Partnering with North Carolina Communities

A key UCRF component involves population scientists who move findings and innovative programs into communities.

“The UCRF funds are critical to promote broad community outreach and dissemination of effective programs for cancer prevention and control as well as cancer survivorship,” says Dr. Marci Campbell, professor of nutrition in the UNC School of Public Health and a program leader for population sciences for the UNC Lineberger/UCRF Program Planning Committee. “The funds will support recruitment of additional senior faculty in key areas such as health communication, dissemination and health outcomes research. Our recent designation as a Lance Armstrong Foundation Center of Excellence in Cancer Survivorship (see page 54) reflects recognition of our strengths in areas such as community interventions to reduce health disparities, a major priority of UCRF.

Dr. Andy Olshan, professor and chair of epidemiology in the UNC School of Public Health and leader of UNC Lineberger’s cancer epidemiology program, notes, “The UCRF has already provided critical support to enhance and develop new important initiatives in population sciences by partnering with the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry to expand its capabilities to capture timely and high-quality data on cancer incidence and mortality in North Carolina.”

Two new major projects are a cohort study of cancer patients diagnosed and treated at UNC that will provide a tremendous resource for the interdisciplinary examination of survivorship; and an important new study, starting in June 2008, of breast cancer in North Carolina—the Carolina Breast Cancer Study 3. This study will examine the causes and probable outcomes of various types of breast cancer among African American women in North Carolina.

The UCRF is funding numerous other collaborations focused on ensuring that North Carolinians get the best possible cancer care. To read in greater depth about the UCRF, visit: www.cancer.unc.edu/ucrf.

By Dianne Snow and Emily J. Smith

School’s 29th Annual Minority Health Conference attracts record turnout

More than 600 students, educators and health professionals from across the nation attended the 29th Annual Minority Health Conference on Feb. 29, 2008, at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education. Another 1,000 people participated in the event via satellite downlink and webcast, making it the largest minority health conference in the history of the event.

“I see this as a testament to the priority that has been placed on minority health and issues impacting people of color,” says Janelle Armstrong-Brown, a doctoral student in health behavior and health education who co-chaired the conference with Eboni Taylor, a PhD student in epidemiology. “We look forward to another successful year and for success many years to come.”

The conference’s 10th Annual William T. Small Jr. Keynote Lecture was given by Dr. Nancy Krieger, professor of society, human development, and health at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH). Her lecture, titled “The Science and Epidemiology of Racism and Health in the United States: an Ecosocial Perspective,” addressed how racial inequalities in social conditions become biologically embedded over lifetimes and across generations, creating racial and ethnic health inequities. Krieger is associate director of the Harvard Center for Society and Health and co-director of the HSPH Interdisciplinary Concentration on Women, Gender and Health.

This year’s conference was made possible by a lead gift from Bodil and George Gellman. Mr. Gellman is a 1969 graduate of the UNC School of Public Health. The conference attracts students, post-docs and full-time faculty and staff an opportunity to explore how entrepreneurship is changing their fields and how to conceive, plan and execute new commercial and nonprofit ventures.

The program has three tracks: artistic, life sciences and public health entrepreneurship. Plans are underway for tracks in commercial and social entrepreneurship. The certificate requires completion of a nine-credit-hour course sequence taken in parallel with students’ core degree programs.

Dr. Alice Ammerman, professor of nutrition in the UNC Schools of Public Health and Medicine and director of the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, oversees the certificate’s public health track. For more information, visit www.kenaninstitute.unc.edu/centers/cei.

UNC School of Public Health faculty are collaborating with the Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative at UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School to offer a graduate certificate in entrepreneurship. The new certificate program, which launched this spring, offers graduate students, post-docs and full-time faculty and staff an opportunity to explore how entrepreneurship is changing their fields and how to conceive, plan and execute new commercial and nonprofit ventures.

For more information on the conference, visit www.minority.unc.edu/sph/minconf/2008.