



**HEALTH
EQUITY
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE**

2012 HELI Planning Team

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin



Alexandra Adams

Center Director

Email: alex.adams@fammed.wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.263.6982

Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD, is Director of the Institute of Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE) Core, is in the Department of Family Medicine, and currently practices at the UW Pediatric Fitness Clinic in Madison. Her special interests include pediatric nutritional problems, obesity, metabolic syndrome, and indigenous diets and health.

Dr. Adams has been working in partnership with three Wisconsin Tribes and the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) for the past seven years to reduce the prevalence of pediatric obesity with the aim of reducing the risk of future cardiovascular disease and diabetes. A major current project is a family-based intervention to reduce obesity and cardiac risk factors in American Indian children — Healthy Children, Strong Families.

Support for these projects comes from a Wisconsin Partnership Fund grant to the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, as well as a Native American Research Center for Health (GLNARCH) grant awarded to GLITC. Dr. Adams is the academic partner on both grants. In addition, she has had several NIH grants funding her research with a recent NIH U01 award.

Dr. Adams is an active member of the Governor's Council for Physical Fitness and Health, as well as of WIPAN, the statewide public health organization working for healthy lifestyles in Wisconsin.



Pamela Asquith

Administrative Director, Research Education & Career Development, ICTR

Email: psasquith@wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.263.8337

Pamela Asquith, PhD, works closely with the Institute's Mentored Career Development Award (KL2 Scholars Program) and is also involved in the development of a research mentor training program funded by a NCRR ARRA grant.



Tony Báez

Executive Director, Council for the Spanish Speaking, Inc.

Email: tbaez@spanishcenter-milw.org

Phone number: 414.384.3700

Tony Baez, PhD, is currently the Executive Director of the Council for the Spanish Speaking, Inc. in Milwaukee. Established in 1964, the Council is the oldest Hispanic community-based organization in the city. It serves over 15,000 low income individuals annually; 80% are Latinos, many are recent immigrants. The Council's programs include Head Start and parenting, an alternative high school, bilingual adult learning/ESL and pre-employment workforce development, subsidized elderly housing, immigrant, health, and school advocacy, and a comprehensive bilingual social services program.

Dr. Baez serves on the CCHE Advisory Board



Sarah Esmond

Center Administrative Director

Email: sesmond@wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.263.9401

Sarah Esmond, MS, provides extensive administrative oversight and project management to CCHE's many community-academic partnerships, academic institutional collaborations and education and training initiatives. She brings significant background in qualitative research methodologies and urban community-academic partnership building, serving as a key liaison to colleagues with the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance and the United Community Center in Milwaukee. She also serves as a member of the Milwaukee Hmong Health Consortium and the Urban Indian Wellness Consortium, representing academic interests and brings attention to university resources in Madison and Milwaukee that might be utilized to advance health equity focused initiatives. She has lent significant leadership to initiatives in the UW ICTR Clinical Research Infrastructure System core, including advancing community engaged research technical assistance for investigators applying to the Health Sciences IRB and accessing the Office of Clinical Trials. She previously served as Project Manager for the School of Medicine and Public Health's Center for the Study of Cultural Diversity in Healthcare and before that was the administrative project manager for the Center of Excellence in Aging at the UW School of Nursing.



Brenda González

Health Equity Career Development Coordinator

Email: bsgonzalez@wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.262.7218

Brenda González, BS, serves as the CCHE Health Equity Career Development Coordinator, providing overall coordination to CCHE's annual Health Equity Leadership Institute to increase the number of investigators engaged in health equity research in Wisconsin and nationally. Additionally, Ms. González contributes to multiple UW research and education training initiatives associated with the Center, including the SMPH Centennial Scholars Program, the Advancing Health Equity and Diversity (or AHEAD) Initiative and she serves as a point of contact to connect the Center with diverse pre-health and pre-med student organizations on the UW campus. Ms. González also contributes to the UW ICTR Research Education Career Development Core team, lending insight and direction to research mentoring curriculum content specific to advancing community engaged, health equity researchers. Importantly, Ms. González has established the Center's social media outlets via multiple Facebook and Twitter communities.

Ms. González brings a dozen years of professional expertise assisting organization/ programs in achieving benchmarks for cultural and language services with specific expertise within health care delivery systems. Most recently, she served as the Deputy Director of New Routes to Community Health a national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. New Routes is designed to improve immigrants' health, work life, and civic participation through the creation and support of local partnerships among immigrant organizations, media production centers, and established community institutions. Ms. González also serves as the Board President of Centro Hispano of Dane County, a local Latino serving organization.



Gloria Hawkins

Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs

Email: gvhawkin@wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.263.3713

Gloria Hawkins, MD, is Assistant Dean - Multicultural Affairs at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). The Office of Multicultural Affairs that provides academic and learning opportunities for students who are under-represented in medicine. Activities include:

- Coordinating and developing programs and activities for pre-college and undergraduate students
- Collaborating with undergraduate programs, pre-medical organizations, students and advisors and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health's Office of Admissions
- Advising and counseling medical students and monitoring academic progress

Dr. Hawkins is also the current Chair of the Central Region Group on Student Affairs/ Minority Affairs Section (MAS) of the AAMC. For over twenty-five years, Dr. Hawkins has carried out program initiatives to enhance minority recruitment, retention, and graduation in her professional roles at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia; Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota; and University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Carlos Jaramillo

Meriter Hospital Interpreter Services Coordinator

Email: cjaramillo@meriter.com

Phone number: 608.417.5642

Carlos Jaramillo works closely with staff at Meriter Health Services to ensure communication services for patients who are of limited English proficiency. He provides training and resources for clinical staff and assists patients with navigating the healthcare system. Mr. Jaramillo has lent leadership to community initiatives and organizations over many years.



