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**A message from our Leadership Team:**



Photo taken at one of the sites enrolled in our preschool obesity prevention study led by Drs. Roshan Bastani and Paul Chang, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As we enjoy the longer days and warmer weather of spring, we are pleased to have had opportunities to meet with several partners in person and to resume a number of our research activities in the community. After two long years characterized almost exclusively by online interaction, this has been a welcome shift. We look forward to re-connecting with many more partners throughout the summer and fall, both in person and online. We invite you to read on as we share several updates in keeping with the seasonal theme of new beginnings.

We have several updates related to our efforts to address tobacco use in diverse communities. We are thrilled to share news of two projects newly funded by the California Tobacco Related Diseases Research Program. We are excited to welcome Ms. Savannah Goldstein, our newest research project assistant, to the Center. Additionally, we cordially invite you to join our monthly research seminar on May 11<sup>th</sup>. This talk, delivered in collaboration with our partners from Visión y Compromiso, represents the first of many activities aimed to share information and resources related to our recently developed vaping education program.

Rounding out this newsletter, we are especially proud to announce the recipients of our 2022 Community Seed Grants. We received many exceptional proposals and look forward to supporting the eleven funded organizations in their efforts to increase health equity.

Please continue reading to learn more.

With gratitude,  
Roshan Bastani, Alison Herrmann, Beth Glenn and Fola May

**Center News**

**Newly Funded Projects**



With funding from the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP), Drs. Burt Covigli, Alison Herrmann, and Barbara Berman are working with partners from the Deaf Community in California to develop tobacco and e-cigarette use prevention programming for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing middle and high school students called

**Cigarettes!** The unique curriculum features signed, captioned, and voiced video content paired with additional classroom tools in order to tailor the material for engagement with students who attend California's two Schools for the Deaf and mainstream programs. Deaf students from the California School for the Deaf - Fremont served as actors in the video. The curriculum will be implemented at the Schools for the Deaf and mainstream programs over the next two years to assess the program's effectiveness regarding improved knowledge about and use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes among the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing student population.

Drs. Alison Herrmann, Barbara Berman and colleagues also received TRDRP funding to conduct a study aimed to understand the scope and drivers of tobacco, vaping and marijuana use among indigenous Mexican agricultural workers. This study represents the first phase in a program of community-partnered research aimed at developing effective tobacco prevention and control interventions for this population. This work is only possible with the close collaboration of our community partner, the Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP).



**Welcome to the Team Savannah Goldstein**



Savannah Goldstein is the new Project Assistant for the Hands Off Tobacco and E-Cigarettes project (see above for additional details). She will graduate from Wesleyan University this month with a degree in Education Studies and Psychology, concentrating in Cognitive Science. During her time at Wesleyan, she was a Research Assistant at the Cognitive Development Lab and studied different ways preschoolers learn about cardinality. She was also a Course Assistant and Forum Leader for the American Sign Language (ASL) department and worked closely with members of the Deaf community.

**Upcoming Events**

**Monthly Seminar Series in Collaboration with Visión y Compromiso**

**Community Grants Program**

**The UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity and the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center announce the recipients of our 2022 Community Grants Program to Promote Health Equity**

We are pleased to announce the recipients of our 2022 Community Grants Program to Promote Health Equity. Due to generous contributions to our program from Doctora Monica Salinas, we were able to fund a total of 11 organizations. We look forward to supporting and sharing the critically important health equity work that each of these groups will conduct over the coming year.

**Environmental Equity and Climate Change**

**Black Women for Wellness – An Agent for Change**  
Funding will support creation of workshops to provide environmental justice education and inform people of resources in their community. This project will utilize inter-agency collaborations for outreach in Service Planning Area 6 of LA County.

**Obesity Across the Lifespan**

**Attained Health Services Corporation – STOMP Parent Support Group for a Community Clinic Childhood Healthy Weight Program**  
Funding will support a project that engages parents graduating from a six-week childhood healthy weight program in a support group aimed to increase children's adherence to physical activity guidelines in Service Planning Area (SPA) 7 of LA County.

**Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement/Special Service for Groups – Rethink your Asian Drink**  
This project will update the materials on the organization's website and develop a social media campaign, including infographics, that will help educate the public about Asian sugar-sweetened beverages and their impact on rising rates of obesity and diabetes in young adults in LA County.

**Community Health Systems Inc. – Obesity Awareness and Education Project**  
This project will support a 6-week, Diabetes Empowerment and Education Program (DEEP) course to be provided by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to constituents in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

**Central City Neighborhood Partners (CCNP) – Mi Salud, Mi Comunidad**  
This project will create a promotor-a-style program focused on nutrition education in various languages, including Spanish and Kichwa. CCNP Promotoras will conduct outreach and education during weekly food distribution events including general nutrition information, healthy recipes, linkages to health resources and public benefits including CalFresh in SPA 4 of LA County.

**Sustainable Together – Project Green Plate**  
Funding will increase access to affordable healthy food and will raise awareness about healthy eating in Pomona with the help of volunteers at the Pomona Certified Farmers Market. They will oversee weekly food deliveries and carry out youth nutrition education.

**Thai Community Development Center – East Hollywood Community Health Needs Assessment Survey**  
This project will support administration of a health needs survey at the East Hollywood's Farmers Market and enroll market-goers who are eligible into public benefit programs, such as WIC or CalFresh. The needs assessment will be used to understand and address food insecurity, diet, and other health issues in East Hollywood.

**Heal Her 2 Foundation – Wellness for Her 2**  
Funding will support fitness, diet and mental health activities that will introduce African American breast cancer survivors to healthy living to increase their overall health and help decrease the mortality rate of African American breast cancer survivors in LA and surrounding counties.

**Therapeutic Play Foundation – San Gabriel Valley AAIMM Black Maternal Mental Health Support Group**  
Funding will support screening and group therapy sessions for Black women suffering from perinatal mood and anxiety disorders in LA County SPA 3. Therapeutic group activities will target coping strategies, life-transitions, self-care, and guidance on infant health and development, breastfeeding and parenting.

**Unhealthy Alcohol Use**

**Building Skills Partnership – Men's Chronic Condition Program (MCCP)**  
Funding for the MCCP program will allow them to pilot the curriculum for participants through program outreach and instruction. Participants will receive a combination of mental health and men's health curriculum, with an emphasis on alcohol use disorder and chronic conditions.

**California Health Collaborative – ABC: Alcohol to Breast Cancer**  
Funding will be used to develop a tailored social media campaign and host a virtual meeting to raise awareness in the LGBTQIA+ Latinx community of Los Angeles County regarding the increased risk of developing breast cancer associated with alcohol consumption.