

33rd Annual Minority Health Conference

February 24, 2012



Translational Research: The Road from Efficacy to **Equity**

Keynote Speakers:

Ana Diez-Roux, MD, PhD, MPH

Nina Wallerstein, DrPH, MPH

Presented at the:

*William & Ida Friday Center
for Continuing Education @
UNC Chapel Hill*

MSC
Minority Student Caucus



UNC
GILLINGS SCHOOL OF
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

The UNC Minority Health Conference ...

attracts over 500 students, faculty, researchers, health professionals, and community leaders from around the nation each year. The conference provides a forum for researchers and practitioners to tackle the issues facing minority populations with the hopes of improving the health status of those communities. The theme for this year's conference, "Translational Research: The Road from Efficacy to Equity," highlights the importance of translating scientific discoveries into effective strategies and policies intended to eliminate health disparities.

This year's conference will include an inter-disciplinary panel of speakers who bring diverse perspectives and will challenge us to think more critically about our approaches to health and equity. We invite you to join our efforts in building a movement towards improving minority health and eradicating health disparities. *For more details, please contact the Minority Health Conference Co-Chairs: Turquoise Griffith and Kea Turner at mhc.chairs@gmail.com.*

Ana Diez-Roux, MD, PhD - 14th Annual William T. Small, Jr. Keynote Address



Ana is a professor of epidemiology and director of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health in the School of Public Health, a research professor in the Survey Research Center in the Institute for Social Research, and director of the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Diez-Roux has been an international leader in the investigation of the social determinants of health, the application of multilevel analysis in health research, and the study of neighborhood health effects. Her research areas include social epidemiology and health disparities, environmental health effects, urban health, psychosocial factors in health, and cardiovascular disease epidemiology. Recent areas of work include social environment-gene interactions and the use of complex systems approaches in population health.

Nina Wallerstein, DrPH - Afternoon Keynote Address



Nina currently directs the Center for Participatory Research, Office of Community Health; and the Partnership for Health Research Unit, Clinical Translational Research Center at UNM; and is a Senior Fellow for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Health Policy Center at UNM.

For over 25 years, she has been involved in empowerment / popular education, and participatory research with youth, women, tribes, and community building efforts. Her research focuses on community capacity and health development, culturally appropriate translational intervention research to reduce health disparities, participatory evaluation, and community-based participatory research processes and outcomes. Her tribal research, funded by the Center for Disease Control and the National Institute of Health, includes cultural capacity, social capital, and infrastructure assessments; and community and intergenerational culturally-centered and adapted interventions. She was the principal investigator of the Southwest Addictions Research Group (NIAAA), whose purpose was to train junior faculty of color to reduce disparities among Native American and Hispanic communities; and co-director of the post-doctoral program for the RWJF Center for Health Policy at UNM, to train minority leaders in health policy.

MORNING SESSION TOPICS

Overcoming Disparities in Healthy Food Access: School and Community Food Systems - Across the nation, the local food movement has gained momentum as a sustainable approach to improving school lunch programs and curbing the childhood obesity epidemic. Dr. Alice Ammerman, an expert in community-based nutrition and professor at UNC Chapel Hill, will discuss her translational research efforts in North Carolina to leverage local food systems, and to enact change in school and community food systems with the end goal of eradicating health disparities.

Medicaid, Civil Rights, and Federal Court Access: Discrimination in the Health Care System - Throughout United States history, court access has enabled low-income and minority populations to enforce their rights to health care when states have not provided those benefits in accordance with federal law. As a result of the recession, states are facing serious budget cuts, which has greatly threatened coverage of Medicaid services. Jane Perkins, Director of the National Health Program, will discuss her advocacy efforts to reduce discrimination in the delivery of health care and protect the due process rights of Medicaid beneficiaries.

Aging and Religion: The Health Effects of Religious Involvement - There is increasing evidence that religious involvement is associated with better physical health, mental health, and longer survival. Linda George, an expert in aging and professor at Duke University, will discuss her research on how religious involvement impacts health practices, social support, psychosocial resources, and sense of coherence in older adults. Dr. George will discuss implications of her research for public health practice and research.

Using Art Based Therapy to address Immigrant and Refugee Health - Each year, thousands of immigrants and refugees arrive in the United States and are faced with many challenges such as language barriers, changes, and adjustments that can affect their emotional well-being. Art therapy has proven to be an effective method for helping individuals cope with stress and develop mechanisms for social support. Ilene Sperling, the Director of Art Therapy Institute, will discuss her work in art therapy with newly emigrated refugees from Burma in North Carolina. She will be joined by Melody Schwantes, an expert in art therapy and professor at Appalachian State, who will discuss her work using music therapy with Mexican farmworkers in North Carolina.

The Impact of Institutional Discrimination on Mental Health of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations - Research has shown that discrimination at the structural level, e.g. constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage, may be harmful for the mental health of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community. Mark Hatzenbuehler, a post-doctoral fellow at Columbia University, will discuss his research on the impact of state-level constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage on mental health and well-being for lesbian, gay, and bisexual community members. Dr. Hatzenbuehler's research has been used as evidence in several legal cases on same-sex marriage, including *Perry vs. Schwarzenegger*, the litigation aimed at overturning Prop. 8 in California.

AFTERNOON DISCUSSION TOPICS

Translating Research into Policy: Closing the Achievement Gap - Working to transform the education system, the Harlem Children's Zone and the East Durham Children's Initiative have taken great strides towards eliminating educational disparities by doing whatever it takes to provide a quality education. These organizations take a multi-level approach to education by strengthening schools, communities, and families to ensure that all children have access to the education they deserve. Betina Jean-Louis, the Evaluation Director from the Harlem Children's Zone, David Reese, Director, and Mary Matthews, Program Manager, from East Durham Children's Initiative will discuss using evidence-based research to bring innovation to the education system.

Communicating Inequities: The Path to Equity in Health Communication - Bringing together diverse perspectives on health communication, this panel will address an array of communication strategies to increase access to health information among community members. Brandolyn White, former Greensboro AHEC Community Outreach Specialist, will discuss strategies and approaches to communicate health and health disparities education to the lay community. Micheal Pignone, an expert in patient communication and a professor at UNC Chapel Hill, will discuss his research on patient communication to mitigate health disparities in chronic diseases. Lisa Oxedine Huggins, an expert on American Indian Health and a professor at UNC Pembroke, will discuss her recent novel *The Pink Begonia Sister's Caribbean Retreat* and her outreach efforts to build social support mechanisms for American Indian women with breast cancer.

Global Health Panel - The global health panel is to be determined.

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Registration Information

COST	Before January 20, 2012	After January 20, 2012
Government Employee	\$40.00	\$50.00
Non UNC-Affiliate	\$70.00	\$80.00
Senior Citizen	\$20.00	\$30.00
Student	\$25.00	\$30.00
UNC Faculty & Staff	\$60.00	\$70.00

Registration includes lunch if fee is paid before February 13, 2012

FEES – Reduced early registration fees are due by January 20, 2012, at midnight EST; full registration fees will be charge after that date. Visa/MC payments can be made via online registration at <http://studentorgs.unc.edu/msc>

CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS – Full refunds will be issued to individuals who cancel by February 13,2012. Substitutions from the same agency are allowed at any time with prior notification to the registrar (email us mhc.chairs@gmail.com)

Hotel Information

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