

Minority/Diversity Activities within the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAICs)

National Advisory Council on Aging
Task Force on Minority Aging and Health Disparities
January 26, 2010

Kevin P. High, MD, MS

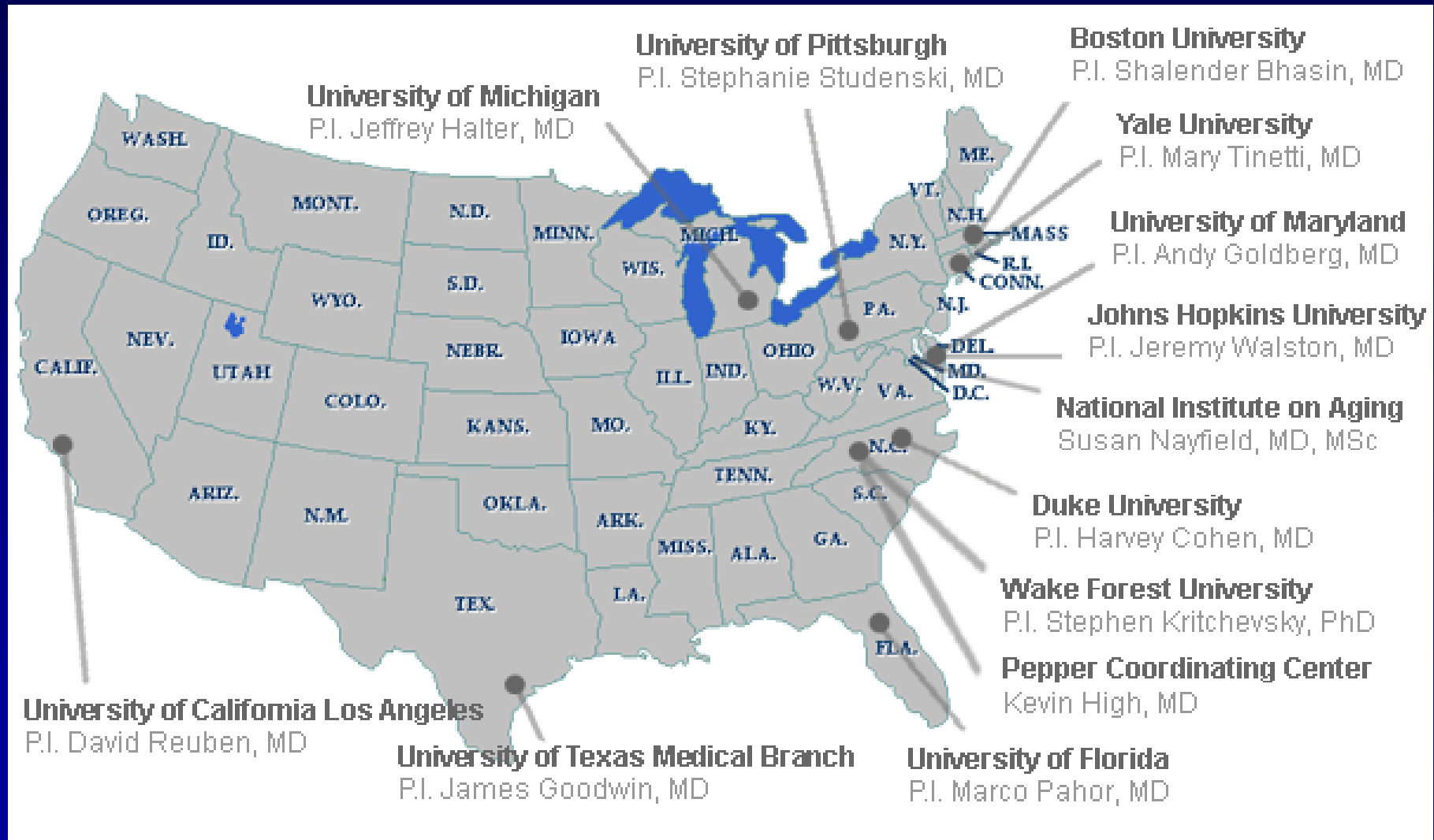
Principal Investigator, OAIC Coordinating Center

Wake Forest University Health Sciences

Topics to be covered

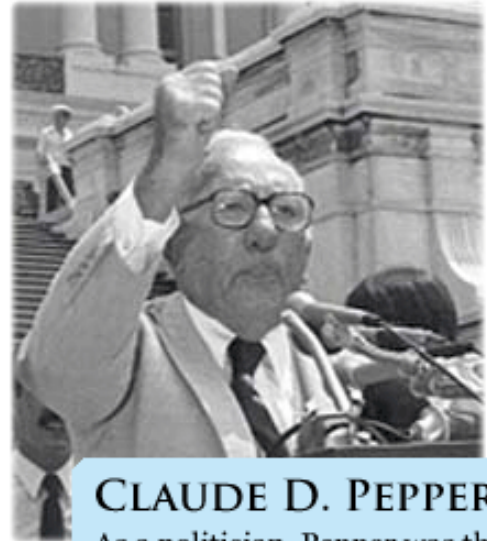
- Overview of history and mission of the OAICs
- Summary of the last five years regarding:
 - Trainees by gender and ethnicity, current academic rank
 - Research focus of selected trainees
 - Selected minority health and disparities research across OAICs
 - Examples of collaborative efforts and outreach
 - Successful recruitment and retention strategies
 - Relevant publications summary (handout)

Current OAICs



Brief History of the OAICs

- Established in honor of the late Claude D. Pepper – Representative from Florida who championed the cause of successful aging and quality of life for older adults
- Overall goal
 - “ . . . To increase scientific knowledge that will lead to better ways to maintain or restore independence in older persons.”



CLAUDE D. PEPPER

As a politician, Pepper was the primary Congressional advocate for aging Americans. Today, Pepper Centers across the country work to increase scientific knowledge that will lead to better ways to maintain older persons' independence.

Specific Expectations

- Provide intellectual leadership and innovation
- Stimulate translation between basic and clinical research
- Facilitate and develop novel multi- and inter-disciplinary research strategies
- Stimulate incorporation of emerging technologies, methods and advances into research design
- Serve as a source of advice and collaboration to other institutions
- Provide career development for future research leaders

Required Elements of a Pepper Center

- 5 year awards (P30)
- An Area of Focus (e.g.):
 - Aging-related conditions that contribute to loss of function
 - Causes, assessment, prevention, treatment of specific types of disability and/or geriatric syndromes
 - Age-related changes that affect risk for disability
- Required Core Structure
 - Leadership/Administration
 - Research Career Development (RCDC)
 - Resource Cores
 - Vary by site
 - Development Projects
- Optional Core
 - Pilot/Exploratory Studies (PESC)

Minority Research Trainees

OAIC Supported Investigators

2003 - Present

Name	Current Title	Type of Support	Gender	Race/Ethnicity
Dan Arking, PhD	Assistant Prof	Pilot	Male	White
Cynthia Boyd, MD	Assistant Prof	RCDC	Female	White
Michelle Carlson, PhD	Associate Prof	RCDC	Female	White
Paulo Chaves, MD, PhD	Assistant Prof	RCDC/Pilot/CTU	Male	Hispanic/Latino
Ronald Cohn, MD	Assistant Prof	Pilot	Male	White
Victor Crentsil, MD	FDA	RCDC	Male	African-American
Dani Fallin, PhD	Associate Prof	Pilot/Develop. Project	Female	White

OAIC Supported Investigators

2003 - Present

Name	Current Title	Type of Support	Gender	Race/Ethnicity
Sean Leng, MD, PhD	Assistant Prof	RCDC/Pilot	Male	Asian
Martin Makary, MD	Associate Prof	RCDC	Male	White
Michelle Mielke	Assistant Prof	Pilot	Female	White
Enid Neptune	Assistant Prof	Pilot	Female	African-American
Vsevolod Polotsky, MD	Associate Prof	RCDC/Genetics	Male	White
Cindy Roy	Assistant Prof	RCDC	Female	White
Richard Semba, MD	Professor	Pilot	Male	Asian

OAIC Supported Investigators

2003 - Present

Name	Current Title	Type of Support	Gender	Race/Ethnicity
Christopher Seplaki, PhD	Assistant Prof (Rochester)	RCDC/Develop. Project	Male	White
Erwin Tan, MD	Assistant Prof	RCDC/Pilot	Male	Asian
Ravi Varadhan, PhD	Assistant Prof	RCDC/Pilot/Develop. Project	Male	Asian
Jeremy Walston, MD	Professor	Pilot	Male	White
George Wang, MD, PhD	Instructor	RCDC	Male	Asian
Carlos Weiss, MD, MHS	Assistant Prof	RCDC	Male	Hispanic/Latino
David Yuh	Associate Prof	RCDC	Male	Asian

