CENTER FOR HEALTH, INTERVENTION, AND PREVENTION



ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2014





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A. Executive Summary

During FY14, the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) made significant progress towards its mission of creating and disseminating new scientific knowledge and theoretical frameworks in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention at multiple levels of analysis. The Center focused this year on catalyzing new multidisciplinary research and collaboration in the areas of obesity prevention, cancer control and prevention, electronic and mobile health (eHealth/mHealth), and policy-relevant research in order to strengthen these areas, while continuing to perform extremely strongly in other areas (e.g., HIV/AIDs, exercise science, global health, health communication and marketing, and treatment adherence and retention in care). CHIP also continued to provide extremely high-quality resources and support to its affiliated researchers and began, for the first time, to expand its reach to provide resources to other investigators throughout the University via the organization of innovative university-wide events, including a suite of team science workshops, a cancer research networking event, an interactive 2-day grantsmanship training workshop, and a cross- campus cancer prevention seed grant program. Overall, this was a year of expansion and growth for CHIP in a number of critical domains and programmatic offerings.

Expanded Research Enterprise

- CHIP reached a significant milestone this year of having surpassed \$100 million in external grant funding (total costs) since its inception in 2002, including \$76.3M in direct costs and \$23.9M in indirect costs returned to the university during this interval.
- At present, CHIP has \$48.6 million in active grants across all years. Actual total costs expended on CHIP external grants during FY14 were approximately \$8.9 million, including \$6.4 million in direct costs and \$2.5 million in recovered indirect costs.¹
- In the area of **HIV/AIDS research**, CHIP continued to be worldwide leader and fostered new multidisciplinary work in this core problem area. Newly funded initiatives included, among others, external grants to (1) create a combined prevention-with-positives and gender-based violence prevention program in Mozambique to lower HIV risk behavior by people living with HIV/AIDS, (2) investigate how stigma impacts treatment and retention in care for African American men who have sex with men who have been recently diagnosed with STI/HIV, and (3) examine the influence of food insecurity on antiretroviral therapy adherence.
- In **other critical health domains**, newly funded initiatives included, among others, external grants to (1) test the initial efficacy of an early childhood obesity prevention program that aims to change maternal behaviors by combining home visitation with neighborhood and community support, (2) examine the impact of economic and social stressors on chronic inflammation, a precursor to cancer, and on metabolic syndrome, which is associated with heart disease, diabetes, and other medical problems, (3) reduce the duration of untreated psychosis in teens and young adults through the use of state-of-the-art social marketing techniques, and (4) examine the effectiveness of yoga as a means to reduce stress and improve diet and exercise.
- CHIP research continues to be international in scope, with currently funded or submitted research projects and grants in Albania, China, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Mozambique, Pakistan, South Africa, and Thailand. Nearly 29 percent (\$14.0 million) of active CHIP grant funds budgeted in FY14 involved health behavior change interventions designed or adapted for populations in other countries.

Advancements and New Capacity in Public Policy Research

- CHIP successfully initiated and led a major UConn initiative to move Yale's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity to
 UConn as a new center-within-a-center within CHIP, effective January 2015. The Rudd Center has approximately twenty
 employees (four of whom will become UConn faculty members) and is one of the world's premier obesity research centers,
 with a mission to change the way the world eats, in part, through changes in food policy. The arrival of the Rudd Center will
 add remarkable strength to CHIP's portfolio of research with direct policy implications.
- Several CHIP projects in FY14 involved research with important policy implications, including: (1) a new grant that will train
 urban community pharmacists in comprehensive medication management and create sustainable financing models of these
 services with parties implementing healthcare reform, (2) a meta-analysis project examining the impact of exercise on
 modifiable cardiovascular disease risk factors such as hypertension, which could affect national exercise recommendations,
 and (3) another meta-analysis project to understand how best to use evidence-based behavior change interventions to
 reduce the risk of acquiring HIV for different populations and communities, with implications for public health policy.

¹ Indirect costs (IDCs) are synonymous with "Facilities and Administrative" costs or F&As.

Catalyzing Multidisciplinary Research Initiatives

- In FY14, CHIP's **multidisciplinary affiliates collaborative network** of health behavior change researchers experienced significant growth, bringing its total membership to 225 faculty/researcher affiliates representing nearly all schools and colleges within the UConn system and nearly 50 other institutions. The resulting community of multidisciplinary expertise enables CHIP to assemble teams of investigators who are able to respond within short timeframes to large-scale funding opportunities.
- CHIP also saw significant growth and activity this year in its **multidisciplinary Research Interest Groups** (RIGs) focused on cancer, obesity, and electronic and mobile health (eHealth/mHealth), which have 82, 105, and 57 members as of May 2014, respectively, each representing researchers from UConn Storrs, UConn Health, and nearby institutions. Each RIG hosted engaging networking and educational events throughout the year to cultivate new collaborations among members which will lead to increased external funding. These efforts were further supported through CHIP seed grant competitions in each of those research areas which funded a total of six new pilot projects.
- To encourage the formation of research collaborations across UConn campuses in the area of **Cancer Prevention and Control**, CHIP spearheaded a novel dual-campus seed grant competition, requiring one PI from the Storrs or regional campuses and one PI from UConn Health, each contributing equally to a research project that has strong potential to secure future external grant funding. Three excellent projects recently received funding.
- The addition of the Rudd Center as a center-within-a-center in CHIP will not only allow CHIP to increase its impact on obesity-related public policy, but it will also significantly strengthen CHIP's multidisciplinary research capacity in obesity overall, adding four faculty members in three departments and several research staff to the membership of the Obesity Research Interest Group. Combined with CHIP's hiring of another senior as well as a more junior obesity researcher from Brown University, effective Fall 2014, UConn is poised to become a national leader in obesity research.
- To further encourage research at the intersection of biology and behavior, and in sync with the establishment of the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine (JAX-GM) in Farmington, CHIP launched a new sub-series within its regular lecture series focused on **Genomics and Health Behavior**. Co-sponsored by JAX-GM and UConn's Institute for Systems Genomics, the new series was piloted in Spring 2014 with two lectures (one on genetic testing and cancer risk management, and a second one on finding genetic links to personal health and fitness) as well as a panel discussion moderated by Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) entitled, "Overcoming the Hurdles to Designing Personalized Approaches to Lifestyle Risk Reduction Strategies."
- In order to explore and expand collaborative opportunities among CHIP's network of affiliates, the CHIP Director, Associate Director, and/or Boundary Spanner met with leaders from numerous units at UConn to explore partnerships, including the Departments of Medicine, Psychiatry, and Pediatrics (along with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center); Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine; Digital Media & Design Department; Center on Aging; and Human Rights Institute's Research Program on Global Health and Human Rights, among others.
- CHIP organized a 2-day series of **presentations and workshops on team science**, or the practice of large interdisciplinary teams of scientists working collaboratively on projects to address complex scientific problems, an area of increasing importance to UConn's research enterprise. Most of these events were open to the entire University community. Three team science experts from the National Institutes of Health led discussions on how to build and nurture large interdisciplinary research teams, how to circumvent common problems that occur with those teams, and how to remove institutional barriers to team science.

Training the Next Generation of Health Behavior Researchers

- This year for the first time, CHIP organized a "Grantsmanship Training Workshop for Health Behavior Researchers" across the entire University. During the interactive 2-day workshop, CHIP's best funded researchers along with officials from the NIH shared insights on the art and science of grant writing, and facilitated hands-on activities with 35 participants. Following the workshop, a limited number of participants were selected to be mentored in grant writing for a year by CHIP PIs, culminating in the joint submission of an external grant.
- External grants received by CHIP PIs fund a substantial number of **graduate students** each year. This year, CHIP external grants funded 60 graduate students across multiple departments. Total yearlong graduate student funding from CHIP grants was \$568,152. In addition, CHIP awarded competitive seed grants after rigorous review to 5 graduate student affiliates, providing them with both funding to enhance their research training and experience in the grant writing process.

In summary, FY14 at CHIP has been notable for the launch of several new initiatives designed to invigorate multidisciplinary research and collaboration in several domains targeted for strengthening, while continuing to excel in several traditional domains in which CHIP has been strong. CHIP also continued to provide exemplary research support services. As we enter FY15, CHIP is well poised to serve as the nexus for UConn investigators researching the latest advances in health and wellness for the benefit of Connecticut and beyond.

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 at the University of Connecticut.

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

C. 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). Health is broadly defined and may include physical and mental health, and outcomes with critical implications for health (e.g., decreasing stress). Work at the intersection of behavior and biology (e.g., increasing medication adherence) is encouraged. This includes genomics, which has strong psychological, physiological, and behavioral health-related components (e.g., personalized medicine approaches to risk reduction strategies, acceptance and access to genetic testing, and ethical decision-making considerations of the outcomes of such testing). CHIP disseminates its research and cutting-edge interventions through capacity-building, structural change, teaching, mentoring, and collaboration at the University, local, state, national, and international levels.

D. Long-term Goals

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.

Goal 5: CHIP will *take a leadership role in fostering a team science approach* among University of Connecticut research scientists and clinicians in the development of personalized medicine risk reduction strategies for chronic diseases and health conditions using clinical and genomic information that attempt to match an individual with the most effective therapeutic option.

E. Progress on CHIP Objectives for FY 2014

E1. Progress on CHIP Research Objectives for FY14

Research Objective 1: Through the CHIP internal grants programs, mentoring, technical support to PIs, and other activities, 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.

CHIP supports new, high quality and innovative 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 seed 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, \$40 dollars in total costs have been awarded to CHIP investigators for large external grant proposals directly linked to seed grant-funded pilot work, and these external grants have also been associated with substantial indirect costs returned to the University.

In comparison to previous years when CHIP internal seed grant submissions could focus on any health behavior topic in which a researcher was interested, this year faculty seed grant proposals had to focus on one of three domains that are being developed at CHIP and are represented in CHIP's interest groups: obesity prevention, cancer control and prevention, and electronic and mobile health (eHealth/mHealth). Overall, 29 applications were received, and 6 were funded in these faculty competitions. Graduate student seed grants could be in any health behavior area of the student's interest, and 5 student research projects were funded. See <u>Section K on pages 35-43</u> for more details on this year's CHIP seed grants program, including the investigators and project descriptions for the awarded seed grants.

Another service that CHIP provides to help PIs be successful in winning external grants, is in depth reviews of external grant proposals by experts in the field before the grants are submitted, so that the proposals can be improved and have an increased chance of getting funded. CHIP also may fund a competitive summer stipend to junior faculty who are writing grants, to free them from responsibilities other than grant writing during the summer, and in this way, help them succeed in obtaining external funding. Another CHIP service available to affiliates to help them develop successful CHIP grant proposals is access to a library of previously-submitted, funded CHIP grants to use as models for new grant proposals. Electronic access to these model grants is provided upon request.

This year for the first time, CHIP sponsored a grant writing workshop for CHIP affiliates and others at UConn Storrs and UConn Health who are interested in improving their grant writing skills in the area of health behavior research. The workshop was held on June 19 and 20, 2014, and featured some of CHIP's best funded researchers giving presentations on both the art and the science of successful grant writing. In addition, three officials from the National Institutes of Health gave presentations on funding opportunities and how best to navigate NIH when working on a proposal, and they met with attendees and answered their questions. It is hoped that this workshop will assist CHIP's younger affiliates to be successful in writing grants, and that it will introduce others at the University with interests in health behavior to CHIP. Following the workshop, a limited number of attendees were selected to be mentored in grant writing for a year by CHIP PIs; each mentorship will culminate in the joint submission of an external grant.

CHIP also provides extensive services to CHIP affiliates who are in various stages of the grant writing process. For those looking for funding opportunities, the CHIP Programs and Research Development team scans external funding announcements from the NIH and other funders, selects those announcements that are most relevant to CHIP's mission and its affiliates' interests, compiles them into a regular email delivered to affiliates, and posts them on a searchable webpage (http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/external-funding-opportunities/). If a PI needs additional members on his/her research team with specific skillsets, CHIP's Boundary Spanner (Jennifer Wang, M.S., CHIP) searches through the interests and skills of the more than 225 CHIP affiliates to identify individuals with that skillset. In addition, the Boundary Spanner will assist the PI with a customized literature search. CHIP's grants manager will sit down with the PI, interview him/her about his/her needs, and create a budget for the grant. And CHIP's personnel manager will work with the PI to understand the personnel needs of the proposed research and identify the correct position titles and salaries to include in the budget. Lastly, CHIP's statistical and methodological consultant will interview the PI about the design of the study, provide feedback, and write the statistical and power analysis sections of the grant upon request.

Another CHIP-sponsored activity this year, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President of Research, was a two-day series of presentations and workshops on team science on April 28 and 29, 2014. Team science involves large interdisciplinary teams of scientists working on projects to address complex scientific problems, and is the wave of the future at CHIP and UConn. Three team science experts from the National Institutes of Health (L.

Michelle Bennett, Ph.D., Howard Gadlin, Ph.D., and Linda Nebeling, Ph.D.) came to UConn to provide information on how to develop and nurture large interdisciplinary research teams, and circumvent common problems which occur with those teams. Some of the activities were specifically aimed at fostering team science in the area of obesity prevention; others were more general in focus. A third activity involved UConn administrators and department heads meeting with the NIH team science experts to identify and address barriers to conducting team science at UConn. Attention to these issues will help UConn and CHIP reach their goals of increasing their level of team science activity, and their overall level of external funding.

Due to these and other activities and services, 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 input as needed, and, as noted above, sending prospective grant applications out for review to major experts in the field for pre-submission feedback. Together, CHIP's highly skilled PIs and these innovative services at the Center resulted in 55 external grants submissions (totaling \$48.5 million) this past year, of which 20 (totaling \$5.9 million) have been funded thus far. (For the purpose of this report, grants are considered "new" if awarded between May 16, 2013 and May 15, 2014.)

Research Objective 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.

In the past year, CHIP expanded its research in a number of its health domains outside of HIV/AIDS. (For a full list of CHIP health research domains and examples of CHIP research within each domain, please see <u>Section J on pages 31-35</u>.)

- Thomas Buckley (M.P.H., RPh, Pharmacy Practice) received a grant from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) entitled "State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health - Pharmacy Initiative." This project is part of a statewide chronic disease grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. School of Pharmacy faculty will collaborate with urban community pharmacies in Connecticut to train and certify their pharmacists to provide comprehensive medication therapy management to targeted underserved patient populations with diabetes and hypertension. The project will increase the engagement of community pharmacists to provide medication management and to teach self-management skills to high-cost, high-risk and hard-to-reach patient populations. By utilizing highly trained community pharmacists to improve patient outcomes and reduce health costs in vulnerable populations, this project will demonstrate the value of the community pharmacist in chronic disease management within our evolving health reform landscape.
- Lindsay DiStefano (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a grant entitled **"Pediatric Sports Injury Prevention: Monitoring Changes over Time."** Despite promising evidence that youth sports-related injuries can be prevented with the use of exercise-based injury prevention programs, such programs are not widely implemented. The goal of this research is to identify the best exercise-based injury prevention program for middle-school children and determine how long these programs are effective. This knowledge may encourage the creation and adoption of such programs across youth sports as a normal part of youth sport activity.
- Valerie Duffy (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) received a sub-grant entitled "Taste, Preferences, and Behavior: Effects of Nicotine and Flavorings in Electronic Cigarettes" from UConn Health in collaboration with project Pl and CHIP Affiliate Mark Litt (Ph.D., Division of Behavioral Sciences and Community Health) and collaborator and CHIP Affiliate Cheryl Oncken (M.D., M.P.H., Medicine). The team has been funded by NIH to conduct research to determine whether electronic cigarettes work in a harm reduction approach to replace cigarettes or serve to maintain and perpetuate smoking behaviors and nicotine addiction. Through an interdisciplinary collaboration, the team will test if e-cigarette flavorings work to help adult users achieve lower nicotine exposure or actually block unpleasant sensations from nicotine to increase nicotine exposure and addiction. The flavorings for ecigarettes have been unregulated (unlike for traditional cigarettes) and come in many different sweet and fruity flavors that may appeal to women and younger people. Dr. Duffy brings expertise in sensory evaluation and how

e-cigarette flavorings interact with genetic variation in taste to influence individuals' use behaviors and nicotine exposure, particularly in women.

- Frederick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology) received a sub-grant from NIH/University of Georgia entitled **"Social Determinants of Inflammation and Metabolic Syndrome among African Americans."** This grant will fund the collection of blood from an ongoing panel of approximately 650 African American young adults who have been part of the Family and Community Health Study for the past 18 years (6 waves of data collection). The blood will permit the examination of the impact of various types of stressors (e.g., economic, perceived racial discrimination) on chronic inflammation, which is a precursor to cancer; and on metabolic syndrome, which is a cluster of medical conditions (e.g., obesity, elevated blood pressure) associated with heart disease, diabetes, and other medical problems.
- Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) received a grant from UCHC/CICATS entitled "Thinking Big about Obesity: Building Team Science Initiatives at UConn and UCHC." This grant was awarded to the CICATS Obesity Core Interest Group/CHIP Obesity Research Interest Group to support two related initiatives: (1) a full-day workshop entitled "Thinking Big about Obesity: Building Team Science Initiatives at UConn and UConn Health" on April 28, 2014, and (2) two to four awards of \$5,000-\$10,000 each to support team science building activities of crosscampus teams of investigators that formed at the workshop. The workshop, described above, featured three speakers from NIH who are experts in team science and Jeff Seemann (Ph.D.), Vice President for Research at UConn/UConn Health. Workshop attendees received state-of-the-art information about team science, training in how to create productive teams, and incentives—including potential seed grant funding—to develop teams and continue activities beyond the workshop. More information on the workshop and associated grant funding is provided in <u>Section H on pages 22-23</u>.
- Dr. Gorin received a second grant from NIH/CCMC entitled "Early Childhood Obesity Prevention: Building Healthier Families and Communities." The primary aim of this NIH-funded study is to test the initial efficacy of a program of enhanced home visits with neighborhood and community support to change maternal behaviors related to infant nutrition, parenting skills, and family wellness. Study investigators are working with the Nurturing Families Network and the Brighter Futures Family Centers, as well as partners from the Hartford Childhood Wellness Alliance, to support Hartford mothers in making healthy decisions prenatally and in their baby's first year of life to prevent the development of obesity.
- William Kraemer (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a grant from a private corporation entitled "[*Redacted*] Project: Performance and Recovery." The study of apparel has dramatically grown in interest over the past decade in laboratories around the world. In this series of studies, the further understanding and examination of how apparel plays a role in sport performance and travel stress are to be examined. The physiological cueing mechanisms related to pressure receptors in the skin plays a major role in movement cuing or "kinesthetic sense" and has been one of the primary principles from which apparel impacts physiological and biomechanical functions in humans. Recovery has also constituted a primary benefit from the use of compression garments. Thus, the different conditions under which the recovery of muscle tissue is achieved is of vital importance to this line of work on stress reduction associated with travel. In this series of studies, both sport performance and recovery efficacy will be examined to expand the growing body of literature on the use of compression in apparel.
- Dr. Kraemer received a second grant from another private corporation entitled "Effects of [Redacted] on Skeletal Muscle Efficiency during Resistance Exercise." The study of how different nutritionals can impact nitric oxide has been a topic of great interest. In this study, the use of nutritionals to enhance recovery of nitric oxide is a primary focus. The ability to allow more energy availability for the muscles is a vital contributor to enhanced recovery from exercise stress. A classic resistance exercise model is being used along with electromyography to study the efficiency of muscle force production with and without nutritional enhancement of the nitric oxide mechanisms. From this, it is hoped that the efficacy of a supplement for specific physiological tasks related to recovery and exercise performance will be validated.
- Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology) received a sub-grant from NICAM/NIH and Massachusetts General Hospital entitled **"Preliminary Study of a Yoga Program to Catalyze Health Behavior Change**." Dr. Park and her team are conducting a clinical trial of yoga as a means to reduce stress and improve diet and exercise. Dr. Park received

another grant from NCCAM/NIH entitled "**Development of a Translational Tool to Study Yoga Therapy** (Supplement to Promote Diversity)." In this supplement, they are examining characteristics of yoga users vis-avis a nationally representative sample, particularly focusing on religiousness and spirituality.

- Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) received a grant from UConn Health/CICATS entitled, "Cardiometabolic Signatures Associated with Obesity and Hypertension and Their Response to Exercise: A Pilot Study." The objective of this research is to quantify the extent to which a prioritized signature of genes, microRNAs, metabolites, and proteins related to obesity and hypertension explain the variability in the BP response to exercise among overweight to obese, middle-aged adults with pre-hypertension. The long-term research goal is to improve the clinical utility of exercise to prevent, treat, and manage obesity and hypertension by maximizing its effectiveness to be prescribed on a more individualized basis.
- Leslie Snyder (Ph.D. Communication) received a sub-grant from NIH/Yale entitled "STEP-In: Reducing the
 Duration of Untreated Psychosis by Adding Early Detection to Specialty First-Episode Care in the U.S. Public
 Sector." The goal of the research is to use state-of-the-art social marketing techniques to inform the public
 about the symptoms of psychosis, and increase the number of teens and young adults seeking treatment soon
 after the development of symptoms. The study is being conducted in the New Haven area, and is supported by
 both the National Institute of Mental Health, and the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.
 Dr. V. Srihari is the PI on the grant, and he directs the Specialized Treatment for Early Psychosis Clinic at Yale.

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 55 CHIP grants proposals that were submitted this past year (total costs of \$48.5 million), 38 of them (total costs of \$29.5 million) proposed conducting research in domains outside of HIV. Of the 20 newly awarded grants (total costs of \$5.9 million), 12 of them (\$2.9 million) focused on health domains other than HIV. (For the purpose of this report, grant proposals submitted between May 16, 2013 and May 15, 2014 are considered "new" submissions in FY14.)

(See <u>Appendix 1 on pages 52-53</u> for each new CHIP grant's funding agency, total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs.)

Research Objective 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 FY14, continuing CHIP's role as a world leader in this domain. As of May 15, 2014, CHIP's active portfolio of HIV/AIDS prevention grants exceeds \$36.0 million in total costs across all years.

- Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) received a supplement to a grant from DOD/DHAPP entitled, "Prevention with Positives, and Gender-Based Violence Projects in Mozambique." Dr. Cornman has been performing HIV prevention research in Mozambique since 2006, implementing and evaluating an evidence-based preventionwith-positives program at three military hospitals. The program, entitled "Options for Health," was originally designed to reduce risky sexual behavior and increase safer sex among Mozambican soldiers and civilians living with HIV, and was later expanded to address other health issues relevant to people living with HIV (PLWH), including adherence to antiretroviral medications, nutrition, exercise, hygiene, and stress management. Based on the overwhelming literature highlighting the multi-faceted relationship between gender-based violence (GBV), alcohol use, and HIV infection, it later became clear that to effectively reduce HIV transmission in Mozambique, one must develop a comprehensive program that addresses both HIV risk behavior and genderbased violence. More specifically, a successful HIV prevention program in Mozambique must address the strong relationship between gender roles, GBV, and HIV transmission. Consequently, the current grant supplement seeks to extend the previous prevention-with-positives intervention with the military in Mozambique into these domains, to create a combined prevention-with-positives and GBV prevention program that is effective and efficient; that is acceptable to PLWH, soldiers, healthcare staff and the military; that reduces risky sexual behavior and increases antiretroviral adherence among PLWH; that reduces GBV among soldiers; and that can be widely disseminated for use through the Mozambican military and civilian populations.
- Dr. Cornman received a second grant supplement from DOD/DHAPP entitled, "Increasing Healthy Behavior among PLWHA in Military Settings in Ethiopia." The overall goal of this supplement is to continue to work

collaboratively with the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), Ethiopian Ministry of Health, U.S. Embassy, DOD/DHAPP, and in-country partners on the development, implementation, evaluation, and wider dissemination of a health maintenance program that increases the ARV adherence behavior and reduces the risky sexual behavior of soldiers and spouses with HIV who attend ENDF healthcare facilities. The health maintenance program that has been developed is an evidence-based program that is implemented by HIV+ Peer Educators and comprises three components: (1) group health education sessions in the clinic waiting area where a different topic relevant to HIV and healthy living is discussed each month, (2) health literacy classes that educate HIV+ patients preparing to start on ARV medications and patients referred by healthcare staff about how HIV and ARV medications impact the body, ARV adherence, safer sex, HIV disclosure, nutrition, and other aspects of health living, and (3) one-on-one counseling sessions in which Peer Educators have tailored discussions with HIV+ patients and address any challenges they are facing with respect to ARV adherence, safer sex, and living with HIV. This program has been modeled after the Options for Health programs in South Africa and Mozambique, both of which have demonstrated effectiveness at reducing risky behavior among PLWH (Cornman et al., 2008, 2011; Fisher et al., 2014). All three programs (South Africa, Mozambique, and Ethiopia) are based on the Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills model of health behavior change (Fisher & Fisher, 2000, 2002), and involve the use of Motivational Interviewing techniques (Miller & Rollnick, 1991) to identify and address informational, motivational, and behavioral skills barriers to healthy behavior.

- Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies) received a supplement to her NIH/NIMH grant entitled, "Serosorting Intervention for HIV-Negative MSM." African American men who have sex with men (AAMSM) are disproportionately infected with STI/HIV, and little is understood about how stigma impacts their linkage and retention in health care during treatment. Effective strategies for reducing social barriers to health care treatment must rely on a comprehensive and thorough investigation into social barriers that affect AAMSM in their efforts to effectively engage in medical care. The proposed research will follow recently STI/HIVdiagnosed AAMSM as they navigate treatment and retention to care and will focus on how stigma affects this process.
- Dr. Eaton received a second grant from NIH/NIDA/University of Pittsburgh entitled, "Understanding Delayed Access to HIV Prevention Services among Black MSM." HIV/AIDS is a major health crisis among African American men who have sex with men (AAMSM). Our ability to design effective combination prevention approaches to lower HIV transmission risk among AAMSM depends on achieving a clear understanding of barriers to and facilitators of HIV testing, and receiving test results and timely access to medical care if one is HIV-positive. Unfortunately, our ability to explain HIV testing and health care access behaviors among AAMSM is limited due to the difficulties of recruiting sufficiently large samples of AAMSM who are delaying access to HIV prevention and care services. This application proposes to address this by collecting data from a large sample of AAMSM to measure the prevalence of uptake of HIV testing, of previously unknown HIV seropositivity, and of timely access to care among HIV-infected AAMSM. It will allow us to characterize for the first time the barriers to and facilitators of HIV prevention and care services among these highly vulnerable men and will provide crucial information for developing effective programs to lower HIV transmission among AAMSM.
- Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) received a grant from NIH/NIAAA entitled, "Influence of Food Insecurity on Adherence." This funding provides 3 years of support to conduct developmental intervention studies to design and field test a theory-based intervention to address food insecurity and improve antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence among men and women living with HIV. Food insecurity is prevalent among people living with HIV in US inner-cities, with as many as 43% not having sufficient food and experiencing intermittent hunger. This has been demonstrated to have a direct association with ART adherence-- including predicting non-adherence over and above other factors including depression, social support, and alcohol use. Food insecurity is particularly problematic in relation to substance abuse given competing survival needs and the dire combined health consequences of alcoholism, addiction, and malnutrition. Guided by the Conservation of Resources Theory of Stress and Coping, Kalichman and colleagues will conduct several stages of intervention development research. They will first conduct initial interviews and focus groups with people living with HIV who take ART, use substances, and experience food insecurity. Based on data gained from these rapid formative studies, they will develop a theory-based intervention to address accessing food and sustaining ART adherence, and then test the feasibility of the newly developed food insecurity and adherence intervention with a small sample of HIV-positive men and women who are taking ART, using substances, and experiencing food insecurity. Participants in

the pilot test will be randomly assigned to either receive the newly developed intervention or a time matched attention comparison condition. After a 6-month follow-up period, Kalichman and colleagues will test for differences between groups on ART adherence, food access, nutrition, and coping resource outcomes. The intervention development will include pilot assessment of daily food, mood, and substance use behaviors, monitored by interactive text-message surveys. The team will also examine the intervention effects on mediating theoretical constructs derived by Conservation of Resources Theory. The developmental research will also examine the feasibility and acceptability of conducting the intervention in face-to-face intervention sessions. The proposed intervention research will develop new strategies for use with people living with HIV who are taking ART under adverse conditions with multiple competing needs.

