

# Models FOR THE Nation

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December 2000

## National CoE Evaluation Project Begins!

**D**oes the designation as a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health (CoE) make a difference in how much women are satisfied with the quality of their health care? What are the common organizational challenges faced by the diverse institutions with the CoE designation?

These are the primary questions that will be answered over the next 2 years by the National CoE Evaluation Project. The Project was creatively designed by Center Directors and Evaluation Directors from six CoEs located in different regions of the country, and from all three generations. The Chair of the CoE Evaluation Working Group is Carol Weisman, Ph.D., from the University of Michigan. Over 2 years in development, the evaluation plan began on August 1, 2000, with \$600,000 in funding from the Office on Women's Health. It will be completed by September 30, 2002.

### Two-Pronged Approach

The Evaluation Project looks at the CoE program from two angles: a qualitative interview with CoE professionals to compare and evaluate case studies, and a quantitative patient satisfaction survey. Evaluators have carefully planned and coordinated the project to ensure meaningful results, and view the project as part of their mission to dramatically change the way we approach comprehensive health care for women.

"All three generations of CoEs have demonstrated innovation, vision, hard work, and a touch of pioneer

spirit as they have labored to create a new model for community-based health care for women," says Wanda Jones, Dr. P.H., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health) and Director of the Office on Women's Health. "Now they are applying the same level of dedication and enthusiasm to the evaluation project, and we are confident we will learn a great deal from the results."

### Quantitative Project

First and foremost, evaluators are excited about their plans to hear from women who use the CoEs. Two hundred patients at each of the 15 currently-funded CoEs will be surveyed by trained telephone interviewers using the University of South Carolina's Computer-aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system. Benchmarks for measuring the results come from accepted guidelines derived from other national surveys on women's health care.

The Quantitative team is composed of representatives of the Wake Forest University, University of Michigan, and University of Pittsburgh, and include Roger Anderson, Ph.D., (Chair), Douglas Levine, Ph.D., Carol Weisman, Ph.D., Sarah Scholle, Dr.P.H., and Shellie Ellis, M.A. In addition, the quantitative survey will be conducted by the Survey Research Laboratory of the South Carolina Research Laboratory of the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of South Carolina. Team members include Robert Oldendick, Ph.D., and Katherine Lind, Ph.D.

*EVALUATION continued on page 2*



# OWH Expands Community Programs

The Office on Women's Health (OWH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is pleased to announce the award of the first 5-year cooperative agreement grants for the National Community Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CCOE). Awards were made to the Northeast Missouri Health Council (Kirksville, MO), a rural-based program targeting Hispanic women in eight medically underserved counties (Center Director, K. Brooks Miller, M.A.); St. Barnabas Hospital and Healthcare System (Bronx, NY), an urban-based program targeting Black and Hispanic women in the Bronx (Center Director, Mildred Allen, Ph.D.); and Mariposa Community Health Center (Nogales, AZ), a rural-based program targeting Mexican American women in Santa Cruz county (Center Director, James R. Welden). The program provides recognition and funding for community-based programs that unite promising approaches in women's health.

These women-focused programs will integrate, coordinate, and strengthen linkages between health and social service agencies in communities to provide comprehensive, seamless care to women across their life span. Technical assistance will be provided to communities interested in replicating successful CCOE programs.

The OWH plans to fund three or more new programs each year until a total of 15 awards have been made. Every effort will be made to ensure that each region of the country has either a National Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health or a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health.

The CCOE program is a partnership between the Office on Women's Health, DHHS; the Office of Minority Health, DHHS; and the Bureau of Primary Health Care, Office of Minority and Women's Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, DHHS.

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*EVALUATION continued from page 1*

## Qualitative Project

Evaluators are also looking forward to comparing programs at the participating centers. The qualitative team will interview six key informants at each of the 18 originally funded CoEs to develop comparative case studies. These case studies will then be analyzed for common trends and themes across all CoEs.

