2015

2015 Annual Report

Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities
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Director’s Message

The Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities (ARSH) celebrated many accomplishments in 2015. ARSH continues to be a leader in sponsored research at Nova Southeastern University. Our international research on prescription drug diversion; our local, national and international drug epidemiology studies; and our ongoing South Florida-based research among vulnerable populations yielded more than 20 publications this year, as well as numerous scientific presentations at local, national, and international conferences. We look forward to the fruition of a number of new initiatives in 2016, including the potential expansion of our prescription drug diversion studies to all of Canada.

The year also marked a number of new research collaborations, including projects and proposals with researchers from institutions across the U.S. and internationally. These include ongoing and expanded initiatives in China and Israel, as well as new efforts to address substance abuse and HIV prevention among adolescents and young adults.

We are especially proud of the successes of our early investigators in 2015. Associate Director Mance Buttram was awarded the NSU President’s Research and Faculty Development Award to study patterns of misuse and diversion of medications prescribed for pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV infection. Maria Levi-Minzi was named Evaluator for a SAMHSA grant that aims to assist young men who have sex with men in linking to HIV testing and treatment resources. Congratulations!

We are pleased to announce the formalization of our ongoing collaborations with newly designated Affiliate Faculty in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Hilary Surratt, former Co-Director of ARSH, has relocated and is now with the Center for Health Services Research in the College of Medicine at the University of Kentucky. Dr. María Pagano, Associate Professor at Case Western Reserve University, serves as Co-investigator and biostatistician on several ARSH projects.

The work we do requires a team effort. We wish to thank all of our research staff, external collaborators, and the NSU community for your vision, commitments and talents. We share ARSH’s successful year with all of you.

Steven P. Kurtz
Director
Mission Statement

The principal mission of the Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities (ARSH) is the production, dissemination, and utilization of scientific knowledge in the areas of substance abuse, health risk behaviors, and health disparities among vulnerable populations. Areas of special interest include:

- The etiology, patterns and consequences, and prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse;
- The epidemiology of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and the prevention of such infections among highly vulnerable populations;
- The prevalence and patterns of health disparities among affected subpopulations, and the development and testing of new approaches to intervention.

ARSH is located within the Department of Justice and Human Services in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The Center is headed by Dr. Steven P. Kurtz (Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida International University). In addition to the Miami research office, ARSH maintains a field office that houses the day-to-day operations of extramurally funded grants.
Center Staff

Directors
- Steven P. Kurtz, Director
- Mance E. Buttram, Associate Director

Faculty Affiliates
- Maria E. Pagano
- Hilary L. Surratt

Senior Staff
- Maria A. Levi-Minzi, Senior Research Associate
- Gustavo Aguilera, Project Manager
- Yamilka Stivers, Project Manager
- James Hall, Epidemiologist

Research Staff
- Michael Fein
- Gloria Martinez
- Shenika Moraldo
- Catherine O’Grady
- Grettel Romero
Grant and Contract Awards

National Institutes of Health
“A Self-Assessment Intervention for Young Adult Polydrug Users at Risk for HIV”
• $430,602

Denver Health and Hospital Authority
“Drug Diversion Project”
• $960,243

“Drug Diversion Project Ontario”
• $101,577

Broward House/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
“Evaluation of SAMHSA Targeted Capacity Expansion Program: Substance Abuse Treatment for Minorities at High-Risk for HIV”
• $15,000

President’s Faculty Research and Development Grant
“Informal Markets for Antiretroviral Medications Used for HIV Prevention”
• $12,945


Presentations


Presentations (continued)


Presentations (continued)


Presentations (continued)


Presentations (continued)


Presentations (continued)


Presentations (continued)


Presentations (continued)


Media


Media (continued)


- Rob Waugh, “Drug Which Made Man have Sex With a Tree is Legally on Sale in UK.” Metro, April 17, 2015.


- “Aumenta el Uso de Spice, la Peligrosa Droga Sintética que Amenaza a los Jóvenes de EEUU.” Univision TV, April 24, 2015.
Media (continued)


Ray Downs, “Not Much is Known about Delray Beach’s Heroin Problem.” *Broward/Palm Beach New Times*, June 3, 2015.


“Marijuana Civil Citation Ordinance.” *This Week in South Florida with Michael Putney WPLG Channel 10*, June 14, 2015.


Media (continued)


Media (continued)


- Deepannita Das “Australia is Hit by Fatal Drug Flakka.” *International Business Times*, October 1, 2015.

- Flakka and Synthetic Drugs.” *County Line*, BECON Television, October 2, 2015.
Media (continued)


University Service


- Nova Southeastern University Academic Integrity Committee

- Scientific Advisory Board. Institute for Behavioral Health and Wellness. Nova Southeastern University.
Community Service


Professional Service

- Appointed Member, Behavioral and Social Science Approaches to Preventing HIV/AIDS Study Section (BSPH), National Institutes of Health.

- NIDA-ANRS Drug Abuse and HIV Research Fellowship Program. The U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the France Recherche Nord & Sud Sida-HIV Hépatites (ANRS) support 12-month postdoctoral appointments for talented scientists from any nation except the United States.


- Grant Review Panels, National Institutes of Health.

- Reviewers: Addiction; AIDS; AIDS & Behavior; AIDS Care; AIDS Education and Prevention; American Journal of Drug & Alcohol Abuse; American Journal of Public Health; American Journal of Men’s Health; Culture, Health & Sexuality; Drug and Alcohol Dependence; Evaluation and Program Planning; Health Promotion Practice; Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; Journal of Adolescent Health; Journal of Clinical Pharmacology; Journal of Criminal Justice; Journal of Drug Issues; Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved; Journal of Opioid Management; Journal of Urban Health; Psychology, Health and Medicine; Medical Science Monitor; Psychological Bulletin; Sexuality and Culture; Sexually Transmitted Infections; Social Science and Medicine; The Qualitative Report; Violence Against Women; Worth Publishers.
Professional Service (continued)

- Technical Expert Panel: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Community Early Warning and Monitoring System.

- Community Expert Panel: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Stanford University.


- College on Problems of Drug Dependence Credentials Committee.

- College on Problems of Drug Dependence Under-Represented Populations Committee.

- Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Conference Peer-Review Committee.

- Florida Representative, Community Epidemiology Work Group (CEWG). National Institute on Drug Abuse.

- Community Early Warning and Monitoring System (C-EMS) Technical Expert Panel. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

- Florida Behavioral Health Epidemiology Work Group. Florida Department of Children and Families.
Professional Service (continued)

- International Women’s (InWomen’s) and Children’s Health and Gender Group.


- Scientific Advisory Board, Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance (RADARS®) System, Denver Health and Hospital Authority.