AHEAD Program Awards Round 3 of Pilot Grants

Four Advancing Health Equity and Diversity (AHEAD) research pilot awards were recently made as part of the UW ICTR commitment to research addressing health disparities or health equity issues.

The individual $10,000 AHEAD awards are co-sponsored by the ICTR Research Education and Career Development core and the ICTR Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE). ICTR administers the competition, which is restricted to AHEAD program scholars. Carmen R Valdez, PhD, associate professor of Counseling Psychology, is the CCHE faculty director of AHEAD.

Valdez notes, “The five programs collaborating in the AHEAD initiative (see list in box) are similar in their goal of training scholars to use type 1 and type 2 translational research approaches to investigate health disparities and health equity. Many of those scholars are also from underrepresented minority groups.”

She continues, “In addition to the support provided by the ICTR pilot awards, AHEAD infrastructure includes career development seminars, research training workshops and writing groups, and mock study sections for evaluation of trainee grant applications. Our goal is to develop a “community of scholarship” for early to mid-career scholars.”

Members of the AHEAD Program at UW-Madison

Founded in 2012, the UW AHEAD initiative has the following constituent programs described online (cche.wisc.edu/creating-future-leaders/ahead):

- **NIH Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH)**
  - Elizabeth Burnside, MD, MPH, co-director
  - Gloria Sarto, MD, PhD, co-director

- **NIH Health Disparities Research Scholars**
  - Gloria Sarto, MD, PhD, director

- **SMPH Centennial Scholars Program**
  - Patricia Kokotailo, MD, MPH, director

- **Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Health and Society Scholars Program**
  - David Kindig, MD, PhD, co-director
  - John Mullahy, PhD, co-director
  - Stephanie Robert, PhD, co-director

- **UW Family Medicine Research Fellowships (Primary Care and Complementary & Alternative Medicine)**
  - Bruce Barrett, MD, PhD, co-director
  - David Rabago, MD, co-director

2014 AHEAD Pilot Awards

- **Creating Barriers or Raising Opportunities? Race and the Changing Effects of ADHD Diagnosis for Early Literacy**
  - Jayanti Owens, PhD, UW SMPH; RWJ Health and Society Scholar
  - **Collaborators:** Jason Fletcher, UW L&S

- **Pregnancy Ambivalence: A Pathway between Social Disadvantage and Unintended Pregnancy**
  - Jenny A Higgins, PhD, MPH, UW SMPH; BIRCWH Fellow
  - **Collaborators:** Marcia Carlson, UW L&S

- **Exploring the Feasibility and Acceptability of a Condensed Mindfulness Curriculum for African American Women: A Pilot Study.**
  - Angela R Black, PhD, UW SMPH; UW Family Medicine Fellow
  - **Collaborators:** Bruce Barrett, UW SMPH; Natalie Watson, University of Illinois; Chris Smith, Bob Gillespie, UW Hospital & Clinics.

- **Understanding Disparities in Patient Education about Gestational Weight Gain**
  - Sara Lindberg, PhD, MS, UW SMPH; BIRCWH Fellow
  - **Collaborators:** Alexandra Adams, Cynthie Anderson, UW SMPH.