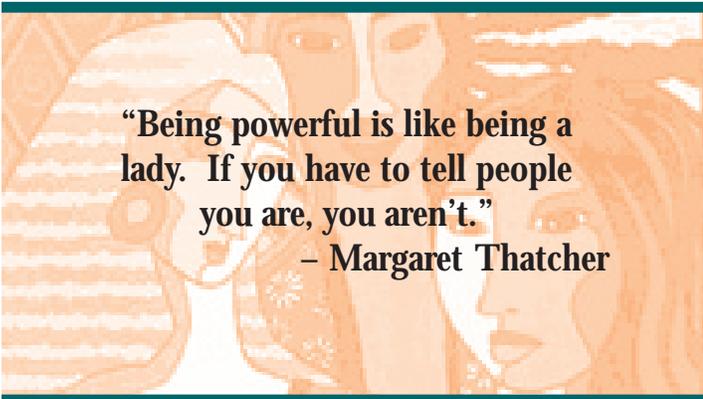
The Qualitative Evaluation Team who developed the interview protocol is composed of representatives from Tulane University, University of California,

San Francisco, and Boston University and include Robert Goodman, Ph.D., (Chair), Nancy Milliken, M.D., Karen Freund, M.D., M.P.H., Margaret Seaver, M.D., and Sue Dibble, D.N.Sc., R.N.

Each team will meet in person and via conference calls to discuss their individual work, and to confer with the other team and CoE Evaluation Directors to keep all CoEs up to date on the project, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

If the CoE Evaluation results show that this new model of women's health care is working, there may be future CoE solicitations to fund new National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health. Finally, if positive trends are indicated, future funding for the current CoEs will be confirmed.

"All along," says Jones, "we wanted the participating CoEs to create models that advance the health status of women and open up barriers to access. We are confident the results will reflect the steps they have taken towards that goal."



**"Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't."  
– Margaret Thatcher**

# Redefining Women's Health

The National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) are revamping the health care system to meet the changing needs of today's women. Through a unique approach to health care, the CoEs are successfully integrating public outreach, research advances, clinical services, and teaching into innovative programs designed to improve the health of all women. The following programs and activities offer a glimpse at how the CoEs are setting a new standard of excellence in women's health.

## University of Michigan Health System Women's Health Program

**"On Your Own."** The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) CoE successfully piloted this health education program to 150 local high school senior girls in March 2000. The purpose of the program is to educate girls about the issues they may face as they enter college and the working world. "On Your Own" focuses on topics such as "It's Your Body," "Nutrition," "Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use," "Relationships," and "Taking Responsibility for Your Life." The program is interactive and answers questions, challenges myths, and gives girls the opportunity to learn firsthand from those who have had similar experiences. Because the pilot was so successful, the UMHS CoE will offer the "On Your Own" program to girls again in March 2001, in addition to a similar program for high school senior boys. The CoE also plans on expanding the program to target rural and underserved schools in the Ypsilanti area and will modify the program curriculum to address the needs of these populations.

**"Breaking the Cycle" Brown Bag Lunch Series.** In response to the immediate need for ongoing educational efforts on sexual assault, domestic violence, and vulnerable adult abuse, the CoE planned a monthly lunch series on a variety of violence and abuse topics. Community groups and experts, as well as UMHS experts, have made presentations on the following topics:

- Domestic Violence: Responding and Helping
- Vulnerable Adult Abuse: Preventing, Identifying, and Intervening
- Sexual Assault: Responding and Helping
- Legal Issues and Domestic Violence