UCLA Older Americans Independence Center

Diversity Trainees



Trainee	Gender	Ethnicity	Current Academic Title
Brown, Arleen, MD	Female	African American	Associate Professor of Medicine
Duru, Kenrik O., MD	Male	African American	Assistant Professor of Medicine
Epeldegui, Marta, PhD	Female	Hispanic	Post-Doctoral Fellow in Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics
Fongwa, Marie, RN, PhD	Female	African American	Assistant Professor of Nursing
Mendez-Luck, Carolyn, PhD	Female	Hispanic	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Health
Rodriguez, Michael, MD	Male	Hispanic	Professor of Family Medicine
Tisnado, Diana, PhD	Female	Hispanic	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine

U Pittsburgh Older Americans Independence Center



University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine

Diversity Trainees

Trainee	Gender	Ethnicity/Challenge	Current Academic Title
R. Taylor Goins PhD	Female	Native American	Associate Professor - West VA
Mindi Spencer, PhD	Female	Native American	Assistant Professor - MUSC
Brooke Coley PhD	Female	African American	Post-Doctoral Fellow – F32 Awardee
Rachel Cowan PhD	Female	Quadriplegic	Post-Doctoral Fellow – F32 Awardee
Gustavo Almeida	Male	Hispanic	Post-Doctoral Fellow
Sara Piva PT PhD	Female	Hispanic	Assistant Professor
Fabrisia Ambrosio PT PhD	Female	Hispanic	Assistant Professor



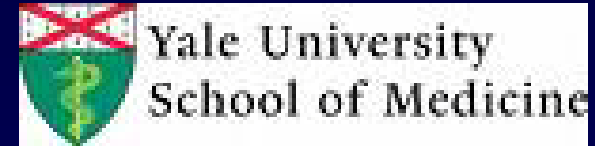
Trainee	Period of support	Gender	Ethnicity	Dept	Current status & Funding history
Bartoz Szczesny, PhD	2005-07	Male	Hungarian	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Faculty, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. K01 pending (score 154)
Elisabet Borsheim, PhD	2005-09	Female	Norwegian	Surgery	Faculty position in Oslo, Norway, R01 pending (score 150)
Mukaila Raji, MD	2005-09	Male	African-American	Internal Med. Geriatrics	Associate Professor, Geriatrics, UTMB. GACA, Diver. Supl. R01
Felipe Amador, MD	2006-07	Male	Hispanic	Internal Med. Geriatrics	Clinical Asst Prof, University of Colorado
Douglas Paddon-Jones	2006-09	Male	Australian	Department of Physical Therapy	Associate Professor NASA, Beef industry
Jose Barral	2009-	Male	Hispanic	Neuroscience & Cell Biology	Assistant Professor Perw Scholar

Wake Forest University



Jamehl Demons, MD	2006-present	Female / African American	Assistant Professor, Gerontology and Geriatrics and the Maya Angelou Center
Capri Foy, PhD	2006-2008	Female / African American	Assistant Professor, Division of Public Health Sciences
Justin Johnson – MS	2006-2007	Male / African American	Post-doctoral Fellow
Jingzhong Ding, PhD	2005- 2008	Male / Asian	Assistant Professor, Gerontology & Geriatrics
Tongjian You	2005-2006	Male / Asian	Assistant Professor, The University of Buffalo
Raghunatha Yammani, PhD	2006-Present	Male/ Indian	Assistant Professor, Section on Molecular Medicine
Tina Ellis Brinkley, PhD	2007-present	Female / African American	Instructor, Gerontology and Geriatrics
Hang Shi, PhD	2009-Present	Male / Asian	Assistant Professor, Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine

Yale University



JoAnn Foody, MD Lecturer on Medicine, Harvard Medical School Director, Cardiovascular Wellness Heart Attack Prevention, Brigham & Women's Hospital	2005-07	Female	White
Julie Ann Sosa, MD Associate Professor of Surgery, Yale University	2005-07	Female	White
Lisa Barry, PhD Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University	2008	Female	White
Sarwat Chaudhry, MD Assistant Professor of Medicine, Yale University	2008-11	Female	Asian
Manisha Juthani-Mehta, MD Assistant Professor of Medicine , Yale University	2008-11	Female	Asian

Summary of OAIC Minority/Diversity Trainees

- All 11 Pepper Centers had minority/diversity trainees over the last five years
 - N=1-12; mean = 5.6
- Diversity included: men/women, African-American, Latino, Asian, Native American, Physical Disability (quadriplegia)
- Nearly all still in academics

Research Focus of Minority Trainees

Boston OAIC Diversity Trainees

Research Focus

THE BOSTON CLAUDE D. PEPPER
OLDER AMERICANS INDEPENDENCE CENTER
*A collaboration among Boston University, Boston Medical
Center, Tufts University and Joslin Diabetes Center*

Trainee	Research Focus
Mara Banks	Vitamin D and physical function in older adults with diabetes mellitus
Angela Chale-Rush, PhD, RD	Effects of protein supplementation and resistance training on skeletal muscle parameters, physical function, glucose metabolism and vascular dynamics in mobility-limited older adults
Donato Rivas, PhD	Aging and molecular genetics

Diversity Trainees Research Focus



Duke University
Pepper Center

Kimberly Johnson, M.D., (mentor in survey research, Elizabeth Clipp, Ph.D., RN), Pepper Center Minority Supplement. End of Life Experiences among African-American Patients. 2002.

Rosalyn Lang-Walker, Ph.D., Post-doctoral student with Dr. V Kraus. Cloned and expressed constructs for use as standards in an ELISA assay of an age-related epitope associated with osteoarthritis

Johns Hopkins Older Americans Independence Center Diversity Trainees Research Focus

Trainee	Research Focus
Paulo H. Chaves, MD, PhD	<i>Clinical Translation Unit, to aid investigators in the design, recruitment, and implementation of clinical trials</i>
Ronald D. Cohn, MD	<i>Role of Increased TGF-beta signaling in age-related impairment of muscle regeneration</i>
M. Daniele Fallin, PhD	<i>Development of a ‘Frailty/Aging’ methylation panel for affordable high-throughput methylation studies related to frailty</i>
Sean Leng, MD, PhD	<i>Molecular Regulation of Chemokine CXCL10 and Hydrogen Peroxide-Induced Clone 5 (hic-5) Expression in Frailty</i>

Johns Hopkins Older Americans Independence Center Diversity Trainees Research Focus

Trainee	Research Focus
Cindy Roy, PhD	<i>Mechanisms of anemia associated with chronic inflammation and aging in mice</i>
Erwin Tan, MD	<i>Effect of the Baltimore Experience Corps Study on Walking Activity and the Characteristics of Walking</i>
Ravi Varadhan, PhD	<i>Development of an integrative biology framework for the study of frailty using stimulus-response experiments</i>
George Wang, MD, PhD	<i>CMV Infection and Immunological Alterations in the Pathogenesis of Frailty in Older Adults</i>

UCLA Older Americans Independence Center Diversity Trainees Research Focus



Trainee	Research Focus
Brown, Arleen	Quality of care for older adults and minorities with diabetes
Duru, Kenrik O.	Enhancing physical activity among minority seniors and designing interventions to reduce disparities in medication adherence and clinical outcomes among patients with diabetes
Epeldegui, Marta	Role of activation-induced cytidine deaminase (AID) in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

UCLA Older Americans Independence Center Diversity Trainees Research Focus



Trainee	Research Focus
Fongwa, Marie	Linking quality of care with culture/patient background information
Mendez-Luck, Carolyn	Community-based participatory research methods, care giving of older Latinos and aging-related health disparities in this population
Rodriguez, Michael	Role of the healthcare system in addressing family violence and the healthcare needs of ethnically diverse populations across the age spectrum
Tisnado, Diana	Effects of “immigrant neighborhoods” on health care and outcomes

U Florida Diversity Trainees Research Focus

Trainee	Research Focus
Stephen Anton, PhD	Biological effects of weight loss plus exercise in obese older African-American women
Bridgett Rahim-Williams, PhD, MPH, MA	Pain, Physical Activity and Functional Mobility among ethnically diverse women with Knee Osteoarthritis

U MD Diversity Trainees Research Focus



Trainee	Research Focus
Dana Rollerson	Visfatin levels in obese Caucasian and African-American postmenopausal women
Julia Chan	RANK-L OPG pathway for bone loss after hip fracture
Maya Matheny	Depression and Inflammation in Hip Fracture Recovery
Maria Okafor	The role of acculturation of African immigrants on health status
Nancy Chiles	TBD
Marty Eastlack, PhD	Promoting Diversity in Health-Related Research
Eun-Shim Nahm, PhD, RN	Sequelae of Hip Fracture in Men

University of Michigan



Trainee	Research Focus
Manuel Hernandez	<i>Mechanisms underlying control of the trunk during challenging balancing tasks in the elderly</i>
Ana Quinones	<i>Trajectories of Health in Old Age: Ethnic Differences</i>
Tanya Gure, MD	<i>Enhancing communication and self-management support among older patients with hypertension</i>

U Pittsburgh Older Americans Independence Center

Diversity Trainees Research Focus



University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine

Trainee	Research Focus
R. Taylor Goins PhD	Disability among older American Indians and Alaska Natives
Mindi Spencer PhD	Relevance of race and ethnicity for self-reported functional limitation.
Rachel Cowan PhD	Impact of surface type, wheelchair weight, and axle position on wheelchair propulsion by novice older adults.