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: \$19.0 million of the \$48.5 million in CHIP grants that were submitted this year involved multidisciplinary work in the HIV domain. (For the purpose of this report, grant proposals submitted between May 16, 2013 and May 15, 2014 are considered "new" submissions in FY14.)

(See Appendix 1 on pages 52-53 for each new grant's funding agency, total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs.)

Research Objective 4: CHIP will continue to increase its research with direct policy implications.

A new CHIP goal for the past few years has involved conducting more health-related research with implications for public policy. In this respect, the January 2015 move of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity from Yale to UConn as a new center-within-a-center in CHIP will add remarkable strength to CHIP's portfolio of research with direct policy implications. The Rudd Center's goal is to change the way the world eats, in part through changes in food policy. The Rudd Center is one of the premier centers in the world working in this critical domain. (See the Rudd Center's website at <u>www.yaleruddcenter.org</u>.)

This year, several CHIP projects involved research with important policy implications.

- Thomas Buckley's new grant entitled, "State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart
 Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health-Pharmacy Initiative" (described in
 detail under Research Objective 2, above), involves having pharmacists play an increasing role in helping
 patients with their medication management. This project will create sustainable financing models of pharmacy
 services with parties engaged in healthcare reform implementation, including Medicaid, State Employee Health
 Plans, health insurance exchanges, and the State Office of Health Reform and Innovation.
- Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) are continuing to work on 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. Johnson's ongoing project, **"Syntheses of HIV and 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 as much research. In the last three decades, hundreds of HIV risk behavior change interventions have been evaluated, often in randomized controlled trials, but 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 experienced by 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 (Ph.D., Communication) continues her research on tobacco package labeling and associated antismoking campaigns in response to recent changes in federal policies mandating new graphic warnings on

tobacco packages. The goal of the grant entitled, **"Tobacco Packages Evaluation of Graphic Warning Labels on Tobacco Packages and Related Supporting,"** is to inform future policies with respect to tobacco warnings.

In the international realm, and as described under Research Objective 3, 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 genderbased violence in the military. The title of the grant is "Prevention with Positives, and Gender-Based Violence
Projects in Mozambique." If effective, the intervention will be implemented nationwide and will have policy
implications for how the military functions in Mozambique.

There are other projects currently underway with policy implications (see descriptions of work by Drs. DiStefano, Duffy, and Gorin's NIH/CCMC grant, and Dr. Pescatello's work in Research Objective 2, above), and it is expected—with the Rudd Center joining us from Yale in January 2015—that CHIP's focus on public policy will expand greatly in future years.

Research Objective 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.

CHIP Lecture Series: 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 forum for sharing late-breaking findings and trends in health behavior research.

CHIP continued to sponsor the CHIP Lecture Series in FY14, bringing 18 nationally- and internationally-recognized leaders in health behavior research from 16 different institutions to UConn for presentations. These speakers presented on a diverse range of research areas, including community-based strategies for physical activity promotion, social science perspectives on HIV treatment as prevention, self-regulation of health and illness behavior and its implications for cancer control, and automated health counselors for underserved populations, among many others. All presentations were streamed live from CHIP over the Internet and then archived for future on-demand 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 FY14, CHIP had an average onsite lecture participation rate of 22 people per lecture. Additional viewers saw each presentation through live streaming or through archived versions of the presentations; there were a total of 631 online viewings of presentations during FY14. In addition to attending and viewing the presentations online, 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 74 such meetings and events took place at CHIP.

The CHIP Lecture Series is planned and publicized by CHIP administrative staff. Publicity for the events includes posting the series on the CHIP website and events calendar; sending out announcements through various listservs such as UConn Daily Digest and, beginning in January 2014, the UConn Health Broadcast Messages; posting flyers and signage at CHIP; 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 through the CHIP public access listserv. 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.

A listing of the dates, speakers, and talk titles for the FY14 *CHIP Lecture Series* can be found in <u>Appendix 2 on pages</u> <u>54-55</u>.

CHIP Lecture Series on Genomics and Health Behavior: In addition to the regular *CHIP Lecture Series*, CHIP launched a new sub-series in FY14 entitled, the *CHIP Lecture Series on Genomics and Health Behavior*, in an effort to increase scholarly dialogue, research collaboration, and ultimately, funded research between investigators at Storrs, UConn Health, and the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine. To support this multidisciplinary series, CHIP initiated co-sponsor partnerships with the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine (JAX-GM, led by Charles Lee, Ph.D.) and UConn's Institute for Systems Genomics (ISG, led by Marc Lalande, Ph.D.). The inaugural lectures for the series, which were given by Lisa Aspinwall (Ph.D., University of Utah) and Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), were well-attended. Dr. Pescatello further facilitated a very well-received brainstorming workshop in conjunction with her lecture, featuring panelists Dr. Lalande and Brenton Graveley (Ph.D., ISG), CHIP PI Deborah Fein (Ph.D., Psychology), and George Weinstock (Ph.D., JAX-GM). Both partner organizations provided financial and promotional support for these events during the spring of 2014, and they will continue to partner with CHIP on selecting speakers, funding speaker costs, and promoting the events in the next academic year.

Special Events: Below are brief descriptions of several additional special events that CHIP organized this year towards the fulfillment of this objective:

- **Team Science Events:** A series of events occurred in April 2014 featuring keynote talks by three experts on "team science" (transdisciplinary research endeavors) from the National Institute of Health: Dr. Michelle Bennett (Ph.D., National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute), Dr. Howard Gadlin (Ph.D., Office of the Director at NIH), and Dr. Linda Nebeling (Ph.D., National Cancer Institute).
 - Thinking Big about Obesity: Building Team Science Initiatives at UConn and UConn Health Attended by over 100 researchers from UConn, UConn Health, regional campuses, Yale, Brown, and other nearby institutions and community organizations, this daylong workshop focused on opportunities for collaboration between obesity researchers on topics ranging from genetic risk factors for obesity to community-based participatory approaches to addressing obesity. More information on this event can be found in Section H on pages 22-23. This event was sponsored by the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS).
 - Breaking Down Silos and Constructing Highly Effective, Competitive Transdisciplinary Research Teams -Attended by 72 faculty at UConn Storrs and a live videoconferencing location at UConn Health, this morning lecture focused on key concepts, trends, and funding mechanisms for team science. This event was sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research.
 - The Role of the University of Connecticut in Promoting and Enabling Team Science Attended by 40 deans, department heads, and center directors at UConn Storrs and a live videoconferencing location at UConn Health, and facilitated by UConn's Vice President for Research Jeff Seemann (Ph.D.), this high-level lunchtime workshop focused on the role of UConn administrators in removing institutional barriers to team science. This event was sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research.
- **"After 5 Cancer Research Schmooze"** With 59 participants from Storrs, UConn Health, and Greater Hartford campuses, this evening gathering at Agave Grill in downtown Hartford was a lively and dynamic event designed to foster multidisciplinary collaboration between basic, clinical, and behavioral researchers interested in cancer prevention and control. This event is described in more detail in <u>Section H on page 24</u>.
- **Obesity "Speed Dating" Event** Attended by 11 researchers in the Obesity Research Interest Group, this event gave each participant an opportunity to give a 2-minute, single slide presentation on his/her obesity-related research interests and collaborator needs. This event was organized by CHIP's Obesity Research Interest Group.
- Special Presentation by Tim Hunter, Professor of Digital Media & Design Department (DMDD), Director of Digital Media Center (DMC) Attended by 26 researchers from many departments at UConn and UConn Health, and several from JAX-GM, this event served as an informational session on the services and collaborative opportunities available to health researchers through DMDD/DMC. Many attendees expressed excitement at the opportunities available for collaboration with DMDD/DMC.

Research Objective 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.

In FY14, CHIP addressed this research objective through a multi-pronged approach. First, CHIP more than doubled the membership of its multidisciplinary eHealth/mHealth Research Interest Group (EMRIG) to 57 members. Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP), who is the head of the EMRIG, is working closely with Linda Barry (M.D., Assistant Director/Chief Operating Officer) and Tao Jiang (Ph.D., M.B.A.) from CICATS to not only recruit more researchers from UConn Health but also to explore collaborative opportunities with CICATS.

The EMRIG hosted a meeting of members in the Fall of 2013 to discuss research and collaborative opportunities, and promoted several *CHIP Lecture Series* speakers on relevant topics ranging from virtual reality health promotion interventions to Internet-based health management. Notably, in May 2014 the EMRIG also hosted a special presentation by Tim Hunter, professor of the Digital Media and Design department (DMDD) and Director of UConn's Digital Media Center (DMC), on services and collaborative opportunities available to health researchers through the DMDD/DMC (described above under Research Objective 5).

CHIP held a seed grant competition in the area of eHealth/mHealth and made two \$15,000 awards for innovative pilot projects entitled, (1) "Proof of Concept of Videogame Delivery of Graphic Health Warnings," and (2) "Development of Mobile Phone Application to Address Recurrent Binge Eating"

In addition, in the Spring of 2014, the EMRIG launched a new website that provides information about relevant funding opportunities; CHIP events and activities; conferences, webinars, and trainings; online courses; publications and journals; and websites and newsletters. (The website is located at http://www.chip.uconn.edu/research-interest-groups/EMRIG/.) EMRIG members were also contacted regularly via the EMRIG listserv with announcements about funding opportunities, events, meetings, and technology developments.

Outside of the activities of the EMRIG, 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 widely-publicized Lecture Series is publicly available on the web via live and on-demand streaming. The on-demand archives are categorized according to research topics, allowing viewers to filter archived lectures according to their research interests. In FY14, CHIP also purchased and implemented a new HD video conferencing unit, which allows for closer communication between CHIP and UConn Health, other campuses, and researchers anywhere in the world. This has enabled faculty and other researchers to attend the CHIP Lecture Series and other key presentations without having to incur the cost and time of traveling from Farmington and other locations. Leveraging the existing MediaSite technology along with WebEx software, CHIP now has the capability to allow viewers to ask questions in real-time from a web-camera enabled device.

Finally, as a demonstration of the added value of having a dedicated and research-integrated IT department, CHIP's IT department has investigated over 200 different manufacturers of eHealth and mHealth devices. Working with CHIP PIs, CHIP IT is currently categorizing the findings. The final result will be a resource for researchers to quickly find health-related sensors and devices that can be used to collect health-relevant data in a research subject's natural environment.

Research Objective 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.

At the core, every intervention which is developed, implemented, evaluated, and found to be effective at changing health behavior by a CHIP research team has the potential for being widely disseminated.

In the past year, 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 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 several new interventions. In addition, CHIP expanded its Measurement

Instruments webpage with many 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. Last year as well, CHIP expanded its Dissemination and Implementation Resources webpage, updating the D&I Grants Database, which now lists fourteen current funding mechanisms designed to support dissemination and implementation activities.

E2. Progress on CHIP Administrative Objectives for FY14

Administrative Objective 1: 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.

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- and post-award processing), employment, and payroll. Updates were made to various existing guidelines and procedures beginning in October 2013 through the end of December 2013. No new guidelines and procedures were needed during FY14, 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 continues to distribute relevant new and updated guidelines and procedures and procedures to distribute relevant new and updated guidelines and procedures.

Administrative Objective 2: CHIP will publicize and disseminate information about its available business and other 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.

CHIP held its Annual Meeting at the start of the fall semester on September 26, 2013. In addition to inviting Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), who had recently become a UConn Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, to present on her current research at the meeting, CHIP also took the opportunity to highlight the unique CHIP services provided by each of the administrative team members. At the Annual Meeting, Dr. Seemann also presented on "Highlights of a New Vision for Research at UConn," which complemented the discussion of CHIP business services.

During the spring semester, Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) conducted the annual CHIP Business Services Survey. The results of the survey are summarized in <u>Section I on pages 26-31</u>.

Throughout FY14, CHIP continued to utilize its website to communicate with CHIP affiliates and potential affiliates about available CHIP business services as well as CHIP research. Descriptions and charts of the types of services offered, charts outlining the staff who support each service, and required forms for accessing various services were updated regularly and posted on the website. CHIP also used its website to announce CHIP's annual seed grant competitions, publicize deadlines for the competitions, and announce the winners of the competitions. 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.

Administrative Objective 3: CHIP will conduct an annual Business Services Survey in order to evaluate the services that the Center 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.

CHIP offers a range of services to its PIs, research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, including assistance with identifying possible collaborators, finding relevant funding opportunities, CHIP internal grant competitions, presubmission grant reviews, statistical consultation, CHIP Lecture Series, assistance with grant preparation, pre- and post-award grant support, IT services, and more. To ensure that the services CHIP provides are meeting the needs of its consumers, each year CHIP asks its PIs, research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates at UConn to evaluate the quality of its services through an anonymous online survey. In March of 2014, the annual CHIP Business Services Survey was sent to CHIP affiliates who work and/or study at the University of Connecticut. A total of 80 individuals completed the survey, and the results were very favorable in virtually all categories. Suggestions for improvements to CHIP services have been reviewed, and modifications to its services are being made, as appropriate. (See <u>Section I on pages 26-31</u> for additional information on the CHIP Business Services Survey results.)

Administrative Objective 4: The CHIP Budget Oversight and 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.

The Committee continued to implement and educate CHIP faculty, staff, and students about the cost-saving measures for telephone and office supply costs, which were identified last year as two specific areas that could produce significant savings. Recommended cost-saving measures include the following:

- 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 the default printers.
- When obtaining office supplies from CHIP's supply cabinet, sign out the supplies to enable CHIP to more efficiently and accurately monitor supplies.

CHIP Administrative Team staff offered assistance with installing Skype and provided instructions for duplex printing and resetting default printers, as 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 responsible business decisions.

Administrative Objective 5: 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.

The CHIP Facilities & Security Committee met twice this year to review and assess physical and technical security issues related to CHIP operations.

During FY14, 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 taken during the year to maintain 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; followthrough 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 expanded its network-based camera monitoring system to cover all entry and exit points. In both normal light and low light conditions, CHIP has a detailed and searchable video log of every individual who enters and leaves the building center, which can be reviewed as needed.

Administrative Objective 6: 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 FY14, in accordance with the University's emphasis on public engagement, CHIP continued to promote the considerable wealth of research expertise represented by its network of over 225 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* emails, among other communication vehicles; and directly to public health audiences through events open to the community, including the regular *CHIP Lecture Series* and the special "Thinking Big about Obesity" workshop.

Outside Media Coverage of CHIP Research Expertise

- CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and CHIP Affiliate Paul Thompson (M.D., Medicine/Preventive Cardiology, UConn Health and Hartford Hospital) were quoted in the *New York Times*, discussing their views on the recent evidence for, and limitations of, an approach to exercise that involves short, intense workouts instead of longer sessions. See "<u>The Rise of the Minimalist Workout</u>."
- CHIP Affiliate Cheryl Oncken (M.D., M.P.H., Medicine) was interviewed on NPR Morning Edition about her
 research findings that showed that nicotine gum helped pregnant women reduce their smoking, have lower
 exposure to nicotine, and have babies who weigh more. See "<u>In Pregnancy, What's Worse? Cigarettes or the
 Nicotine Patch?</u>"
- CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology) was featured in the *Hartford Courant* for her project to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a novel, music-based intervention for children with autism. See "<u>Autism</u> <u>Researcher to Focus on Music-Based Intervention</u>."
- CHIP Affiliate William Zempsky (M.D., M.P.H., Pain and Palliative Medicine, Connecticut Children's Medical Center) was featured in a story in the *Hartford Courant* regarding the uncertainty and nuances that doctors face around prescribing medical marijuana. See "Doctor's Dilemma: Dosing Medical Marijuana."

UConn Today and Other UConn Media Coverage of CHIP Research Activities

- CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) was interviewed by UConn Today for his insights on the changes in HIV/AIDS prevention, in recognition of World AIDS Awareness Month in December. See "<u>HIV/AIDS Prevalence</u> and Prospects."
- CHIP PI Lindsay DiStefano (Ph.D., Kinesiology) was featured twice in UConn Today: once discussing her current research on the effectiveness of a lower-extremity injury prevention intervention in a high-risk population (see "<u>Preventing ACL Injury in a High-risk Population</u>") and again regarding her new grant listed above, in which she is working with several hundred young Connecticut soccer players to study injury prevention (see "<u>Helping Young Athletes Avoid Injury</u>").
- CHIP Research Staff Tim Gifford (CHIP AITC) was featured in an Innovation Spotlight piece on the UConn Technology Park website for his research on how robots can help children with autism learn and communicate. See "<u>A Story of Robots and Autism.</u>"
- CHIP Graduate Student David Finitsis (Psychology) was featured in UConn Today for his work on a meta-analysis
 of the effects of texting between health care providers and patients using antiretroviral drug therapy for the
 control of HIV/AIDS (see "<u>The Health Benefits of Texting</u>"). CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) and CHIP
 Graduate Student Jennifer Pellowski (Psychology) were also involved in the study.

CHIP Research News Emails

During FY14, CHIP sent two *CHIP Research News* (CRN) e-mails to CHIP affiliates and other relevant individuals both inside and outside of 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. Linda Pescatello' s service as Senior Editor of an internationally significant guide for exercise professionals; the new research of Dr. Anjana Bhat; new grants awarded to CHIP PIs; CHIP seed grant funding announcements; the launch of the CHIP Lecture Series on Genomics and Health Behavior; a recap of the "After 5 Cancer Research Schmooze" event and the dual-campus cancer seed grant opportunity; the series of team science events; and CHIP affiliates' appearances in the news media.

CHIP Weekly Digest Emails

Launched in Spring 2014, the CHIP Weekly Digest emails are compiled by CHIP staff and sent to the appropriate subgroup within the CHIP network of faculty, research staff, administrative staff, and students. The digests include an organized summary (with attachments) of non-urgent announcements about CHIP services, as well as announcements from other departments and partners regarding events and opportunities relevant to health behavior. The Weekly Digest is intended to improve CHIP's communication to its networks, by minimizing the number of separate emails delivered while maximizing the relevance of digest content to health behavior researchers.

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 2, above.)

Public Engagement

For information on CHIP's public engagement activities, please refer to Section Q on pages 49-50.

E3. Progress on CHIP Technology Objectives for FY14

This past year has seen some 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 refocused and realigned its Information Technology initiatives while still continuing the advancement of technology available to CHIP PIs and research groups. Progress on the major goals for FY14 included the following:

IT Objective 1: Improve the security and resiliency of CHIP's sensitive research data.

The Information Technology (IT) team at CHIP has successfully completed several initiatives on this front. A multilayered platform has been installed and tested to provide a highly resilient yet budget conscious solution.

Data Protection Manager (DPM): CHIP IT has implemented Microsoft's data backup solution. This provides tight integration with CHIP's current Microsoft driven services (e.g., File Services, SharePoint, SQL, Websites, etc.). DPM retrieves any changes from its previous backup hourly. These changes are stored on hard drives for two weeks for the purposes of fast retrieval. Bi-monthly archives to tape are also scheduled for additional data redundancy. In addition to implementing a more tightly integrated backup solution, CHIP is able to save thousands of dollars in annual service renewals by leveraging the Microsoft Campus agreement with the University.

Veeam Backup of CHIP's Virtual Infrastructure: In addition to the previous two methods of data backup, CHIP IT has instituted an additional nightly backup of CHIP's system. The Veeam system is also designed to leverage existing server hardware to expedite recovery operations and target a much smaller recovery time objective (RTO).

Off-Site backup: All of CHIP's backup solutions have been housed at the secure data center in the Math Sciences Building (MSB) across campus. As the first phase of multi-site high availability, moving this equipment to MSB alleviates the possibility of data loss due to physical damage to the building CHIP is housed in.

IT Objective 2: Provide effective collaboration tools for PIs, research teams, and their respective project communities through the use of SharePoint.

CHIP IT has successfully completed the implementation of SharePoint in the CHIP environment. The Cancer Research Interest Group (CRIG) was the first to receive a SharePoint site. With the implementation of SharePoint with Office Web Apps, CRIG can share documents easily with other members of the group. All that is required is access to Internet Explorer. CHIP IT has also implemented Office Web Apps that will allow editing of documents in real-time.

IT Objective 3: 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 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 through DirectAccess. With DirectAccess, users get the same experience as working in the office any time they have an Internet connection. DirectAccess automatically connects the user's computer to CHIP's network every time an Internet connection is available. Therefore, they can read their e-mail, access shared folders, and work with internal network applications without connecting to a VPN. Even if a user's system allows him/her to check his/her e-mail from the Internet, the user will likely appreciate DirectAccess because links to intranet Websites and shared folders will work correctly.

F. CHIP Objectives for FY 2015

CHIP Research Objectives for FY15

- 1. Through the CHIP internal grants programs, mentoring, technical support to Principal Investigators (PIs), and other activities, 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 take a leadership role in fostering a team science approach among University of Connecticut research scientists and clinicians in the development of personalized medicine risk reduction strategies for chronic diseases and health conditions using clinical and genomic information that attempts to match an individual with the most effective therapeutic option.
- 6. 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.
- **7.** 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.
- 8. 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.
- **9.** 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 Administrative Objectives for FY15

- The Administrative Team will update and revise existing guidelines and procedures annually (by the end of the calendar year) 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 and programmatic processes.
- 2. 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, welcome letters to new affiliates and new CHIP PIs, promotional slides at Lecture Series events, CHIP Business Services Survey, Boundary Spanner activities, and announcements at the CHIP Annual Meeting and other business meetings.
- 3. 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 who are based 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.

- 4. The CHIP Budget Oversight Committee consisting of the Director, Associate Director, Executive Assistant, and Financial Assistant II, will meet monthly to review operational budget expenditures, discuss anticipated expenses and needs, and identify and recommend cost-saving measures that can benefit CHIP and the University financially. Modifications will be made to the budget as well as to relevant procedures and guidelines based on the Committee's recommendations.
- 5. The CHIP Security and Facilities Committee will meet semi-annually and as needed to review the status of the physical facility and its ability to meet the needs of its occupants, including the security of the facility, its occupants, and its data. Needed modifications will be made to the physical facility and to relevant procedures and guidelines to improve the usefulness of the facility and the security that it provides.

CHIP Technology Objectives for FY15

- 1. Complete offsite replication of CHIP's sensitive research data: CHIP has made significant investments in its 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 start moving its EqualLogic SAN to MSB. This coupled with VMware Site Recovery manager will allow CHIP to bring its services back online within minutes of a catastrophic failure of its primary facilities.
- 2. Provide hosted cloud services for files: Many researchers require the mobility of laptops and other mobile devices to access their research, data, and documents when on the go. This creates the opportunity for locally stored files that can be lost if the device is damaged, lost or stolen. Programs like Skydrive, Dropbox, Google Drive, etc. are an unknown quantity when it comes to where the data lives and who has access to it. For this reason, CHIP IT will provide its own cloud-based file service. For devices that have this software installed and an active internet connection, data will automatically be backed up when a researcher saves it. If the device does not currently have an active internet connection, the files will be copied the minute the device does have access again. A secure web interface will also be provided to give access to previous versions of documents or links to those documents that one can share with others.
- 3. Create a detailed service catalog for CHIP IT and CHIP Advanced Storage Solutions: In keeping with other active projects at the University, CHIP IT will create an IT Service Catalogue. A service catalogue will provide greater insight to the IT services that are available and thus provide better support to CHIP PIs. The catalogue will be delivered in two formats. First and foremost, it will be a website which will provide detailed information about the core and ancillary IT services available. Additionally, there will be a browsable electronic catalogue in PDF format that can be distributed with employee welcome packages.

G. CHIP Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of CHIP affiliates who serve in an advisory capacity to the CHIP Director and Associate Director. They assist in defining CHIP's goals, help monitor progress toward those goals, and provide feedback on different aspects of CHIP operations. For FY14, the CHIP Executive Committee consisted of the following individuals:

- CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology)
- CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP)
- CHIP PI Rick Gibbons (Ph.D., Psychology)
- CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology)
- CHIP Affiliate Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences)
- CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology)
- CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology)
- CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology)
- CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication)

• CHIP Affiliate Lisa Werkmeister-Rozas (Ph.D., LCSW, School of Social Work)

The Executive Committee held four meetings in FY14. At the meetings, 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 seed 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 2014-15, and made some changes to them. (See Section C on page 5 for the latest version of the Mission Statement and Long-Term Goals, and Section F on pages 19-20 for the FY15 Research Objectives.)

In addition to attending the Executive Committee meetings, the members initiated and/or participated in a variety of CHIP events and activities. Some highlights of their involvement are the following:

- Drs. Gibbons and Pescatello served with Drs. Fisher and Cornman on the Health and Wellness Strategic Area Advisory Team (SAAT), one of nine SAATs that met to discuss priorities for the University's Strategic Plan. These individuals, along with other members of the Executive Committee, hosted a Health and Wellness SAAT Town Hall meeting for CHIP Affiliates on October 21, 2013 to discuss research priorities with respect to health and wellness.
- Dr. Gorin organized and hosted a "speed dating" event on October 10, 2013 to give members of CHIP's Obesity Research Interest Group the opportunity to learn about each other's research interests and expertise.
- Dr. Gorin initiated, sought funding for, and organized a team science workshop for obesity researchers entitled, "Thinking Big about Obesity: Building Team Science Initiatives at UConn and UConn Health," which occurred on April 28, 2014 and was attended by 100 researchers.
- Dr. Pescatello agreed to take the lead in coordinating CHIP's efforts to support genomics and health behavior research, which included working closely with the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine and the UConn Institute for Systems Genomics. As a first step, Dr. Pescatello made a presentation on genomics at the CHIP Lecture Series on May 1, 2013 followed by moderating a panel discussion entitled, "Overcoming the Hurdles to Designing Personalized Approaches to Lifestyle Risk Reduction Strategies."
- Drs. Gibbons, Johnson, and Huedo-Medina served as three of the reviewers of the CHIP seed grant proposals.
- Drs. Gorin, Gibbons, Johnson, and Fisher assisted Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology) and Dr. Cornman with the development of the CHIP Grantsmanship Training Workshop that was conducted on June 19 and 20, 2014.
- Dr. Snyder volunteered to start a research interest group focused on communication and health marketing. This research interest group will hold its first meeting in the fall of 2014.

H. CHIP Multidisciplinary Affiliates Collaborative Network

In FY14, 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, as of June 5, 2014, to 225 Faculty/Researcher Affiliates and 50 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 UConn Health and other institutions, which have led to new grant applications and/or funded grants.