- Cultural Issues and Domestic Violence
- Identifying Community Resources

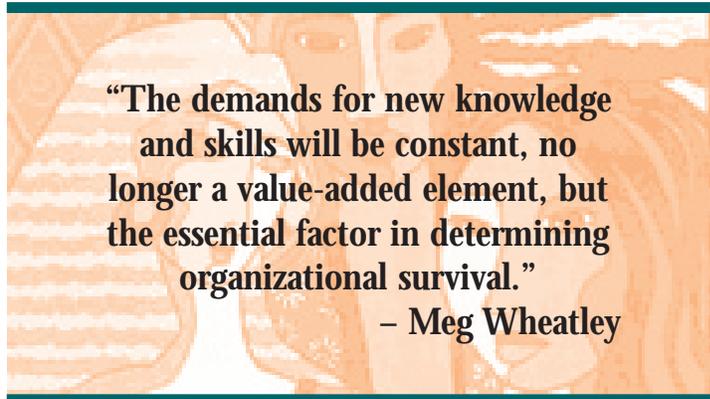
The sessions were approved for continuing nursing education (CNE) credits in May, which has dramatically increased attendance. Due to the success and positive response to this series, the CoE will be continuing the information and education sessions throughout 2000-2001. In addition, the CoE is repeating the series at UMHS satellite locations to maximize session exposure to faculty and staff.

**Women's Health and Alternative Medicine Series.** The CoE, in collaboration with the Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research Center and Borders Books and Music, sponsored a free lecture series on women's health and alternative medicine. This four-part series was held in April 2000 at Borders Books in the Arborland mall. Lecture topics included:

- Herbal Allies for Menopause
- Spirit and Movement (a demonstration/talk about T'ai Chi Ch'uan and NIA) Aromatherapy and Women's Wellness
- Taking Charge of Your Fertility

At each session, participants were given a recommended reading list of books, music, or videos that were available for purchase. The series was very well received, and each session drew approximately 35 participants, filling the presentation space to capacity.

*REDEFINING continued on page 4*



**"The demands for new knowledge and skills will be constant, no longer a value-added element, but the essential factor in determining organizational survival."**

**– Meg Wheatley**

### **Magee-Womens Research Institute**

**Pharmaceutics Research.** The Magee-Womens Research Institute CoE has ventured into a new area of research. Pharmaceutics, or physical pharmacy, is the science of drug delivery. It involves the preparation, design, and evaluation of suitable dosage forms (delivery systems) that overcome barriers, optimize drug action, and minimize adverse effects. Dr. Lisa Rohan started the pharmaceutics laboratory in October 1999. Currently, she is working with Dr. Sharon Hillier, CoE Center Director, to study the compatibility of excipients with normal vaginal flora. Excipients are the additives used to convert pharmacologically active compounds into pharmaceutical dosage forms suitable for administration to patients. The study also includes the effects of these excipients on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Additionally, cervical and vaginal tissues are being evaluated to identify basic kinetics of transport as well as the effect of excipients on these kinetics.

Dr. Rohan is also working on the following research projects:

- Formulating a drug delivery system for octylglycerol that can be used by women before intercourse to protect them from HIV and STDs (in collaboration with Dr. Charles Isaacs from New York State Institution for Basic Research)
- Developing a database of information that can be

used to prepare safe and effective vaginal products for women

- Uncovering minimally-invasive techniques to identify positive lymph nodes in patients with cervical cancer (in collaboration with Dr. Robert Edwards, Medical Director of Gynecologic Oncology, Magee-Womens Hospital)

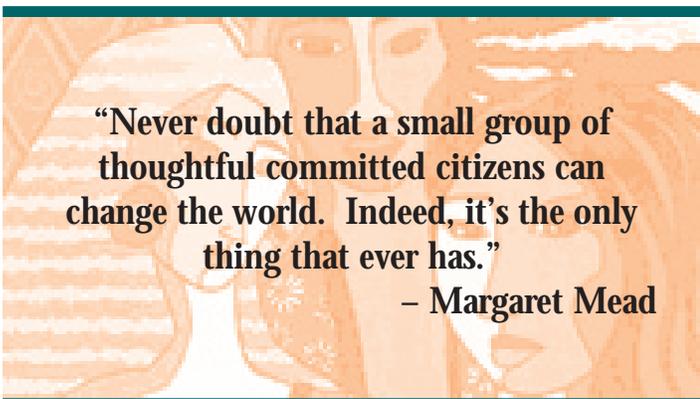
As a result of Dr. Rohan's pharmaceutics research, women may have access to new female care products that are research based.

