

Welcome to the inaugural HPD Research newsletter. Supported by the Office of HPD-Research, our newsletter is designed for the NSU-HPD research community. As part of a larger effort to support the research enterprise at NSU-HPD, this newsletter will provide information related to the research and creative activities found across our six colleges.

The goal of the newsletter is to:

- 1) Inform faculty and staff of new and existing policies and procedures regarding research at NSU-HPD;
- 2) Create awareness of research accomplishments across our six colleges;
- 3) Promote NSU-HPD supported scientific symposia;
- 4) Encourage faculty to become more involved with the research enterprise here in the HPD.

This newsletter is published monthly and I welcome suggestions, input and commentary from faculty. If you have questions or comments please contact Patrick Hardigan at 954-262-1524 or patrick@nova.edu.

Upcoming Events

The Statistical Seminar series will resume in September. The next presenter will be Dr. Leanne Lai of the College of Optometry. Her topic will be Logistic Regression Models

Coming in September, the Two Shorts Competition. All HPD faculty are invited to participate in this opportunity to present innovative teaching techniques, win prizes, and receive a complimentary entry to HPERS in January. Watch for a memo with all the details to be coming soon.

If you are a new faculty member, please contact Kathleen Hagen at x 1235 or khagen@nova.edu so that she can register you for the Educational Development Department's annual new faculty orientation.



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RUMBAUGH-GOODWIN CANCER RESEARCH

**The Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research
at Nova Southeastern University
takes part in the 9th Annual Bioflorida Statewide Conference**

The 9th Annual Bioflorida Statewide Conference was held on November 14-15, 2006 at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida. The Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research (RGICR) at Nova Southeastern University was effectively represented by the Executive Director of the institute, Dr. Appu Rathinavelu, accompanied by the Research Scientist Mr. Frantz Etienne. At the conference NSU's representatives were able to successfully project the research capabilities, unique cancer cell lines, animal models, and contract services offered by RGICR. The booth attracted a variety of conference attendees which included scientists, executives from various biotech companies in Florida, and academicians. The representatives of RGICR took advantage of the networking opportunities by establishing preliminary discussions towards collaborations and contract services with companies such as Tequesta Biotech of Boca Raton, Florida.

News and Notes



In December 2006, the HPD Research Committee (HPDRC) and NSU's IRB agreed to separate the approval processes. Researchers must no longer receive HPDRC approval before they can submit their projects to the IRB. Now, both processes may run in tandem. To recognize this change, new forms were developed. Below is a schematic which will help you to choose the correct forms for the HPDRC. Per HPDRC definitions, a clinical trial is a type of research study that uses human subjects research to assess the safety, behavioral outcomes (QOL), or efficacy of drugs, devices, diagnostics, treatments, or preventive measures. Clinical trials typically fall under four categories:

- Industry Research
- Sponsor-Initiated Clinical Trials
- PI-Initiated Clinical Trials
- Industry-University Cooperative Research Programs

For more information and complete forms please visit the website at:
http://hpd.nova.edu/hpdresearch/hpdresearch_committee/

HPD Research Newsletter Inaugural Interview

*Interviewer, Kathleen Hagen
Researcher, M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D.*

What is the focus of your work at Nova Southeastern University?

The Behavioral Health Promotion Program's goal is to use science to help address pressing social issues. We work toward achieving that goal by developing research and theory-based interventions designed to assist individuals who are at high risk of getting sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

The movement in today's world is to go way beyond what's between 'the navel and the knee,' so to speak. Information alone is not sufficient to get people to change their behavior. Our work focuses on creating and testing interventions that are holistic, that are culturally and socially based, and that are relevant to the people they're targeting.

Our team works on HIV/AIDS related research from a behavioral perspective. Right now, we're involved in projects designed to help young Hispanic men who have sex with men reduce their risk factors for HIV, reduce the spread of HIV, and help them make safer behavior choices about drugs and sex. Currently, we are funded by grants from CDC, NIH, NIMH, and NIDA.

What is your educational background?

I received my Ph.D. in community psychology from Michigan State University. I believe that community and culture play an extremely important role in everyone's life, and that prevention efforts must be tailored to

the cultural realities of the intervention participants. My education has shaped my view of prevention, and I strive to incorporate my community psychology background into all aspects of my work.

How long have you been doing this type of research?

I've been involved in HIV/AIDS work for my entire career. I worked at CDC on the America Responds to AIDS efforts of the 1980s, where I coordinated the publicity and media messages to Hispanic and Spanish speaking groups. At CDC, I also worked as a behavioral scientist, and then as a health scientist administrator at the National Institute of Mental Health's Office on AIDS.

After entering academia, in 1995, I continued my involvement in HIV prevention. I shifted my focus to research, focusing on at-risk populations including recent immigrants, migrant workers, Hispanic women, and men who have sex with men.

Why did you choose to work at NSU?

NSU has so many opportunities to grow a strong research program, particularly in the medical and behavioral sciences. The most prestigious academic institutions excel in three areas: teaching, service, and research. At NSU, there was an opportunity to enhance the research aspect, and I'm very pleased to be here as a result. I've been active in establishing a research seminar series for faculty, which will help provide



M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D.
*Medical Research
College of Osteopathic Medicine*

both theoretical and practical applications of research. Also, I'm the director of the new Research Fellowship program for students in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Right now, we have two research fellows who are working with our team, building up their research skills, and getting the chance to participate in our work. It's a great experience for them, and they in turn will go into their field with a strong understanding of research methods and principles.

Reminder

Mark your calendars
September 28

Full-Day workshop with
Maryellen Weimer, Editor
of *The Teaching Professor*
and author of numerous
books on best teaching
practices.



Focus On Research is a monthly publication of The NSU HPD Research Committee. Contact information:
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