apply for national research funding within a defined timeline, and describe new research that could not be achieved without the collaboration. Preference is to support new collaborations and thus to fund a new CHIP-CIRA team. If the team applying has already worked together, the researchers must justify that the proposed research will constitute a significant departure from past work. Postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and research associates are not eligible to apply for these pilot grants. Applications will be reviewed by a joint review committee made up of both CHIP and CIRA members, including members of CIRA’s Community Advisory Board. Applications must be the work of the PIs, and for the benefit of the PIs’ own research programs. Applications written primarily by graduate students or others in the PIs’ names will not be considered.
Applications must be for work that will foster collaborative research among CHIP and CIRA and will markedly assist in the submission of new, substantial, external grant applications, to be submitted through CIRA or CHIP by a specified target date.

**Letters of Intent and Application Process**

**Applicants must submit a one to two page Letter of Intent** via email as a Word or PDF attachment to Gai Doran (gai.doran@yale.edu) no later than Tuesday, March 6, 2012. The letter should identify the project title; PI names, and their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, department/institution affiliations, and positions, and; the names of key collaborators. The letter should provide a brief outline of the proposed research project, including an estimate of total project cost, and describe how it will meet the review criteria (below). Letters must certify that any external grant applications which derive from the pilot grant research will be submitted through CHIP or CIRA. Applicants who have submitted letters of intent that meet the review criteria will be invited to submit full applications, which will be due on Thursday, April 19, 2012.

Those invited to submit a full application will be linked to an appropriate CIRA Core to receive support to develop their application, start up and conduct their study, analyze results, write manuscripts, consider external funding options, apply for external funding, resubmit external funding applications if necessary, and ultimately secure funds.

**Review Criteria**

Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of the research plan based on internal and/or external reviews.
- Equal collaboration among CIRA and CHIP investigators.
- The approximately equal likelihood at its inception that a proposal will elicit external funding through either CHIP or CIRA, with a significant subcontract to the other.
- 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 (cross-disciplinary work will be given preference).
- Relevance of the work to the missions of CIRA and CHIP.

In addition, we will also consider where the PIs are in their funding cycles (e.g., at the start of a large grant vs. at the end), and the track record of the PIs in realizing outcomes (e.g., external grants) from previous internal grants.

**Inquiries**

We welcome inquiries about this opportunity. Please contact:

Gai Doran  
Center Assistant Director  
Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS  
gai.doran@yale.edu  
203-764-4342

or

Jeff Fisher  
Director  
Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention  
jeffrey.fisher@uconn.edu  
860-486-4940
## APPENDIX 12: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)

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<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Total Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY13 Direct Costs Awarded</th>
<th>FY13 Indirect Costs Awarded</th>
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<th>Yrs</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<td>05/31/13</td>
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<td>06/30/16</td>
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<td>06/30/17</td>
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<td>07/31/14</td>
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<td>Robot Child Interactions as an Intervention for Children with Autism</td>
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- AHS  Allied Health Sciences
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- CH   CHIP
- CS   Communication Science
- HD   Human Development and Family Studies
- PSY  Psychology
- KIN  Kinesiology
- STAT Statistics

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**Department:**
- AHS  Allied Health Sciences
- AN   Anthropology
- CH   CHIP
- CS   Communication Science
- EC   Economics
- HDF  Human Development & Family Studies
- KIN  Kinesiology
- NUR  Nursing
- PP   Pharmacy Practice
- PSY  Psychology
- STAT Statistics
APPENDIX 14: Guidelines for Use of CHIP Services