### **Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center**

**Media Workshops.** In an effort to educate journalists who research and write about medical and scientific findings on women's health, the Wake Forest CoE developed "The Science of Women's Health Reporting: Advanced Seminars for the Media." These seminars give journalists a competitive edge by helping them understand how research is conducted, how to interpret the study results, and how the findings fit into the larger research picture. Attendees also learn about elements of a research study, how to find experts, and ethical issues in medical research.

**Living Water Clinic.** The Wake Forest CoE established the Living Water Clinic to provide affordable and compassionate health care to ethnically diverse, low-income women. The clinic is housed in a local church and staffed by a nurse midwife and obstetrician who see patients 5 half-days a week. Patients receive breast and prenatal care and are referred back to the medical center or to one of the satellite offices if further medical attention is required. The clinic also provides Spanish language interpretation.

In the past year, the Living Water Clinic has formed collaborations with other community organizations that provide services to patients, including Great Beginnings, a child development program that offers health education; the Maternity Care Coalition; and the Clothes Closet at Green Street United Methodist



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Church. The Living Water Clinic is also a part of a church coalition that provides a pharmacy fund to help Living Water patients purchase medications. Currently, the Living Water Clinic sees over 150 women a month.

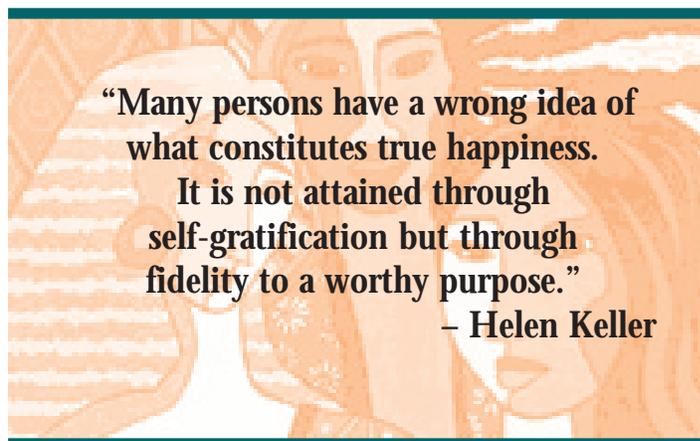
**Mentoring Program for Junior Women Faculty.** The Leadership Program of the Wake Forest CoE—designed to serve as a catalyst for the advancement of women in leadership positions within the educational, research, and clinical endeavors of the academic institution—developed the Junior Women Faculty Mentoring Program. This program provides junior women faculty with senior faculty mentors with whom they can discuss issues important to their careers. Potential mentor-mentee pairs are identified by the Leadership Committee based on the needs of the junior faculty and skills of the senior faculty. The committee developed *A Mentee Reference Manual* and *A Mentor Reference Manual* to help guide the participants in their mentor-mentee relationship. Pairs are asked to commit to the mentoring relationship for a 1-year term.

**Fall Initiative on Domestic Violence.** In an effort to combat the serious problem of domestic violence in the community, the Wake Forest CoE instituted an annual Fall Initiative on Domestic Violence in 1998. The initiative has included a number of community events, including health fairs that promote healthy relationships; a town meeting for health care and legal professionals, law enforcement, and communities of faith; teen workshops on dating violence; and seminars for college students. This year, in addition to providing educational events, the CoE will place domestic violence information stickers in restrooms, a location where victims can usually go without their abuser. The stickers include phone numbers to call for help or information on domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. The stickers will be placed in every restroom on the medical center campus, the largest employer in the county. Along with these

educational efforts, the CoE hosts a nationally sanctioned triathlon to raise money for the local women's shelter. Last year, the triathlon raised over \$4,000 for the Family Services Women's Shelter.