During FY14, CHIP also continued its efforts to forge new and expand existing collaborations at the Center level. These efforts included meetings with the following individuals to discuss partnerships and opportunities with their respective units: CHIP Affiliate Michelle Cloutier (M.D.), Interim Director, and Paul Dworkin (M.D.), Executive Vice President, Community Child Health, from Connecticut Children's Medical Center; CHIP Affiliate Paul Skolnik (M.D.), Professor and Chairman at the UConn Health Department of Medicine; Khamis Abu-Hasaballah (Ph.D.), Assistant Vice President, Research IT & Informatics, Office of the Vice President for Research at UConn; Ali Andalibi (Ph.D.), Associate Vice President for Research at UConn; Martin Cherniack (M.D., M.P.H.), Professor of Medicine in the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at UConn Health; George Kuchel (M.D.), Professor of Medicine and Director of the UConn Center on Aging; and David Steffens (M.D.), Professor and Chairman, Department of Psychiatry. Discussions with each of these individuals are ongoing,

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 <u>Appendix 4 on pages 71-72</u> for a list of services provided by CHIP and the administrative staff members responsible for each service.)

CHIP Research Interest Groups

During FY14, a key aim of the CHIP Programs and Research Development Team was to expand CHIP's existing multidisciplinary Research Interest Groups (RIGs) in the areas of Cancer, Obesity, 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.

Obesity Research Interest Group (ORIG)

The Obesity Research Interest Group (ORIG) headed by CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) is a joint interest group between CHIP and the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS). The mission of this CICATS/CHIP group is to bring together researchers and stakeholders from the greater Connecticut community who share a common interest in understanding, preventing, and treating obesity and related co-morbidities, and to encourage and enable these researchers to develop new research collaborations and apply for external funding through CHIP. The group continued to grow its membership in FY14 to over 100 members who are faculty and graduate students from multiple campuses and over 20 departments at UConn as well as community partners and researchers from other institutions in the region. The group generally meets twice a year, co-sponsors obesity-related talks as part of the CHIP lecture series, and hosts an information/discussion listserv to share research ideas and funding opportunities.

In FY14, the ORIG sponsored the following activities towards the fulfilment of its mission:

- The Fall 2013 meeting of the ORIG featured a "speed dating" component in which researchers each had 2 minutes to present 1 slide summarizing their obesity research interests and collaborator needs. This networking event brought researchers together from UConn Storrs, UConn Health, and the community.
- "Thinking Big about Obesity: Building Team Science Initiatives at UConn and UConn Health:" This was a day-long workshop with an associated funding opportunity that was designed to create transdisciplinary teams interested in conducting obesity research, as was discussed previously under <u>Section E, Research Objective 2 (pages 7-9)</u> and <u>Research Objective 5 (pages 12-13)</u>. Morning sessions featured presentations on key trends and funding mechanisms for team science from three experts from the National Institute of Health. Afternoon breakout sessions gave groups the opportunity to brainstorm and develop team research ideas in various obesity-related topics ranging from genetic risk factors for obesity to community-based participatory approaches to addressing obesity. Feedback for the workshop was very positive, and several groups made significant progress on developing research proposals. Workshop participants and ORIG members were invited to apply for seed grants of up to \$10,000 apiece to assist new teams of investigators to move their shared research agenda forward in preparation for writing large-scale external funding proposals. The three funded proposals were entitled:

- "Predictors of Weight Loss Success after Bariatric Surgery: Baseline Status and Post-Surgical Alterations in Oral Sensory Phenotype and Food Preference"
- "Husky Move: Fundamental Movement Skills in a School-based Comprehensive Program"
- "Preventing and Reducing Obesity in Aging Populations through Workplace Interventions: A Proposal from the Occupational Obesity and Aging Research (OOAR) Working Group"

This event and the associated funding opportunity were sponsored by the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) and organized/administered by CHIP.

- The ORIG sponsored and promoted several CHIP Lecture Series speakers on obesity topics: Melicia Whitt-Glover (Ph.D., Gramercy Research Group) gave a presentation entitled, "It Takes a Village: Strategies for Changing Physical Activities in Community;" Marlene Schwartz (Ph.D., Yale University, Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity) gave a talk entitled, "Improving Children's Nutrition with Strategic Science;" CHIP Affiliate Valerie Duffy (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences) made a presentation entitled, "Can we assess health behaviors by simply asking liking/disliking? Evidence from dietary-based studies;" and Suzanne Mitchell (M.D., Boston University School of Medicine) spoke on, "Women in Control: Virtual World Diabetes Self-Management Education for African American Women with DM."
- A CHIP-sponsored seed grant competition was held in the area of obesity, and one \$15,000 award was made. More information on CHIP seed grant competitions is provided in <u>Section K on pages 35-43</u>.

eHealth/mHealth Research Interest Group (EMRIG)

The eHealth/mHealth Research Interest Group (EMRIG) was formed in the Spring of 2013, is headed by CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP), and is comprised of researchers at UConn and other institutions who are interested in electronic health/mobile health research and the use of mobile technologies, social media, web-based interventions, sensors, and other new technologies to assess and modify health behavior. Members are informed through the group's listserv and website about relevant funding opportunities, presentations, conferences, webinars, trainings, publications, and new developments in eHealth/mHealth. The group sponsors events and activities in eHealth/mHealth, assists members in identifying potential research collaborators and technology experts, holds periodic meetings, and keeps members abreast of what is happening in the field. The primary goal of these various activities is to foster new multidisciplinary projects and obtain external grant funding.

In FY14, the EMRIG significantly grew its membership to 57 members and sponsored the following events and activities towards the fulfilment of its mission:

- The EMRIG hosted a meeting of members in the fall of 2013 to discuss research and collaborative opportunities.
- The group promoted several *CHIP Lecture Series* speakers on relevant topics ranging from virtual reality interventions to Internet-based health management: Tim Bickmore (Ph.D., Northeastern University), Suzanne Mitchell (M.D., Boston University School of Medicine), and John Mangano (M.B.A., comScore).
- In May 2014, the EMRIG also hosted a special presentation by Tim Hunter, professor of the Digital Media and Design Department and Director of UConn's Digital Media Center (DMC), on services and collaborative opportunities available to health researchers through the DMC. This event was described previously in <u>Section E</u> <u>under Research Objective 5 on page 13</u>.
- A CHIP-sponsored seed grant competition was held in the area of eHealth/mHealth, and two \$15,000 awards were made for innovative pilot projects. More information on CHIP seed grant competitions is provided in <u>Section K on pages 35-43</u>.
- The group launched a website (at http://www.chip.uconn.edu/research-interest-groups/EMRIG/) in the spring of 2014 that features valuable information for members on relevant CHIP-sponsored events/activities; external funding opportunities; conferences, webinars, and trainings; publications and journals; and external websites and eNewsletters.

Additional goals for the next fiscal year include the organization of a technology forum and the hosting of a group networking event, both of which would foster new collaborations and research proposal development.

Cancer Research Interest Group (CRIG)

The Cancer Research Interest Group (CRIG) was created during the fall of 2012 by CHIP Affiliate Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology) to achieve two goals: (1) expand upon CHIP's successful research on survivorship to include the entire cancer control continuum from primary prevention to early detection/diagnosis, treatment, and end-of-life issues, and (2) provide a forum for UConn cancer researchers to increase cancer research opportunities and external grant funding. Following discussions with UConn's Dean of the School of Medicine, Frank Torti, about his intention of creating a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center at UConn Health, Dr. Gerrard added a third goal: (3) foster funded collaborative cancer control research across the Storrs and UConn Health campuses.

In FY14, the CRIG more than doubled its membership to 84 members and made significant progress towards the above goals through the following events and activities:

- Networking Event for Researchers: The "After 5 Cancer Research Schmooze" event in the fall of 2013 was designed to promote networking between cancer researchers across campuses and disciplines. It was a resounding success with 59 participants. The high turnout created a very energetic and intimate atmosphere at the Agave Restaurant in downtown Hartford. The format for this networking event consisted of both structured and unstructured segments, giving participants both a broad overview of the cancer research interests of the other attendees as well as an opportunity to converse on specific topics of interest. During the structured portion, participants gave brief presentations (2 minutes, 1 slide) describing their research interests in cancer control and prevention, and the kind of expertise they are seeking in potential collaborators. Verbal and written feedback received after this event was overwhelmingly positive and included the following comments: (1) "Thank you for a great event yesterday. It was wonderful to meet everyone and hear about their research." and (2) "I was very impressed with the amount of cancer-relevant research going on at both campuses; the potential for fruitful collaboration is very high." The event format was also praised as a model for bridging other disciplines across UConn: "It would be nice to have something like this for engineers, computer science folks, material scientists, etc., and clinical faculty. Great job!"
 - Following this event, the CRIG membership increased substantially to 84 members, with 33 members from UConn Storrs, 43 from UConn Health, and an additional 8 members from other universities, local healthcare facilities, and community organizations.
- Organizational Meeting: The fall 2013 meeting of the CRIG was held the day after the Research Schmooze to discuss next steps in promoting interdisciplinary research collaborations.
- Dual-PI Seed Grants: Funding from the Vice President for Research, Dean of the School of Medicine, and CHIP has allowed the CRIG to focus on and foster cancer control health behavior research collaborations across campuses and disciplines this past spring by providing funding for seed grants to be awarded to dual PI teams of researchers from the Storrs and UConn Health campuses. The goal of this initiative is to fund pilot work that will facilitate the submission of grant proposals to the National Cancer Institute. The opportunity was advertised widely across both campuses and through the CRIG. Ten applicant teams submitted proposals in NIH format in April that were reviewed by a team of six internal experts from both campuses, and the director of a National Cancer Institute Cancer Prevention Center. Three winning teams were announced in June and are described in Section K on pages 35-37.
- Funding Opportunities at the National Cancer Institute (NCI): The CRIG invited Dr. Rebecca Ferrer, a Program
 Officer at the National Institute of Cancer (and 2007 graduate of UConn's Ph.D. program in Social Psychology) to
 make a presentation on March 27th to CRIG members on current funding opportunities at NCI. This meeting
 provided information on the current and future NCI portfolios, included a very energetic Q & A session, and was
 useful to both junior and senior researchers at CHIP and UConn Health.
- Focus Group for New Investigators: In May 2014, the CRIG held a focus group for junior cancer researchers from UConn Storrs and UConn Health (primarily assistant professors) to elicit feedback on the needs of less experienced researchers. The goal of the meeting, facilitated by Drs. Gerrard and Cornman, was to learn more about the kinds of programs, services, and resources that would help junior researchers in their research, funding, and collaboration efforts. Notable needs and wishes shared by the participants included: dedicated mentorship, "soup to nuts" guidance on the process of grant writing and its various associated forms and

requirements, examples of both successful and unsuccessful grant proposals, and a system for finding potential collaborators outside of one's own department. CHIP is working to provide the services that were requested.

Selected New Multidisciplinary Affiliates Research Collaborations

CHIP's efforts to enhance multidisciplinary collaborations resulted in several new partnerships formed or furthered during FY14 involving investigators at various departments including UConn Health. The projects described below provide a sampling of some of the CHIP multidisciplinary collaborative grants submitted to external funders during this reporting year:

- Connecting People, Places, and Barriers: The Effect of These Connections on Adherence and Retention in Care for HIV Infected Drug Users: A collaboration between CHIP Affiliate Debarchana Ghosh (Ph.D., Geography), CHIP PI Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences), CHIP PI Ofer Harel (Ph.D., Statistics), and CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication). *Submitted*.
- Efficacy & Cost-Effectiveness of Care Plans for Underserved Cancer Survivors: A collaboration between CHIP Affiliate Keith Bellizzi (Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies) and CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology). Submitted.
- Engaging Adults with Hypertension in Exercise Using Blood Pressure Specific Outcomes: A collaboration between CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), Ming-Hui Chen (Ph.D., Statistics), William White (M.D., Medicine Hypertension and Pharmacology), and CHIP Affiliate Kim Gans (Ph.D., Brown University, becoming CHIP PI and UConn faculty in Fall 2014). *Submitted*.
- Influence of Food Insecurity on Adherence: CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology) received a grant from NIH/NIAAA to work with CHIP PI Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies) and Amy CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) on designing and field testing a theory-based intervention to address food insecurity and improve antiretroviral therapy adherence among men and women living with HIV infection. *Awarded*.
- Interventions to Reduce Substance Use and Promote Resilience in College Veterans: A collaboration between CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology), and CHIP Affiliate Elizabeth Schifano (Ph.D., Statistics). Submitted.
- Optimizing the Cardiovascular Health Benefits of Exercise: High-Quality Meta-Analyses of Controlled Trials: A collaboration between CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology), CHIP Affiliate Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences), and CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) *Submitted*.
- **Preliminary Study of a Yoga Program to Catalyze Health Behavior Change:** CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology) received a subcontract from Massachusetts General Hospital for a NIH/NCCAM grant to work with collaborators Sara Lazar from Massachusetts General Hospital and CHIP Affiliate Elizabeth Schifano (Ph.D., Statistics) on a clinical trial of yoga's effects on reducing stress and improving diet and exercise. The research team will also be examining the issue of yoga dose, i.e. how much yoga is enough? *Awarded*.
- A Primary Care, Patient-Centered Approach to Obesity Prevention in Young Children: This represents a collaboration between CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) and CHIP Affiliate Michelle Cloutier (M.D., School of Medicine Pediatrics), who are Co-PIs on the project, along with Resul Cesar (Ph.D., M.B.A., School of Business Finance), CHIP Affiliate Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences, Statistics), CHIP Affiliate Amy Mobley (Ph.D., R.D., Nutritional Sciences), and CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), who are Co-Is on the project. *Submitted*.
- Test of a Theory-Based Weight Loss Program for Couples: Project TEAMS: A collaboration between CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology), CHIP Affiliate Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences, Statistics), CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology), and CHIP Affiliate Amy Mobley (Ph.D., Nutritional Sciences). *Submitted*.

In addition, CHIP supported the following multidisciplinary internal grant competitions:

• CHIP's cancer control seed grant competition, which required equal partnership in a collaborative project between a UConn Storrs and a UConn Health PI, yielded three new partnerships between investigators in

Human Development and Family Studies and Medicine (Endocrinology and Metabolism), Pharmacy Practice and Medicine (Gastroenterology), and Psychology and Pediatrics.

• The **"Thinking Big about Obesity" seed grant competition** funded through CHIP PI Amy Gorin's CICATS award required the involvement of investigators from UConn Health and UConn Storrs. Among the five teams who submitted proposals, the average number of departments represented by a multidisciplinary team was 5.4. Among the 3 winning grants, a particularly well-rounded team includes researchers from the departments of Community Medicine and Health Care, Medicine (Divisions of Geriatric Medicine and Occupational and Environmental Medicine), Allied Health Sciences, and Psychology.

In summary, as in previous years, CHIP has continued to foster multi-disciplinary research collaborations by creating novel opportunities for researchers to meet one another 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 pages 56-70 for a list of CHIP principal investigators and research affiliates.)

I. Results of 2014 CHIP Business Services Survey

CHIP offers a range of services to its principal investigators (PIs), research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates, including assistance with identifying possible collaborators, finding relevant funding opportunities, CHIP internal grant competitions, pre-submission grant reviews, statistical consultation, CHIP Lecture Series, assistance with grant preparation, pre- and post-award grant support, IT services, and more. To ensure that the services CHIP provides are meeting the needs of its consumers, each year CHIP asks its PIs, research staff, graduate students, and other affiliates at UConn to evaluate the quality of its services through an anonymous online survey.

The survey was sent to CHIP affiliates who work and/or study at the University of Connecticut. A total of 80 individuals (39 Faculty, 4 Research Scientists, 2 Research Assistants/Associates, 20 Graduate Students, and 15 who did not indicate their role) completed the *2014 CHIP Business Services Survey* in March of this year, and the results were very favorable in virtually all categories. Examples of the overall comments made by the respondents are the following:

- "I think CHIP is doing a great job bringing a diverse group of individuals on and off campus together to engage in collaborative efforts."
- "As I have said to many people, your model is terrific and one the University should follow."
- "The CHIP staff is absolutely terrific. It is such a pleasure to have such competent work done. I feel like the staff is really up-to-date on grant requirements, etc. This is in striking contrast to similar work done within other departments."

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

CHIP Research Interest Groups

Over the past year, CHIP sponsored three multidisciplinary Research Interest Groups (RIGs): Obesity Research Interest Group (ORIG), Cancer Research Interest Group (CRIG), and eHealth/mHealth Research Interest Group (EMRIG). These RIGs have provided a forum for researchers from across disciplines, campuses, and the community to work collaboratively and seek funding opportunities for the purposes of conducting innovative research on specific health topics. The RIG members come from many departments across UConn as well as from community-based organizations in Connecticut. (See Section H on pages 22-25 for more information about CHIP's Research Interest Groups.)

The 2014 CHIP Business Services Survey asked about each of the three RIGs. Of the survey respondents, 25 indicated that they are a member of the ORIG, 17 reported being a member of the CRIG, and 9 belong to the EMRIG.

When asked how being a member of the RIG helped them identify potential research collaborators, these are some of the responses they provided:

- ORIG Member: "It has helped me learn about the interesting obesity research that is going on at UConn and identify potential collaborators."
- ORIG Member: "I have met professors with whom I am now collaborating."
- ORIG Member: "I'm the only one in my department that currently studies obesity, so being a member of this Interest Group has helped me identify researchers in other departments that research obesity and share ideas about theory and methodology."
- ORIG Member: "Great for knowing who is doing what, what projects are out there, and who is interested in collaborating."
- CRIG Member: "It has helped me learn about what other research is going on at UConn and to identify potential collaborators."
- CRIG Member: "Through the retreat in 2013, I met a collaborator with whom I am submitting a seed grant proposal, and we will be submitting an NCI grant if we get the seed grant. The event at Agave Grill was also useful in identifying other people with overlapping interests."
- CRIG Member: "I have connected with other researchers through the meetings we have had."
- EMRIG Member: "It has helped me learn about the research in this area that is going on at UConn. It has also helped me keep abreast of some of the work that is going on in eHealth/mHealth."
- EMRIG Member: "I have had the chance to meet with researchers who are interested in the same area of study. It serves as a great way to meet potential collaborators."
- EMRIG Member: "Helped me make research collaborations. Helped me understand more about the topics CHIP affiliates are researching."

When asked for suggestions about how to make the RIGs more useful to them as researchers, they provided some interesting ideas, such as:

- ORIG Member, CRIG Member, and EMRIG Member: "Create a website that allows researchers to identify other researchers with needed expertise."
- ORIG Member and CRIG Member: "Give faculty time to make the group function develop goals and measurable objectives, assess strengths, survey funding opportunities, speak with funders, pull teams together to write grants, and submit grants."
- CRIG Member: "I think that strategies about how to put research grants together among several members would be extremely helpful."
- CRIG Member: "More opportunity for seasoned researchers to mentor new researchers."
- EMRIG: "Hold a digital health or technology forum at UConn for researchers to learn about what is happening within this area and to identify potential collaborators in private industry."
- EMRIG Member: "It would be nice if the researchers in the eHealth/mHealth RIG could each present his/her area of research in a small informal get together, so there would be more chances to spark study collaborations."
- EMRIG Member: "Mock reviews/feedback of each other's external grant applications prior to submission."
- EMRIG Member: "In order to create stronger grant applications, facilitate interactions between public health and basic science and physiology."

CHIP Internal Grants for PIs and Affiliates

Over the past several years, CHIP has offered a variety of internal grant opportunities to UConn-affiliated faculty and graduate students (i.e., seed grants in cancer control, seed grants for eHealth/mHealth research, seed grants for obesity research, 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 feedback from the reviewers.

The 2014 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 80 respondents, 44 reported that they had previously applied for at least one CHIP internal grant, and 25 of those 44 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:

- 64% reported that "it allowed them to explore a new area of research."
- 64% indicated that "it provided them with pilot data that allowed them to apply for an external grant."
- 32% said that "the feedback they received on the seed grant proposal helped them write a better grant proposal."
- 32% reported that "it led to external grant funding."
- 36% indicated that "it resulted in one or more publications."
- 8% said that "it helped fund their dissertation project."

Feedback from the 20 respondents who applied but did <u>not</u> get funded for a CHIP internal grant was also very positive as exemplified by the following comments:

- "It encouraged me to pursue a new research interest."
- "It has helped me to make connections across schools (with UConn Health) and to expand my research in significant ways."
- "Extremely helpful for becoming more familiar with grant formulation and writing techniques."
- "As a graduate student, working on a CHIP grant application gave me my first opportunity to practice grant writing. The literature review for the grant application has also assisted in writing manuscripts."
- "It moved my research preparation along much faster. It gave me a deadline on which to focus."
- "Helped me to plan for an NCI grant application."
- "The grant reviews were useful in helping me when I applied for a federal grant."

(See <u>Section K on pages 35-43</u> and <u>Appendices 5-6 on pages 73-82</u> for more information about CHIP's internal seed grants.)

CHIP Research Support Services: Pre-Submission Grant Reviews and Statistical Support

CHIP services to researchers include pre-submission reviews of external grant proposals by expert researchers as well as statistical support with research design, power analysis, and data analyses. Of the individuals who completed the survey, 4 indicated that they had received a pre-submission review of their grant proposal during this past year, and 3 of them rated it as "very useful" and one as "somewhat useful."

Professor Elizabeth Schifano and advanced graduate student Michal Monselise from the UConn Department of Statistics have an office at CHIP, and they are available during the academic year to provide statistical advice and assistance for CHIP-related research and external grant proposals. Ten respondents indicated that they had received statistical support from Dr. Schifano and/or Ms. Monselise during the past year. When asked to rate the helpfulness of the statistical support, 7 respondents said the services were "very useful," 3 respondents reported that the statistical support "was somewhat useful," and one person did not rate the helpfulness. Comments about the statistical support received were consistently positive, as exemplified by the following:

- "We submitted a grant that received a poor score for the analysis section (unfortunately, we did not consult Dr. Schifano prior to submitting it). The recent consultation that we had with her will allow us to have a much stronger analysis section in our grant resubmission."
- "Dr. Schifano has gone well above and beyond to attend to the specific statistical needs of my dissertation. As well, her expertise has allowed us to pursue directions that were not possible for us prior to working with her."
- "This is the best part of CHIP!"

(See Appendix 9 on pages 96-100 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. Forty-four of the 80 respondents indicated that they had attended at least one CHIP Lecture Series presentation in the past year, and 30 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-four (40.7%) of those respondents indicated that the presentations were "very useful" to their research, 33 (55.9%) responded that the presentations were "not at all useful." The comments about the Lecture Series were generally very positive and included the following:

- "Love the lecture series. Great speakers."
- "In general, these presentations have been very useful and have been presented well."
- "I was able to talk to researchers with a similar research agenda."
- "I really like how the CHIP Lecture Series is offered online. Thank you."
- "Very informative one talk inspired a huge project I plan to start soon."

(See <u>Appendix 2 on pages 54-55</u> for a list of CHIP Lecture Series presentations.)

CHIP's Pre-Award and Post-Award Grant Services

Services that are critical to obtaining grants and managing them once awarded are pre-award and post-award grant services. A total of 21 (26.3%) out of 80 survey respondents indicated that they had utilized CHIP **pre-award** services one or more times during the past year. Of the 21 respondents who used these services, 20 (95.2%) respondents indicated that the services were" very useful," and one (4.8%) responded that the services were "somewhat useful;" none of the respondents indicated that the services were "not at all useful."

Twenty (25.0%) out of 80 respondents indicated that they had used **post-award** grant services in the past year. Of the 20 respondents who used these services and rated their usefulness, 18 (90.0%) respondents reported that the services were "very useful," and 2 (10.0%) 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:

- PRE-AWARD: "I could not submit grants as readily without the assistance of the CHIP admin team. They save me a lot of time and stress by assisting with the entire pre-award process."
- PRE-AWARD: "This is ESSENTIAL to getting grants done. I cannot say enough about how much this helps me. I am so appreciative of the expertise and attention by the folks at CHIP."
- PRE-AWARD: "They were absolutely terrific it was such a pleasure to have such competent work done. I felt like the staff was really up-to-date on grant requirements, etc. This was in striking contrast to similar work done within some other academic departments."
- POST-AWARD: "I have a degree in psychology, not accounting, and no mind for business. I really appreciate these folks."

- POST-AWARD: "The grants management team allows me to focus on the science and spend a minimum amount of time on the important post-award grants management. They are a very competent team and do a tremendous job."
- POST-AWARD: "They are extremely useful. The excellent staff at CHIP is the most important reason for being affiliated with CHIP."

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 costand time-efficiently as possible. Seventeen (21.3%) of 80 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. Fifteen (88.2%) of these 17 respondents rated these services as "very useful," one (5.9%) rated them as "somewhat useful," and one person did not answer the question. Examples of comments made about these services are the following:

- "Susan Hoge is exceptional at what she does. She provides the expertise to ensure that things are done accurately, and she is easy to work with. She is organized and efficient, and she takes pride in her work. CHIP is lucky to have her."
- "Excellent! Susan is great on all tasks, and she has a great style when interacting with CHIP PIs."

Eighteen (22.5%) respondents reported utilizing CHIP's travel services on at least one occasion in the past year. Of these 18 respondents, 17 (94.4%) rated the travel services as "very useful," one (5.6%) rated them as "somewhat useful," and no one indicated that they were "not at all useful." The comments made about travel services were consistently positive:

- "Jill Finley is very detail-oriented and organized, and she makes sure that travel is done accurately."
- "Jill is wonderful to work with. We are lucky to have her."

A total of 24 respondents indicated receiving assistance with purchasing on at least one occasion in the past year. Twenty-three (95.8%) of these respondents rated CHIP's purchasing services as "very useful," one (4.2%) as "somewhat useful," and no one rated them as "not at all useful." An example of the types of comments made on the survey about purchasing services is the following:

• "Melissa Stone is extremely competent at her job and is easy to work with. She has gotten very good at finding creative ways to meet the needs of a research project, and that is greatly appreciated."

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 change needs of CHIP PIs has become an absolute necessity.

Of 80 survey respondents, 19 (23.8%) indicated they were assisted with IT issues one or more times in the past year. Of these respondents, 14 (73.7%) indicated that the IT services they received were "very useful," and 5 (26.3%) reported that the services were "somewhat useful." Some examples of the comments provided on the survey are the following:

- "IT at CHIP is the best in the land. You guys are AWESOME!! Thanks for everything you do!"
- "Sam was very helpful in designing figures for a publication that met specific journal requirements."

(For a complete list of CHIP services and who is eligible for them, see <u>Appendix 9 on pages 96-100</u>.)

CHIP Website

Questions were included in the survey to assess how frequently people visited the CHIP website in the past year, the areas of the website they most frequently visited and found to be most useful, and how navigable they regarded the

website. All but 6 (9.1%) of 66 respondents indicated visiting the website at least "a couple of times during the past year," with 36 (54.6%) respondents visiting the website between 2 and 6 times, and 24 (36.3%) 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 sections visited by the largest numbers of respondents were the following: CHIP Lecture Series (75.0%), CHIP Directory (60.7%), CHIP Event Calendar (48.2%), CHIP Research Areas (37.5%), CHIP Research Resources (26.8%), and External Funding Opportunities (23.2%). The three sections of the website that respondents regarded as the most useful were the CHIP Lecture Series (61.5%), CHIP Directory (46.2%), and CHIP Event Calendar (28.8%).

When asked to rate how" easy or difficult" it was to navigate the CHIP website and find what they need, 22 (37.3%) of 59 respondents said that it was "very easy" to navigate the website, 26 (44.1%) reported that it was "somewhat easy," 10 (16.9%) rated it as "neither easy nor difficult," and one (1.7%) individual 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 \$100 million to study the dynamics of health behavior and health risk behavior within specific populations and to develop interventions to reduce risk behaviors and support healthy behaviors.