U Pittsburgh Older Americans Independence Center

Diversity Trainees Research Focus



University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine

Trainee	Research Focus
Gustavo Almeida	Patella Fracture during Rehabilitation after Bone-patellar-tendon-bone Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction
Sara Piva PT PhD	Predictors of Pain and Function Outcome after Rehabilitation in Patients with Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome.
Fabrisia Ambrosio PT PhD	The effect of exercise on skeletal muscle regenerative potential: findings relating to aging and neuromuscular pathology.



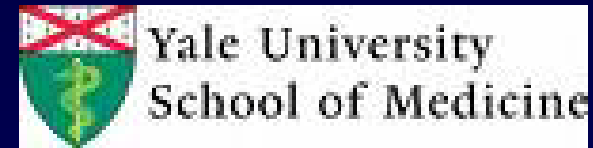
Trainee	Research focus	Current status & Funding history
Bartoz Szczesny, PhD	Age-dependent change in activity of DNA base excision repair proteins	Faculty, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. K01 pending (score 154)
Elisabet Borsheim, PhD	Transcapillary Insulin Transport and Aging	Faculty position in Oslo, Norway, R01 pending (score 150)
Mukaila Raji, MD	Gait speed, muscle strength, and cognitive process in the elderly	Associate Professor, Geriatrics, UTMB. GACA, Diver. Supl. R01
Felipe Amador, MD	Social Disposition Factors and Length of Stay in the ACE Unit	Clinical Asst Prof, University of Colorado
Douglas Paddon-Jones	Muscle protein catabolism during inactivity and stress	Associate Professor NASA, Beef industry
Jose Barral	Chaperone function and sarcopenia	Assistant Professor Perw Scholar

Wake Forest University



Name	Research Focus
Jamehl Demons, MD	rehabilitation in the elderly, Preventive medicine in elderly women, Alzheimer's disease, Caregiver stress and disease, and Aging in the African-American community
Tina Ellis Brinkley, PhD	Relationship among obesity, inflammation, and exercise training; genetic influences on responses to exercise training
Capri Foy, PhD	Prosocial Behavior as a Motivational Facilitator of Exercise Adherence among Older Adults: A Preliminary Study
Tongjian You	Adipose Tissue Cytokines, Metabolic Syndrome, And Physical Decline
Jingzhong Ding, PhD	Pericardial Fat And Subclinical And Clinical Measures Of Coronary Heart Disease In A Multi-Ethnic Sample Of US Adults
Raghunantha Yammani, PhD	Leptin and Cartilage Degradation: An Adiposity-Osteoarthritis Link
Hang Shi, PhD	Molecular Signaling Underlying Functional Decline in Aging Muscle: Roles of AMP-Activated Protein Kinase (AMPK) and Suppressor of Cytokine Signaling 3 (SOCS3)

Yale University



Trainee	Research Focus
Sarwat Chaudhry, MD	<i>Heart Failure as a Multifactorial Geriatric Health Syndrome</i>
Manisha Juthani-Mehta, MD	<i>Defining UTI in nursing home residents based on multiple clinical and laboratory findings</i>
Arthur Simen, MD, PhD	<i>Multifactorial Risk for Late Life Depression: Role of Prefrontal Performance, Coping, Genetic Factors, Gender, and Cardiac Disease</i>

Summary of Minority Investigator Areas of Research

- All engaged in research in aging and disability/functional status
- Span basic science, translational, clinical, and community research
- Nine engaged in a research focus specifically studying the health/outcomes in minority aged populations

Selected Examples of
Accomplishments and Minority-
related Research Within the
Pepper Centers

Publication and Funding Success

- 102 relevant publications – handout
- Many diversity supplement awards obtained
- Multiple K awards and RO1s
- Excellent movement from post-doctoral positions to faculty and promotion within faculty tracks

Hispanic EPESE Study at UTMB

- PubMed search of “Hispanic EPESE” yielded 52 publications
 - Frailty and incidence of activities of daily living disability among older Mexican Americans. *J Rehabil Med.* 2009 Nov;41(11):892-7. PMID: 19841840
 - Trends in diabetes prevalence and diabetes-related complications in older Mexican-Americans from 1993-1994 to 2004-2005. *Diabetes Care.* 2009 Dec;32(12):2212-7. PMID: 19755626

Examples of Minority Faculty Research Projects: Basic Science

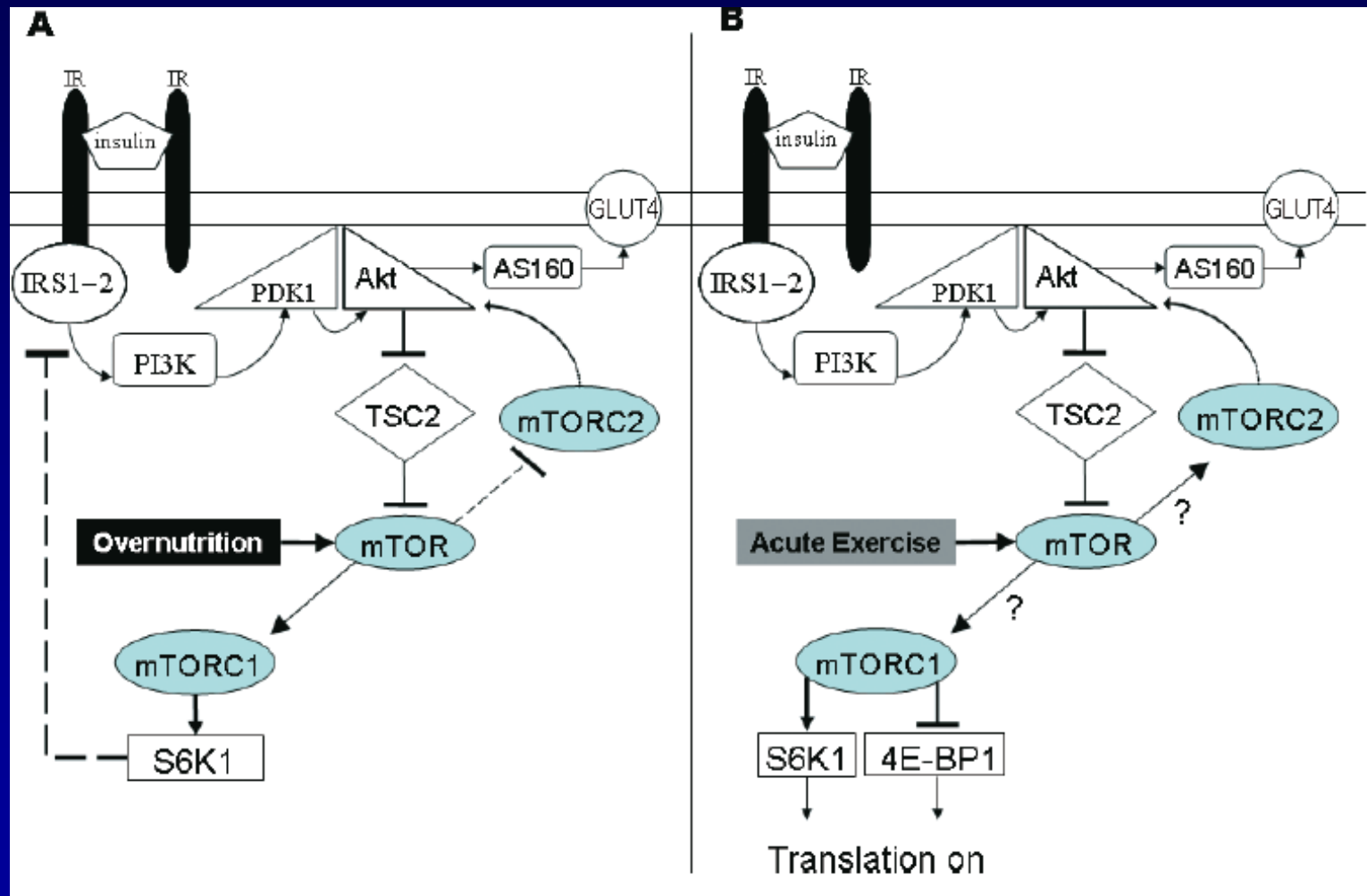
THE BOSTON CLAUDE D. PEPPER
OLDER AMERICANS INDEPENDENCE CENTER
*A collaboration among Boston University, Boston Medical
Center, Tufts University and Joslin Diabetes Center*

