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Repository Citation

Fortuna LR, Torres Stone RA, Kim S, Kuo F. (2008). Multicultural Academic Interest Group: Promoting Multicultural Research, Education & Services. Implementation Science and Practice Advances Research Center Publications. Retrieved from https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/psych_cmhsr/631

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Multicultural Academic Interest Group

Promoting Multicultural Research, Education & Services

Lisa R. Fortuna, MD, MPH, Rosalie Torres Stone, PhD, Sun Kim, PhD, Felicia Kuo, MD



Purpose

The Multicultural Academic Interest Group (MAIG) is sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry and the Center for Mental Health Services Research (CMHSR).

The MAIG promotes and supports excellence in multicultural mental health services research, medical school and residency multi-cultural education and mental health services.

Background

Eliminating racial/ethnic disparities in access and quality of mental care has emerged as a national priority as highlighted in the 2001 Surgeon General's report, the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, and Healthy People 2000 and 2010. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) ranks this issue third among its top five priorities.

Methods

Together with faculty, staff and local community stakeholders the Academic Interest Groups (AIGs):

- Generate snapshots of current practice
- Identify empirically supported interventions
- Develop research concepts
- Identify and develop special research tools
- Develop long range research plans
- Serve as expert resources

Goals

Expand the Department of Psychiatry's initiation, conduct and dissemination of state of the art research on evidence-based practice for multicultural, ethnic-racial and linguistic minority populations.

Initiate and support research with a focus on improving the quality of mental health services for multicultural populations.

Provide consultation and curriculum development for the medical school faculty, staff and residency training program on multicultural psychiatry and socio-cultural determinants of mental health.

Promote collaborations for research and dissemination between the medical school and local community stakeholders serving multicultural populations.

Developing Projects

Junior Faculty Career Development Awards Focused on Cultural Adaptations of Behavioral and Psychosocial Interventions

DMH Issues Briefs (e.g., Variations by Race/Ethnicity in Child Psychiatry Prescription Patterns of Psychoactive Medications)

Cultural Adaptations of Nicotine and Dual DX Treatment

Multicultural Psychiatry Curriculum for Residents and Students

Mentoring of psychiatry residents with APA Minority Fellowships



Next Steps

- Develop a network of researchers, faculty, clinicians and community stakeholders.
- Develop research collaborations with organizations and agencies critical to the mental health of our local communities.
- Collaborate on current department research that includes multicultural populations.
- Serve as a department resource for state of the art multicultural research methods and collaborative research projects.
- Pilot a multicultural curriculum and conduct a pre-post evaluation of resident's knowledge, attitudes and practice.

Watch for Future Meeting Announcements or Contact:

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