At present, CHIP has \$48.6 million in active grants across all years in the following health domains: alcohol and substance use, autism, cancer, complementary and alternative approaches to medicine, diabetes, dissemination and implementation science, exercise science, global health, health disparities, HIV/AIDS, obesity, sexual risk behavior/ reproductive health, and treatment adherence and retention in care.

(A list of the active CHIP grants for FY14 is provided in <u>Appendix 8 on pages 88-95</u>).

A brief description of each health domain follows.

Alcohol and Substance Use

CHIP alcohol and substance use research includes risk reduction interventions for injection drug users, interventions addressing alcohol-related HIV risk behaviors and alcohol-related obstacles to antiretroviral medication adherence in various target populations, and identifying psychosocial factors related to the physical and mental health – including substance use outcomes – of African American families. 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, a study exploring gender differences in addictive behaviors among returning veterans, 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 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.

Autism

CHIP's autism research addresses several critical topics in the field, from early detection to novel interventions to parental training. Examples 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; 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; and 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.

Cancer

CHIP cancer research has grown to include a broad spectrum of topics in cancer prevention and control. Previously, CHIP had focused on quality-of-life issues for cancer survivors and on 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 new line of cancer prevention research involves evaluating the effectiveness of new graphic cigarette warning labels on cigarette packages that are intended to discourage tobacco use. Other current research include: a study that uses both experimental and survey methods to examine the effects of media portrayals of smoking on adolescents' smoking behavior; studying cancer susceptibility profiles in young African American adults and the development of a theoretical model of psychological and physiological stress response pathways to markers of cancer; 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 African American women and in Native American communities in the southern New England region.

Complementary and Alternative Approaches to Medicine

CHIP's work on complementary and alternative approaches to medicine includes the development of a translational tool that will allow researchers to explicitly describe and compare their yoga interventions as well as to implement appropriate control groups in clinical trials. This project is particularly significant because although evidence suggests yoga benefits both physical and mental health, researchers have yet to compare various styles of yoga and assess specific components — such as breathing, poses, or a teacher's approach — to identify what works most effectively. CHIP researchers are also conducting a preliminary clinical trial to examine the dose-dependent effects of yoga on stress reduction and improved diet and exercise.

CHIP researchers are also exploring the linkage between religiousness/spirituality (R/S) and physical health. They will study the effects of several dimensions of R/S on biomarkers of cardiac functioning and mortality in congestive heart failure patients. While there is evidence that R/S can improve health, to date, little research has explored the physiological links though which this may occur.

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. In addition, CHIP researchers are working with urban community pharmacies in Connecticut to train and certify pharmacists to provide comprehensive medication therapy management to targeted underserved patient populations with diabetes and hypertension.

Dissemination and Implementation Science

Dissemination and Implementation research recognizes the increasing and unacceptable gap between research and practice, and is designed to advance the dissemination and implementation (D&I) of evidence-based health promotion interventions and disease prevention innovations. In addition to sponsoring lectures by internationally known speakers on the topic of D&I, CHIP hosts several web-based resources (see links below). These resources include fact sheets about UConn-developed dissemination-ready health innovations; measurement instruments; archived lecture materials; and the "D&I Measurement Compendium," a white paper written by CHIP researchers that provides investigators with a synthesis of validated measurement tools designed to assess D&I-related constructs. CHIP also encourages and provides services to support grants and research studies that have dissemination and implementation components, consulting with researchers regarding relevant D&I frameworks and providing feedback during the writing process.

Dissemination and Implementation researchers at CHIP have a variety of opportunities to collaborate with faculty at UConn Health and with the CICATS/PORT partner organizations, including the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating

Research into Practice and Policy, the Center for Public Health and Health Policy, the Department of Community Medicine & Health Care, the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, the Institute for Community Research, and the Hispanic Health Council.

Exercise Science

CHIP investigators from UConn's top-ranked Kinesiology Department have grants covering a broad range of exercise science areas. One area is exercise genomics, which involves studying how genetic variations influence the effects of exercise on health outcomes, such as blood pressure, and on muscle size and strength. Other lines of exercise science research at CHIP involve studying the effects of statins, a class of cholesterol-lowering drugs, on muscle function; exercise as an intervention for hazardous drinking among college students, for non-treatment seeking adults with alcohol disorders, and for cocaine abusers; and the use of prize incentives to promote physical activity in HIV-positive substance abusers and weight loss in college students. CHIP researchers are also studying the immediate aftereffects of aerobic versus ischemic handgrip exercises on blood pressure and vascular function; the role of acute and chronic ingestion of whey protein on the body's response to resistance training; metabolic and hormonal responses to foods low in carbohydrates; whether the level of fat in milk affects the efficacy of plant sterols in the milk to lower cholesterol; the adaptability of the modern soldier to a multitude of different demands and environments, and the implications for physical performance and resilience; the effectiveness of exercise-based injury prevention programs for middle-school children; how apparel plays a role in sports performance and travel stress; and how different nutritionals can impact exercise recovery.

Global Health

Researchers at CHIP design, implement, evaluate, and disseminate theory-based, but highly practical, health behavior change interventions for at-risk populations around the world. Nearly 29 percent (\$14.0 million) of active CHIP grant funds budgeted in FY14 involved health behavior change interventions designed or adapted for populations in other countries, with sustainability in mind and with the potential to save countless lives. Currently, CHIP PIs are conducting research in, or have submitted grants to do so, in Albania, China, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Mozambique, Pakistan, and Thailand, and they have completed work in India, Russia, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine, and Vietnam. CHIP's research portfolio in Africa is especially large, comprising approximately \$23.9 million in active grants across all years since FY02.

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 involves 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 intervention 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; addressing childhood obesity in African American and Latino preschoolers in Hartford; studying disparities in HPV vaccine completion; and examining 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, as well as safe sex, nutrition, and exercise habits.

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 HIV uninfected and HIV-positive populations, creating interventions to improve antiretroviral medication adherence, performing meta-analyses of existing HIV interventions to determine which ones are most effective, enhancing STI/HIV partner notification in South Africa, developing a mobile phone app to help prevent HIV/STIs, and designing and field testing a theory-based intervention to address food insecurity and improve antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence among men and women living with HIV.

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 Behavioral 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 the U.S.

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: working with parents and pediatricians in Hartford to address childhood obesity in children as young as two years of age; 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; involving spouses or partners in weight loss efforts; analyzing the impact of food advertisements and public service announcements (PSAs) on child and teen eating habits and weight; pilot research to understand possible paternal influences on childhood obesity; pilot research to understand the potential of infant sleep training to positively affect new mothers' sleep and, consequently, postpartum exercise and weight loss patterns; a longitudinal study on the effects of stressors, buffers, and the media on outcomes including obesity among African Americans; a CHIP-funded pilot study to develop a virtual health coach app to address recurrent binge eating among college students.

Sexual Risk Behavior/Reproductive Health

CHIP research on 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; enhancing partner notification around potential HIV/STI exposure in South Africa; the development of a mobile phone app for preventing HIV and other STIs; and 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.

Treatment Adherence and Retention in Care

In the realm of treatment adherence and retention in care, CHIP's work includes a novel software program to increase HIV-positive patients' adherence to antiretroviral medications; a theory-based, cell phone-delivered HIV medication adherence counseling intervention; an intervention to promote retention in care and medication adherence during the first year of HIV treatment; 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; and a health maintenance program that increases the ARV adherence behavior and reduces the risky sexual behavior of soldiers and spouses with HIV who attend military healthcare facilities in Ethiopia.

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.

K. CHIP Seed Grant Competitions

In FY14, CHIP continued its internal seed grant competition program, which provides pilot and seed grant resources to investigators to stimulate new research in health behavior and health behavior change at UConn of the type and quality that is likely to lead to external funding. Historically, some of CHIP's largest and most successful external grants were made possible because their funding proposals were strengthened by critical pilot data collected with the support of these annual seed grant competitions. As of May 2014, for each seed grant dollar awarded by CHIP, \$97 in total costs in external grant dollars were applied for as a result of a directly related pilot project, and \$40 in total costs in external grant dollars were ultimately awarded.

This year's faculty seed grant competitions were focused around three health domains of strategic importance to CHIP: obesity prevention, electronic health/mobile health (eHealth/mHealth), and cancer prevention and control. The obesity and eHealth/mHealth competitions were open to CHIP Affiliates appointed at the Storrs or regional campuses and offered awards of \$15,000 each. The UConn Health-UConn Storrs Seed Grant Funding in Cancer Control, a new program launched this year, required two PIs working collaboratively - one from UConn Health and one from UConn Storrs or a regional campus - for awards of up to \$35,000 each. Each of these faculty seed grant competitions was co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; the Cancer Control competition received additional co-sponsor funding from the Dean of the School of Medicine.

The Graduate Student seed grant competition was open to CHIP Graduate Student Affiliates who study at UConn Storrs or a regional campus and offered awards of \$1,500 apiece.

A description of each of these seed grant competitions appears below. For copies of the calls for proposals, please see <u>Appendix 5 on pages 73-80</u>.

- **CHIP Seed Grants for Obesity Research:** These grants provide funds to support new research initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications submitted through CHIP in the areas of obesity prevention and control, with a focus on health behavior and health behavior change. CHIP is committed to supporting research in obesity, nutrition, and physical activity that translates effective behavior change programs to at-risk individuals.
- CHIP Seed Grants for eHealth/mHealth Research: These grants provide funds to support new research initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications submitted through CHIP in the areas of eHealth/mHealth, with a focus on health behavior and health behavior change. eHealth/mHealth refers to the use of mobile technologies, social media, web-based interventions, sensors, and other new technologies to assess and modify health behavior.
- UConn Health-UConn Storrs Seed Grant Funding in Cancer Control: The goal of this competition is to foster cancer control health behavior research collaborations across campuses and disciplines by providing funding for seed grants to be awarded to dual PI teams of researchers from the Storrs and UConn Health campuses. The goal of this initiative is to fund pilot work that will facilitate the submission of grant proposals to the National Cancer Institute.
• **CHIP Seed Grants for Graduate Student Research:** These grants provide funds to support new research initiatives and pilot work by graduate students in the areas of health behavior and health behavior change

The call for proposals for each of these seed grant competitions were advertised widely during the fall and winter through the CHIP listserv, through the appropriate CHIP Research Interest Groups, and on other listservs across the appropriate campuses. Each competition received a strong response, with funding available for only 10-20% of the faculty competition proposals and less than 50% of the graduate student competition proposals. Reviews were conducted during the spring, and funds were awarded before the end of the fiscal year.

Grant Review Process for CHIP Seed Grant Competitions

An important component of the CHIP seed grant competitions is mentorship. All qualifying proposals – whether they are funded or not – receive mentoring reviews from a review committee that adheres to a rigorous, NIH-style review process. Each proposal is assigned one primary and one or two secondary reviewers who consider the proposal's overall impact as well as its performance in a number of criteria: significance, investigators, innovation, approach, environment, and human subjects considerations. For the graduate student seed grant proposals, in addition to the faculty reviewers, one or two qualified graduate students are invited to participate on the review committee as reviewers; this mentoring opportunity allows them to learn about the grant review process and how to write fundable grants.

For the obesity, eHealth/mHealth, and graduate student competitions, a review meeting was held in which the primary and secondary reviewers, in turn, give their initial scores and reviews, followed by group discussion and final scoring. The review committees were charged with making funding recommendations, taking into account the review discussions as well as the project's likelihood of obtaining future external funding, its responsiveness to the call for proposals, and its relevance to CHIP's mission. CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher reviewed the committees' recommendations and made final funding decisions, consistent with CHIP's budget. The resulting reviews provided to applicants contained summaries of the proposals' strengths and weaknesses, as well as guidance on how to improve the proposal for subsequent external review.

Grant Review Process for UConn Health-UConn Storrs Seed Grant Funding in Cancer Control

A review committee of six faculty with extensive research experience from UConn Storrs and UConn Health were selected to review the seed grant proposals. In addition, a director of a cancer center with expertise in cancer prevention and control was invited to review each seed grant application for (1) the relevance of the proposed research to priority funding areas in the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Division of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and (2) its competitiveness with respect to future NCI funding. The UConn reviewers also rated the proposals on relevance as well as on overall impact, significance, investigators, innovation, approach, and environment. Each proposal was reviewed by a primary reviewer, one or two secondary reviewers, and the external reviewer.

The Adjudication Committee, comprised of two faculty/researchers from UConn Storrs/CHIP and two faculty/researchers from UConn Health, read all of the proposals as well as the reviews of the proposals. They then met to discuss the ratings and feedback, and reach consensus on the top three proposals. Their recommendations for the proposals that should be funded were communicated to Vice President for Research Jeff Seemann, Ph.D.; Dean of the School of Medicine Frank Torti, M.D., M.P.H.; and CHIP Director Jeff Fisher, Ph.D.

In FY14, the review committees for each of the seed grant competitions consisted of the following individuals:

Seed Grant Competition	Review Committee Chair	Review Committee Members
CHIP Seed Grants for Obesity Research	Kim Gans (Ph.D., Brown University, becoming CHIP PI and UConn faculty in Fall 2014)	CHIP Affiliate Robert Astur (PhD., Psychology); CHIP PI Valerie Duffy (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences); CHIP Affiliate Judith Fifield (Ph.D., R.N., Medicine); CHIP Affiliate Amy Mobley (Ph.D., R.D., Nutritional Sciences); Diane Quinn (Ph.D., Psychology)

CHIP Seed Grants for eHealth/ mHealth Research	CHIP PI Rivet Amico (Ph.D., CHIP)	CHIP Affiliate David Atkin (Ph.D., Communication); CHIP Affiliate Saraswathi Bellur (Ph.D., Communication); CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology); CHIP PI John Christensen (Ph.D., Communication); CHIP Affiliate Debarchana Ghosh (Ph.D., Geography)
UConn Health- UConn StorrsAdjudication Committee: CHIP Affiliate Meg Gerrard (Ph.D., Psychology/CHIP); CHIP Affiliate Cheryl Oncken (M.D., M.P.H., Medicine); CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP); Lori Bastian (M.D., M.P.H. Medicine)		UConn Faculty Reviewers: CHIP Affiliate Lance Bauer (Ph.D., Psychiatry); CHIP PI Deborah Fein (Ph.D., Psychology); CHIP PI Rick Gibbons (Ph.D., CHIP/Psychology); Anne Kenny (M.D., Medicine); CHIP Affiliate Mark Litt (Ph.D., Behavioral Sciences and Community Health); Susan Reisine (Ph.D., Behavioral Sciences and Community Health) External Reviewer: Mark Dignan (Ph.D., Director, Prevention Research Center, Markey Cancer Center, University of Kentucky College of Medicine)
CHIP Seed Grants for Graduate Student Research	CHIP PI Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP)	UConn Faculty Reviewers: CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology); CHIP Affiliate Alicia Dugan (Ph.D., Medicine); CHIP PI Lisa Eaton (Ph.D., Human Development and Family Studies); CHIP Affiliate Tania Huedo-Medina (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences); CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology) Graduate Student Reviewers: CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate Garrett Ash (M.S., Kinesiology); CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate Jennifer Pellowski (M.A., Psychology)

Results of CHIP Seed Grant Competitions

In Spring 2014 CHIP made two awards of \$15,000 each in the eHealth/mHealth competition, one award of \$15,000 in the Obesity competition, five awards of \$1,500 each in the Graduate Student competition, and three awards of \$35,000 each in the Cancer competition:

CHIP Seed Grants for eHealth/mHealth Research (\$15,000) – Awarded in April 2014

- CHIP Affiliate Hart Blanton, Department of Psychology "Proof of Concept of Videogame Delivery of Graphic Health Warnings"
- CHIP PI Deborah Cornman, CHIP "Development of Mobile Phone Application to Address Recurrent Binge Eating"

CHIP Seed Grants for Obesity Research (\$15,000) – Awarded in April 2014

• CHIP PI Linda Pescatello, Department of Kinesiology "A Firefighter Physical Test & Training Program for Cardiovascular Health"

UConn Health-UConn Storrs Seed Grant Funding in Cancer Control (\$35,000) – Awarded in June 2014

- CHIP Affiliate Keith Bellizzi, Department of Human Development and Family Studies & Pam Taxel, MD, Department of Medicine "Exercise, Bone and Cardiovascular Health in Breast Cancer Survivors"
- CHIP Affiliate Lisa Holle, Department of Pharmacy Practice & Joel Levine, Department of Medicine "Pharmacist Intervention in Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative (PICCSI)"
- CHIP PI Crystal Park, Department of Psychology & CHIP Affiliate Andrea Orsey, Department of Pediatrics "Improving Quality of Life for Pediatric Cancer Patients and Parents Through Yoga"

CHIP Seed Grants for Graduate Student Research (\$1,500) – Awarded in April 2014

- Maninderjit Kaur, Department of Kinesiology "Yoga Intervention in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Advisor: CHIP PI Anjana Bhat (Ph.D., Kinesiology)
- Hayley MacDonald, Department of Kinesiology "Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Current Exercise Prescription Recommendations for Hypertension: A Meta-Analysis" Advisors: CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) and CHIP PI Blair Johnson (Ph.D., Psychology)
- J. Luke Pryor, Department of Kinesiology "Effectiveness of Intermittent Heat Exposure to Maintain Heat Acclimation" Advisor: CHIP Affiliate Carl Maresh (Ph.D., Kinesiology)
- Roman Shrestha, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care
 "Developing an Evidence-Based Intervention Targeting High-Risk Migrant Workers" Advisor: CHIP PI Michael Copenhaver (Ph.D., Allied Health Sciences)
- Emily Tuthill, School of Nursing "Exclusive Breastfeeding Promotion among HIV-Positive Women: A Theory-Based Approach" Advisor: CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., CHIP)

The abstract for each of these new seed grant projects is provided below.

CHIP Seed Grants for eHealth/mHealth Research

CHIP Affiliate Hart Blanton (Ph.D., Psychology) - "Proof of Concept of Videogame Delivery of Graphic Health Warnings"

The aim of this project is to provide a "proof of concept," in order to help justify extramural support of a large-scale, online intervention project targeting adolescents and young adults. Our preliminary research supports the use of entertainment videogames as a medium for delivering graphic health warnings. We have demonstrated that when gamers become psychologically immersed in videogame environments (i.e., when they come to experience gaming events as if they are real), they also become more susceptible to social influence, including influence from graphic health warnings they encounter in gaming worlds. We plan to build on this research by launching large-scale, randomized controlled intervention trials in which we embed graphic health warnings in popular, commercially available games. We plan to conduct one such intervention using the videogame, Counter-Strike. Counter-strike is a first-person, social network shooter video game that is available online, attracting over 2 million unique users in any given month. This game is designed using open-access code, and interested programmers can host variants of the game on their own servers. We plan to seek extramural support to create two alternative "worlds" of game play on our own server – one that includes background graphic health warnings (e.g., antismoking, anti-DUI) and one that does not. We will then track the health attitudes and behavior of gamers over time to determine if virtual health messages influence real-world health decisions. Before we can seek funding for such a novel intervention, we need to (1) establish our ability to build a gaming server that attracts many users, (2) show that we can conduct surveys of the gamers we attract and use the data we collect, and (3) document baseline health risks of our gamers to focus the intervention (and identify the best funding agency). The proposed research will pursue these three goals.

CHIP PI Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) - "Development of Mobile Phone Application to Address Recurrent Binge Eating"

Binge Eating Disorder (BED) is the most prevalent eating disorder diagnosis, and it is strongly associated with obesity and elevated risk for medical/psychiatric co-morbidity. Because college students are at high risk for eating disorders in general and the onset of BED typically happens in the late teens to early twenties, creating interventions for college students may be a very effective way to address BED. Mobile phone technology provides a novel and efficient means of reaching large numbers of college students, the vast majority of whom have smartphones. The overall goal of this study is to explore the usability, feasibility, and acceptability of using mobile smartphone technology (i.e., a smartphone app) to help college students with subthreshold BED to learn how to identify and manage their triggers for binge eating and thus improve their self-regulatory skills. The first portion of the proposed study will involve conducting formative research to identify the triggers for binge eating episodes and the strategies for preventing those episodes among college students with subthreshold BED. The formative research will consist of (1) focus group discussions with 50 University of Connecticut students with subthreshold BED to identify the triggers of binge eating behavior and the facilitators of healthy eating, and (2) the completion of electronic daily diaries by 50 students, in which they document their binge eating behavior and the triggers to those behaviors over a 4-week period. The second portion of the study will consist of using the data from the formative research to develop a pre-Alpha version of a smartphone app that college students can use to identify and understand their patterns of binge eating behavior and ultimately to learn a variety of strategies they can use to help prevent them from engaging in binge eating. Because of the limited budget, it is unlikely that a fully functioning app will be developed by the end of the study, but an app that is fully developed on paper with input from college students (the users) on its potential feasibility, acceptability, and utility will occur. Additional grant funding will then be sought to make the app fully functional so that it can be implemented and evaluated in a future randomized controlled trial.

CHIP Seed Grants for Obesity Research

CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) - "A Firefighter Physical Test & Training Program for Cardiovascular Health"

Sudden cardiac death (SCD) is the number one cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities in the US, largely due to cardiovascular disease (CVD). About 77-90% of firefighters are overweight to obese and 71% are physically inactive, both major CVD risk factors. Therefore, the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative (WFI), established by the International Association of Fire Fighters and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, has mandated that all fire departments develop physical fitness and health promotion programs. Unfortunately, most fire departments lack such programs, including the University of Connecticut (UConn) Fire Department. We propose as our primary aim to pilot test a job-specific, physical fitness testing and training and health promotion program offered on-duty to improve the physical and mental health of UConn firefighters. We hypothesize that a job-specific, physical fitness testing and training and health promotion program offered on-duty will improve the physical and mental health of UConn firefighters. We will pilot test a wellness-fitness program named, FITT CHIP (A Firefighter Physical Fitness Testing & Training Program for Cardiovascular Health & Job Performance), among UConn firefighters (n= 26) who are 40 years old on average and mostly white (100%) men (88%). FITT CHIP will consist of an on duty exercise training program offered 2 days per week for 45 min per session for 12 weeks - one day of traditional fitness tasks, and the second day of job-specific, functional tasks combined with an educational series on physical activity, healthy eating, and stress management. Before and after FITT CHIP and at 12-week follow-up, firefighters will complete measures of cardiovascular health and traditional, health-related and job-specific, functional physical fitness and questionnaires on physical activity, nutrition, and mental health. FITT CHIP is innovative in its interdisciplinary, holistic approach to designing and implementing a wellness-fitness program mandated by WFI that accommodates the unique physical demands and environmental, financial, and time constraints of firefighter work. Results will provide preliminary data for an extramural application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Prevention & Safety Grants in 2015.

UConn Health-UConn Storrs Seed Grant Funding in Cancer Control

CHIP Affiliate Keith Bellizzi (Ph.D., M.P.H., Human Development and Family Studies) & Pam Taxel (M.D., Medicine) - "Exercise, Bone and Cardiovascular Health in Breast Cancer Survivors"

Breast cancer is the leading type of cancer among women in the U.S. with almost 232,670 new cases to be diagnosed in 2014, joining the 3 million women currently living with the disease. The use of aromatase inhibitors (Als) in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive breast cancer is now considered the new standard of care because of its effect on recurrence rates and survival. However, women treated with Als are at increased risk for bone loss (first year is the period of the most rapid bone loss), which can lead to osteoporosis and fractures later in life. In recent years, increased attention is being paid to the role of lifestyle modifications for improving health outcomes in breast cancer survivors. This study is a randomized controlled trial of 50 postmenopausal women with hormone-receptor (ER/PR) positive tumors who have received primary treatment for localized breast cancer and currently scheduled to receive adjuvant Al therapy. The primary goal is to examine the impact of a 6-month resistance exercise intervention on musculoskeletal health (i.e., BMD, Turnover markers, Vitamin D level),

cardiovascular health risk factors (i.e., BP, heart rate, BMI, waist circumference), and HRQOL in postmenopausal women treated with adjuvant hormone therapy for breast cancer. This research begins to fill a significant gap in current empirical evidence about the influence of moderate intensity resistance training program on the management of adverse treatment-related health outcomes of endocrine therapy use in postmenopausal women with breast cancer. If we detect meaningful differences between the intervention group and control group, findings can be used to develop and implement a large multisite randomized controlled trial of resistance exercise in breast cancer and perhaps other cancers where hormone therapy is being used.

CHIP Affiliate Lisa Holle (Pharm.D., Pharmacy Practice) & Joel Levine (M.D., Medicine) - "Pharmacist Intervention in Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative (PICCSI)"

The current paradigm of colorectal cancer (CRC) risk assessment/screening has not been optimally effective at reaching the underserved. We propose a novel model of care, the Pharmacist Intervention in Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative (PICCSI), which utilizes community pharmacists to increase awareness of CRC risk factors and cancer-screening tests and to offer a cost-effective colon cancer-screening test, the fecal immunochemical test (FIT), with follow-up to assure its completion in Medicaid or uninsured populations. Because economically disadvantaged consumers frequent pharmacies and pharmacists are well-respected healthcare professionals, we predict that they can provide an effective role in CRC detection (by increasing access and compliance to screening) and towards disease prevention. We will use in-store advertising, community targeted outreach, and diverse media sources to increase public knowledge and participation. In this demonstration, we will utilize an independent pharmacy chain with historic presence in inner city communities and known as a local leader in providing innovative pharmacy services in underserved populations. FIT results will be analyzed and communicated to patients by the UConn Health's Colon Cancer Prevention Program; follow-up colonoscopy testing will be offered if FIT is positive. A baseline and post-intervention design will be used whereby the percentage of participants adequately assessed/screened before PICCSI (using national standards for adequate screening) will be compared to those assessed/screened during the PICCSI period. Similarly, baseline versus post-intervention knowledge of CRC will be compared. Similar to our previous immunization work in the State of Connecticut, we believe this pilot data will allow this initiative to be expanded statewide beyond the evaluative period and for all Medicaid patients.

CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology) & CHIP Affiliate Andrea Orsey (M.D., MSCE, Pediatrics) - "Improving Quality of Life for Pediatric Cancer Patients and Parents through Yoga"

Increasingly effective treatments for pediatric cancer have dramatically increased survival rates, but children receiving chemotherapy often experience high levels of psychological distress, sleep disturbance, fatigue and reduced quality of life (QOL). In addition, childhood cancer may impact parents by reducing the QOL of caregivers and placing a burden of care on parents. Effective interventions are needed to mitigate these treatment sequelae and allow survivors and their families to fully enjoy the full promise of cure. Yoga is increasingly proving beneficial in improving distress, pain, sleep and QOL in adult cancer patients, suggesting it offers an effective, low-cost, and highly disseminable complementary treatment. However, only a few small pilot studies have examined the efficacy (e.g., reduced pain and anxiety, improved cognition, QOL) of yoga therapy for pediatric cancer patients and their families. The proposed project will examine feasibility and preliminary efficacy of a yoga intervention once per week for eight weeks in the pediatric oncology unit at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. The study has 2 parts: (1) a survey of children and parents/guardians regarding preferences, experiences and expectations regarding yoga (including barriers and convenient times), (2) an eight-week clinical trial of 10 pairs of children and parents/guardians. To enhance adherence and reinforcement of benefits across the home and medical environment, children and a parent/guardian will co-participate. Targeted outcomes of the clinical trial are questionnaires to assess, fatigue and QOL, sleep quantity and quality (actigraph-measured), and caregiver burden. Our findings will provide important feasibility data (interest accrual rates, adherence barriers and solutions, institutional support and resource commitment) and preliminary efficacy data (including effect sizes for calculating power) for a R01 to conduct a randomized controlled trial.