- Access to CHIP services is only for work performed that is consistent with 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 CHIP 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>
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<tr>
<td>Dugan at <a href="mailto:alicia.dugan@chip.uconn.edu">alicia.dugan@chip.uconn.edu</a></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| CHIP GRANTS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES                             | X                                                          | X w/ official UConn title                          | X                                    | Must be a CHIP affiliate                  |                                         |
| PRE-AWARD (EXTERNAL GRANT APPLICATION) SERVICES: Assistance with Internal   | X                                                          | X w/ official UConn title                          | X                                    | When working under direction of CHIP PI   | X academic dept. approval required for external grants |
| Proposal Review Form (IPR), Significant Financial Interest Review Form      |                                                             |                                                       |                                      |                                        |                                         |
| (SFIR), budget, consortium agreements, and actual grant application         |                                                             |                                                       |                                      |                                        |                                         |
| submission, and review of submission for compliance/requirements.           |                                                             |                                                       |                                      |                                        |                                         |
| POST AWARD (GRANT ADMINISTRATION) SERVICES: Assistance with pre-award       | X                                                          | X when working under direction of CHIP PI           | X                                    | When working under direction of CHIP PI   |                                         |
| 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.               |                                                             |                                                       |                                      |                                        |                                         |</p>
<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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP PERSONNEL &amp; PAYROLL SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with hiring staff, undergraduate students, and graduate students.</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with payroll processing of staff, undergraduate students, and graduate students.</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with staff-related human resources/labor relations issues.</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP PURCHASING SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with making purchases, payment of invoices and reimbursements, and cash advances for participant incentives.</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVEL SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with making flight reservations &amp; reconciling travel expenses when travel is funded by a CHIP grant.</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel safety information and assistance.</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP SERVICES</td>
<td>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</td>
<td>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</td>
<td>Research Staff at CHIP (non-student)</td>
<td>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</td>
<td>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITY SUPPORT SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of CHIP conference room and interview rooms for CHIP-related research, based on availability and approval.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research office space at CHIP for use that is relevant to CHIP's mission (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>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of available equipment (Polycom Pod, Skype speakerphone, and digital video cameras w/tripods) 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>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation services to assist with IT-related components of CHIP grant proposals and grant-funded research.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with CHIP grant-related IT purchases (computers, hardware and 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 (e.g., setting up and 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with CHIP grant-purchased hardware and software issues (e.g., failures, warranty request 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></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CHIP SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant</th>
<th>* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)</th>
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<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee</th>
<th>** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-term data storage on CHIP's server with secure access.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHIP DISSEMINATION SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communications, public relations, dissemination of research findings. Contact Beth Krane at <a href="mailto:beth.krane@chip.uconn.edu">beth.krane@chip.uconn.edu</a></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance to UConn researchers in developing materials for the effective and widespread dissemination of their work via the CHIP website (i.e., creating informational fact sheets summarizing their evidence-based interventions and validated measurement instruments, posting them on CHIP’s Intervention Resources and Measurement Instruments webpages). Contact Alicia Dugan at <a href="mailto:alicia.dugan@chip.uconn.edu">alicia.dugan@chip.uconn.edu</a></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and information on cutting-edge developments in D&amp;I research through CHIP lectures and the D&amp;I Resources webpage (i.e., with links to funding and training opportunities, literature, webinars, and listservs). Contact Alicia Dugan at <a href="mailto:alicia.dugan@chip.uconn.edu">alicia.dugan@chip.uconn.edu</a></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posting of relevant information on CHIP website: affiliate bio page, research measures, intervention materials, and conference presentations.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHIP ADVANCED INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER (AITC)

Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC) is a fee-for-service center that offers production services for mobile apps, virtual reality simulations, online games, robotics and other interactive applications. AITC also provides access to interactive equipment such as head-mounted displays, motion trackers, and robots. | X | X | X | X | X |
This chart indicates the percentage of each position that is funded by the CHIP Ledger 4 account. During FY13, on average, 70% of Deborah Cornman’s position and 45% of Sam Salorio’s position were funded by various research grants.
APPENDIX 16: CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC)

Mission Statement

The mission of the CHIP AITC is to provide production development and operational services in conjunction with providing access to advanced interactive equipment. The CHIP AITC provides development and production services for applications involving interaction both between participants and equipment, and between multiple participants mediated by technology. The CHIP AITC supports theoretical research applications as well as practical, deployable applications that can directly benefit impacted populations.

CHIP AITC Clients during Fiscal Year 2013

Fiscal year 2013 was the third full year of operation for CHIP AITC. During FY13, CHIP AITC served multiple clients, including faculty and graduate students, and produced several useful deliverables for each client.

During FY13, UConn’s new Digital Media Department contracted with CHIP AITC to collaborate in the production of an interactive exhibit for the Boston Children’s Hospital. This project is being led by Digital Media Center Director Tim Hunter, a professor in the Schools of Business and Fine Arts. This exhibit will center around a large video wall. Visitors to the hospital will be able to interact with the graphical displays on the wall as they walk through the lobby. CHIP AITC will design and implement the sensor array, which will gather data from multiple sensors and then create an information space to which the dynamic animations will respond. CHIP AITC is creating the underlying software architecture to handle the sensor management, data transfer, and real-time animation generation. Work on this collaborative project will continue into the 2014 fiscal year.

CHIP AITC also began work on a five-year, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)-funded project to produce interactive iPad apps for the Healthy Environments for Children Initiative and the New England Lead Coordinating Committee in UConn’s Department of Extension, both led by Joan Bothell. These apps are targeted at children aged 8 to 11 years who are attending a 4-H program. The apps reinforce information taught in the program with games and question-and-answer segments. The children will be able to go through activities that demonstrate the benefits of having a clean house as well as the risks posed by dirt and contaminants in the house. The project is part of the University of Connecticut Sustainable Community Project.

