



Winter Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2009

Upcoming Events...

Seminar with Sheryl Catz, PhD

Center for Health Studies, Group Health Cooperative

Patient and provider shared access to an electronic medical record: A platform for supporting medication adherence?

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

12:00–1:30 pm

Public Health—Seattle & King County

HIV/AIDS Program,

400 Yesler Way, Suite 300

For more information, please contact Dr. Jennifer Foster, at sprc@u.washington.edu or (206)744-3667.

Introducing Dr. Michele Andrasik New SPRC Core Faculty

The Sociobehavioral and Prevention Research Core is delighted to welcome Dr. Michele Peake Andrasik as our newest Core Faculty member. Dr. Andrasik's primary focus is on Community Outreach, but she also supports SPRC activities in the area of Behavioral Research.

Dr. Andrasik is a clinical health psychologist and an



Dr. Michele Andrasik, PhD,
UW Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences

Acting Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. She brings with her a passion for research and a commitment to working with communities impacted by HIV/AIDS, in particular, communities of color and African American women. Her research interests include sexual risk taking, identifying and reducing barriers to HIV prevention, HIV/AIDS medication adherence, and alcohol and substance use.

Dr. Andrasik received her PhD in Clinical Health Psychology from the University of Miami in 2006, where her dissertation focused on Assessing the Efficacy of a Cognitive-Behavioral Stress Management Interven-

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3rd National Cross-CFAR SBSRN Scientific Meeting October 2008, Seattle, WA



Attendees at the 3rd National Scientific Meeting of the Cross-CFAR SBSRN, Seattle, WA

In October 2008, the UW CFAR Sociobehavioral and Prevention Research Core hosted the 3rd National Scientific Meeting of the Cross-CFAR Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Network (SBSRN), October 20–22, 2008. The meeting was attended by over 100 researchers, community members, and UW students and staff.

The meeting began with **Mentoring Day** for junior and transitional investigators, which provided a forum for them to present their research and receive feedback. Seventeen mentees from eleven institutions attended, as well as NIH Staff, members of the SBSRN Executive Committee and local host committee. Drs. Michele Andrasik and Susan Cassels (UW SPRC) led a panel session discussing the career tracks of previous mentees.

The **Scientific Meeting** included scientific presentations in the morning and working groups in the afternoon. The keynote address, *Accomplishments and Challenges in Interdisciplinary HIV Prevention Research*, was given by Dr. Judith Auerbach, PhD (San Francisco AIDS Foundation). SPRC Director Martina Morris, CAB-Co-Chair Steve Wakefield (HVTN Legacy

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SOCIOBEHAVIORAL AND PREVENTION RESEARCH CORE

Martina Morris, PhD, Director
Robert Wood, MD, Associate Director

Core Faculty:

Michele Andrasik, PhD
Lisa Manhart, MPH, PhD
Jane Simoni, PhD

Susan Cassels, PhD (Research Fellow)
Jennifer Foster, PhD, (Core Manager)

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New Faculty (cont.)

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tion for African American HIV+ and HPV+ Women. She also has Masters degrees in Health Education and Psychological Counseling (Columbia).

Dr. Andrasik is highly committed to developing collaborative relationships between researchers and community members and brings to the SPRC extensive expertise working with communities and community organizations, both as a researcher and as a service provider herself. Prior to her graduate training, Dr. Andrasik was the Program Director for Project TEACH (Treatment Education and Access Center of Harlem) and the Director of AIDS Services for a community-based HIV/AIDS service organization with offices in Brooklyn and Manhattan. She has also served on several community boards and committees in New

York, Miami, and Seattle—including the Seattle Black Leadership Council on HIV/AIDS (BLC).

Dr. Andrasik is providing leadership for the CFAS/CFAR Community Action Board HIV Disparities Working Group and their community-based participatory research project, “Reducing HIV Disparities: Sexual Concurrency Communication for HIV Prevention among African-American and African-Born Populations” (funded by NIH, August 2008). The goal of this project is to develop new prevention messages for the African American and African-born communities in Seattle and King County using the scientific research on sexual networks and concurrency.

Dr. Michele Andrasik,
UW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
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SBSRN Scientific Meeting (cont.)

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Project), and Grace John-Stewart (UW CFAR) also gave presentations. The theme of the meeting was partnerships, and, during the afternoon session, participants explored this theme in smaller working groups focused on Bio-medical and Sociobehavioral, Public Health and Academic, and Community and Academic Partnerships. Another working group focused on research methods.

The meeting concluded with a full-day symposium, **Mathematical Modeling of HIV/AIDS: Tools of the Trade**, led by Martina Morris (SPRC Director), Steve Goodreau (UW Anthropology), and Susan Cassels (UW SPRC). The symposium was designed to give behavioral scientists a basic grounding in the concepts and tools of epidemic modeling including interactive exercises that provided an intuitive grounding for modeling and an introduction to the mathematical notation and programming tools that are used to build deterministic and stochastic models.

The next National SBSRN Meeting will be co-hosted by Harvard and Brown University CFARs and will be held in Boston in Fall 2009.

Other SPRC News...

Dr. Ann Kurth, one of the SPRC founding faculty members, has joined the faculty of New York University, College of Nursing. We wish her well.

**Community Action Board
“Reducing HIV Disparities...”**

The CAB Disparities Working Group successfully submitted their first community-based participatory research proposal to the NIH (awarded August 2008). The focus of this proposal is on translating the research on sexual networks and concurrency HIV prevention messages to reduce HIV Disparities in Seattle & King County.

Phase One of the project is underway: the interviewers have been hired and trained; an education piece was created, and the key informant interviews have begun. The groundwork is also being laid for the focus groups and the message development phase of the project.

If you are interested in attending future meetings or would like more information about the CFAS Community Action Board, please contact Dr. Jennifer Foster at fosterjl@u.washington.edu.

The mission of the Sociobehavioral and Prevention Research Core is to support interdisciplinary research among social, behavioral and clinical scientists and provide a forum in which the general issue of HIV prevention can be considered. The specific aims of the SPRC are to support HIV Prevention Research and Community Outreach by working both locally and internationally.