CHIP Seed Grants for Graduate Student Research

Maninderjit Kaur (Psychology) - "Yoga Intervention in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders"

The rising prevalence rate of multisystem disorder autism, emphasizes the need for novel interventions to promote

better prognosis and outcomes for children with autism. In the proposed study, we will develop a yoga intervention including (1) yoga poses to promote physical well-being, (2) partner poses to promote social synchrony, (3) breathing and meditation to promote mental well-being, and (4) eye-gaze training, chanting mantras, and conversations to promote social interactions. Eight children with autism between 5- and 12 years of age will be delivered 16 training sessions over 8 weeks. Additional training will be delivered by the caregivers at their homes. The training-specific changes in motor, social communication, and behavioral skills of children with autism will be measured by assessing the early, mid, and late training sessions. The generalized changes will be assessed using standardized tests administered during a pre- and post-test session. We expect children with autism to improve their motor skills (i.e., imitation accuracy, time spent in social synchrony, flexibility, balance and strength), socialcommunication skills (i.e., rates of joint attention bids and verbalizations), and lastly behavioral skills (i.e., reduced rates of repetitive and negative behaviors post training). The proposed study will address the current gap in the literature by providing the first preliminary evidence for use of yoga training with children who have autism. Additionally, this preliminary study will create future opportunities for garnering funds to conduct large-scale studies in children with autism and other related developmental disorders such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD), Rett's Syndrome, etc. This research is also consistent with CHIP's mission of providing effective interventions to special populations such as children with autism.

Hayley MacDonald (Kinesiology) - "Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Current Exercise Prescription Recommendations for Hypertension: A Meta-Analysis"

The project bears the name SPIRE: Syntheses of Prevention Intervention Research in Exercise, and focuses on understanding what exercise prescription (Ex Rx) yields the greatest therapeutic benefit for lowering blood pressure (BP) for particular populations. Many randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and meta-analyses have been conducted to clarify the antihypertensive effects of exercise. We reviewed 33 meta-analyses published to date on exercise and BP and found: (1) meta-analyses have yet to confirm that the current recommended Ex Rx for individuals with hypertension is justified, (2) none have provided specifics about what Ex Rx optimally reduces BP, (3) none have determined for which clinical populations the antihypertensive effects of exercise are the clearest, and (4) none have investigated how the Ex Rx, sample clinical characteristics, and study features interact to modulate the BP response to exercise. Our review also revealed no meta-analysis had satisfied contemporary standards for methodological quality. Therefore, we propose as our primary aim to conduct a high-quality meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials evaluating the effectiveness of the current exercise prescription recommendations for hypertension to determine what combinations of patient characteristics and exercise dose elicit the greatest BP reductions. The proposed research will apply the most rigorous meta-analytic standards and innovative aggregatelevel techniques to RCTs on exercise and BP, isolating aspects of the Ex Rx and other dimensions of importance to public health and preventive medicine, especially sample characteristics (e.g., sex/gender, race/ethnicity, resting BP, body mass index, age) and study features (e.g., quality, region, supervision). Our use of high-quality, innovative meta-analytic techniques will allow for the most precise recommendations to date about the optimal Ex Rx to lower BP and for whom exercise works best as antihypertensive therapy. Thus, our team will identify not only the most trustworthy trends in results but also where knowledge is the weakest, enabling scholars to perform new trials in the most relevant research areas, and in turn, better inform clinical and research practice.

J. Luke Pryor (Kinesiology) - "Effectiveness of Intermittent Heat Exposure to Maintain Heat Acclimation"

Heat-related injuries are serious, sometimes catastrophic life-threatening problems that affect public safety workers (fire fighters, police), military personnel, and athletes of all ages. Heat acclimation (HA) reduces the risk of exertional heat-related injuries by enhancing heat dissipation mechanisms which mitigate thermal load, improve exercise heat-tolerance time, and may provide other important health-related benefits such as cardiovascular stability and reduced physiological strain in oppressively hot environments. However, these adaptations are transient and will decay over time if not maintained by frequent exposure to the heat. Few authors have investigated the decay of heat acclimation, often with unclear or conflicting findings between researchers. No study has focused on interventions aimed at maintaining the cardiovascular and thermoregulatory adaptations associated with HA. New scientific knowledge delineating methodological advances aimed at reducing heat-induced physiological stress addresses a critical gap in knowledge for continued protection against thermal injury, improving health outcomes. The proposed study aims to investigate the efficacy of a 25-day intermittent heat exposure (IHE) intervention designed to reduce the risk of thermal injury and physiological stress by maintaining the thermo-protective benefits

associated with HA. We will use a matched-pair semi-randomized design, to study changes over time in thermal, cardiovascular, and whole body (catecholamines, cortisol, extracellular heat shock protein 70 [HSP70], lactate) and cellular (intracellular HSP70) stress responses between those who receive the IHE and a no heat exposure comparison group. A standardized heat stress test will be administered before and after HA, and after the intervention period to assess the effectiveness of the IHE intervention. The findings of this research have the potential to improve the physical performance and health/safety of many occupational workers, impacting the broad society of public safety workers that protect our communities. Future studies may be required to refine the IHE protocol and explore application as a prevention modality in other populations such as the elderly and youth, who have reduced heat dissipation mechanisms.

Roman Shrestha (Community Medicine and Health Care) - "Developing an Evidence-Based Intervention Targeting High-Risk Migrant Workers"

The objective of this proposed study is to promote the development of an intervention to reduce HIV transmission risk among migrant workers in Nepal. In Nepal, migrant workers comprise the largest proportion of HIV infections, with 27% of the total estimated HIV infections attributed to this group. Although migrant workers in Nepal have been disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic, the development, implementation, and evaluation of HIV prevention interventions designed to reduce risk behaviors among migrant workers lag behind prevention efforts targeting other high-risk groups and locations. We propose the following specific aims:

- Specific Aim 1: We will adapt the Holistic Health Recovery Program (HHRP), an evidence-based HIV risk reduction behavioral intervention, for optimal use with high-risk migrant workers in Nepal (HHRP-N(epal)).
- Specific Aim 2: Using results from Specific Aim 1, we will conduct a pilot test of the intervention among the same target population.

The proposed research will take place in two phases. In the first phase, using the ADAPTITT model of intervention adaptation, we will adapt the original HHRP so that it will be optimally designed for implementation with the high risk migrant workers in Nepal. In the second phase, the adapted version of the intervention - HHRP-N - will be subjected to a randomized controlled pilot evaluation as an enhancement to the existing services provided to high-risk migrants at Aasaman Nepal, a local NGO in Nepal. Sixty high-risk migrant workers with a recent history of HIV risk behavior will be randomized to either (1) the newly adapted HHRPN intervention condition or (2) the treatment-as-usual control condition. Based on the Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills model of health behavior change, primary outcomes will be HIV risk reduction knowledge, motivation, behavioral skills, and HIV transmission risk behavior. This pilot study will allow us to finalize an intervention manual and study procedures that are crucial for future implementation and evaluation of the intervention on a larger scale.

Emily Tuthill (Nursing) - "Exclusive Breastfeeding Promotion among HIV-Positive Women: A Theory-Based Approach"

In 2011, approximately 330,000 children were newly infected with HIV worldwide as a result of mother-to- child transmission (MTCT). Over 90% of these infections occurred in South Africa. HIV represents the main cause of maternal mortality in South Africa and accounts for over 50% of deaths in children under 5 years old. Exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) has been identified as a key intervention to reduce MTCT of HIV and improve infant health. Although breastfeeding by mothers living with HIV carries a risk of HIV transmission from mother-to-child, that risk decreases from 42% to 2% with the practice of EBF and appropriate antiretroviral therapy. The mechanism by which EBF is associated with lower MTCT of HIV is not fully understood, but it is believed to maintain the gastrointestinal barrier, which is thought to be the primary site of infection. The multiple benefits of EBF in protecting infants from MTCT and providing optimal nutrition while protecting them against diarrheal and respiratory illness compared to other feeding methods are significant. Given the overwhelming evidence illustrating these benefits, in 2010, the World Health Organization updated their infant feeding guidelines to recommend that in limited-resource settings, HIV- positive mothers engage in EBF for the first 6 months of their infant's life. However, despite increased resources devoted to promoting EBF in programs focused on preventing MTCT of HIV, it remains a rare practice. In South Africa, 76% of HIV-positive mothers feed their infants a combination of breast milk, cow milk, and porridge by 3 months, and approximately 25% introduce water within the first 3 days of the infant's life. Using the Information, Motivation, and Behavioral Skills (IMB) model of health behavior change as the theoretical and conceptual

framework, the proposed study aims to change prevalent non-EBF practice through a well-targeted IMB-model based intervention. First, the most prominent IMB barriers to mothers with HIV practicing EBF will be identified, and then this data will be used to inform the design of an IMB-model based intervention to address those barriers to EBF behavior using motivational interviewing techniques. Rigorous evaluation will occur to evaluate the impact of the intervention on EBF-relevant information, motivation, behavioral skills factors, and EBF practice at 6-week follow-up. The proposed study contributes an innovative and practical approach to help eliminate MTCT of HIV through utilizing a well-established and empirically proven model that has been successfully implemented to decrease other types of HIV risky behavior in South Africa. This contribution constitutes a critical step in meeting the 2011-2015 Millennium Development Goals established by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session.

L. Externally-Funded Research Initiatives by CHIP Principal Investigators (as of May 15, 2014)

Through May 15, 2014, CHIP Principal Investigators had submitted 55 external grant applications comprising \$48.5 million in total costs, \$32.0 million in direct costs, and \$16.5 million in indirect costs during FY14. These grant applications proposed innovative multidisciplinary research activities in a wide range of health domains including alcohol and substance use, autism, cancer, complementary and alternative approaches to health, diabetes, exercise science, health-related dissemination and implementation science, HIV/AIDS, obesity and nutrition, sexual risk behavior, and treatment adherence and retention in care.

(A list of the submitted grants, their funding agencies, and the total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs associated with each is contained in <u>Appendix 7 on pages 83-87</u>. Those grants that were newly funded in FY14 can be found in <u>Appendix 1 on pages 52-53</u>, with brief summaries of some of the new grant awards provided in <u>Research Objective 2</u> on pages 7-9).

For actual research expenditures in FY14, there was \$8.86 million in total costs expended on CHIP external grants, \$6.41 million in direct costs, and \$2.45 million in recovered indirect costs. This represents a 581% increase in the past 12 years, from \$1.03 million in FY02 to \$8.86 million in FY14.

(For a current list of CHIP Active and Awarded Grants, see <u>Appendix 8 on pages 88-95</u>.)

For financial summaries of expended CHIP grant total costs, direct costs, and indirect costs over the last several fiscal years, see Figures 1-3 immediately below.



Figure 1: Actual Total Costs Per Year Expended on CHIP External Grants



Figure 2: Actual Direct Costs Per Year Expended on CHIP External Grants

Figure 3: Actual Indirect Costs Per Year Recovered from CHIP External Grants





Figure 7: Distribution of Number of Current CHIP grants by Department (Out of 76 Total Active Grants as of May 15, 2014)

Figure 8: Distribution of Current CHIP Grant <u>Dollars</u> by Department (Total Costs Across All Years of 76 Active Grants as of May 15, 2014)



M. 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.

This year, CHIP external grants funded 60 graduate students across multiple departments. Total yearlong graduate student funding from CHIP grants was \$568,152.

Below are featured highlights of graduate student research involvement (most of which is multidisciplinary) and accomplishments in FY14:

- Garrett Ash (Kinesiology) has been the graduate student coordinator for a new project entitled, "Cardiometabolic Signatures Associated with Obesity, Hypertension and Their Response to Exercise: A Pilot Study" supported by a Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (CICATS) Core Interest Group Award to CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology).
- **Dalnim Cho** (Psychology) has been involved in a randomized controlled study, working with CHIP PI Crystal Park (Ph.D., Psychology), testing the efficacy of a newly developed mail-based intervention for breast cancer survivors, which is funded by the National Cancer Institute.
- Ji Yeon Jung (Kinesiology) has been working on the "Generating Reductions in Pressure (GRIP)" study under Dr. Pescatello. This study consists of a randomized controlled trial with adult women and men in the early stages of hypertension, comparing the immediate and long-term effects of isometric handgrip and aerobic exercise on blood pressure and central arterial stiffness in order to (1) advance the effectiveness of exercise to prevent, treat and control hypertension, and (2) provide insight into mechanisms for the antihypertensive effects of exercise. Ji Yeon has also been involved with the "Mind Body Approaches to Stress Management in the first Year of College (TUFF)" study under Dr. Park, which is examining the extent to which a group of first-year UConn women change in terms of stress, psychological well-being, and health from pre- to post- intervention through an 8-week intervention of yoga or stress management compared to a control group.
- Erin Lenz (Psychology) is working as a Project Coordinator with CHIP PI Amy Gorin (Ph.D., Psychology) in the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, Groton, CT on elicitation work to inform the development of a more comprehensive weight management intervention for Naval personnel and their families that is responsive to the unique needs of this population, that builds on the existing obesity literature, and that specifically addresses the environmental barriers faced by service members both at sea and at home. Erin is also working as a Student Investigator/Project Coordinator with Dr. Gorin to coordinate all aspects of a multi-part, longitudinal study examining whether different types of social support and autonomous self-regulation are related to each other and to weight-related health behavior change in overweight and obese college students, and whether binge eating and/or weight cycling are predictors of poorer weight loss goal progress in college students at UConn.
- Hayley MacDonald (Kinesiology) has been actively involved with the "Generating Reductions in Pressure (GRIP)" study under the supervision of graduate project coordinator Garrett Ash and Dr. Pescatello. She is also a member of the "Studies of Prevention, Intervention Research in Exercise (SPIRE)" team and is actively involved with the "Blood Pressure and Exercise Meta-Analysis Project," where she is the graduate student project coordinator. Hayley is the lead investigator for the meta-analyses that are being conducted to examine the influence of aerobic exercise training and dynamic resistance training on blood pressure.
- Jennifer Pellowski (Psychology) is currently involved in research with CHIP PI Seth Kalichman (Ph.D., Psychology), working on several projects that focus on people with HIV who have low literacy. Research areas being examined include the impact of health behaviors on adherence as well as determining the critical factors for achieving optimal outcomes in a medication adherence intervention.

- **Kristen Riley** (Kinesiology) has been actively involved with work on the NIH/NCCAM-funded "Essential Properties of Yoga Questionnaire Study" with Dr. Park. This is an ongoing project identifying the aspects of yoga that create changes/benefits in mental and physical wellbeing.
- Lisa Rusch (Kinesiology) is working with Dr. Pescatello on her CHIP Obesity Seed Grant award entitled, "A Firefighter Test & Training Program for Cardiovascular Health."
- **HyunGyu Suh** has taken the lead on study coordination for the "Mind Body Approaches to Stress Management in the First Year of College (TUFF)" study under Dr. Park. The TUFF study will examine the extent to which a group of first-year UConn women change in terms of stress, psychological well-being, and health from pre- to post- intervention as a function of an 8-week intervention of yoga or stress management compared to a control group.
- Emily Tuthill (Nursing) received additional funding from the American Nurses Foundation and an Eastern Nursing Research Society Dissertation Award for her project, "Exclusive Breastfeeding Promotion Among HIV+ Mothers: A Theory-Based Approach," for which she received the prestigious National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health, as reported in last year's CHIP Annual Report. CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., CHIP) and Jackie McGrath (Ph.D., Nursing) are supervising on this project.

Of special significance, **Rebecca Ferrer**, a graduate of UConn's Social Psychology doctoral program who was affiliated with CHIP and mentored by CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher during her studies at UConn, returned to UConn during the spring of 2014, as a CHIP lecture speaker on "Affective Science Perspectives on Cancer Prevention and Control Decision-Making." Additionally, Dr. Ferrer led a well-attended meeting of CHIP's Cancer Research Interest Group, discussing funding opportunities available at the National Cancer Institute, where she now works as a health scientist and Program Director of the Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch of the Behavioral Research Program.

N. CHIP Administration

During FY14, the CHIP Administrative Team consisted of Director Jeffrey Fisher (Ph.D., Psychology); Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP); Susan Hoge, Executive Assistant I; Vasinee Long, Grants and Contracts Specialist I; AnnMarie White (hired December 13, 2013), Grants and Contract Specialist I; Christopher Tarricone, Computer Technical Support Consultant III; Samuel Salorio, Computer Technical Support Consultant I; Joshua Hardin, Computer Technical Support Consultant I; Melissa Stone, Financial Assistant II; Jill Finley, Financial Assistant I; Donna Hawkins, Program Assistant I; Alicia Dugan, Research Associate; Jennifer Wang, University Specialist (Program Coordinator & Boundary Spanner, hired September 16, 2013); Elizabeth Acosta, part-time University Specialist (Administrative Support, hired April 15, 2014), and Samantha Libby, part-time University Specialist (Dissemination Support, hired February 7, 2014); Stacey Leeds, part-time University Specialist (Facilities and Other Administrative Suport); Beth Krane, part-time University Specialist (Dissemination Support); and Kathleen Moriarty, part-time University Specialist (Grants Management) Specialist. In addition, CHIP continued to have the support of up to four part-time undergraduate students throughout the fiscal year.

During FY14, there were multiple staffing changes that occurred on the Administrative Team for a variety of reasons, such as medical leaves, separations, resignations, and the reorganization of CHIP's infrastructure. Vasinee Long began medical leave in June and, unfortunately, was unable to return to work which resulted in the hiring of AnnMarie White. Beth Krane resigned on July 11, 2013, Alicia Dugan left her position on October 31, 2013 to accept a faculty position at UConn Health, and Stacey Leeds separated from CHIP on December 31, 2013, As a result of those changes, CHIP hired Jennifer Wang, Samantha Libby, and Elizabeth Acosta, and made some internal reassignment of duties to accommodate those staffing changes. Samuel Salorio resigned on April 7, 2013 to accept a new position in the private sector, and Joshua Hardin was hired to replace him. Jill Finley resigned on May 30, 2014 to accept a promotional opportunity in the Department of Nursing, and she is being replaced by recently hired Lynne Hendrickson. The CHIP administrative staff continues to operate as a highly competent administrative team that has vast experience with and expertise in business operations, research development, and grants management.

(A list of current CHIP administrative tasks and the people responsible for each of them is included in <u>Appendix 4 on</u> pages 71-72, and the CHIP Organizational Chart is shown in <u>Appendix 10 on page 101</u>.)

O. CHIP 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 several 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 over \$100 million in total costs in new grants.

The current CHIP research facility provides office space for 16 faculty members, Ph.Ds., and post-docs; 13 research associates; 8 Center staff members; 18 graduate student researchers; and 22 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, research staff, 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, Communication, Computer Engineering, Kinesiology, Psychology, Statistics, 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.

A change was made to the CHIP facility this year that consisted of bisecting a large office on the second floor which originally housed four staff into two offices. One of these offices will house new CHIP PI Kim Gans, who is joining UConn from Brown University in the fall of 2014.

P. 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, 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.

Fiscal year 2014 was the fourth full year of operation for CHIP AITC. During FY14, CHIP AITC served multiple clients, including faculty and graduate students, and produced several useful deliverables for each client:

• UConn's Digital Media Department contracted with CHIP AITC to collaborate in the production of an interactive exhibit for the Boston Children's Hospital.

- CHIP AITC continued 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.
- CHIP AITC personnel produced additional 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 (NSI)-funded research project entitled, "CREATIV: Asynchronous Communication, Self-Organization, and Differentiation in Human and Insect Networks."
- CHIP AITC personnel continued to work on Dr. Marsh'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. In addition, CHIP AITC staff continued working on an NSF-funded grant for Engineering Professor Peter Luh (grant PI) and Dr. Marsh (grant Co-Investigator). This grant is investigating numerical models of psychological factors influencing crowd behavior in evacuation scenarios.
- CHIP AITC staff began work on two projects with PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication). The first is a pilot
 project to explore the concept of providing support to individuals through interactive devices and mobile apps.
 The second project is a psychosis education project in collaboration with Vinod Srihari of Yale University, with
 funding from the National Institute of Mental Health.

(To learn more about the CHIP AITC, including some of its active projects during FY14, please see <u>Appendix 11 on</u> pages 102-103. Note that at the end of FY 2014, CHIP AITC was closed because of duplication in the services it provided with the University-supported, much larger and well-capitalized Digital Media Department.)

Q. Public Engagement

In FY14, CHIP participated in the following public engagement activities in pursuit of its long-range goals of sharing its expertise, and educating and mentoring students, researchers, and community members.

- CHIP Associate Director Deborah Cornman (Ph.D., CHIP) continued to serve on UConn's Office of Global Affairs Advisory Board, which makes recommendations about the allocation of Office of Global Affairs resources and is currently working on the development of a strategic plan. She also continued to represent UConn/CHIP on Yale University's Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA)'s Executive Committee, which meets monthly to provide guidance and oversight to CIRA. Lastly, Dr. Cornman made a presentation on March 5, 2014 entitled, "HIV/AIDS: A Global Perspective," to UConn students in a Learning Community class who were learning about community service.
- The "Thinking Big about Obesity" workshop (discussed in <u>Section H on pages 22-23</u>) that was held on April 28, 2014 was an educational and networking event open to UConn researchers as well as community organizations interested in obesity research. Organizations and institutions outside of UConn that participated included the Eastern Highlands Health District (based in Mansfield), Family Life Education (based in Hartford), Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, University of St. Joseph, Brown University, Harvard University, and Yale University.
- CHIP's multidisciplinary Research Interest Groups and the *CHIP Lecture Series* are notable additional venues through which CHIP engages researchers, students, and professionals from other institutions as well as the community. More detail on these programs are provided in <u>Section H (pages 22-25)</u> and <u>Section E, Research Objective 5 (pages 12-13)</u>, respectively.

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

• CHIP PI Thomas Buckley's (M.P.H., Pharmacy) public engagement activities can be categorized into two areas of health disparities research: health service delivery to Cambodian American genocide victims, and community pharmacy's role in delivering innovative services to urban communities with striking health disparities. His work with Khmer Health Advocates in West Hartford has demonstrated the health outcomes and policy implications of delivering intensive medication management to high-risk, socially isolated Cambodian Americans through cross-cultural teams of pharmacists and community health workers. This work was included as part of the

White House Initiative on Asian American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Integrated Care Policy, and is being developed as part of an integrated behavioral health home for Connecticut's health reform model. His work as PI for the pharmacy initiative of the CT Department of Public Health chronic disease grant from CDC involves training and coordinating inner city pharmacists to deliver comprehensive medication management services to underserved patient populations. This is a follow-up endeavor to his grant project of last year demonstrating how urban pharmacists significantly increased pneumococcal and influenza immunization rates to African American and Hispanic communities through the use of innovative patient engagement strategies.

- CHIP PI Lindsay DiStefano (Ph.D., Kinesiology) presented at a congressional briefing held by the National Youth Sports Health and Safety Institute and the American College of Sports Medicine in Washington, DC, on "Movement and Injury Risk." Dr. DiStefano was also involved in a CPTV Documentary titled, "Going, going, gone: The Decline of Youth Sports in America." In addition, she gave a presentation, "ACL Injury Prevention," to the AAU Girls' Basketball organization "Connecticut Attack."
- CHIP PI Linda Pescatello (Ph.D., Kinesiology) continued her involvement in many professional associations, boards, and councils, and this year became a member of the Health Sciences Advisory Board at Eastern Connecticut State University.
- CHIP PI Leslie Snyder (Ph.D., Communication) engaged various audiences in discourse on food marketing. Examples include a presentation at the National Cancer Institute's Health Communication & Informative Research Branch Cyber-Seminar Series on "Impact of Food Ads & PSAs on Child & Teen Eating & Obesity Across Media Markets," and a presentation to UConn's Nutrition department on "The Extent and Effects of Food Marketing on Children and Teens." Additionally, her students completed two projects as part of a service learning course she taught: (1) Communication campaign plans for the promotion of early treatment for psychosis among college students. Client: The Specialized Treatment for Early Psychosis Clinic at Yale University; and (2) Communication campaign plans for the awareness and prevention of dating violence on campus. Client: Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center.
- 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.
- CHIP Director Jeffrey Fisher (PH.D., Psychology) served on the Board of Directors of Clover, an international organization which provides free child care and education to extremely poor children who live in the slums of Kampala, Uganda.