- Donato Rivas, PhD
 - Intramyocellular lipid effects on anabolic signaling in aging skeletal muscle
 - Examining the role of intramuscular fat accumulation common in advanced age and obesity in loss of muscle mass (sarcopenia)
 - Using rats fed a high-fat diet to examine mTOR pathways
 - Draws on the collaboration of Tufts/BU with Joslin Diabetes Ctr

Donato A. Rivas, Sarah J. Lessard, and Vernon G. Coffey

Abstract: The mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) is a highly conserved atypical serine–threonine kinase that controls numerous functions essential for cell homeostasis and adaptation in mammalian cells via 2 distinct protein complex formations. Moreover, mTOR is a key regulatory protein in the insulin signalling cascade and has also been characterized as an insulin-independent nutrient sensor that may represent a critical mediator in obesity-related impairments of insulin action in skeletal muscle. Exercise characterizes a remedial modality that enhances mTOR activity and subsequently promotes beneficial metabolic adaptation in skeletal muscle. Thus, the metabolic effects of nutrients and exercise have the capacity to converge at the mTOR protein complexes and subsequently modify mTOR function. Accordingly, the aim of the present review is to highlight the role of mTOR in the regulation of insulin action in response to overnutrition and the capacity for exercise to enhance mTOR activity in skeletal muscle.

Potential opposition of mTOR signaling in overnutrition vs. exercise



Examples of Minority Faculty Research Projects: Clinical Studies

Abstract—Arterial stiffness is a prominent feature of vascular aging and is strongly related to cardiovascular disease. Oxidized low-density lipoprotein (ox-LDL), a key player in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis, may also play a role in arterial stiffening, but this relationship has not been well studied. Thus, we examined the cross-sectional association between ox-LDL and aortic pulse wave velocity (aPWV), a marker of arterial stiffness, in community-dwelling older adults. Plasma ox-LDL levels and aPWV were measured in 2295 participants (mean age: 74 years; 52% female; 40% black) from the Health, Aging, and Body Composition Study. Mean aPWV significantly increased across tertiles of ox-LDL (tertile 1: 869 ± 376 cm/s; tertile 2: 901 ± 394 cm/s; tertile 3: 938 ± 415 cm/s; $P=0.002$). In multivariate analyses, ox-LDL remained associated with aPWV after adjustment for demographics and traditional cardiovascular disease risk factors ($P=0.008$). After further adjustment for hemoglobin A1c, abdominal visceral fat, antihypertensive and antilipemic medications, and C-reactive protein, the association with ox-LDL was attenuated but remained significant ($P=0.01$). Results were similar when ox-LDL was expressed in absolute (milligrams per deciliter) or relative amounts (percentage of low-density lipoprotein). Moreover, individuals in the highest ox-LDL tertile were 30% to 55% more likely to have high arterial stiffness, defined as aPWV >75th percentile ($P \leq 0.02$). In conclusion, we found that, among elderly persons, elevated plasma ox-LDL levels were associated with higher arterial stiffness, independent of cardiovascular disease risk factors. These data suggest that ox-LDL may be related to the pathogenesis of arterial stiffness. (*Hypertension*. 2009;53:846-852.)

Tina E. Brinkley, Barbara J. Nicklas, Alka M. Kanaya, Suzanne Satterfield, Edward G. Lakatta, Eleanor M. Simonsick, Kim Sutton-Tyrrell, Stephen B. Kritchevsky; for the Health, Aging, and Body Composition Study

Examples of Minority Related Research: Clinical Studies

- Bridgett Rahim-Williams, PhD, MPH, MA
 - Pain, Physical Activity and Functional Mobility among Women with Knee Osteoarthritis
 - 80 women (40 AA and 40 NHW) being recruited
 - Specific Aims
 - Characterize differences in experimental pain perception among AA vs. NHW women
 - Characterize potential psychosocial and sociocultural contributions to ethnic differences in pain sensitivity
 - Characterize ethnic group differences in physical activity and functional mobility among old AA and NHW women with knee OA

Examples of Minority Related Research: Population Studies



Objective: Compare missing data and reliability of health care evaluations between African Americans and Whites in Medicare managed care health plans. **Method:** Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) 3.0 health plan survey data collected from 109,980 Medicare managed care enrollees (101,189 Whites, 8,791 African Americans) in 321 plans. Participants self-administered the survey and four single-item global ratings of care. **Results:** Missing data rates were significantly higher for African Americans than Whites on all CAHPS items ($p < .0001$). Internal consistency reliability estimates for the CAHPS scales did not differ significantly between African Americans and Whites, but plan-level reliability estimates for the scales and global rating items were significantly lower for African Americans than Whites. **Discussion:** Higher missing data rates and lower plan-level reliability estimates for African American Medicare managed care enrollees suggest caution in making race/ethnicity comparisons. Future efforts are needed to enhance the quality of data collected from older African Americans.

Comparison of Data Quality for Reports and Ratings of Ambulatory Care by African American and White Medicare Managed Care Enrollees

Marie N. Fongwa, William Cunningham, Robert Weech-Maldonado, Peter R. Gutierrez and Ron D. Hays
J Aging Health 2006; 18: 707



Duke University
Pepper Center

Genetic Ascertainment of Large African American Family for Osteoarthritis and Onset Cardiovascular Disease: The CARRIAGE Family Study

**Virginia Kraus, M.D., Ph.D., William Kraus, M.D., Project
Leaders: Funding Years 2001-Ongoing**

- Family dates back to 1773 and consists of a mixture of ethnicities: primarily American Indian mixed with Anglo-Saxon and African-American**
- Represents one of the oldest intact extended families in the United States**
- Data were ascertained for 239 members of this family: health information, family history information along with laboratory data for use as quantitative traits including glucose and lipids, and detailed physical examination.**

CARRIAGE Family Study

- 500 adults from 35 states participated
- Large family reunions every 2 years (every other one held in NC)
- Family genealogy available from 1773-1950
- 4 generations have been assembled in a pedigree
- Multiple blood and physiologic measures of CVD, OA, bone health done on 239 subjects
- Work currently being done to connect the pedigree to the founders
- Author of the genealogy still alive (age 86) to help fill in the gaps

Gene-environment Interactions in Aging, Functional Decline and Disease: The CARRIAGE Family Study

Svati Shah, M.D., Pepper Pilot

Funding Years: 2007-2009



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Pepper Center

- Quantitative measurement of CVD and OA disease-related biomarkers in all sampled family members
- Quantitative assessment of the heritability of metabolic risk factors for CVD and OA biomarkers, and their interaction with aging in this family
- Perform a genome-wide linkage analysis in this Family to map metabolic risk factors for CVD and OA susceptibility genes.

Work is ongoing. Two publications, 2 in review, Career Development Award completed in 2009, RO1 awarded in 2009 to continue quantitative trait linkage studies in this family

Examples of High Level Scientists drawn to Pepper Ctr- Sponsored Research in Issues of Minority Health in Seniors