Patricia K. Kokotailo

Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs

Email: pkkokota@pediatrics.wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.263.5322

Patricia K. Kokotailo, MD, MPH, is a Professor of Pediatrics, Director of Adolescent Medicine, and Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs at the UW-SMPH. For 10 years she was the Director of Pediatric Medical Education at the University of Wisconsin, directing all medical student education programs in pediatrics. She has been the Principal Investigator or Co-Director for federally funded, interdisciplinary primary care faculty development grants at the University of Wisconsin for the past 12 years.

Dr. Kokotailo directs the Centennial Scholars Program in the SMPH, an initiative to develop and retain faculty, educators and staff whose diversity enhances the quality of education and research at the School, and who may serve as visible and available role models for students and trainees, especially those from underrepresented minority backgrounds.



Megan Larson

Center Administrative Research Assistant

Email: mclarson3@wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.263.6982

Megan Larson, BA, serves as the CCHE Administrative Research Assistant, providing a wide range of support to Center faculty, staff and associated research team members. In addition to administrative coordination, developing Center communications and keeping Center calendars across Research, Education and Training and Community Engagement cores, Ms. Larson provides extensive leadership, direction and coordination for the design of the CCHE and HELI websites, produces all Center print materials and serves as the initial point of contact for all visitors to the Center's Health Sciences Learning Center suite. Ms. Larson joined CCHE in Fall, 2011.



Sue Passmore

University of Maryland Center for Health Equity Project Director

Email: spassmor@umd.edu

Phone number: 301.405.8221

Susan Racine Passmore, PhD, is Project Director at the Maryland Center for Health Equity at the University of Maryland (M-CHE). Her work has been in two fields—child welfare evaluation and health disparities research – reflecting a long standing engagement with vulnerable populations in the United States. In research, Dr. Passmore has explored health disparities regarding breast cancer, COPD, colorectal cancer and eye health working with faculty at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Medicine. She has also worked to understand the needs of aging populations along the US/Mexican border in a previous position with the University of Texas at El Paso. Her knowledge of child welfare comes from eight years of evaluation research in support of U.S. Administration of Children and Families (ACF) programs. These include the Adoption Opportunities, Child Abuse and Neglect, and PSSF (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) Demonstration Grant Programs and the Early Head Start/Child Welfare Services Grants funded by the Children's Bureau, and the ACF Healthy Marriage and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Initiative administered by the Office of Family Assistance (OFA).



Candace Peterson

Evaluation Shared Services

Email: candace.peterson@fammed.wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.263.3781

Candace Peterson, PhD, has more than 30 years of experience in positions of leadership and management in various settings at the local, state and national level spanning program evaluation, community assessments, organizational capacity building endeavors and system design and delivery for social and public health systems. Her technical expertise includes qualitative methodologies, survey development, programming planning and application of logic models, application of evidence-based practices and evaluation training for community- and campus-based personnel. The CCHE has Candace's evaluation expertise on a part time basis.



Christine Sorkness

Center Associate Director

Email: csorkness@wisc.edu

Phone number: 608.263.2285

Christine Sorkness, RPh, PharmD, is ICTR Senior Associate Executive Director and oversees the Community-Academic Partnerships core and the Pilot Grants program. She helps direct the ICTR Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE), and is co-PI on the P60 NIMHD Center of Excellence grant that funds CCHE. She has a special interest in health disparities in asthma, in which she has conducted clinical efficacy, cost-effectiveness and comparative effectiveness trials.

Dr. Sorkness has a clinical practice in the Anticoagulation Clinic at the VA Hospital-Madison, and also is affiliated with the UW Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Division, with more than 20 years of NHLBI-funding as either a co-investigator or co-principal investigator. A long-standing member of the UW Health Sciences IRB, she has also served on several NHLBI-appointed Data and Safety Monitoring Boards for large multi-center national trials.

Today, Dr. Sorkness holds professorships in both the School of Pharmacy and the School of Medicine and Public Health. Having guided the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum through the UW academic approval process, she had the expertise to manage approvals in 2009 for the ICTR graduate programs in clinical investigation. She serves on the ICTR Faculty Governance Committee and teaches two graduate courses. Dr. Sorkness also has a particular interest in expanding mentor training for clinical and translational researchers.



Stephen Thomas

University of Maryland Center for Health Equity Director

Email: sbt@umd.edu

Phone number: 301.405.8357

Stephen B. Thomas, PhD, is professor of Health Services Administration in the School of Public Health and Director of the University of Maryland Center for Health Equity at the University of Maryland in College Park. One of the nation's leading scholars in the effort to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities, Dr. Thomas has applied his expertise to address a variety of conditions from which minorities generally face far poorer outcomes, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity and HIV/AIDS.

He is principal investigator of the Research Center of Excellence on Minority Health Disparities, funded by the NIH-National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. He is also principal investigator, with Dr. Sandra Quinn, of the NIH National Bioethics Infrastructure Initiative: Building Trust Between Minorities and Researchers awarded in 2009.