**Breast Care Clinic.** Wake Forest CoE's Breast Care Clinic provides a seamless system of care for women who have been newly diagnosed with breast disease. The clinic consolidates the services of a multidisciplinary team in a central location, allowing patients to be seen by multiple specialists during a single visit. The clinic practitioners facilitate the diagnosis and treatment process to minimize stress for women who have been newly diagnosed with breast cancer or benign breast disease. The team of specialists includes medical and surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists and a plastic/reconstructive surgeon.

Typically, women are referred to the Breast Care Clinic by their primary care physicians if their mammograms indicate a potential problem. During their first visit, patients are seen by a breast surgeon and undergo appropriate diagnostic procedures such as a fine needle aspiration or ultrasound-guided biopsy with onsite microscopic analysis by a pathologist. If cancer is found, the physicians and coordinator work with the patient to develop an appropriate treatment plan. Depending on the patient's needs, appointments with team specialists are made within days, rather than weeks. In addition, a patient educator is available during clinic hours for patient education and risk assessment evaluation.



## CoE/FDA Research Partnership Initiative on Dietary Supplements

The Office on Women's Health in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office on Women's Health are piloting a new joint partnership to advance gender specific research. This year the focus is on the effectiveness of dietary supplements and dietary supplement drug interactions.

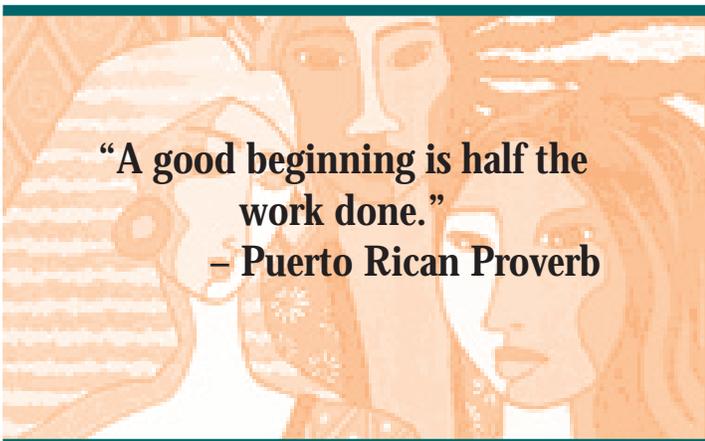
Six National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) were awarded \$25,000 each on September 30, 2000, to support ongoing research being conducted at their institutions. The research will be conducted in a 10-12 month time frame. The projects, investigators, and CoE institutions are as follows:

- "Phytoestrogens: Drug Interaction Potential in Women," Gail D. Anderson, Ph.D., Gary W. Elmer, Ph.D., University of Washington, Seattle.
- "Effect of Dietary Soy and Calcium Supplementation on Lipid Levels, Brachial Artery Function, Biochemical Markers of Bone Turnover, Inflammatory Markers of Atherosclerosis and Menopausal Symptoms in Postmenopausal Women," Francine K. Welty, M.D., Ph.D.,

Marie Gerhard, M.D., Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School.

- "The Effects of St. John's Wort on the Efficacy of Oral Contraception," Stephan D. Hall, Ph.D., J. Christopher Gorski, Ph.D., Naga Chalasani, M.D., Zaiqi Wang, M.D., Rebecca Craven, R.N., Indiana University School of Medicine.
- "Pattern of Botanical Dietary Supplement Usage in Menopausal Women," Gail B. Mahady, Ph.D., Alice Dan, Ph.D., Richard Derman, M.D., Stacy Geller, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago.
- "Pilot Cohort Study of Herbal Weight Loss Products," Sara L. Warber, M.D., Anita Sandretto, Ph.D., Steven F. Bolling, M.D., University of Michigan Health System.
- "Use and Interaction of Dietary Supplements in the Soy Estrogen Alternative (SEA) Trial," Mara Vitolins, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., R.D., Nancy Avis, M.S. Hyg, Ph.D., Tim Morgan, Ph.D., Anita Hege, R.N., M.P.H., Marie Richards, R.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

"The CoEs provide us with an excellent opportunity to fund cutting-edge research in the area of women's health. We look forward to the results of these studies to provide FDA with much needed information on dietary supplements used by women," said Margaret Ann Miller, Ph.D., DBAT, Manager of Scientific Programs, FDA/OWH. Wanda Jones, Dr.P.H., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health) and Director of the HHS/OWH also added, "We hope this pilot will be just the beginning of a larger research collaboration with the FDA on a variety of topics."



