Four new UW ICTR AHEAD Pilot Grants were awarded in response to the 2016 RFA:

**Cultural and economic Influences on child weight-related communication in clinic**

Gwendolyn Jacobsohn, PhD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Primary Care Research Fellow

Childhood obesity disproportionately affects African-American, Latino, and lower-income families, compared to Caucasian and higher income families. Many pediatric health care providers address obesity prevention and treatment with parents and children using recommended care practices. If information is not communicated in a culturally appropriate manner, however, it can be of little value and even perpetuate existing health disparities. Research indicates that parents view pediatric health care providers as valued sources of information about child weight and want to be given useful information about weight-related topics. How they perceive, assess the value of, and use the information is still unknown, as is the influence of racial/ethnic culture and socioeconomics. This qualitative study explores parents and adolescents experiences and perceptions of weight-related discussions with health care providers—including what messages they have heard, what information was and was not useful (and why), the impact these interactions had on weight-related behaviors, and how cultural and economic factors shaped the way they dealt with weight-related issues.

**Association between objectively measured physical activity, sleep, and obesity in urban American Indian children**

Vernon Grant, PhD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Primary Care Research Fellow

Obesity is a major public health concern in American Indian (AI) children. In addition to physical inactivity, sleep disorders are a risk factor for obesity. Understanding how physical activity (PA) and sleep impact obesity risk is critical for research conducted in Indian country. The Specific Aim of this study is to assess the association between sleep, PA, and obesity in urban American Indian children. We expect children who engage in ≤ 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous PA per day and get ≤ 9 hours of sleep per night will have greater rates of overweight and obesity. The public health impact of this study is to gain better understanding of the relationship of sleep with obesity in middle-school age AI children will assist with intervention efforts in the future.

**Wisconsin Survey of Trans Youth: An Assessment of Resources and Needs**

Jennifer Rehm, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, School of Medicine and Public Health, Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) Scholar

Transgender and gender nonconforming youth (TGNC) are at increased risk for mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Though medical support and interventions have been shown to decrease these disparities, barriers to accessing support services, including mental and medical health services, have not been well characterized in this population. Effective advocacy depends on community engagement to create successful interventions. We hypothesize that transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) youth will identify community needs
and barriers to accessing resources that will serve as an effective platform for future advocacy and resource development. We aim to accomplish this by collecting surveys from TGNC youth and conducting groups. When our data analysis is complete, this needs assessment will be presented to community organizations to inform their work with TGNC youth and will serve as a platform for the Transgender Youth Resource Network to develop specific interventions to address needs and barriers experienced by TGNC youth. To our knowledge, our project is the first statewide assessment of TGNC youth’s perceptions of community needs and barriers to resources. Our study specifically aims to understand barriers in access to care for TGNC youth in order to develop community-informed strategies to address the disparities they experience.

**Socio-Political Context and the Health of Latina/o Populations**

**Edward Vargas, PhD**, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Center for Women’s Health and Health Disparities Research, T32 Postdoctoral Health Disparities Research Scholar

This project will analyze data from the Latino National Health and Immigration Survey, State Legislative Data, and data from U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement. The study aims to examine the association between personally knowing a deportee on the physical and mental health of Latino immigrant and non-immigrant Latino adults and their children. This aim will examine the spillover effects immigration policy might have on the Latino community; to examine the interrelationship between state immigration laws and respondents’ perceptions of their environment on self-reported health status; and to examine the link between the risks of deportation and immigration laws, on program use. This final aim will offer implications for social determinants of health and disparities. The long term goals of my research are to integrate socio-political realities of the Latino experience into the social determinants of health literature by also capturing the spillover effects for Latina/o non-immigrant populations and their children.