Duke University
Pepper Center

- Determining the heritability of specific traits in families with premature CVD

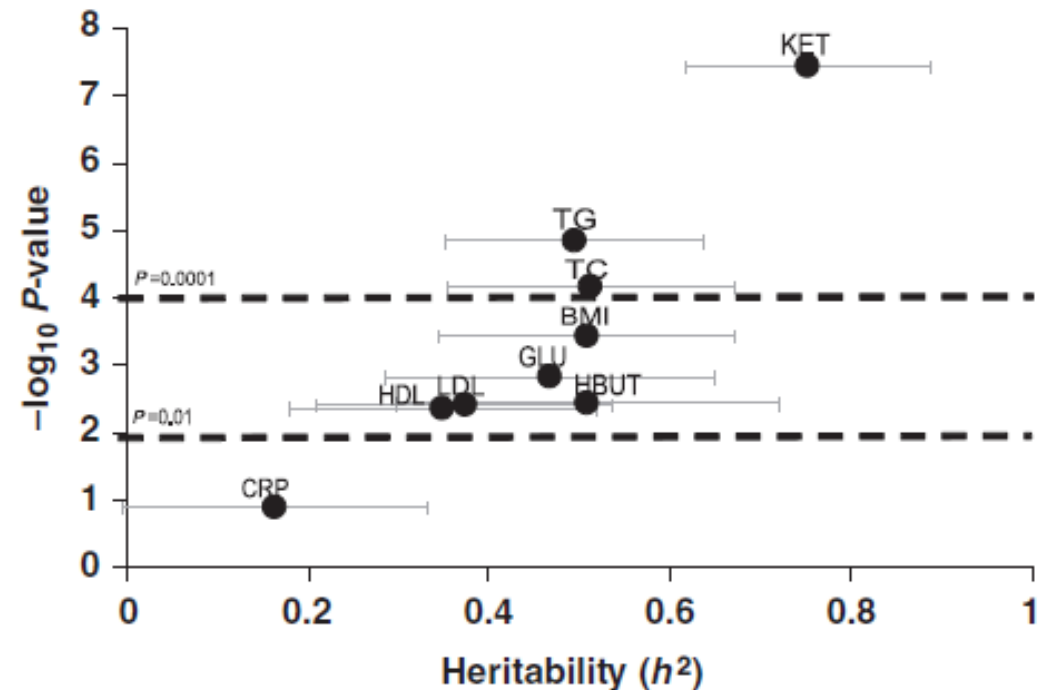


Figure 1 Heritabilities of conventional metabolites. Heritabilities of the conventional metabolites are displayed in graphical form. The Y-axis is the negative log₁₀ of the P-value for the heritability estimate (X-axis). Error bars around heritability point estimates are in light gray.

Examples of High Level Scientists drawn to Pepper Ctr- Sponsored Research in Issues of Minority Health in Seniors



Duke University
Pepper Center

- Determining the heritability of specific traits in families with premature CVD

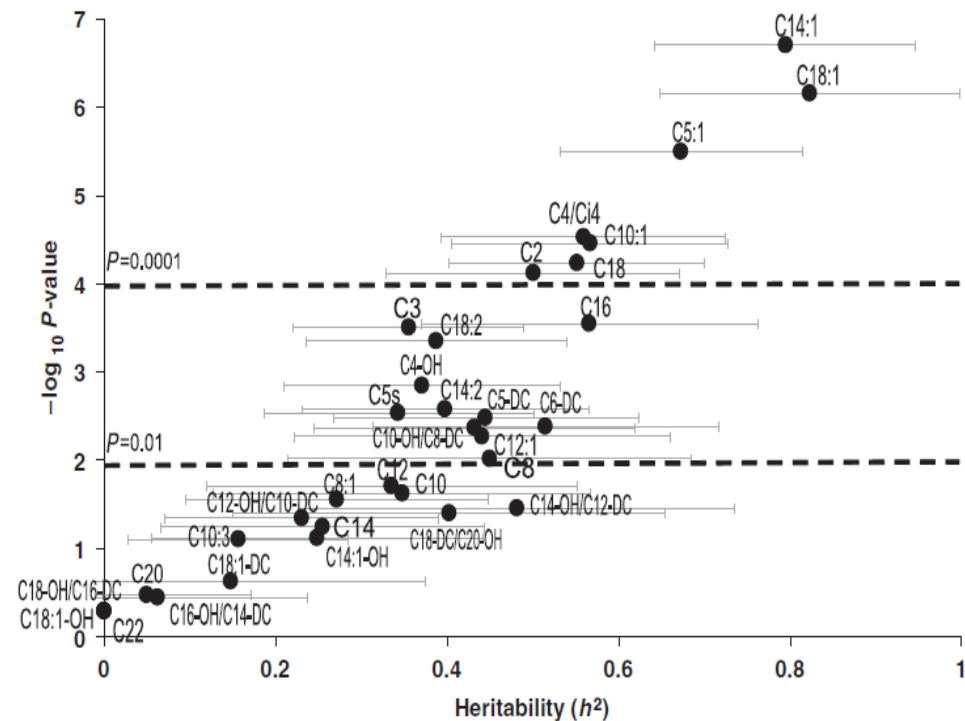


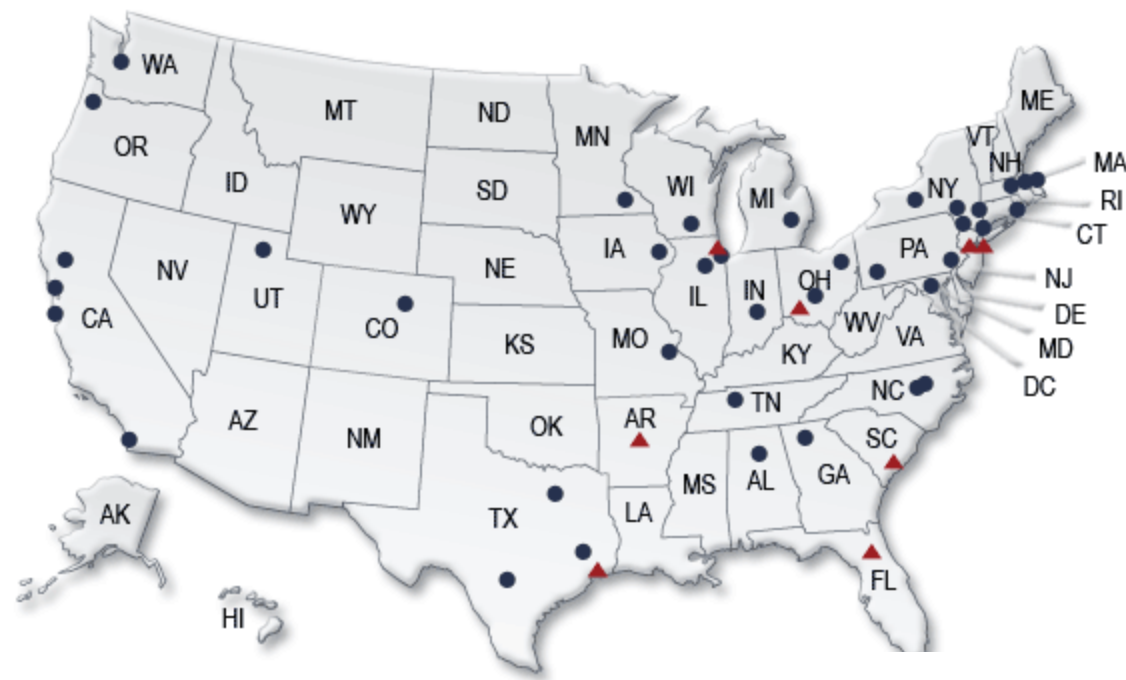
Figure 3 Heritabilities of acylcarnitines. Heritabilities of the acylcarnitines are displayed in graphical form. The Y-axis is the negative \log_{10} of the P-value for the heritability estimate (X-axis). Error bars around heritability point estimates are in light gray.

Affiliated Longitudinal Studies

- Longitudinal Study of Mexican American Elderly Health (Hispanic EPESE)
 - Kyrakos Markides, PI; originally funded in 1992
 - Subjects followed to date:
 - 95-96 – n=2438
 - 98-99 – n=1980
 - 00-01 – n=1683
 - 04-05 – n=1167 + 902 new subjects
 - Many papers, junior investigators trained – many from minority backgrounds