**"A good beginning is half the work done."  
– Puerto Rican Proverb**

# CoEs to Develop National DES Education Campaign Materials

On September 30, 2000, five National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) were awarded \$25,000 each to develop professional education and training materials for the National DES Education Campaign.

DES, diethylstilbestrol, a synthetic estrogen, was given to pregnant women in the 1950's and 60's to prevent miscarriages and premature labor. Exposure to DES is associated with an increased risk for cancer, genital abnormalities, and diminished reproductive capacity in DES mothers, daughters, and sons.

The Office on Women's Health, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute, are developing the National DES Education Campaign which targets health professionals and consumers. These five CoEs will be advisors to the campaign Steering Committee that is composed of many national professional associations and advocacy groups and meets twice a year in Atlanta.

This part of the national education campaign aims to influence obstetricians/gynecologists and other primary care provider physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. The goal is for these health care providers to have and use up-to-date information about DES—its health effects, and screening and treatment guidelines. Action is the key—to identify, screen, treat, and refer patients for treatment.

The five CoEs developing materials include:  
**Wake Forest University** (Eleanor Russell, M.A., Denise Bonds, M.D., Nancy Avis, M.S.Hyg., Ph.D., Glen Combs, PA-C, M.A., Catherine Shull, PA-C, Laura Loehr, M.D.) will develop an interactive DES core curriculum that can be sent to health care providers, used in clinics, or distributed in medical libraries, explaining DES health risks, screening

guidelines, and treatment recommendations. The information developed in the curriculum will form the basis for the four projects below.

**University of California at Los Angeles** (Janet P. Pregler, M.D., Michael Lu, M.D., M.P.H., Carolyn Crandall, M.D., Cindy Moskovic, M.S.W., Anne Holohan) will develop a centralized DES Web site for all types of providers. Materials developed within this project will be included on the Web site, as well as materials from other sources and links to other organizations.

**University of Illinois at Chicago** (Jeffrey Goldberg, M.D., Richard Derman, M.D., M.P.H., Mary Lynn Dietsche, M.A., Nadine Burns, M.S.) will develop "one-shot" lectures for Grand Rounds and other professional educational seminars for Ob-Gyns, and modifiable for Physician's Assistants, Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives.

**MCP Hahnemann University** (Glenda Donoghue, M.D., Ana Nunez, M.D., Elizabeth Blunt, M.S.N., C.E.N., F.N.P., Shahab Minassian, M.D.) will develop three DES teaching modules and train-the-trainer materials tailored for use by Medical, Nurse Practitioner, and Physician Educators.

**University of Wisconsin-Madison** (Molly Carnes, M.D., Sarina Schrager, M.D., Diane Lauver, Ph.D.) will develop essays on DES for publication in strategic journals targeting internal medicine and family practice physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants.

All awards are for 10 months, during which time CDC will concept test the draft materials. Future plans include a national dissemination effort which may include the CoEs when the materials are completed. So watch this space for some great education materials next year!

# CoEs Join “Pick Your Path to Health” Campaign Partnership

On May 15, 2000, the Office on Women’s Health (OWH) within the Department of Health and Human Services partnered with four National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health (CoEs) and dozens of other private sector groups to launch a new nationwide health education campaign that promotes simple steps to women’s wellness. The campaign launch coincided with the first annual National Women’s Health Week, celebrated the week of Mother’s Day, as a reminder that women must not forget to nurture themselves while taking care of their families and other loved ones.



