

# The Hub Report

Fall 2017

## Community Partnerships

### Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC)

#### *Promoting culturally competent pediatric care*

Using evidence from the research literature, Health Hub student assistant, Emma Botelho, developed a list of best practices recommendations for providers in the Department of Pediatrics who treat Asian American children with autism spectrum disorder. As a follow up, we will work with the Pediatrics Department to conduct workshops on culturally competent care for Asian American children.

#### *Examining LCHC's transition into an Accountable Care Organization*

Beginning March 2018, LCHC will transition into an

Accountable Care Organization (ACO) payment model. Discussion is under way to explore how the Health Hub can assist in assessing and documenting the transition process.

### Greater Lowell Health Alliance (GLHA)

#### *2017 Community Health Implementation Plan*

Ivy Ho and Leland Ackerson are part of a team of UMass Lowell faculty and staff assisting with GLHA's roll out its Community Health Implementation Plan. This plan is based on the health priority areas identified by a recent community health needs assessment.

## About Us



The Asian American Health Research Hub ("Health Hub"), an initiative of the UMass Lowell Center for Asian American Studies, enhances Asian American health in the Greater Lowell area through equal and collaborative partnerships with community partners.

We are...

- Ivy K. Ho, PhD (Director) Psychology
- Leland Ackerson, ScD Public Health
- Ramraj Gautam, PhD Nursing
- SoJung (Sophie) Kim, PhD Physical Therapy
- Sabrina Noel, PhD Biomedical & Nutritional Sciences
- Herpreet Thind, PhD Public Health
- Angela Walter, PhD Public Health

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## Faculty Collaborations

Grants funded since summer 2017

*Predictors of Adult Bhutanese Refugees' Mental Health Outcomes: A Survey Study in the Northeastern United States;* (Mawn, PI; Gautam & Ho, Co-PIs); American Nurses Foundation Grant; \$10,000.

The goal of this project is to describe the prevalence of mental health problems and their correlations among Bhutanese refugees living in greater Lowell region. The objectives of this project are to: 1) Identify the factors associated with mental health of adult Bhutanese refugees; 2) Explore Bhutanese adults' knowledge and attitudes towards utilization of mental health services; and 3) Identify the barriers to mental health care service.

*Dietary Quality, Food Access and Food Safety among Cambodian Adults at Risk for Type 2 Diabetes;* (Noel, PI; Bigornia, Zhang, Co-PIs); Greater Lowell Health Alliance 2017 Community Health Initiative Grants; \$11,500.

Cambodians residing in the US are at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes. This project seeks to better understand the nature of the relationship of Cambodian Americans at risk for type 2 diabetes with their food environment, to characterize the dietary patterns, and perceived community-based resources Cambodian Americans have in the Greater Lowell area, as well as identify existing community-level resources and gaps in the food environment.

*Dietary Quality and Acculturation among 1.5 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Cambodian Americans Living in the Greater Lowell Area;* (Bigornia, Ho, & Noel, Co-PIs); UMass Lowell Internal Seed Funding Program 2017; \$10,000

The objectives of this study are to 1) characterize the dietary quality, identify shortfall nutrients, and key food sources of Cambodian Americans (ages 18-40 years) residing in the Greater Lowell area; 2) measure associations

of immigration status and mainstream American and Khmer acculturation with dietary quality and explore the potential mediating role of intergenerational conflict.

## Membership News

Sherman Bigornia, PhD, formerly of the Department of Biomedical & Nutritional Sciences, is now at the University of New Hampshire. He continues to work with Health Hub colleagues on funded projects.

Sabrina Noel, PhD (Department of Biomedical & Nutritional Sciences) and Angela Walter, PhD (Department of Public Health) joined the Health Hub in September 2017.

Emma Botelho this semester's student affiliate. Emma is an undergraduate Psychology major with a minor in Public Health and Music, and a member of the Honors College. Their work with the Health Hub is primarily supervised by Ivy Ho.