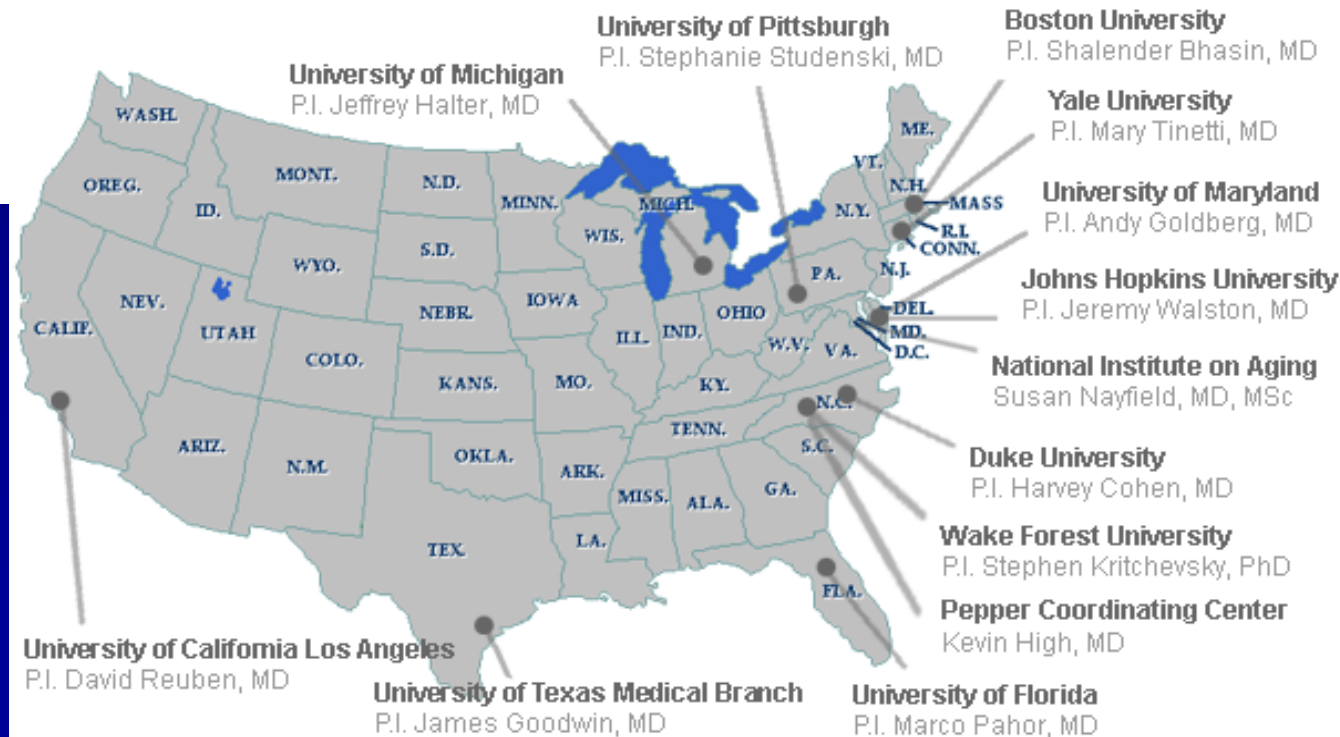
Pepper Center Outreach and Collaborations

Pepper and CTSAs at: Boston U, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Duke, U Florida, U Pittsburgh, U Michigan and UTMB



Participating Institutions

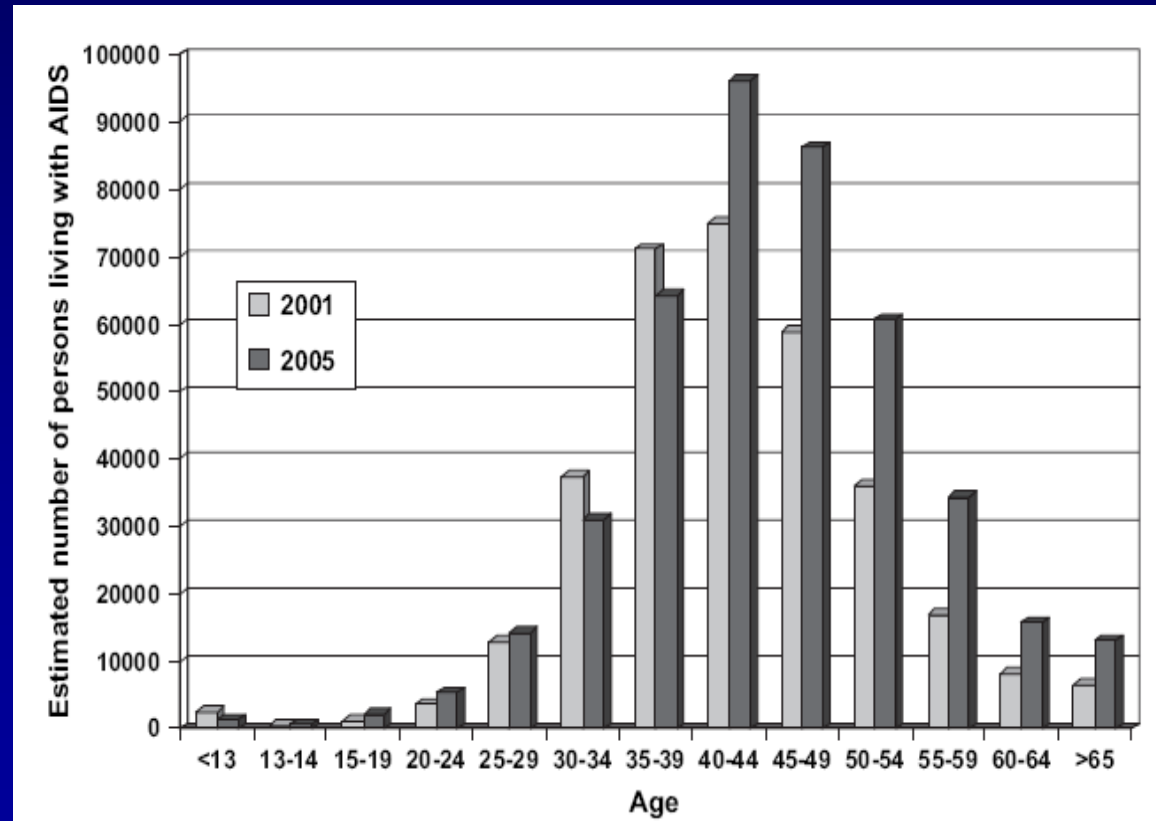
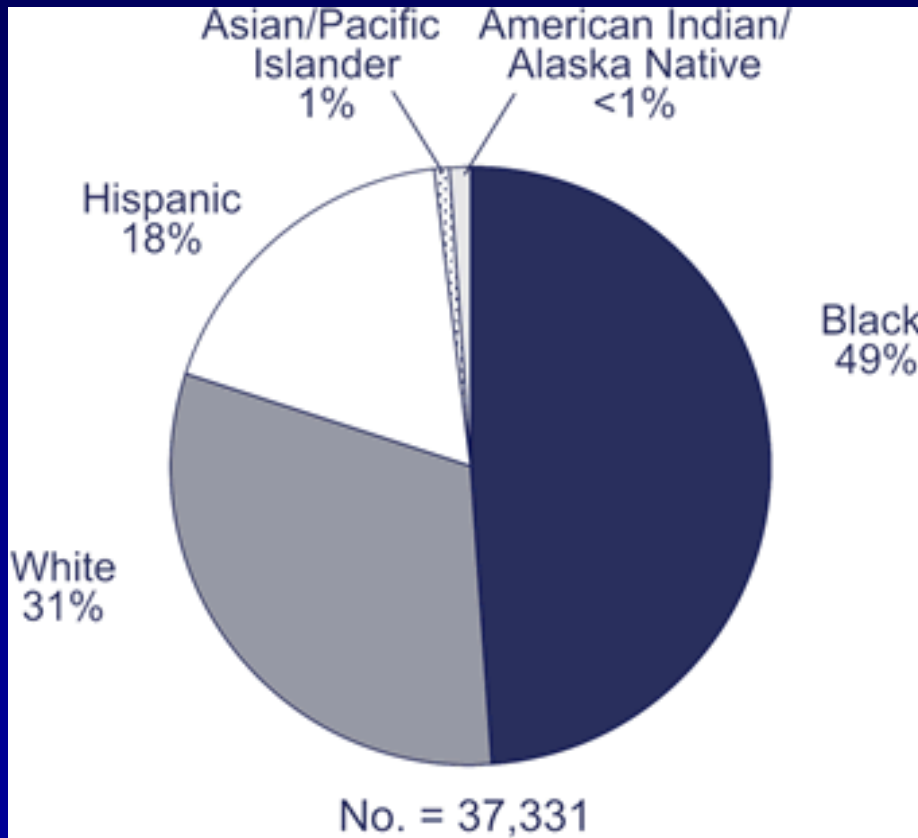
- ▲ New Members 2009
- Members



CTSA/Pepper Collaborations on Minority Health

- Collaborative plenary session at 2008 Pepper Ctr Annual Meeting
 - Roundtable discussions of how the two centers could collaborate
 - Jr. Faculty support/mentoring, provision of pilot funds/resources, and sharing of database access
 - Minority issues of access to research for older minority adults, recruitment/retention and need for specific control cohorts identified as priorities

HIV and Aging: minority populations are disproportionately affected



CFAR/Pepper Collaborations on Minority Health

- Collaborative plenary session at 2009 Pepper Ctr Annual Meeting
 - Tremendous burden of disease in minorities recognized
 - The HIV-infected population is aging and their aging, even with controlled viral infection, appears to be accelerated
 - Many collaborative projects and responses to joint PA by NIA/NIAID