“Pick Your Path to Health” is a year-long campaign designed to encourage women who have multiple demands on their time to take simple and time-sensitive steps to improve their health. The campaign encourages health awareness among all women, with special emphasis on African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic American, and American Indian and Alaska Native women, who as minorities face disproportionate obstacles to health care. The National Association of Hispanic Physicians and the Association of Black Cardiologists are among the national partners.

In keeping with Healthy People 2010, the nation’s goals for this decade that were announced in January, “Pick Your Path to Health” will bring together key community-based activities with national efforts that are ultimately aimed at eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health status.

OWH has partnered with four CoEs and one Hispanic CoE (through a Health Resources and Services Administration program) to promote practical, culturally interesting, and relevant action steps to wellness at the local level.

**Harvard Medical School CoE** is supporting the campaign through local partnerships with community organizations that serve a diverse population of women in Boston. The CoE is planning a poster contest on women’s health in three public schools in the area.

Contest winners and their families will be invited to a celebration featuring healthy eating and exercise activities and health screenings. The Harvard CoE is also planning community health screenings to educate women about their health risks for disease through an event called the “Boston Tea Party.”

**Magee-Womens Hospital CoE** is working with prominent women of color in Pittsburgh, PA, to serve as spokespeople for the media and be featured in materials that reach women in the community. The CoE has advertised the campaign in prominent local newspapers and is planning to post campaign information on the Internet. The

CoE is also creating a publication that conveys the “Pick Your Path to Health” message in Russian to cater to this unique population.

**University of Washington, Seattle CoE** is distributing health information through Web- and print-based media. The CoE’s health promotion activities will culminate in a day-long public education event that will focus on women’s health issues that are particularly relevant to minority populations, including ethnic, multiracial, and lesbian minorities.

**Indiana University School of Medicine CoE** is building relationships with inner-city churches to create better health programs in these communities. The CoE included a local message in both English and Spanish, along with a phone number, on the “Pick Your Path to Health” campaign poster and 6-month pocket planner and distributed them in the community.

**The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) Hispanic (CoE)**, funded by the HRSA within DHHS, is working with several community organizations to implement campaign activities.

For more information on the “Pick Your Path to Health” campaign and to download campaign materials, go to the OWH National Women’s Health Information Center Web site at <http://www.4woman.gov>.



Congratulations go out to all the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) for their tremendous efforts in advancing women's health. In working toward improving the health of all women, many of the CoEs have been recognized for their efforts. Below are just a few of the honors and awards the CoEs have earned.

### **Boston University Medical Center**

CoE Director Dr. Karen Freund was nominated by the Board of Directors of the National Association for Women's Health (NAWH) for one of the NAWH 9th Annual Awards for Excellence. The Awards for Excellence recognize accomplishments in the field of women's health.

An interview with Dr. Freund was published in the April 2000 issue of *Med Center News*. Dr. Freund discussed the mission and activities of the Boston University (BU) CoE. *Med Center News* is an institutional publication that is distributed to BU Medical Center and the BU Schools of Medicine, Public Health, and Dental Medicine. Dr. Freund was also interviewed on May 22, 2000, by Boston's Channel 7 regarding the use of postcoital contraception.

### **Harvard Medical School**

Dr. JudyAnn Bigby, Harvard Medical School (HMS) CoE Clinical Director and Chair, HMS CoE Committee to Advance the Health of Minority Women, was honored for her vision, leadership, and commitment to the healthy growth and development of Boston's communities. On April 29, 2000, Mattapan Community Health Center presented the Edna W. Smith Pioneer in Community Health Care Award to Dr. Bigby at the "Rock the Boat" gala on the *Spirit of Boston*.

Dr. Phyllis Carr, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital and Co-Chair, HMS CoE Education Subcommittee, received HMS' Daniel D. Federman Outstanding Clinical Educator Award for her

teaching. It was noted that Dr. Carr is "one of the most dedicated women in medicine, both to the expansion and development of treating women, and also to the improvement and growth of women as physicians."