R. Conclusion

In summary, FY14 at CHIP has been notable for the launch of several new initiatives designed to invigorate multidisciplinary research and collaboration in several domains targeted for strengthening, while continuing to excel in traditional domains in which CHIP has been strong. CHIP also continued to provide exemplary research support services. CHIP is well poised upon entering FY15 to serve as the nexus for UConn investigators researching the latest advances in health and wellness for the benefit of Connecticut and beyond.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: New CHIP Grants Awarded in FY14 (May 16, 2013 – May 15, 2014)

APPENDIX 1: New CHIP Grants Awarded FY14 (May 16, 2013 - May 15, 2014)									
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	Total Direct Costs Awarded	Total Indirect Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title
Buckley, Thomas	РНР	\$454,215	\$287,475	\$166,740	5	7/1/13	6/30/17	СТ ДРН	State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health - Pharmacy Initiative
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$506,000	\$401,588	\$104,412	1	7/1/11	6/30/14	DOD/DPHAPP	Prevention with Positives and Gender-Based Violence Projects in Mozambique 2013-14
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$97,677	\$87,939	\$9,738	1	3/1/14	6/30/14	DOD/DPHAPP	Prevention with Positives and Gender-Based Violence Projects in Mozambique (Supplement)
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$66,835	\$42,300	\$24,535		7/1/13	6/30/14	NIH/NIMH/Yale	Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA)
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$400,000	\$254,927	\$145,073	1	11/8/13	11/7/14	DOD/DPHAPP	Increasing Healthy Behavior among PLWHA in Military Settings in Ethiopia FY 13-14
DiStefano, Lindsay	KIN	\$150,000	\$137,006	\$12,994	2	7/1/13	6/30/15	Charles H. Hood Foundation, Inc	Pediatric Sports Injury Prevention: Monitoring Changes Over Time
Duffy, Valerie	AHS	\$424,148	\$281,407	\$142,741	5	9/1/13	8/31/18	NIH/ UCHC	Taste, Preferences, and Behavior: Effects of Nicotine and Flavorings in Electronic Cigarettes
Eaton, Lisa	HDF	\$526,434	\$333,186	\$193,248	2	2/1/14	4/30/15	NIH/NIMH	Serosorting Intervention for HIV Negative MSM (SUPPLEMENT)
Eaton, Lisa	HDF	\$328,273	\$207,768	\$120,505	5	6/1/13	3/31/18	NIH/NIDA/ Pittsburgh	Understanding Delayed Access to HIV Prevention Services among Blank MSM
Gibbons, Frederick	PSY	\$141,989	\$89,866	\$52,123	4	3/1/14	2/28/18	NIH/ University of Georgia	Social Determinants of Inflammation and Metabolic Syndrome among African Americans
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	1	12/1/13	6/30/14	UCHC/CICATS	Thinking Big about Obesity: Building Team Science Initiatives at UConn and UCHC
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$58,444	\$36,990	\$21,454	2	6/1/13	3/31/15	NIH/CCMC	Early Childhood Obesity Prevention: Building Healthier Families and Communities

APPENDIX 1: New CHIP Grants Awarded FY14 (May 16, 2013 - May 15, 2014)									
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	Total Direct Costs Awarded	Total Indirect Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title
Kalichman, Seth.	PSY	\$959,850	\$607,500	\$352,350	3	9/15/13	8/31/16	NIH/NIAAA	Influence of Food Insecurity on Adherence
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$150,029	\$99,360	\$50,669	1	2/01/14	1/31/15	NIH/NIDA	Behavioral Intervention to Enhance HIV Test/Treat (ITM2) (Supplement)
Kraemer, William	KIN	\$401,783	\$275,399	\$126,384	1	7/1/13	6/30/14	Private Corporation	Project: Performance and Recovery
Kraemer, William	KIN	\$55,634	\$37,735	\$17,899	1	8/23/13	5/31/14	Private Corporation	Effects of on Skeletal Muscle Efficiency During Resistance Exercise
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$320,172	\$207,838	\$112,334	2	9/1/13	6/30/15	NIH/NCCAM Massachusetts General Hospital	Preliminary Study of a Yoga Program to Catalyze Health Behavior Change
Park, Crystal; Gutierrez, Ian	PSY	\$106,078	\$71,028	\$35,050	2	9/1/13	8/31/15	NIH/NCCAM	Development of a Translational Tool to Study Yoga Therapy (Supplement to Promote Diversity)
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$24,480	\$24,480	\$0	1	12/1/13	6/30/14	UCHC	Cardiometabolic Signatures Associated with Obesity and Hypertension and Their Response to Exercise: A Pilot Study
Snyder, Leslie	СОМ	\$705,404	\$446,459	\$258,945	5.0	9/26/13	8/31/14	NIH/Yale	STEP-In: Reducing the Duration of Untreated Psychosis by Adding Early Detection to Specialty First-Episode Care in the U.S. Public Sector
TOTAL ACTIVE GRANTS AWARD	20	\$5,907,455	3,960,251	1,947,194					

<u>Department</u>:

AHS Allied Health Sciences

CHP CHIP

CHP CHIP COM Communication HDF Human Development and Family Studies KIN Kinesiology PHP Pharmacy Practice PSY Psychology

APPENDIX 2: CHIP Lecture Series 2013-14

Date	Speaker	Title / Topic	Lecture Co-Sponsors*
09/12/13	Beth Parker University of Hartford	"Are Marathons Dangerous? Updates and Insights from the 2010-2012 Boston Marathon Studies"	
09/19/13	Jamie Arndt University of Missouri	"At the intersection of Self, Health, and Death: Implications from a terror management health model"	UConn Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies
10/10/13	Melicia Whitt-Glover Friends Research Center, MD	"It Takes a Village: Strategies for Changing Physical Activities in Communities"	CHIP PI Amy Gorin; UConn Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies
10/17/13	Brian Mustanski Northwestern University	"Translational behavioral science research on young male couples and sexual health: From mechanisms to interventions"	UConn Dept. of Psychology
10/24/13	Shyam Sundar Penn State University	"Emphasizing the Self in Health Communication: Message and Medium Factors"	UConn Dept. of Communication
11/07/13	Mark Hatzenbuehler Columbia University	"Structural Stigma and the Health of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations"	CHIP PI Blair Johnson; UConn Dept. of Psychology; UConn Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies
11/14/13	Randall Jorgensen Syracuse University	"A Bio-psychosocial Synergistic Perspective of Cardiovascular Disease"	CHIP PI Blair Johnson; UConn Dept. of Kinesiology
12/05/13	Marlene Schwartz Yale University	"Improving Children's Nutrition with Strategic Science"	CHIP PI Amy Gorin; UConn Dept. of Psychology
01/30/14	Judith Auerbach UCSF	"Social Science Perspectives on HIV Treatment as Prevention"	
02/20/14	Linda Cameron University of California - Merced	"The Self-Regulation of Health and Illness Behavior: Implications for Cancer Control"	CHIP PI Meg Gerrard; UConn Dept. of Kinesiology; UConn Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies

Date	Speaker	Title / Topic	Lecture Co-Sponsors*
02/27/14	Valerie Duffy University of Connecticut	"Can We Assess Health Behaviors by Simply Asking Liking/Disliking? Evidence from Dietary-Based Studies"	
03/06/14	Sarit Golub Hunter College	"Rethinking Risk: Psychological Perspectives on Biomedical HIV Prevention"	
03/27/14	Rebecca Ferrer National Cancer Institute	"Affective Science Perspectives on Cancer Prevention and Control Decision-making"	
04/03/14	Lisa Aspinwall University of Utah	CHIP Lecture Series on Genomics and Health Behavior "Genetic Testing and the Proactive Management of Familial Melanoma Risk"	Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine; UConn Institute for Systems Genomics
04/10/14	Tim Bickmore Northeastern University	"Automated Health Counselors for Underserved Populations"	
04/17/14	Suzanne Mitchell Boston University School of Medicine	"Women in Control: Virtual World Diabetes Self-Management Education for African American Women with DM"	
04/24/14	John Mangano ComScore	"Pixels, Patients and Prevention: How Patients Use The Internet to Manage Their Health"	
05/01/14	Linda Pescatello University of Connecticut	 CHIP Lecture Series on Genomics and Health Behavior LECTURE: "Why Don't My Designer Jeans Fit? It's Because of My Genes!" WORKSHOP: "Overcoming the Hurdles to Designing Personalized Approaches to Lifestyle Risk Reduction Strategies" — with panelists Deborah Fein, Brenton Graveley, Marc Lalande, and George Weinstock 	Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine; UConn Institute for Systems Genomics; UConn Department of Kinesiology

* The CHIP Lecture Series is supported in part by the Office of the Vice President for Research

APPENDIX 3: CHIP PIs and Faculty/Researcher Affiliates (as of June 5, 2014)

Principal Investigators (PIs)

K. Rivet Amico, PhD Research Scientist, **CHIP**

Anjana Bhat, PhD Associate Professor of Kinesiology

Thomas E. Buckley, MPH Associate Clinical Professor of **Pharmacy Practice**

John Christensen, PhD Assistant Professor of **Communication**

Michael M. Copenhaver, PhD Associate Professor of Allied Health Sciences

Deborah H. Cornman, PhD Associate Director of CHIP Research Scientist, CHIP

Dean Cruess, PhD Professor of **Psychology**

Lindsay J. DiStefano, PhD, ATC Assistant Professor of **Kinesiology**

Valerie B. Duffy, PhD Professor of **Allied Health Sciences**

Lisa Eaton, PhD Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

Deborah Fein, PhD Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of **Psychology**

Frederick Gibbons, PhD Professor of **Psychology**

Amy Gorin, PhD Associate Professor of **Psychology**

Ofer Harel, PhD Associate Professor of **Statistics**

Blair T. Johnson, PhD Professor of **Psychology**

Seth C. Kalichman, PhD Professor of **Psychology** William Kraemer, PhD Professor of **Kinesiology** Professor of Medicine, **Center on Aging**

Kerry L. Marsh, PhD Associate Professor of **Psychology**

Crystal L. Park, PhD Professor of **Psychology**

Linda S. Pescatello, PhD Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Kinesiology

Elizabeth D. Schifano, PhD Assistant Professor of **Statistics**

Merrill Singer, PhD Professor of **Anthropology**

Leslie B. Snyder, PhD Professor of **Communication** Director of the **Center for Health Communication & Marketing**

Jeff Volek, PhD Professor of **Kinesiology**

CHIP Research Affiliates

UConn College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kari Adamsons, PhD Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

V. Bede Agocha, PhD Assistant Professor of **Psychology** and **African-American Studies**

Jorge Aguero, PhD Assistant Professor of **Economics**

Robert S. Astur, PhD Associate Professor of **Psychology**

David A. Atkin, PhD Professor of **Communication**

Haim Bar, PhD Assistant Professor of **Statistics**

Keith M. Bellizzi, PhD, MPH Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

Saraswathi Bellur, PhD Assistant Professor of Communication Mary Bernstein, PhD Professor of **Sociology**

Hart Blanton, PhD Associate Professor of **Psychology**

Preston A. Britner, PhD Professor, Associate Department Head of **Human Development and Family Studies**

Robert Broadhead, PhD Professor Emeritus of **Sociology**

Edna Brown, PhD Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

Ross Buck, PhD Professor of **Communication** and **Psychology**

Simon Cheng (Hsu-chih), PhD Associate Professor of **Sociology**

Carl A. Coelho, PhD Professor of **Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences**

Mary Crawford, PhD Emerita Professor of **Psychology and Women Studies**

Amanda Denes, PhD Assistant Professor of Communication

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

Inge-Marie Eigsti, PhD Associate Professor of **Psychology** Pamela I. Erickson, PhD Professor of **Anthropology and Community Medicine**

Meg Gerrard, PhD Research Professor of **Psychology**

Debarchana Ghosh, PhD Assistant Professor of **Geography**

Sara Harkness, PhD, M.P.H. Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

Idethia Shevon Harvey, DrPH, MPH Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

Sangwook Kang, PhD Assistant Professor of **Statistics** Kristin A. Kelly, PhD Associate Professor of **Political Science**

Lynn Kuo, PhD Professor of **Statistics**

Kenneth Lachlan, PhD Associate Professor of Communication

Carolyn Lin, PhD Professor of **Communication**

Stephanie Milan, PhD Associate Professor of **Psychology**

Nancy A. Naples, PhD Professor of **Sociology** Director, **Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

Nairan Ramirez-Esparza, PhD Assistant Professor of **Psychology**

Stephen L. Ross, PhD Professor of **Economics**

Beth S. Russell, PhD Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies

David Simon, PhD Assistant Professor of **Economics**

Alice E. Veksler, PhD Graduate Faculty of **Communication**

James Watt, PhD Professor Emeritus of **Communication**

Jun Yan, PhD Associate Professor of **Statistics**

Chaunrong (Cindy) Zhang, PhD Associate Professor of **Geography**

UConn College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Ben Campbell, PhD Assistant Professor of **Agricultural and Resource Economics** Extension Economist

Ock Chun, PhD Associate Professor of **Nutritional Sciences**

Chad Cotti, PhD Associate Professor of **Agricultural and Resource Economics** Pouran Faghri, MD, MS, FACSM Professor of Health Promotion and Allied Health Sciences

Maria-Luz Fernandez, PhD Professor of **Nutritional Sciences**

Tania Huedo-Medina, PhD Assistant Professor of **Biostatistics, Allied Health Science**

Tricia M. Leahey, PhD Associate Professor of Allied Health Sciences

Amy R. Mobley, PhD, RD Assistant Professor of **Nutritional Sciences**

UConn School of Business

Narasimhan Srinivasan, PhD Associate Professor of **Marketing**

UConn - Neag School of Education

Lawrence E. Armstrong, PhD Professor of **Kinesiology** Melissa Bray, PhD Professor of **Educational Psychology**

Jennifer E. Bruening, PhD Professor of **Educational Leadership** Director of **Husky Sport** Deputy Director for Public Health Practice, **Center for Public Health and Health Policy**

Susan S. Glenney, PT, DPT Assistant Clinical Faculty in Residence of **Kinesiology**

Michael Joseph, PhD Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

Brian Kupchak, PhD Assistant Clinical Professor of Kinesiology

Elaine Choung-Hee Lee, PhD Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

Carl Maresh, PhD Distinguished Professor and Department Head of **Kinesiology** Director of the **Human Performance Laboratory**

Stephanie M. Mazerolle, PhD Assistant Professor of Kinesiology Director, Entry-Level Athletic Training Education

James M. O'Neil, PhD Professor of Educational Psychology and Family Studies Psychology Jaci VanHeest, PhD Associate Professor of Kinesiology

Ana Lourdes Volek, PhD Assistant Research Professor of Kinesiology and Extension

UConn School of Engineering

Song Han, PhD Assistant Professor of **Computer Science and Engineering**

UConn School of Nursing

Elizabeth H. Anderson, PhD Associate Professor of **Nursing**

Xiaomei Cong, PhD Associate Professor of **Nursing**

Colleen Delaney, PhD, AHN-BC, RN Associate Professor of **Nursing** Coordinator, **Graduate Community Health Track**

Deborah McDonald, PhD, RN Associate Professor of **Nursing** Patricia J. Neafsey, PhD Professor Emeritus of **Nursing** (Pharmacology)

Kelley Newlin Lew, DNSc, ARNP-C, CDE Assistant Professor of **Nursing**

Deborah A. Shelton, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CHHP, FAAN Professor of **Nursing** Director, **Center for Correctional Health Networks**

Jennifer Casavant Telford, PhD Assistant Professor of Nursing and History

Thomas J. Van Hoof, MD, EdD Associate Professor of **Nursing**

UConn School of Pharmacy

William L. Baker, PharmD Assistant Professor of **Pharmacy Practice**

Robin Bogner, PhD Associate Professor of **Pharmacy Practice**

Michelle L. Breland, PhD Assistant Professor of **Pharmacy Practicechild**

Megan J. Ehret, PhD Associate Professor of **Pharmacy Practice** Lisa Holle, PharmD, BCOP Assistant Clinical Professor of **Pharmacy Practice**

Michael Nailor, MD Clinical Associate Professor of **Pharmacy Practice**

Jayashri Sankaranarayanan, PhD Associate Professor of **Pharmacy Practice**

Diana M. Sobieraj, PharmD Assistant Professor of **Pharmacy Practice**

C. Michael White, PhD Professor and Head of **Pharmacy Practice**

UConn School of Social Work

Linda K. Frisman, PhD, MEd, NCC Research Professor of **Social Work** Senior Research Scientist, **Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services**

Michie N. Hesselbrock, PhD Emeritus Professor of **Social Work**

Brenda Kurz, PhD Associate Professor of **Social Work**

Cristina Mogro-Wilson, PhD Assistant Professor of **Social Work**

Cheryl A. Parks, PhD Associate Dean for Research and Professor of **Social Work**

Lisa Werkmeister Rozas, PhD Associate Professor of **Social Work**

UConn Health, School of Dental Medicine

Marie Latortue, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical Research, Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences

Julie A. Wagner, PhD Associate Professor of **Behavioral Sciences and Community Health**

UConn Health, School of Medicine

Danielle Barry, PhD, MPH Assistant Professor of **Medicine**, **Calhoun Cardiac Center**

Lisa C. Barry, PhD, MPH Assistant Professor, Center on Aging

Lance Bauer, PhD Professor of **Psychiatry** Marcella H. Boynton, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow, **Department of Community Medicine and Health Care**

Molly Brewer, DVM, MD, MS Professor of **Obstetrics and Gynecology**

Michelle M. Cloutier, MD Professor of **Pediatrics** Director of **Asthma Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center**

Emil Coman, PhD Research Associate, Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy

Ellen K. Cromley, PhD Adjunct Assistant Professor of **Community Medicine and Health Care**

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

Carolyn Drazinic, MD Assistant Professor of **Psychiatry/Genetics**

Ann M. Ferris, PhD Professor of **Nutritional Sciences** Professor of **Community Medicine and Health Care** Director of the **Center for Public Health and Health Policy**

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

Richard H. Fortinsky, PhD Professor of **Medicine**, Center on Aging

Bruce E. Gould, MD Professor of **Medicine** Associate Dean for **Primary Care**

David I. Gregorio, PhD, MS Professor, **Department of Community Medicine and Health Care** Director of **Graduate Program in Public Health**

Victor M. Hesselbrock, PhD Professor of **Psychiatry** Scientific Director of the Alcohol Research Center

Yifrah Kaminer, MD, MBA Professor of **Psychiatry**, Alcohol Research Center

Susan M. Kiene, PhD Assistant Professor of **Community Medicine and Health Care** Zita Lazzarini, JD, MPH Associate Professor of **Community Medicine and Health Care**

Mark D. Litt, MD Professor of **Behavioral Sciences**

Karina Lora, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Public Health & Health Policy

Renee Manworren, PhD, APRN, BC, PCNS-BC, FAAN Nurse Scientist, **Connecticut Children's Medical Center** Assistant Professor of **Nursing**, **Medical School** Assistant Professor of **Nursing**, **UConn School of Nursing**

Christine Ohannessian, PhD Director, Children's Center for Community Research, **Connecticut Children's Medical Center** Visiting Associate Professor of **Pediatrics**

Cheryl Oncken, MD, MPH Professor of **Medicine & OBGYN**

Andrea Orsey, MD, MSCE Assistant Professor of **Pediatrics** Attending Physician, **Connecticut Children's Medical Center**

Joel S. Pachter, PhD Professor of **Cell Biology**

Nancy M. Petry, PhD Professor of **Psychiatry**

Jack Ross, MD Adjunct Professor of **Infectious Diseases, Hartford Hospital**

Juan C. Salazar, MD, MPH Associate Professor and Chair of **Pediatrics** Interim Physician in Chief, **Connecticut Children's Medical Center**

Melissa Santos, PhD Pediatric Psychologist/Clinical Director, **Connecticut Children's Medical Center**

Stephen L. Schensul, PhD Professor of Community Medicine and Health Care

Adam Silverman, MD Leader, Global Healthcare Project, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Paul R. Skolnik, MD, FACP, FIDSA Professor and Chair, Department of **Medicine**

Helen Swede, PhD Assistant Professor of **Epidemiology and Biostatistics** Howard Tennen, PhD Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Community Medicine

Paul D. Thompson, MD Professor of **Medicine** Director of **Cardiology, Hartford Hospital**

Minakshi Tikoo, PhD Assistant Professor of **Community Medicine and Health Care**

Keith A. vom Eigen, MD, PhD, MPH Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Zhu Wang, PhD Assistant Professor of **Medicine** Senior Biostatistician of Research, **Connecticut Children's Medical Center**

Andrew Winokur, MD, PhD Professor of **Psychiatry**

William Zempsky, MD, MPH Director, Pain and Palliative Medicine, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

CHIP – University of Connecticut

William D. Barta, PhD Associate Research Scientist and **Nursing** Research Analyst

Demetria Cain, MPH Research Assistant II, **Psychology**

Alicia Dugan, PhD Research Associate, CHIP

Carolyn Lagoe, MA Research Specialist, CHIP

Sarah A. Lust, PhD Research Associate I, **Psychology**

Brown University - Providence, RI

Kate C. Carey, PhD, Professor of **Behavioral and Social Sciences**

Michael P. Carey, PhD Professor of **Behavioral and Social Sciences and Psychiatry and Human Behavior** Director, **Centers for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine, the Miriam Hospital**

Cynthia Rosengard, PhD Associate Professor of Research, **Behavioral and Social Sciences** School of Public Health and School of Medicine

Lori A. J. Scott-Sheldon, PhD Assistant Professor (Research), Centers for Behavioral & Preventive Medicine

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

College of the Holy Cross - Worcester, MA

Stephenie R. Chaudoir, PhD Assistant Professor of **Psychology** Associate Research Scientist, **CHIP**

Colorado State University - Fort Collins, CO

Jennifer Jill Harman, PhD Associate Professor of **Psychology**

Eastern Connecticut State University – Willimantic, CT

Carlos A. Escoto, PhD Professor of **Psychology** Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Coordinator

Institute for Community Research – Hartford, CT

Kim E. Radda, RN, MA Director of **Research Administration/IRB** Administrator

Jean J. Schensul, PhD Senior Scientist and Founding Director

Margaret R. Weeks, PhD Executive Director

John Hopkins School of Public Health – Baltimore, MD

Michelle R. Kaufman, PhD Research & Evaluation Officer, **Center for Communication Programs**

Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI

Douglas K. Hartman, PhD Professor of Literacy and Technology

Mount Sinai Hospital – New York, NY

Ashley M Fox, PhD Assistant Professor of **Health Evidence and Policy, Mount Sinai School of Medicine**

National Cancer Institute - Bethesda, MD

Rebecca Ferrer, PhD Program Director, **Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences**

North Carolina State University - Raleigh, NC

Karen Bullock, PhD, LCSW Associate Professor of **Social Work**

Ohio State University – Columbus, OH

Richard S. Bruno, PhD, RD Associate Professor of Human Nutrition

Ann A. O'Connell, PhD Associate Professor of **Educational Policy & Leadership**

Private Industry

Sarah Christie, MA

Mark R. Convey, MA

Sarah Diamond, PhD

Monika Doshi, MPH

Nathan Geffen, BS

Matthew Kostek, PhD

Joseph McManus, MPH

Mark Samos, MA

Thomas Taaffe, PhD

Saint Louis University – St. Louis, MO

Jeremiah Weinstock, PhD Assistant Professor of **Psychology**

Southern Connecticut State University - New Haven, CT

Jean M. Breny, PhD, MPH Associate Professor of **Public Health**

State University of New York (SUNY) - Purchase, NY

Anthony Lemieux, PhD Assistant Professor of **Psychology**

United State Food and Drug Administration – Rockville, MD

David B. Portnoy, PhD, MPH Social Scientist, Center for Tobacco Products

University at Albany School of Public Health – Albany, NY

Jennifer Manganello, PhD, MPH Associate Professor, Health Policy, Management, & Behavior

University of Alabama – Birmingham, AL

TaShauna Goldsby, PhD Postdoctoral Scholar, Division of Preventive Medicine Wynne E. Norton, PhD Assistant Professor of **Health Behavior**

University of Arkansas – Little Rock, AR

Ann M. Cheney, PhD Assistant Professor of **Psychiatry**

University of California, San Francisco

Judy Tan, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California San Francisco

University of Colorado—Boulder, CO

Angela Bryan, PhD Professor of **Psychology and Neuroscience**

University of Exeter Medical School - United Kingdom

Charles Abraham, PhD Professor of **Psychology**

University of Hartford – Hartford, CT

Jeffrey P. Cohen, PhD Associate Professor of **Economics**

Beth Taylor, PhD Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY

Thomas W. Miller, PhD Professor Emeritus of **Psychiatry**, College of Medicine

University of Saint Joseph

Katie S. Martin, PhD Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Public Health

University of South Carolina – Columbia, SC

Mark Macauda, PhD, MPH Practice and Placement Coordinator, Arnold School of Public Health

University of Toronto

Paul A. Shuper, PhD Independent Scientist, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

University of Virginia

Nicola Bulled, PhD Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Medicine

University of Western Ontario - London, Ontario, Canada

William A. Fisher, PhD Distinguished Professor of **Psychology**, and Obstetrics and Gynecology

University of Western Sydney – Sydney, Australia

Hudson Birden, PhD Senior Lecturer, University Centre for Rural Health, North Coast

Vanderbilt University - Nashville, TN

Chandra Y. Osborn, PhD Assistant Professor of **Medicine**

Wageningen University, Wageningen, the Netherlands

Marijn de Bruin, PhD Assistant Professor of **Communication Science**

Western New England University - Springfield, MA

Jason D. Seacat, PhD Associate Professor of **Psychology**

Yale University – New Haven, CT

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

Tatiana Andreyeva, PhD Director of Economic Initiatives, **Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity**

Ruth M. Arnold, PhD Associate Research Scientist, School of Medicine

John F. Dovidio, PhD Professor of **Psychology**

Gerald H. Friedland, MD Professor of **Medicine**, **Epidemiology**, and **Public Health** Director, **AIDS Program**

Jennifer L. Harris, PhD, MBA Senior Research Scientist, Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity

Michael J. Kozal, MD Assistant Professor of **Medicine**, Infectious Diseases

Sheryl LaCoursiere, PhD, RN Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Medical Informatics Godfrey D. Pearlson, MBBS, MD Professor of **Psychiatry and of Neurobiology** Center Director, **Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center**

Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PhD Professor of **Epidemiology** Director, **Center for Eliminating Disparities among Latinos**

Rebecca Puhl, PhD Senior Research Scientist, Deputy Director, **Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity**

Gwendolyn Thomas, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Medicine

Robin Whittemore, PhD, APRN Associate Professor of **Nursing**

APPENDIX 4: CHIP Business Office Functions and Responsibilities (as of June 30, 2014)

Business Office Function	1 st Staff Member	2 nd Staff Member
Accounts Payable/Out-of-Pocket Reimbursements (not exceeding \$499)	Melissa Stone	Lynne Hendrickson
CHIP Annual Report	Jennifer Wang	Deborah Cornman
CHIP Affiliation	Donna Hawkins	Jennifer Wang
CHIP Seed Grant Budgets/Expenses	Lynne Hendrickson	Melissa Stone
CHIP Seed Grant Pre-Submission/Applications	Jennifer Wang	Deborah Cornman
Communications and Marketing	Beth Krane	Jennifer Wang
Conference Room and Pod/Equipment Sign-Out	Donna Hawkins	Lynne Hendrickson
Facilities – Report Problems at CHIP	Donna Hawkins	Lynne Hendrickson
Facilities – New Space Requests	Donna Hawkins	Susan Hoge
Research Funding Dissemination & Opportunity Emails (weekly) & Custom Funding Searches	Jennifer Wang	Donna Hawkins
Grant Management (Pre-Award & Post-Award)	AnnMarie White	Melissa Stone
Human Resources/Personnel (Faculty & Staff)	Susan Hoge	Deborah Cornman/ Jeffrey Fisher
Inventory on Loan/ACT-40s	Lynne Hendrickson	Melissa Stone
Inventory/Warehouse (office furniture etc.)	Susan Hoge	TBN
IT Management/Support	Chris Tarricone	Joshua Hardin
IT Purchasing Advice/Quotations	Joshua Hardin	Chris Tarricone
Keys	Donna Hawkins (temporary/daily sign-out)	Susan Hoge (long- term sign-out)
Keycards (Proximity Cards)	Joshua Hardin	Chris Tarricone
Labor/Union Relations (Staff & Students)	Susan Hoge	Deborah Cornman/ Jeffrey Fisher
Lecture Series	Jennifer Wang	Donna Hawkins
LISTSERV Management	Jennifer Wang	Susan Hoge
Mail Service	Donna Hawkins	Lynne Hendrickson
Parking Tags	Donna Hawkins	Susan Hoge
Participant Incentives/Cash Advances	Melissa Stone	Lynne Hendrickson
Payroll (Faculty, Staff, & Students)	Susan Hoge	Deborah Cornman
Personal Service Agreements (PSAs)	Melissa Stone	AnnMarie White
Business Office Function	1 st Staff Member	2 nd Staff Member
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Purchasing – CHIP	Melissa Stone	Lynne Hendrickson
Purchasing – Grants	Melissa Stone	Lynne Hendrickson
Security	Chris Tarricone	Susan Hoge
Statistical Support Requests	Elizabeth Schifano	Deborah Cornman
Student Employment/Issues (Graduate Student, Student Labor, & Work Study)	Susan Hoge	Deborah Cornman
Telecommunications (Landlines, Cell Phones, & Blackberries)	Donna Hawkins	Lynne Hendrickson
Travel – Authorizations and Reimbursements	Lynne Hendrickson	Melissa Stone
Website Administration/Management	Joshua Hardin	Chris Tarricone

APPENDIX 5: Announcements of CHIP Seed Grant Funding for Obesity, eHealth/mHealth, and Graduate Student Research



Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention

Date: 10/25/2013
To: CHIP Affiliates at UConn Storrs and Regional Campuses
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D. Director of Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP)

Dear CHIP Affiliates:

We are happy to inform you that CHIP is offering seed grant opportunities again this year. Our 2013-2014 seed grants will be focused on Obesity Prevention and on eHealth/mHealth (see the details for both below). And as in previous years, we are also providing annual Seed Grants for CHIP Graduate Student Affiliates.