HIV/Aging Collaborative

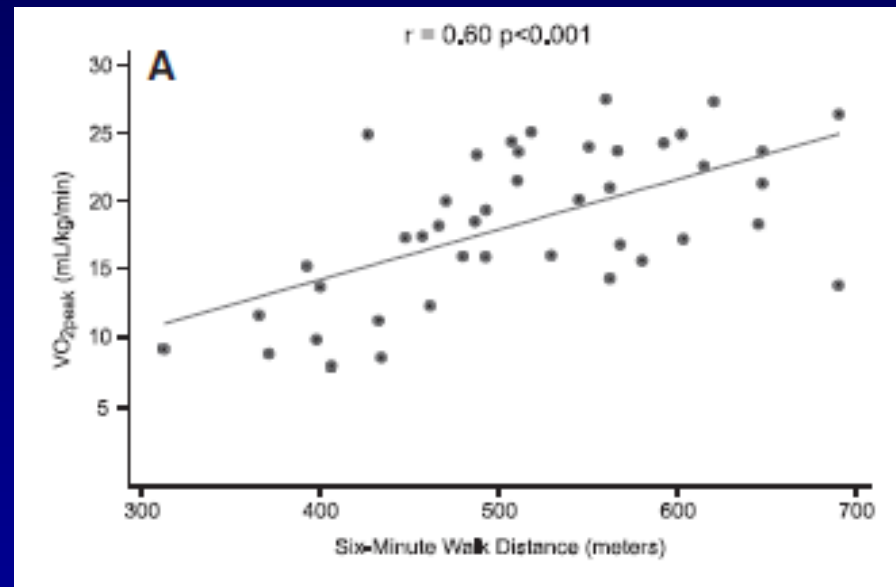
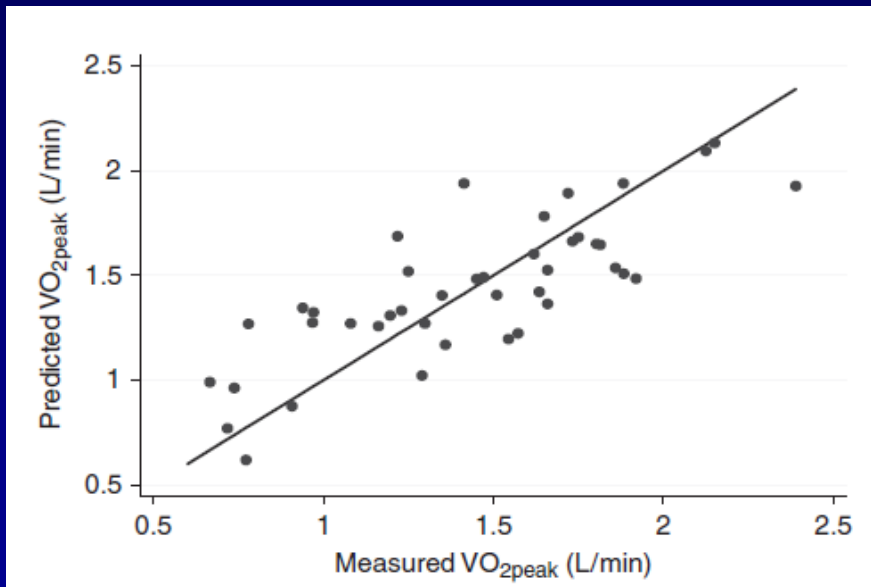
- Four Pepper Centers (Yale, U Pittsburgh, U Maryland, UCLA) are contributors to the Veterans Aging Cohort Study (VACS) of HIV infected and uninfected subjects
 - Amy Justice, MD at Yale is PI
 - RO1 at U MD to study CV Disease Mechanisms in the VACS cohorts

Kris Ann Oursler: K23 Recipient



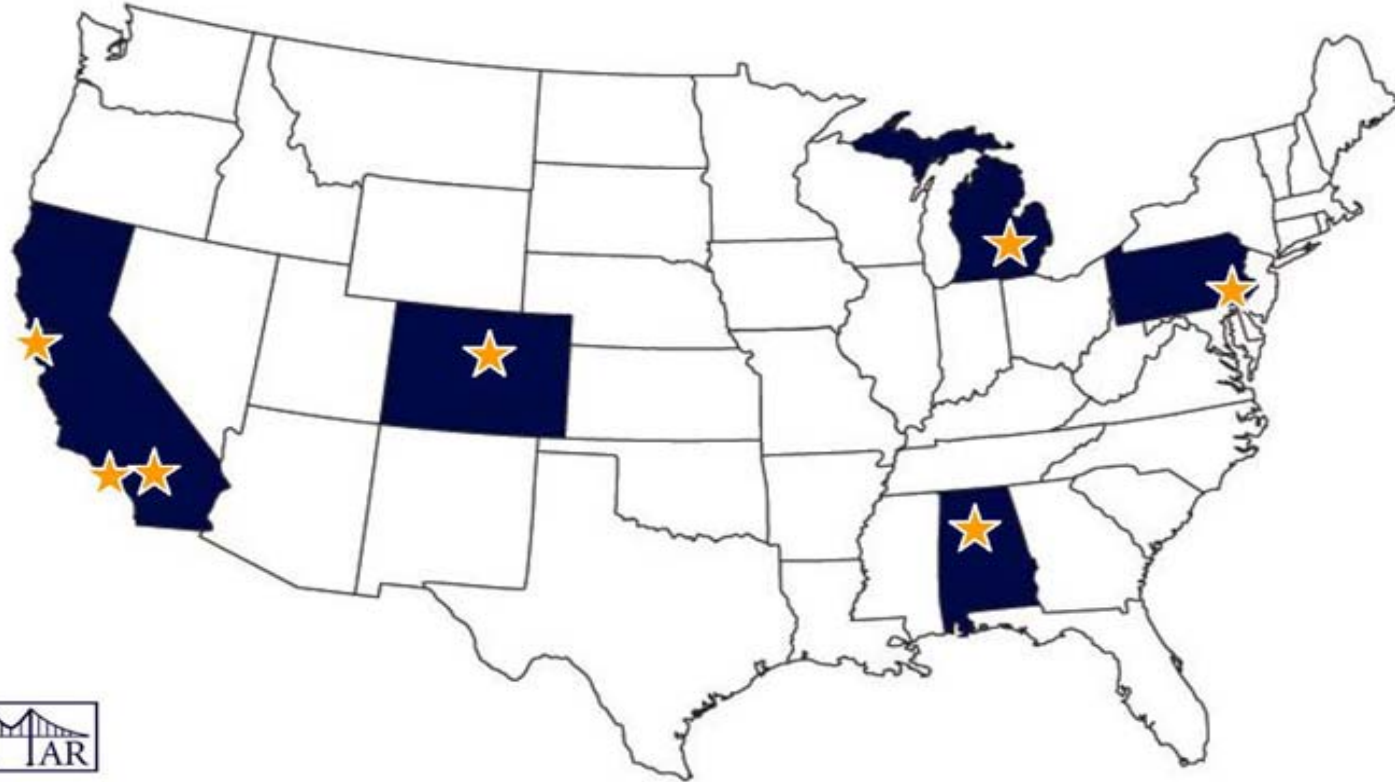
Prediction of Cardiorespiratory Fitness in Older Men Infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus: Clinical Factors and Value of the Six-Minute Walk Distance

Krisann K. Oursler, MD, ScM,^{*†} Leslie I. Katzel, MD, PhD,^{*†} Barbara A. Smith, PhD, RN,[‡] Wayne B. Scott, PhD,[§] David W. Russ, PhD,^{||} and John D. Sorkin, MD, PhD^{*†}



CONCLUSION: Non-AIDS-related comorbidity predicts cardiorespiratory fitness in older HIV-infected men receiving ARV therapy. The 6-MWD is a valuable measure of fitness in this patient population, but a larger study with diverse subjects is needed. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 57:2055–2061, 2009.