During FY13, CHIP AITC personnel produced experimental content for a project to study human social coordination being led by Associate Professor of Psychology Whitney Tabor. This study was part of an ongoing National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded research project entitled, “CREATIV: Asynchronous Communication, Self-Organization, and Differentiation in Human and Insect Networks.” This project’s plan is to explore the emergence of efficient multichannel communication in relatively large groups of coordinating agents using virtual reality and online monitoring methods. CHIP AITC produced networked games that bring four participants together into a shared experience. The participants’ interactions through the game play lead to insights into emergent communication. This work was the first of three years of CHIP AITC effort to support this grant. CHIP AITC created computer terminal-based interactive environments in a network-based system that will lead to the transfer of the methodologies developed there to the context of multiple humans moving in a spatial arena using optical tracking tools.

CHIP AITC personnel also continued to work on CHIP Principal Investigator Kerry Marsh (Ph.D., Psychology)/’s National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) grant, which utilizes VR technology to study sexual risk behaviors in several target populations. Specifically, her research involves studying the reactions of participants to the behavior of virtual avatars; participants’ gaze, reaction times, and body movements are analyzed as implicit measures that provide data on their attitudes towards specific events and objects in the environment. This year, CHIP AITC greatly enhanced the expressiveness of the virtual avatars and improved the usability of the software for Dr. Marsh’s research team by simplifying the process to create additional virtual scenes.

During FY13, CHIP AITC staff also continued working on an NSF-funded grant belonging to Engineering Professor Peter Luh (grant PI) and Dr. Marsh (grant Co-Investigator). The grant is investigating numerical models of psychological factors influencing crowd behavior in evacuation scenarios. For this year’s work on the grant, CHIP AITC developed several experiments using VR to place participants in various fire evacuation situations in Homer Babbidge Library with known and unknown obstructions. The team studied what effect the presence of salient information has on the behavior and
psychological state of the participant. Information from the research could potentially inform the safe design of future buildings.

CHIP AITC continued to support the research of students as well. For example, Zhenxiang Zhang, who recently graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree from UConn’s Psychology Department, requested a virtual environment where participants were exposed to avatars exhibiting varying levels of attention through eye contact. The likeability of each avatar was assessed by each participant. A second example of CHIP AITC supporting student work involves a project conducted for Ben Meagher, a Psychology doctoral student. The project examined the perception of available actions within rooms of different sizes and layouts. Participants were given the ability to ride a bike in an open area. They were then led into a room and asked to rate the size and how easy it would be to navigate through the room. Each of these projects was done in collaboration with Dr. Marsh.

**CHIP AITC Administration**

During FY13, CHIP AITC Director Timothy Gifford continued to provide design and production direction for each application that CHIP AITC produced. Other CHIP AITC staff members included: Christian Wannamaker (M.S., Computer Science), a graduate of UConn’s School of Engineering; James Redway (B.S., Computer Science), a graduate of UConn’s School of Engineering; and Adam Grey, each of whom provided software development and support. Sherry Wong (B.A., Illustration) a graduate of UConn’s School of Fine Arts, and Zhenxiang Zhang (B.S., Psychology), provided technical, administrative, and research design support. Members of CHIP’s Administrative Team also provided ongoing administrative support to the Center.

On an administrative front, because CHIP AITC is allowed to provide services to commercial customers with no affiliation to the University, AITC worked with the Attorney General’s Office at UConn during FY13 to strengthen its contracts and documentation to ensure that it is appropriately abiding by all policies and regulations when working with clients outside of UConn.

**History**

In 2006, Dr. Marsh received a seed grant from CHIP to use virtual reality (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 NIH/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 providing funding for additional equipment to support the growth of the VR Lab, and the Lab began to be utilized by additional CHIP researchers. In 2009, UConn’s Service Center and Cost Recovery Committee (SCCRC) approved the creation of the CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC). Since its creation in 2009, the CHIP AITC has had a broader focus than the original CHIP VR Lab, providing researchers throughout the University access to additional interactive technologies and services.
A special thank you to the following individuals at CHIP for their important contributions to this report:

Colin Barr
Alicia Dugan
Timothy Gifford
Donna Hawkins
Susan Hoge
Beth Krane
Stacey Leeds
Vasínee Long
Sam Salorio
Melissa Stone
Chris Tarricone