We are also pleased to announce a new UCHC-UConn Storrs Seed Grant Opportunity in Cancer Control sponsored by the Dean of the UConn School of Medicine, the UConn Vice President for Research, and CHIP. This initiative will fund three dual-PI grants of \$35,000 each. The specific requirements and letter of intent form for this opportunity can be found at: http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chipweb/Seed Grants/2013-2014/UCHC-Storrs Cancer Grant Announcement 2013-2014.pdf

Requirements for CHIP Seed Grant Funding Opportunities (Obesity Prevention, eHealth/mHealth, and graduate student seed grants).

- Any proposed research must be focused on health behavior and consistent with CHIP's mission (http://www.chip.uconn.edu/about/mission/).
 - Prior to submitting a CHIP seed grant proposal, you <u>must</u> submit a Letter of Intent by Friday, December 6, 2013 and receive written approval to submit a full proposal. A letter of Intent form for Obesity, eHealth/mHealth, and Graduate Student Seed Grant Funding can be found at: (<u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/Seed_Grant_LOI</u>)
- Only CHIP affiliates (including CHIP graduate student affiliates) at UConn Storrs and the regional campuses (i.e., Avery Point, Greater Hartford, Stamford, Torrington, and Waterbury) are eligible to apply for these seed grant funding opportunities.
 - Applications to become a CHIP affiliate can be found at: <u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/</u>
- Any external grant proposals that develop out of the eHealth/mHealth seed grants must be submitted through CHIP.

Available Funds for 2013-2014

- \$15,000 CHIP Seed Grants for Obesity Research provide funds to CHIP affiliates with advanced degrees (e.g., PhDs, MDs, MPHs). These grants provide funds for pilot work in obesity prevention and control that will ultimately be associated with new external grant submissions. Funds from previous CHIP internal grants should be expended and/or closed out. (These grants are limited to a maximum of \$15,000.)
 (http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chipweb/Seed Grants/2013-2014/CHIP-Seed-Grants-in-Obesity-2013-2014-FINAL.pdf)
- \$15,000 CHIP Seed Grants for eHealth/mHealth Research provide funds to CHIP affiliates with advanced degrees (e.g., PhDs, MDs, MPHs). These grants provide funds for pilot work in eHealth/mHealth that will

ultimately be associated with new external grant submissions. Funds from previous CHIP internal grants should be expended and/or closed out. (These grants are limited to a <u>maximum</u> of \$15,000.) (http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chipweb/Seed Grants/2013-2014/CHIP-Seed-Grants-in-emHealth-2013-2014-FINAL.pdf)

- Seed Grants for CHIP Graduate Student Affiliates give graduate students the opportunity to fund pilot work or thesis work that is likely to lead to external grant applications (e.g., NRSA applications). Normally, funds from any previous CHIP internal grants should be expended and/or closed out. (These grants are limited to a maximum of \$1,500). (http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chipweb/Seed Grants/2013-2014/CHIP-Seed-Grants-for-Graduate-Students-2013-2014-FINAL.pdf)
- Pre-Submission Grant Reviews, for large external grant proposals only, are available <u>at any time</u>. This funding provides investigators with the opportunity for an internal review by one or more experienced CHIP investigators or others outside CHIP, with extensive experience in the content area of focus and in successful grant writing. In addition to content, reviews of statistics and methodology can be performed through this mechanism. (http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chipweb/Seed Grants/CHIP Pre-Submission Grant Review 2013.pdf)

Please note that letters of intent for all of the above, except for the *Pre-Submission Grant Reviews*, are due by **Friday**, **December 6, 2013**, with full proposals due by **Friday**, **February 7, 2014**. All letters of intent and full proposals should be submitted *electronically* to Jennifer Wang at Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu.

Please contact Jennifer Wang at 860-486-2313, email: <u>Jennifer.Wang@uconn.edu</u> any questions about the funding opportunities listed above.



Date: 10/22/2013
To: CHIP Affiliates at UConn Storrs and Regional Campuses
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D. Director of Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP)

Re: \$15,000 CHIP Seed Grants for Obesity Research (2013-2014)

Deadlines

- Letter of Intent Due: Friday, December 6, 2013
- Grant Proposal Deadline: Friday, February 7, 2014

Purpose

• These grants provide funds to support new research initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications submitted through CHIP in the areas of obesity prevention and control, with a focus on health behavior and health behavior change. CHIP is committed to supporting research in obesity, nutrition, and physical activity that translates effective behavior change programs to at-risk individuals.

Requirements for \$15,000 CHIP Seed Grants

- You must be a CHIP affiliate with an advanced degree (e.g., PhD, MD, MPH) who works at UConn Storrs or one of the regional campuses (i.e., Avery Point, Greater Hartford, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury).
 - Applications to become a CHIP affiliate can be found at: <u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/</u>.
- Any proposed research must be focused on health behavior in the area of obesity prevention or control, and it must be consistent with CHIP's mission.
 - > CHIP's mission statement can be found at <u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/about/mission/</u>.
- Any external grant proposals that develop out of a CHIP seed grant must be submitted through CHIP.
- Prior to submitting a CHIP seed grant proposal, you <u>must</u> submit a Letter of Intent
 (<u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/Seed_Grant_LOI</u>) by Friday, December 6, 2013 and receive written approval to submit a full proposal.
- Funds from previous CHIP seed grants should be expended and/or closed out.
- These grants are limited to a <u>maximum</u> of \$15,000.

Guidelines for Submission of Seed Grant Proposals

- 1. Seed grant proposals must be for work that will assist markedly in the submission of new obesity-related external grant applications that will be submitted through CHIP by a specified target date.
- 2. Go to (<u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/Seed_Grant_LOI</u>), and complete and submit the Letter of Intent *electronically* no later than **Friday**, **December 6**, **2013**.
- 3. Seed grant proposals should describe the scope of the work, its contribution to the obesity 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.
 - Project Summary and Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, and Other Significant Contributors.

- Research Grant Table of Contents.
- Detailed Budget (\$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 Principal Investigator and other key personnel.
- Research plan (maximum 7 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* (maximum of one page)
 - Section 3. *Research strategy* (maximum of 6 pages)
 - a. *Significance*
 - b. Innovation
 - c. Approach
- References.
- <u>Brief</u> Human Subjects section, if applicable (i.e., Protection of Human Subjects, Inclusion of Women and Minorities, Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table, Inclusion of Children).
- Appendices are discouraged and should <u>not</u> be used to circumvent the 7-page limit for the Research Plan.
- 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.
- Grant proposals 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 will not be accepted.
- Certification letter that any future external grant applications resulting from the pilot work will be submitted through CHIP.
- 3. Seed grant proposals must be predominantly the work of the Principal Investigator (PI) and *for the benefit of the PI's research program.* Proposals written primarily by graduate students or others in the PI's name will not be considered.
- 4. CHIP grants management staff will <u>not</u> assist with development of the budget, the budget justification, or any other aspect of the grant proposal.
- 5. Email your final proposal as a PDF by **Friday, February 7, 2014** to Jennifer Wang at Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu.

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).
- Relevance to study of obesity and the mission of CHIP.
- Extent to which the project demonstrates collaboration with community-based organizations (community collaborations will be regarded positively).

Please contact Jennifer Wang at 860-486-2313 or at Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu with any questions regarding this opportunity.



Date: 10/22/2013
To: CHIP Affiliates at UConn Storrs and Regional Campuses
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D. Director of Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP)

Re: \$15,000 CHIP Seed Grants for eHealth/mHealth Research (2013-2014)

Deadlines

- Letter of Intent Due: Friday, December 6, 2013
- Grant Proposal Deadline: Friday, February 7, 2014

Purpose

These grants provide funds to support new research initiatives and pilot work that will lead to future external grant applications submitted through CHIP in the areas of eHealth / mHealth (electronic health / mobile health), with a focus on health behavior and health behavior change. eHealth/mHealth refers to the use of mobile technologies, social media, web-based interventions, sensors, and other new technologies to assess and modify health behavior.

Requirements for \$15,000 CHIP Seed Grants

- You must be a CHIP affiliate with an advanced degree (e.g., PhD, MD, MPH) who works at UConn Storrs or one of the regional campuses (i.e., Avery Point, Greater Hartford, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury).
 - Applications to become a CHIP affiliate can be found at: <u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/</u>.
- Any proposed research must be focused on eHealth/mHealth as a way to impact health behavior, and it must be consistent with CHIP's mission.
 - > CHIP's mission statement can be found at <u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/about/mission/</u>.
- Any external grant proposals that develop out of a CHIP seed grant must be submitted through CHIP.
- Prior to submitting a CHIP seed grant proposal, you <u>must</u> submit a Letter of Intent
 (<u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/Seed_Grant_LOI</u>) by Friday, December 6, 2013 and receive written approval to submit a full proposal.
- Funds from previous CHIP seed grants should be expended and/or closed out.
- These grants are limited to a <u>maximum</u> of \$15,000.

Guidelines for Submission of Seed Grant Proposals

- 4. Seed grant proposals must be for work that will assist markedly in the submission of new eHealth/mHealth-related external grant applications that will be submitted through CHIP by a specified target date.
- 5. Go to (<u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/Seed_Grant_LOI</u>), and complete and submit the Letter of Intent *electronically* no later than **Friday**, **December 6**, **2013**.
- Seed grant proposals 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 (<u>http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html</u>) and include:
 - Face Page.
 - Project Summary and Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, and Other Significant Contributors.

- Research Grant Table of Contents.
- Detailed Budget (\$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 Principal Investigator and other key personnel.
- Research plan (maximum 7 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* (maximum of one page)
 - Section 3. *Research strategy* (maximum of 6 pages)
 - d. Significance
 - e. Innovation
 - f. Approach
- References.
- <u>Brief</u> Human Subjects section, if applicable (i.e., Protection of Human Subjects, Inclusion of Women and Minorities, Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table, Inclusion of Children).
- Appendices are discouraged and should <u>not</u> be used to circumvent the 7-page limit for the Research Plan.
- 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.
- Grant proposals 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.
- In fairness to all applicants, any application that does not follow the basic format used by PHS 398 will not be accepted.
- 6. Seed grant proposals must be predominantly the work of the Principal Investigator (PI) and *for the benefit of the PI's research program.* Proposals written primarily by graduate students or others in the PI's name will not be considered.
- 7. CHIP grants management staff will <u>not</u> assist with development of the budget, the budget justification, or any other aspect of the grant proposal.
- 8. Email your final proposal as a PDF by **Friday, February 7, 2014** to Jennifer Wang at Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu.

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).
- Relevance to eHealth/mHealth and the mission of CHIP.
- Extent to which the project demonstrates collaboration with community-based organizations (community collaborations will be regarded positively).

Please contact Jennifer Wang at 860-486-2313 or at <u>Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu</u> with any questions regarding this opportunity.



Date: 9/24/2013
To: CHIP Affiliates at UConn Storrs and Regional Campuses
From: Jeffrey D. Fisher, Ph.D. Director of Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP)

Re: Seed Grants for CHIP Graduate Student Affiliates (2013-2014)

Deadlines

- Letter of Intent Due: Friday, December 6, 2013
- Grant Proposal Deadline: Friday, February 7, 2014

Purpose

• These grants provide funds to support new research initiatives and pilot work in the areas of health behavior and health behavior change.

Requirements for Seed Grants for CHIP Graduate Student Affiliates

- You must be a CHIP graduate student affiliate who studies at UConn Storrs.
 - Applications to become a CHIP graduate student affiliate can be found at: <u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/chip-business-office/becoming-chip-affiliate/</u>.
- Any proposed research must be focused on health behavior and consistent with CHIP's mission.
 - > CHIP's mission statement can be found at <u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/about/mission/</u>.
- Prior to submitting a CHIP seed grant proposal, you <u>must</u> submit the following documents by Friday, December 6, 2013 and receive written approval to submit a full proposal.
 - > Letter of Intent to submit a full proposal (<u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/Seed_Grant_LOI</u>).
 - > A statement from your Advisor indicating that s/he approves of the project; will oversee your work on the full proposal and on the project, if funded; and will ensure that you produce high quality work.
- These grants are limited to a <u>maximum</u> of \$1,500.

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., digital recorder), 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.

Guidelines for Submission of Seed Grant Proposals

- 7. Go to (<u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/Seed_Grant_LOI</u>), and complete and submit the Letter of Intent *electronically* no later than **Friday**, **December 6**, **2013**.
- Seed grant proposals 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

- Project Summary and Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, and Other Significant Contributors.
- 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.
 - NOTE: All grants funds must be expended within two years of the award date. Unexpended funds will revert to CHIP.
- Biographical Sketches of the Principal Investigator (Graduate Student) and other key personnel.
- Research plan (maximum of 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:
 - Section 2. *Specific Aims* (maximum of one page)
 - Section 3. *Research Strategy* (maximum of 4 pages)
 - a. Significance
 - b. Innovation
 - c. Approach
- References.
- <u>Brief</u> 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).
- Grant proposals 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 will not be accepted.
- 9. CHIP grants management staff will <u>not</u> assist with development of the budget, the budget justification, or any other aspect of the grant proposal.
- 10. Email your final proposal as a PDF by **Friday, February 7, 2014** to Jennifer Wang at Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu.

Priority for funding will be based on:

- Scientific merit of the research plan.
- Completed project's likelihood to develop into a larger study and garner external funding (e.g., an NRSA proposal through NIH).
- 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).

Please contact Jennifer Wang at **860-486-2313** or at <u>Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu</u> with any questions regarding this funding opportunity.

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Proposal for UCHC-UConn Storrs Seed Grant Funding in Cancer Control

Purpose:

UConn Storrs and the UConn Health Center (UCHC) are offering funding opportunities for dual-PI pilot projects in cancer control science that will be carried out collaboratively by investigators from each campus. The solicitation and review of applications will be administered jointly by the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at UConn Storrs and by UCHC. Proposed projects should be consistent with UConn Health Center's goal to expand their research program on cancer control and prevention and CHIP's mission to create new scientific knowledge in the areas of health behavior, health behavior change, health intervention, and prevention.

Background:

Consistent with the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) definition of the Cancer Control Continuum (NCI, 2011), cancer control science is defined here as the conduct of basic and applied research in the behavioral and social sciences to create or enhance interventions that, independently or in combination with biomedical approaches, (1) reduce cancer risk, incidence, and death, and (2) improve quality of life for cancer survivors. The focus of this seed grant funding is on studies that are designed to understand the causes of cancer, support the development of efficacious interventions, and/or disseminate the findings from this research in order to increase our understanding of the predictors of cancer and reduce the cancer burden, as outlined in the cancer control continuum below:

Examples of Cancer Control Continuum Research *											
PREVENTION	DETECTION	DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT	SURVIVORSHIP								
 Tobacco control Diet Physical activity Sun exposure Virus exposure Chemoprevention Alcohol use 	 Pap test Mammography Fecal occult blood test Sigmoidoscopy Prostate-specific antigen 	 Informed decision- making Health services and outcomes research 	 Coping Health promotion Quality of life Prevention of recurrence 								

* Adapted from http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/od/continuum.html 2011

Funding Available:

Three pilot projects of \$35,000 apiece will be funded under this announcement. All grant funds must be expended within two years of the award, and unexpended funds will revert to UCHC, CHIP, and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Eligibility:

Research teams consisting of one PI from UCHC and one from UConn Storrs (UConn Storrs includes the regional campuses), are eligible to apply for these seed grants to support cancer control health behavior research initiatives and pilot work with health behavior components. The dual-PI teams are expected to make approximately equal contributions to the proposed research, and to perform new research that could not be achieved without the collaboration and pilot money. Preference is to support new collaborations and thus to fund new UCHC-UConn Storrs research teams. If a team applying for these seed grants 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. These seed grants must ultimately lead to new grant applications submitted to NCI by the dual PI team within two years of receiving the pilot funding

Applications will be reviewed by a joint review committee made up of both UCHC and UConn Storrs researchers, and in some cases, external reviewers. Applications must be the work of the PIs, and for the benefit of the PIs' own research programs.

If you would like assistance with identifying potential collaborators or would like more information about the UCHC-UConn Storrs seed grant, please contact Jennifer Wang at Jennifer.Wang@chip.uconn.edu or 860-486-2313.

Letters of Intent and Application Process:

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent form (<u>http://www.chip.uconn.edu/UCHC-Storrs_Seed_Grant_LOI</u>) no later than **Friday, January 17, 2014**, and must receive written approval to submit a full proposal. Letter of intent materials must include:

- The project title, PIs' names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, department/institution affiliations, CVs and positions, and the names of key collaborators.
- A brief outline of the proposed research project, including an abstract and an estimate of total project cost, and a description of how it will meet the review criteria (below).
- A statement that the external grant application(s) which derive from the pilot grant research will be submitted to NCI as a dual-PI proposal(s).
- A description of the relevance of the research to priority funding areas in the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Division of NCI.

Applicants who have submitted letters of intent that meet the review criteria will be invited to submit full applications, which will be due on **Friday, April 11, 2014**. A description of the format and the page limits of the full proposal will be sent to those who submit a letter of intent which is approved.

Review Criteria for a Successful LOI or Proposal:

Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit of the research plan based on internal and/or external reviews.
- Approximately equal collaboration among UCHC and UConn Storrs investigators.
- Importance of the research question and relevance to priority funding areas in the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Division of NCI.
- Extent to which the project is novel or innovative, especially new domains in need of pilot data.
- Composition of the research team (cross-disciplinary work will be given preference).
- Feasibility of plans to submit a subsequent proposal for NCI funding no later than the end of July 2016.

	APPENDIX 7: CHIP Submitted Grants (May 16, 2013 - May 15, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Direct Costs Requested	F&As Requested	Total Costs Requested	Yrs	Start	End	Agency	Title				
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$4,351	\$2,480	\$6,831	1	6/1/2013	12/31/2013	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center	Behavioral Science Working Group				
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$40,158	\$3,212	\$43,370	5	4/1/2014	3/31/2019	NIH/Asociación Civil Impacta de Salud y Educación, Peru	The INCAS Program				
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$35,231	\$20,434	\$55,665	2	4/1/2014	3/31/2016	NIH/ Asociacion Civil Impacta Salud y Educacion, Lima, Peru	"Engagement in Care and Treatment Initiation among HIV-Infected MSM in the Andes," the ChARISMA Project				
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$8,413	\$4,880	\$13,293	0.6	1/1/2014	11/30/2014	Family Health International	HPTN 069: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Prevent HIV Transmission in At- Risk Men Who Have Sex with Men				
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$8,413	\$4,880	\$13,293	0.6	1/1/2014	11/30/2014	Family Health International	HPTN 067 Behavioral Aspects of PrEP Counseling for Intermittent Exposure				
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$120,294	\$69,771	\$190,065	5	12/1/2014	11/30/2016	NIH/ Vanderbilt University	Sindh Injection Research Cohorts for HIV/TB (SIRCHT)				
Bellizzi, Keith	HDF	\$714,153	\$384,432	\$1,098,585	5	4/1/2014	3/31/2019	NIH/Hartford Hospital	Efficacy & Cost-Effectiveness of Care Plans for Underserved Cancer Survivors				
Bhat, Anjana	KIN	\$595,113	\$304,610	\$899,723	3	7/1/2014	6/30/2017	DHHS	Embodied Rhythm Interventions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders				
Copenhaver, Michael	AHS	\$450,000	\$127,732	\$577,732	3	7/1/2014	6/30/2017	NIH	Intervention Development for HIV+ MSM with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) in Peru				
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$20,636	\$5,364	\$26,000	1	7/1/2012	6/30/2013	DoD/DHAPP	Evidence-Based HIV and GBV Prevention Program for Soldiers in Mozambique (Supplement)				
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$254,927	\$145,073	\$400,000	1	8/1/2013	7/31/2014	DoD/DHAPP	Increasing Healthy Behavior among PLWH in Military Settings in Ethiopia FYI 3-14				

APPENDIX 7: CHIP Submitted Grants (May 16, 2013 - May 15, 2014)

	APPENDIX 7: CHIP Submitted Grants (May 16, 2013 - May 15, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Direct Costs Requested	F&As Requested	Total Costs Requested	Yrs	Start	End	Agency	Title				
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$275,000	\$104,611	\$379,611	3	7/1/2014	6/30/2016	NIH	Using Smartphones to Improve Communication and Shared Decision- Making about Pain Management for Patients in a Community Health Center				
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$87,939	\$9,738	\$97,677	1	3/1/2014	6/30/2014	DoD/DHAPP	Evidence-Based HIV and GBV Prevention Program for Soldiers in Mozambique (Supplement)				
Duffy, Valerie	AHS	\$281,40 7	\$142,741	\$424,148	5	4/1/2014	3/31/2019	NIH / UCHC	Tastes, Preferences and Behavior: Effects of Nicotine and Flavoring in Electronic Cigarettes				
Eigsti, Inge- Marie	PSY	\$275,000	\$151,287	\$426,287	5	4/1/2014	3/31/2019	NIH/NICHD	Sexual Literacy and Behavior Change in Young Adults with Developmental Disability				
Fein, Deborah	PSY	\$1,281,931	\$679,871	\$1,961,802	5	7/1/2014	6/30/2019	NIH/Georgia State University	Early Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders				
Fein, Deborah	PSY	\$1,065,505	\$584,926	\$1,650,431	5	11/1/2014	10/31/2019	NIH/Drexel	Early Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders (Resubmission)				
Gerrard, Meg	PSY	\$204,076	\$118,364	\$322,440	4	4/1/2014	3/31/2018	NIH/University of Iowa	Smoking Associated Demethylation				
Gerrard, Meg	PSY	\$2,408,345	\$1,310,792	\$3,719,137	5	9/15/2014	9/14/2019	NIH/NCI	Tobacco Product Use by African Americans				
Gerrard, Meg	PSY	\$133,748	\$77,573	\$211,321	5	10/1/2014	9/30/2019	NIH/NCI/ University of Hawaii	E-Cigarette Use in a Multiethnic Population				
Gerrard, Meg	PSY	\$236,063	\$136,917	\$372,980	4	12/1/2014	11/30/2018	NIH/NCI/ University of Iowa	Smoking Associated Demethylation - Resubmission				
Ghosh, Debarchana	GEO	\$824,901	\$65,991	\$890,892	4	6/1/2014	5/31/2019	NIH/NIDA	Connecting People, Places, and Barriers: The Effect of These Connections on Adherence and Retention in Care for HIV Infected Drug Users				

	APPENDIX 7: CHIP Submitted Grants (May 16, 2013 - May 15, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Direct Costs Requested	F&As Requested	Total Costs Requested	Yrs	Start	End	Agency	Title				
Ghosh, Debarchana	GEO	\$836,747	\$66,941	\$903,688	4	9/1/2014	8/31/2019	NIH/NIDA	Geographic Information Science and Social Network Analysis in Intervention Research of Drug Abuse and HIV Treatment (Resubmission)				
Gibbons, Frederick	PSY	\$157,502	\$91,352	\$248,854	4	4/1/2014	3/31/2018	NIH/NIAAA Pennsylvania State University	Examining Patterns of Alcohol Use and Problems Among African American Youth				
Gibbons, Frederick	PSY	\$2,458,065	\$1,354,202	\$3,812,267	5	8/1/2014	7/31/2019	NIH/NIDA	Health Behaviors Among Young Black Adults: Risk and Resilience				
Gibbons, Frederick	PSY	\$93,554	\$54,262	\$147,816	5	7/1/2014	6/30/2019	NIH/NIDA/Orgeo n Research Institute	Childhood and Adolescent Predictors of Substance Abuse in Emerging Adulthood				
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$60,911	\$35,328	\$96,239	4	4/1/2014	3/31/2018	NIH/U.Tennessee	Targeting Sedentary Behavior and Physical Activity during Obesity Treatment				
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	1	12/1/2013	6/30/2014	UCHC /CICATS	Thinking Big about Obesity: Building Team Science Initiatives at Uconn and UCHC				
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$275,000	\$157,705	\$432,705	2	9/1/2014	8/31/2016	NIH	Test of a Theory-Based Weight Loss Program for couples: Project TEAMS				
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$34,661	\$20,103	\$54,764	3	7/1/2014	6/30/2017	CCMC / DHHS	Collective Impact Targeting Young (CITY) Kids: Obesity Prevention in Hartford				
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$1,962,878	\$1,071,999	\$3,034,877	4	12/1/2014	11/30/2019	NIH	A Primary Care, Patient-Centered Approach to Obesity Prevention in Young Children				
Huedo-Medina, Tania	AHS	\$84,335	\$48,914	\$133,249	5	8/1/2014	7/31/2019	NIH/Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Comprehensive Dynamic Trials: A New Paradigm for Behavioral Intervention Research				
Johnson, Blair	PSY	\$1,533,154	\$857,289	\$2,390,443	4	9/1/2014	8/31/2018	NIH	Optimizing the Cardiovascular Health Benefits of Exercise: High-Quality Meta- Analyses of Controlled Trials				
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$2,430,151	\$1,415,045	\$3,845,196	5	2/1/2014	1/31/2019	NIH/NIAAA	Cell-Phone Enhanced Care Retention, Adherence, & Outcomes				
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$2,450,352	\$1,410,704	\$3,861,056	5	4/1/2014	3/31/2019	NIH/NIMH	Infectious Markers for Combination Prevention				

	APPENDIX 7: CHIP Submitted Grants (May 16, 2013 - May 15, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Direct Costs Requested	F&As Requested	Total Costs Requested	Yrs	Start	End	Agency	Title				
Kalichman,Seth	PSY	\$2,490,114	\$1,398,292	\$3,888,406	5	9/1/2014	8/31/2019	NIH /NIAAA	Comparative Effectiveness Trial for Retention, Adherence and Health				
Kalichman,Seth	PSY	\$2,494,033	\$1,436,039	\$3,930,072	5	9/1/2014	8/31/2019	NIH	HIV Infectiousness Markers for Combination Prevention				
Kalichman,Seth	PSY	\$99,360	\$50,669	\$150,029	1	6/1/2014	5/31/2015	NIH/ NIDA	Behavioral Intervention to Enhance HIV Test/Treat (Administrative Supplement)				
Kalichman,Seth	PSY	\$69,036	\$40,040	\$109,076	1	9/15/2013	8/31/2015	NIH/NIDA	Influence of Food Insecurity on Adherence (Administrative Supplement)				
Kraemer, William	PSY	\$32,633	\$16,934	\$49,567	1	12/1/2013	8/31/2014	Private Corporation	Effects ofon an Acute Comprehensive Resistance Exercise Test Battery				
Kraemer, William	PSY	\$77,206	\$31,854	\$109,060	1	8/1/2014	7/30/2015	USAF	The effects of Closed Versus Open Chained Kinetic Exercises on L-1 Anti-G Straining Maneuver Performance at 1+ Gz				
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$551,911	\$134,230	\$686,141	1.5	4/1/2014	8/31/2015	NIH/NCAAM	Development of a Translational Tool to Study Yoga Therapy				
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$204,628	\$110,472	\$315,100	2	9/1/2013	6/30/2015	NIH/NCCAM Massachusetts General Hospital	Preliminary Study of a Yoga Program to Catalyze Health Behavior Change				
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$25,356	\$14,707	\$40,063	2	7/1/2014	6/30/2016	NIH/NCCAM/ UC-San Diego	Yoga for Chronic Low Back Pain in Military Personnel				
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$59,242	\$34,361	\$93,603	5	7/1/2014	6/30/2019	NIH/NCCAM/ Yale/ VA CT Healthcare System	Gender Differences in Use and Effectiveness of CAM for Pain, PTSD, and Depression in Returning Veterans				
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$1,055,930	\$495,699	\$1,551,629	4	7/1/2014	6/30/2018	NIH/NIGMS	Self-Regulation Skills as Predictors of URM Student Success Biomedical Research				
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$44,863	\$0	\$44,863	1	5/7/2014	5/7/2015	СТ ВНІ	Predicting and Enhancing Connecticut Breast Cancer Survivors' Health Behaviors				
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$305,003	\$158,414	\$463,417	5	4/1/2014	3/31/2019	NIH/Yale	Examining the Efficacy of Exercise in Substance Abuse Treatment				