RESOURCE CENTERS FOR MINORITY AGING RESEARCH



University of Alabama at Birmingham – Richard M. Allman, MD

University of California, Los Angeles – Carol M. Mangione, MD, MSPH

University of California, San Francisco – Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD

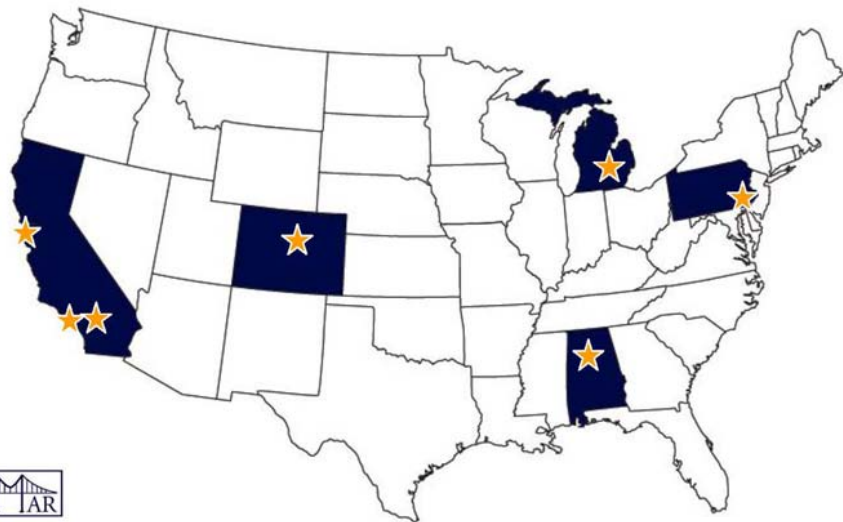
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center – Spero M. Manson, PhD

University of Michigan – James S. Jackson, PhD
Peter A. Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP

University of Pennsylvania – Jerry C. Johnson, MD

UCLA National Coordinating Center – Janet C. Frank, DrPH; Steven P. Wallace, PhD

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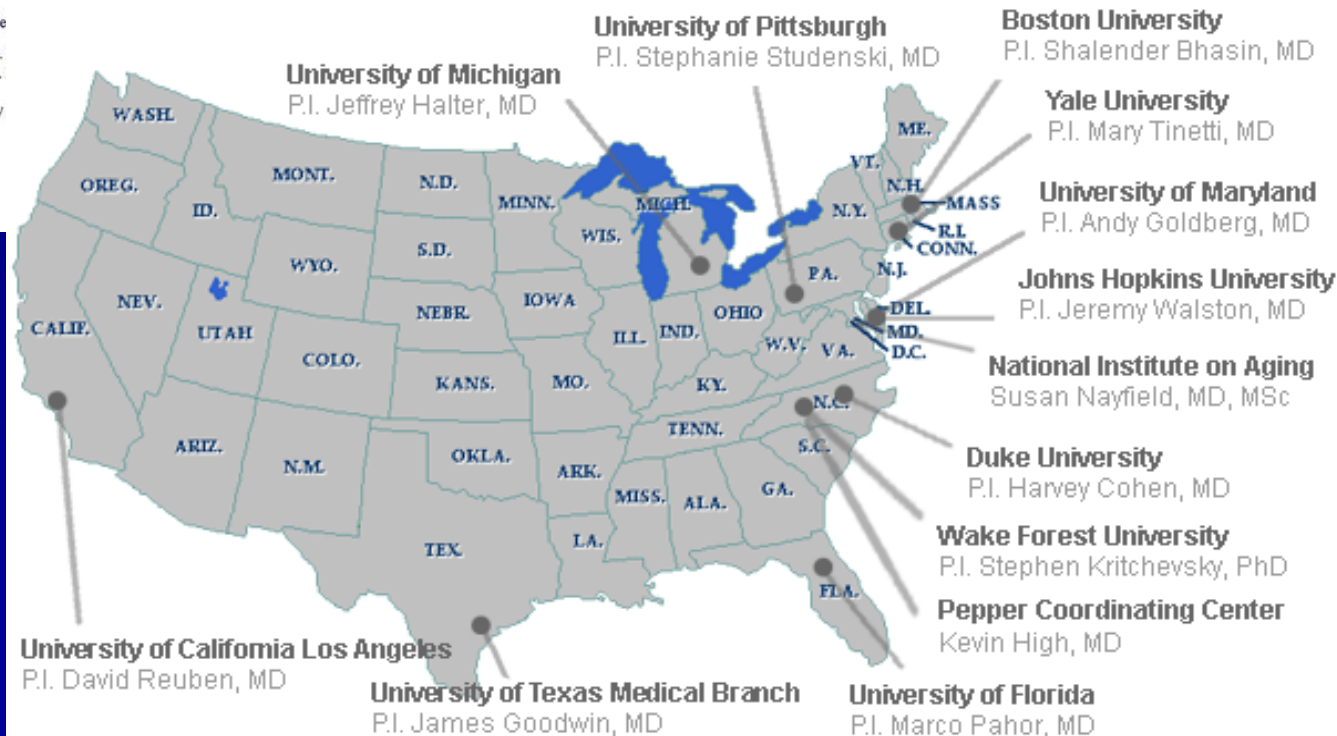
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UCLA and U Michigan
have both a Pepper Ctr
and RCMAR





UCLA Pepper Center Collaborations

- RCMAR Initiative – Center for Health Improvement for Minority Elders (CHIME)
 - Carol Mangione, MD, MSPH is PI (also UCLA OAIC Recruitment Core Director)
 - Funded 2007-2012
 - Works with UCLA and Charles R. Drew Univ faculty through support and mentorship on research on the health of minority seniors



UCLA Pepper Center Collaborations

- RCMAR Initiative – cont'd
 - Janet C. Frank, DrPh, MSG and administrator of the UCLA OAIC Leadership Core is Director of the RCMAR National Coord Center
 - The RCMAR CC plans to include Pepper, Alzheimer's, Roybal Centers and others in future activities
- **Important opportunity to work across centers!!**

O. Kenrik Duru: OAIC/RCMAR Collaborative Support



- General Internist with interest in health outcomes in minority seniors
 - Completed a faith-based pilot study supported by both OAIC and RCMAR: “Sisters in Motion” to enhance physical activity among older African-American women
 - Weekly small group activities increased activity over 6 months
 - Major grant submission for RCT in progress
- OAIC mentored K award funded in 2009: aimed at increasing mail-order pharmacy use and medication adherence in low-income seniors

U Michigan OAIC Outreach/Collaborations



- Human Subjects and Assessment Core
 - Established a link with Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology
 - Developed participant database of primarily AA seniors – currently > 1000 enrolled in the database
 - Organized 5 consumer health learning series on topics selected by the Detroit AA community
 - Attended by 40-50 seniors and family members
 - Annual health fair – > 1200 seniors attended

UTMB OAIC

Outreach/Collaborations

- WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center on Aging and Health
 - Designated in 2005 – one of seven worldwide, and the only one in NA
 - Dr. Rebecca Wong is Director
 - Visiting Scholars program – 3-12 month learning and applying research methods to the study of older Latino adults
 - 7 scholars from Mexico and Latin America to date

Additional Collaborative and Outreach Efforts

- Anesthesia/Psychiatry/Surgery/Geriatrics consortium
- Epigenetics projects ongoing in Feinberg Lab
- Mitochondrial studies in O'Rourke Lab
- Anemia U01 (Dr. Chaves)
- Collaboration Planning with University of Maryland Pepper Center

Additional Collaborative and Outreach Efforts

- Affiliations with Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health
 - Model campus/community partnership spanning WFUHS, WFU, WSSU and Forsyth County churches, community leaders
 - Joint sponsorships/mentorships of junior faculty and projects in minority health
- Geriatric GCRC
 - Dedicated aging research area within the Sticht Center on Aging
 - Supports many Pepper Center projects with large minority enrollment

Successful Retention and Recruitment
Strategies Within Pepper Centers:
Trainees and Participants

Successful Recruitment and Retention Strategies: Trainees

- Developing a “Farm Team” of students and fellows through OAIC and other training programs
- Diversity Supplement application for female minority doctoral fellow
- Ongoing Mentorship / Benchmarks
- Ongoing Small Pilot support to facilitate manuscript and grant development
- Engaging leadership from Department of Medicine (Dr. Weisfeldt) and Division of Geriatrics (Dr. Durso) in recruitment process

Successful Recruitment and Retention Strategies: Trainees

Interface with external projects:

- Women's Health and Aging Studies
- Baltimore Experience Corps Study
- Baltimore Longitudinal Study on Aging



Successful Recruitment and Retention Strategies: Trainees

- Health of Older Minorities Training Grant
 - T32 funded 5/04 – 4/11
 - Jim Goodwin, PI
 - Supports 3 pre- and 3 post-doctoral positions

Successful Recruitment and Retention Strategies: Subjects

- Developmental Study: Promoting Research Participation among Black and Hispanic Seniors
 - Holly Prigerson, PhD, PI; Cary Gross, MD, Co-PI
 - Completed a review of incentives and disincentives from 10 Yale Pepper Ctr studies and focus group interviews
 - Emerging themes identified to provide information in culturally appropriate context, increase trust and breakthrough language/behavior barriers



Successful Recruitment and Retention Strategies: Subjects

- Healthy Aging in Neighborhoods of Diversity Across the Lifespan Study (HANDLS): funded 9/1/09-8/30/14
 - Collaboration with NIA Intramural Program
 - Specifically designed to “untangle” the issues of race vs. SES in health outcomes – particularly cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases
 - Substudies with imaging (e.g. MRI)