

## Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

### OVERVIEW

Since 2001, the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) has served as the cornerstone of NCI's efforts to reduce the unequal burden of cancer in our nation.

### MISSION

To reduce cancer health disparities, CRCHD seeks to:

- Stimulate research that identifies biological and non-biological determinants of cancer health disparities and validates interventions to reduce the disparities.
- Achieve diversity in training researchers who conduct cancer and cancer health disparities research.
- Promote multi-disciplinary, multi-site integrative science teams, which engage communities, in order to build capacity, leverage resources/strengths, and foster synergy between research, training and outreach for cancer disparities reduction.

### PROGRAMS

#### Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE)

Launched in 1997, CURE is a national research training and career development initiative that focuses on building and sustaining a pipeline of diverse cancer investigators. Starting with high school students and extending to newly awarded, independent cancer researchers, CURE trains individuals who come from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical science and cancer research.

CURE is the first and only NIH program to offer long-term support to qualified, underrepresented students and professionals who are otherwise at risk of being lost from the training pipeline.



The NCI defines cancer health disparities as "differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of cancer and related adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States."

Health disparities can occur due to the inequities experienced by racial and ethnic populations, and by marginalized groups such as the poor, rural, and aging populations.

The field of cancer health disparities is complex and affected by a multitude of health, biological, environmental, and social factors. To advance understanding of the multi-factorial causes of cancer disparities, including biological and non-biological bases of cancer incidence and progression, networking programs facilitate new and ongoing linkages between research, training, and outreach.



## PROGRAMS CONTINUED:

### Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE)

PACHE enables institutions serving racial/ethnic and/or underserved communities with cancer health disparities and NCI Cancer Centers to:

- Build research and training capacity at underrepresented-serving institutions.
- Create stable, long-term collaborations between institutions and cancer centers in research, training, career development, and outreach.
- Improve effectiveness of research, education, and outreach for underserved populations.
- Export successful approaches for addressing disparities.

Today, CRCHD provides the critical infrastructure needed to spawn new disparities research, including in the basic sciences, and to train the next generation of competitive cancer researchers from diverse backgrounds.

### Community Networks Program (CNP) Centers

Launched in 2010, and building on the successes of the previous Community Networks Program, 23 NCI-supported CNP Centers use research, community outreach and training to:

- Increase knowledge of, access to, and use of beneficial biomedical/behavioral procedures to reduce cancer health disparities.
- Develop and perform evidence-based cancer health disparities intervention research.
- Train qualified cancer health disparities researchers in community based participatory research and promote their career development.

### National Outreach Network (NON)

Bridging NCI-supported outreach and community education efforts with cancer health disparities research and training programs, NON is a multidisciplinary program that stimulates linkages between NCI, grantee institutions, researchers, and communities. Working through a network of Community Health Educators (CHEs), NON:

- Disseminates cancer information/advances tailored to the needs and expectations of underserved communities.
- Engages study participants to foster recruitment and retention in research.
- Promotes a shared responsibility in addressing specific local health disparity problems among researchers and communities.

### Geographical Management of Cancer Health Disparities including Biospecimen Science (G/BMaP)

The G/BMaP initiative develops regionally-based network hubs for the support and management of multidisciplinary, team-based, cancer health disparities research, diversity training, and resource-sharing infrastructure. Leveraging the strengths of the diverse programs within GMaP's network:

- Advance the science of cancer health disparities in each geographic region.
- Contribute to the next generation of cancer health disparities researchers.
- Achieve measurable reductions in cancer health disparities in these regions.

GMaP researchers specialize in four electives targeting racial/ethnic and underserved populations, including: biobanking/biospecimens, bioinformatics platforms, clinical trials recruitment and retention, and applications of emerging technologies to cancer health disparities reduction.



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