	APPENDIX 7: CHIP Submitted Grants (May 16, 2013 - May 15, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Direct Costs Requested	F&As Requested	Total Costs Requested	Yrs	Start	End	Agency	Title				
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$24,480	\$0	\$24,480	1	10/1/2013	9/30/2017	UCHC /CICATS	Cardiometabolic Signatures Associated with Obesity and Hypertension and Their Response to Exercise: A Pilot Stud				
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$180,000	\$18,000	\$198,000	3	7/1/2014	6/30/2017	American Heart Association	Engaging Young Adults with Hypertension in Exercise Using Blood Pressure Specific Outcomes				
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$1,638,265	\$981,706	\$2,619,971	4	10/1/2013	9/30/2017	NIH/NHLBI	Engaging Adults with Hypertension in Exercise Using Blood Pressure Specific Outcomes				
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$450,000	\$239,079	\$689,079	3	10/1/2014	9/30/2017	NIH/NIDA	Interventions to Reduce Substance Use and Promote Resilience in College Veterans				
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$19,800	\$0	\$19,800	1	8/25/2014	7/31/2015	CT Space Grant	Investigating Deep Vein Thrombosis Risk in Women At Flight				
Ross, Stephen L.	ECO	\$20,345	\$3,052	\$23,397	2	1/1/2014	12/31/2015	Russell Sage Fnd/Univ of Wisconsin	Understanding the Determinants and Consequences of Social Networks Among Immigrant Children and Adolescents				
Snyder, Leslie	сом	\$446,459	\$258,945	\$705,404	5	4/1/2014	3/31/2019	NIH/Yale	Step-ED: Reducing Duration of Untreated Psychosis and Its Impact in the U.S.				
TOTAL PROPOSAL BUDGET	55	\$32,021,578	\$16,462,016	\$48,483,594									

<u>Department</u>:

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	APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY14 Direct Costs Awarded	FY14 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY14 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title			
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$234,031	\$13,489	\$7,824	\$21,3 1 3	3.5	11/1/09	11/30/14	NIH/NIMH/F HI	HPTN 067 Behavioral Aspects of PrEP Counseling for Intermittent Exposure			
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$221,484	\$37,633	\$21,827	\$59,460	4	6/5/11	2/28/15	NIH/Vanderb ilt	Multi-Component Intervention Packages for Chinese MSM			
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$131,067	\$15,990	\$8,475	\$24,465	5	10/1/11	6/30/16	NIH/DPH San Francisco	Enhancing PrEP Adherence Support and Risk Reduction in a Public Health Setting			
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$66,777	\$13,489	\$7,824	\$21,313	1.6	10/1/11	11/30/14	NIH/NIMH/F HI	HPTN 069: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Prevent HIV Transmission in At-Risk Men Who Have Sex with Men			
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$304,010	\$37,222	\$21,574	\$58,796	5	7/1/12	6/30/17	NIH/U Alabama	Integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry_iENGAGE to Control HIV			
Amico, Kathy Rivet	СНР	\$150,174	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	1/1/13	12/31/13	Gilead Sciences, Inc.	Audio Visual Representation of PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP Rep): Innovations in Informing and motivating potential PrEP users			
Bhat, Anjana	KIN	\$695,023	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	9/30/09	7/31/14	NIH/NIMH	Robot Child Interactions as an Intervention for Children with Autism			
Bhat, Anjana	KIN	\$146,438	\$ 0	\$0	\$0	3	1/23/11	12/31/14	NIH/NICHH	Visual Attention and Fine Motor Coordination in Infants at Risk for Autism			
Bhat, Anjana	KIN	\$35,325	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	8/1/11	7/31/14	NIH/NIMH SupplementR 33	Robot-Child Interactions as an Intervention Tool for Children with Autism			
Bhat, Anjana	KIN	\$120,000	\$54,545	\$5,455	\$60,000	2	12/1/12	11/30/14	Autism Speaks	Embodied Rhythm Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders			

APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

	APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)											
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY14 Direct Costs Awarded	FY14 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY14 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title		
Buckley, Thomas	РНР	\$454,215	\$57,495	\$33,348	\$90,843	5	7/1/13	6/30/17	СТ ДРН	State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health - Pharmacy Initiative		
Christensen, John	сом	\$79,231	\$12,320	\$7,145	\$19,465	3	12/1/12	8/31/15	NIH/U. Pennsylvania	Developing and Pilot Testing a Mobile Phone-Based HIV/STI Prevention Intervention		
Copenhaver, Michael	AHS	\$124,687	\$0	\$0	\$0	6	9/30/08	6/30/14	NIH/NIDA/Yal e	Adapting HHRP for Positive Transitions (PT) in Malaysia		
Copenhaver, Michael	AHS	\$3,122,796	\$481,684	\$135,590	\$617,274	5	4/1/12	3/31/17	NIH/NIDA	Secondary HIV Prevention and Adherence Among HIV-infected Drug Users		
Copenhaver, Michael	AHS	\$697,150	\$129,102	\$10,328	\$139,430	5	4/1/13	3/31/18	NIH/NIDA	HIV Prevention and Adherence Among Priority Drug Using Populations		
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	3	11/1/09	10/31/14	CAPRISA	CAPRISA-CHIP Collaboration		
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$906,000	\$401,588	\$104,412	\$506,000	2	7/1/11	6/30/14	DOD/DPHAP P	Prevention with Positives and Gender-Based Violence Projects in Mozambique 2013-14		
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$97,677	\$87,939	\$9,738	\$97,677	1	3/1/14	6/30/14	DOD/DPHAP P	Prevention with Positives and Gender-Based Violence Projects in Mozambique (Supplement)		
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	4/1/12	11/2/13	DOD/DPHAP P	Increasing Healthy Behavior among PLWHA in Military Settings in Ethiopia FY12-13		
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$66,835	\$8,460	\$4,907	\$13,367		7/1/13	6/30/14	NIH/NIMH/Y ale	Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA)		
Cornman, Deborah	СНР	\$400,000	\$254,927	\$145,073	\$400,000	1	11/8/13	11/7/14	DOD/DPHAP P	Increasing Healthy Behavior among PLWHA in Military Settings in Ethiopia FY 13-14		

	APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY14 Direct Costs Awarded	FY14 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY14 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title			
Cruess, Dean	PSY	\$658,841	\$0	\$0	\$0	3	12/1/10	11/30/14	NIH/NIMH	Internet-Based STI/HIV Prevention for HIV+ Internet Users			
DiStefano, Lindsay	KIN	\$57,395	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	6/1/12	12/1/13	National Athletic Trainers' Assoc. (NATA)	Lower-Extermity Injury Prevention: Monitoring Changes Over Time			
DiStefano, Lindsay	KIN	\$150,000	\$68,494	\$6,506	\$75,000	2	7/1/13	6/30/15	Charles H. Hood Foundation, Inc	Pediatric Sports Injury Prevention: Monitoring Changes Over Time			
Duffy, Valerie	AHS	\$424,148	\$55,952	\$30,460	\$86,412	5	9/1/13	8/31/18	NIH/ UCHC	Taste, Preferences, and Behavior: Effects of Nicotine and Flavorings in Electronic Cigarettes			
Eaton, Lisa	HDF	\$2,539,472	\$410,244	\$102,890	\$513,134	5	7/11/11	4/30/16	NIH/NIMH	Serosorting Intervention for HIV Negative MSM			
Eaton, Lisa	HDF	\$526,434	\$165,532	\$96,009	\$261,541	2	2/1/14	4/30/15	NIH/NIMH	Serosorting Intervention for HIV Negative MSM (SUPPLEMENT)			
Eaton, Lisa	HDF	\$328,273	\$36,336	\$21,075	\$57,411	5	6/1/13	3/31/18	NIH/NIDA/ Pittsburgh	Understanding Delayed Access to HIV Prevention Services among Blank MSM			
Fein, Deborah	PSY	\$672,232	\$144,000	\$72,694	\$216,694	3.0	5/27/11	1/31/15	NIH/NIMH	Teaching Skills to Toddlers: A Program for Caregivers			
Fein, Deborah	PSY	\$199,908	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	4/1/12	3/31/15	Autism Speaks	Screening, Diagnosis and Parent Training for Young Children with ASD in Albania			
Gibbons, Frederick	PSY	\$1,251,386	\$0	\$0	\$0	2.4	8/23/12	6/30/14	NIH/NIDA	Factors Influencing the Health Behavior of young African American Adults			

APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY14 Direct Costs Awarded	FY14 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY14 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title		
Gibbons, Frederick	PSY	\$96,930	\$30,675	\$17,790	\$48,465	2	8/23/12	7/31/14	NIH/NIDA/Ge orge Washington Uni.	Discrimination, Drug Use, & Risky Sex Cognitions among Young African Americans		
Gibbons, Frederick	PSY	\$351,991	\$53,872	\$30,707	\$84,579	2.8	9/1/12	4/30/15	NIH/NCI/U. Hawaii	Self-Control as a Moderator for Effects of Mass Media on Adolescent Substance Use		
Gibbons, Frederick	PSY	\$141,989	\$21,172	\$12,280	\$33,452	4	3/1/14	2/28/18	NIH/ University of Georgia	Social Determinants of Inflammation and Metabolic Syndrome Among African Americans		
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$75,135	\$ 0	\$0	\$0	4	2/1/10	12/31/13	Aetna Foundation/C CMC	Helping Children to Grow Up Healthy: The Pediatrician's Role in Preventing Childhood Obesity		
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$81,071	\$6,121	\$3,244	\$9,365	5	9/15/11	6/30/16	NIH/R01/Dre xel	Environmental and Acceptance- Based Innovations for Weight Loss Maintenance		
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$16,133	\$0	\$0	\$0	1.5	1/1/12	6/30/13	CHN/CCMC	The Added Value of Telephone Follow up and Home Visits in Helping Children to Grow Up Healthy		
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$78,014	\$19,222	\$4,998	\$24,220	1	10/1/12	8/31/14	Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)	Understanding Barriers to Weight Control in Submariners and Their Families		
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	1	12/1/13	6/30/14	UCHC/CICATS	Thinking Big about Obesity: Building Team Science Initiatives at UConn and UCHC		
Gorin, Amy	PSY	\$58,444	\$19,699	\$11,425	\$31,124	2	6/1/13	3/31/15	NIH/CCMC	Early Childhood Obesity Prevention: Building Healthier Families and Communities		
Harel, Ofer	STA	\$889,402	\$159,487	\$12,759	\$172,246	5	4/9/10	1/31/15	NIH/NIMH	Dealing with Missing Data in HIV Prevention Trials		

APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)												
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY14 Direct Costs Awarded	FY14 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY14 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title		
Johnson, Blair	PSY	\$2,669,211	\$0	\$0	\$0	5	2/1/09	2/28/14	NIH/NIMH	Syntheses of HIV Risk Reduction, Phase III		
Johnson, Blair	PSY	\$72,430	\$9,720	\$5,638	\$15,3 5 8	5	7/1/12	6/30/16	NIH/NIAAA Miriam Hospital	Alcohol Consumption and HIV Behavior: Evaluating the Evidence		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$2,928,403	\$0	\$0	\$0	6	9/30/07	8/30/13	NIH/NIAAA	Multilevel Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$2,684,693	\$0	\$0	\$0	6	2/15/08	1/31/14	NIH/NIMH	HIV/AIDS Treatment Adherence Intervention for People with Poor Reading Literacy Skills		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$2,895,221	\$0	\$0	\$0	5	9/30/08	8/31/14	NIH/NIAAA	Alcohol-Related HIV Risks among South African Women		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$2,647,559	\$336,835	\$178,522	\$515,357	5	3/17/11	1/31/16	NIH/NINR	Nurse Delivered Cell-Phone HIV Adherence Intervention (Pick-It-Up)		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$494,495	\$39,500	\$22,910	\$62,410	4	12/1/11	1/31/15	NIH/BROWN	Brief Alcohol Interventions by Counselor and Computer (SURE)		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$3,192,770	\$434,809	\$220,869	\$655,678	5	2/1/12	1/31/17	NIH/NIDA	Behavioral Intervention to Enhance HIV Test/Treat (ITM2)		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$2,834,118	\$420,583	\$116,087	\$536,670	5	4/1/13	1/31/18	NIH/NIDA	Enhanced STI/HIV Partner Notification in South Africa		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$959,850	\$202,500	\$117,450	\$319,950	3	9/15/13	8/31/16	NIH/NIAAA	Influence of Food Insecurity on Adherence		
Kalichman, Seth	PSY	\$150,029	\$99,360	\$50,669	\$150,029	1	02/1/14	1/31/15	NIH/NIDA	Behavioral Intervention to Enhance HIV Test/Treat (ITM2) (Supplement)		
Kraemer, William	KIN	\$137,779	\$0	\$0	\$0	2.5	12/1/10	5/31/14	Private Corporation	An Innovative Research Program on the Protective and Performance Ergonomics of [Athletic] Apparel		
Kraemer, William	KIN	\$80,895	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	8/1/12	5/31/14	Private Corporation	Influence of a Supplement on Recovery Response after Acute Resistance Exercise		

APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)										
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY14 Direct Costs Awarded	FY14 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY14 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title
Kraemer, William	KIN	\$150,034	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	8/22/12	5/31/14	Private Corporation	The Role of Protein in Protecting Muscle and Promoting Recovery from Intense Conditioning
Kraemer, William	KIN	\$650,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	1/15/13	8/31/14	DSO/DARPA	Defense Sciences Research and Technology
Kraemer, William	KIN	\$401,783	\$275,399	\$126,384	\$401,783	1	7/1/13	6/30/14	Private Corporation	Project: Performance and Recovery
Kraemer, William	KIN	\$55,634	\$37,735	\$17,899	\$55,634	1	8/23/13	5/31/14	Private Corporation	Effects of on Skeletal Muscle Efficiency During Resistance Exercise
Marsh, Kerry	PSY	\$2,033,097	\$0	\$0	\$0	5	5/12/08	4/30/14	NIH/NIMH	Implicit Attitudes and HIV Risk Behavior in Virtual Environment 1R01MH78738-01A2
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$320,172	\$105,744	\$57,345	\$163,089	2	9/1/13	6/30/15	NIH/NCCAM Massachuset ts General Hospital	Preliminary Study of a Yoga Program to Catalyze Health Behavior Change
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$1,970,369	\$330,821	\$68,408	\$399,229	5	9/29/10	8/31/15	NIH/NCCAM	Development of a Translational Tool to Study Yoga Therapy
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$61,205	\$15,829	\$0	\$15,829	3	1/1/11	12/31/14	VA Connecticut Healthcare System	Gender Differences in Addictive Behaviors Among Returning Veterans
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	2/1/11	1/31/14	Templeton Foundation	Religion/Spirituality and Congestive Heart Failure: Physiological Pathways of Health
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$384,730	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	4/1/11	3/31/14	NIH/NCI	Targeting the Teachable Moment: A Lifestyle Intervention for Breast Cancer Survivors
Park, Crystal	PSY	\$168,010	\$22,532	\$11,070	\$33,602	5	11/28/11	8/31/16	VA Connecticut Healthcare System	Study Of Returning Veterans (SERV)

	APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)										
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY14 Direct Costs Awarded	FY14 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY14 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title	
Park, Crystal; Gutierrez, Ian	PSY	\$106,078	\$33,671	\$16,546	\$50,217	2	9/1/13	8/31/15	NIH/NCCAM	Development of a Translational Tool to Study Yoga Therapy (Supplement to Promote Diversity)	
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$185,471	\$0	\$0	\$0	6.5	6/1/08	1/31/14	NIH/UCHC	Healthy Activities for Prize Incentives (HAPI)	
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$372,761	\$47,059	\$24,941	\$72,000	5	9/30/09	8/31/14	NIH/NIDA subcontract from UCHC	Reinforcing Exercise in Cocaine Abusers	
Pescatello, Linda	KIN	\$24,480	\$24,480	\$0	\$24,480	1	12/1/13	6/30/14	UCHC	Cardiometabolic Signatures Associated with Obesity and Hypertension and Their Response to Exercise: A Pilot Study	
Schifano, Elizabeth	STA	\$14,796	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	1/1/13	6/30/13	DPH/State of CT	Collaboration on Easy Breathing program	
Singer, Merrill	ANT	\$15,695	\$3,449	\$2,000	\$5,449	2	12/1/12	11/30/14	NIH/Yale (R21)	Disparities in HPV Vaccine Completion: Identifying and Quantifying the Barriers	
Snyder, Leslie	СОМ	\$705,404	\$104,252	\$60,466	\$164,718	5.0	9/26/13	8/31/14	NIH/Yale	STEP-In: Reducing the Duration of Untreated Psychosis by adding early detection to specialty first-episode care in the U.S. public sector	
Snyder, Leslie	сом	\$348,691	\$0	\$0	\$0	4	2/1/10	12/31/13	NIH/NCI	Impact of Food Ads & PSAs on Child & Teen Eating & Adiposity Across Media Markets	
Snyder, Leslie	сом	\$976,059	\$0	\$0	\$0	1.9	7/25/12	4/30/14	NIH/Harvard	Evaluation of Graphic Warning Labels on Tobacco Packages and Related Supporting Messages	
Volek, Jeff	KIN	\$420,213	\$0	\$0	\$0	2	9/1/11	9/30/13	Private Corporation	Effect of Incremental Increases in Dietary Carbohydrate on Saturated Fat Levels and Blood Borne Risk Markers for Cardiovascular Disease	

APPENDIX 8: CHIP Active and Awarded Grants (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)										
Principal Investigator	Dept	Total Costs Awarded	FY14 Direct Costs Awarded	FY14 Indirect Costs Awarded	FY14 Total Costs Awarded	Yrs	Start Date	End Date	Agency	Title
Volek, Jeff	KIN	\$124,032	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	1/1/13	12/31/13	Private Corporation	Product Testing Using the Count Approach
TOTAL ACTIVE GRANTS AWARD	77	\$48,636,285	\$5,370,967	\$2,043,561	\$7,414,528					

- Department:
- AHS Allied Health Sciences

ANT CHP Anthropology CHIP

COM Communication

Human Development and Family Studies Kinesiology Pharmacy Practice HDF

KIN PHP

Psychology Statistics PSY

STA

Guidelines for Use of CHIP Services

Revised March 12, 2014

• Note that access to CHIP services is only for work performed within CHIP's mission.

• Any exception to these guidelines needs prior approval from the CHIP Director and/or Associate Director.

Notes:

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

appropriate.

CHIP SERVICES	Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant	* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)	Research Staff at CHIP (non- student)	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate					
CHIP INTERNAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES										
CHIP Seed Grants for PI's	х									
CHIP Seed Grants for First-Time CHIP Investigators	x	X PI must be from UConn	X Must be CHIP Affiliate							
Pilot Project Grants for Graduate Students					х					
Summer Faculty Stipends for Grant Development	X	X UConn faculty								
Grants for Conference Development	x	X PI must be from UConn	X Must be CHIP Affiliate		х					

CHIP SERVICES	Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant	* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)	Research Staff at CHIP (non- student)	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate			
CHIP RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES								
Review of your CHIP external grant proposals by outside experts prior to submission through CHIP to external funder (with approval from Director)	х	Х	х					
Access to samples of awarded internal and external grants provided as a learning tool with Director or Associate Director approval	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
Become member of a CHIP-L Listserv	х	Х	Х	х	х			
Obtain University affiliate NET ID for CHIP related work with Director/Associate Director approval		х						
Access to CHIP's Microsoft Lync Services (web conferencing platform)	х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
Attend CHIP Lecture Series and access all presentations via pod casts and web site (<i>available to the general public</i>)	х	х	х	х	х			
Post supplemental resources to publications on CHIP's website (repository)	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
Access to methodological and statistical pre-review of proposals and statistical support for other health related research work with approval from Director & Associate Director	х	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI			
Receive grant funding opportunities via e-mail and access them through the website	х	х	х	х	х			
Request and receive custom grant funding searches/opportunities	х	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI			
Recruit and mobilize networks of health researchers with common interests from various UConn academic departments and community- based organizations to increase collaboration among previously disconnected entities, inspire innovative research, and accelerate the translation of health-related discoveries into clinical and community practice (e.g., CHIP/CIRA Collaborative Work Group, CT DPH/UConn partnership, Multidisciplinary Obesity Research Group)	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			

CHIP SERVICES	Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant	* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)	Research Staff at CHIP (non- student)	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate					
CHIP GRANTS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES										
Submit a CHIP affiliated grant with approval from Director & Associate Director	x	X w/ official UConn title	X Must be a CHIP affiliate		x					
PRE-AWARD (EXTERNAL GRANT APPLICATION) SERVICES: assistance with Internal Proposal Review Form (IPR) & the Significant Financial Interest Review Form (SFIR), budget, consortium agreements, actual grant application submission & review of submission for compliance/requirements	х	X w/ official UConn title	X When working under direction of CHIP PI		X Academic dept. approval required for external grants					
POST AWARD (GRANT ADMINISTRATION) SERVICES: assistance with pre-award coding, set-up of awarded budget, PSAs and paying invoices, re-budgeting and cost transfers, no cost extensions, budget projections, effort reporting, progress reports and carryover and award closeout	х	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI						
CHIP PERSONNEL	& PAYROLL SUPP	ORT SERVICES								
Assistance with hiring staff, undergraduate and graduate students	x	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI						
Assistance with payroll processing of staff, undergraduate and graduate students	x	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI						
Assistance with staff-related human resources/labor relations issues	x	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI						
CHIP PURCHASING SUPPORT SERVICES										
Assistance with making purchases, payment of invoices and reimbursements & cash advances for participant incentives	x	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI						

CHIP SERVICES	Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant	* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)	Research Staff at CHIP (non- student)	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate					
TRAVEL SUPPORT SERVICES										
Assistance with making flight reservations & reconciling travel expenses when travel is funded by a CHIP grant	x	X UConn employees working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X If funded by CHIP grant						
Travel safety information and assistance	x	x	х	х	х					
FACILITY SUPPORT SERVICES										
Ability to reserve a CHIP conference or interview room for research, based on availability	x	х	х	х	х					
Ability to obtain research office space at CHIP for use that is relevant to CHIP's mission (building and office access) with approval from Director	x	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	х	x						
Check out available equipment (Laptop, Polycom Pod, Skype Speakerphone & Digital Video Cameras w/ Tripods) for use for CHIP related business and research	x	х	Х	х	х					
CHIP IT SUPPORT SERVICES (for CHIP grant related equipment and work only)										
Consultation services to plan IT involvement in future research grant	x	x	х	х	х					
Assistance with CHIP grant related IT purchases (computers, hardware & software)	x	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI						
Assistance with project management (setting up & managing servers, system analysis)	x	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI						

CHIP SERVICES	Current UConn CHIP PI with active external or internal grant	* / ** CHIP Affiliate (who is not currently a CHIP PI)	Research Staff at CHIP (non- student)	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Employee	** / *** CHIP Graduate Student Affiliate				
Assistance with CHIP grant purchased hardware & software issues (failures, warranty requests upgrades, email, research software packages)	Х	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI					
Long-term data storage on CHIP's server with secure access	х	х							
CHIP DISSEMINATION SERVICES									
Communications, public relations, dissemination of research findings	х	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI	X When working under direction of CHIP PI					
Provide 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)	х	Х	х	х	Х				
Provide education and information on cutting-edge developments in D&I research through CHIP lectures and the D&I Resources webpage (i.e., with links to funding and training opportunities, literature, webinars, and listservs)	х	х	х	х	х				
Post on website: affiliate bio page, research measures, and conference presentations	х	х	х	х	х				

APPENDIX 10: CHIP FY14 Organizational Chart (as of June 30, 2014)



APPENDIX 11: CHIP Advanced Interactive Technology Center (AITC)

Mission Statement

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

CHIP AITC Clients during Fiscal Year 2014

Fiscal year 2014 was the fourth full year of operation for CHIP AITC. During FY14, CHIP AITC served multiple clients, including faculty and graduate students, and produced several useful deliverables for each client.

During FY14, UConn's new Digital Media & Design Department contracted with CHIP AITC to collaborate on the production of an interactive exhibit for the Boston Children's Hospital. This project is being led by Tim Hunter, who is the Department Head as well as the Director of the Digital Media Center. This exhibit will center round 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 designed and implemented the sensor array, which gathers data from multiple sensors, and then created an information space to which the dynamic animations respond. CHIP AITC created the underlying software architecture to handle the sensor management, data transfer, and real-time animation generation.

CHIP AITC also continued 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 4H 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 this past year, the first app was created. All assets related to the project are being transferred to the client.

During FY14, CHIP AITC personnel produced additional experimental content for a project to study human social coordination being led by Associate Psychology Professor Whitney Tabor. This study was part of an ongoing National Science Foundation (NSI)-funded research project entitled, "CREATIV: Asynchronous Communication, Self-Organization, and Differentiation in Human and Insect Networks." This goal of this project 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 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's (Ph.D., Psychology) 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 FY14, 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.

During FY14, CHIP AITC staff began work on two projects with Principal Investigator Leslie Snyder. The first is a pilot project to explore the concept of providing support to individuals through interactive devices and mobile apps. The participants are trying to keep off weight that was recently lost. Through the use of FitBit activity recorders, the participants' activity level is tracked. When it drops below a certain level, the participant is interacted with via the mobile app.

The second project is a psychosis education project in collaboration with Vinod Srihari of Yale University. The funding source is the National Institute of Mental Health. In this project, two apps are being considered. One will create the experience of going to an initial visit at a psychosis intervention center to demystify the experience. The intention is to help participants seek out care when they recognize warning signs in their own behavior. The second app is to educate friends and family members of someone who may or may not be psychotic.

CHIP AITC continued to support the research of students as well. For example Ben Meagher, a Psychology doctoral student is using an interactive application to explore the effect of ownership and functionality on awareness of objects in the environment. The project examined the perception of changes in the placement of functionally- and nonfunctionally-related objects within rooms where the participant or a computer-generated confederate have chosen the style and location of other objects in the rooms. This project was done in collaboration with Dr. Marsh.

CHIP AITC Administration

During FY14, 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; Jacquelyn Khadijah-Hajdu, an undergraduate in Computer Science; and Andrew Lawson an undergraduate in Computer Science , each of whom provided software development and support. Sherry Wong (B.A., Illustration), a graduate of UConn's School of Fine Arts supported production efforts. AITC also provided a one- credit independent study internship through the Center for Career Development to Viren Shinde, a computer science undergraduate. Viren went on to become a CHIP AITC employee supporting several projects. Michael Holler, an undergraduate student in the College of Arts and Sciences, provided technical, administrative, and research design support. Members of CHIP's Administrative Team also provided ongoing administrative support to the Center.

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:

> Tímothy Gífford Donna Hawkíns Susan Hoge Melíssa Stone Chrís Tarrícone Jennífer Wang AnnMaríe Whíte