### **Indiana University**

Dr. Ann Zerr, Co-Director of the CoE and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Indiana University (IU) School of Medicine, was recognized for her contribution in making "IUPUI A Good Place For Everyone" at the Commission on Women Recognition Luncheon on April 20, 2000, at University Place Conference Center.

Quilt America gave the IU CoE \$14,000 to provide mammograms to under-insured and uninsured women. The CoE received the funds in return for its participation in the Quilt America show.

In August 2000, the CoE received \$5,000 from the IU Medical Group-Primary Care division for their women's health pilot project research efforts. The CoE also received \$2,000 from the Alliance with Indiana toward the production of a lay version of a domestic violence CD-ROM.

### **Magee-Womens Research Institute**

Magee-Womens Hospital was ranked 11th of the top 50 hospitals for gynecologic care in a *U.S. News and World Report* survey of the best hospitals in the United States.

### **Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana**

Dr. William Steinmann, TUXCoE Clinical Research Core Director, was rated as one of the top primary care physicians in the nation in the August 2000 issue of *Town & Country* magazine. Dr. Steinmann was also rated as one of the top local doctors in internal medicine in the August 2000 issue of *New Orleans Magazine*.

### **University of Pennsylvania**

The CoE was awarded several significant grants sponsoring multidisciplinary research in the past contract period, including three grants from the Mellon Foundation for research and career development in female contraception, and a \$4.95 million grant from the Bill

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***Congratulations to the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of California, San Francisco as New Recipients of the BIRCWH Award***

In a major new effort to stimulate women's health research across a variety of disciplines, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced 11 awards to support development of new research in women's health. The program, Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH), seeks to increase the number of researchers working on women's health issues and to mentor junior researchers in an interdisciplinary scientific setting by pairing them with senior investigators.

The Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at NIH leads the BIRCWH initiative, awarding a total of \$5.5 million to 11 universities. In addition to ORWH, nine NIH Institutes and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) cosponsor this program.

Junior faculty members, selected as Interdisciplinary Women's Health Research (IWHR) Scholars, will have the opportunity to augment their research skills in these interdisciplinary career development programs. They will be matched with a seasoned senior investigator, who will mentor them for a period of 2 to 5 years.

The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)—Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Center, and the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF)—Kaiser Women's Health Interdisciplinary Scholarship Program for Research (WHISPR) will participate as two of the 11 awardees in this new effort. Both CoEs, at UCLA and UCSF, will actively participate as part of their CoE leadership/mentoring component.

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and Melinda Gates Foundation for the development of new tools to prevent maternal mortality.

During the past contract period, the CoE's women's health research funding from the National Institutes of Health increased from \$13.1 million to \$35.9 million.

Dr. Michelle Battistini, Director of Penn Health for Women and CoE Clinical Care Director, was named TOP DOC for Philadelphia and the surrounding counties by the *Philadelphia Magazine*.

JoAnn Binko, M.Ed., University of Pennsylvania CoE Community Development and Educational Coordinator, was selected for the City of Philadelphia's Leadership Class 2000 for Cultural Betterment of the Community.

JoAnn Binko, M.Ed., and Dr. Michelle Battistini received national recognition from Tipper Gore for the CoE's Health Tip Card Project.

**University of Washington, Seattle**

University of Washington Medical Center ranked among the top 10 hospitals nationwide by the *U.S. News and World Report's* year 2000 survey in rehabilitation (2<sup>nd</sup>) and orthopedics (8<sup>th</sup>). It received top rankings in several additional specialties: geriatrics (11th); cancer (11th); ear, nose and throat (14th); urology (17th); kidney disease (18th); digestive disorders (21st); cardiology (21st); neurology and neurosurgery (22nd); gynecology (28th); and rheumatology (43rd).

*U.S. News and World Report's* survey on America's Best Graduate Schools has again identified the UW School of Nursing as the top school in the United States. The school has been rated #1 since 1984.

**Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center**

Dr. David Herrington, Associate Director of the Wake Forest CoE, received the Award for Research Excellence, one of the 8th Annual Awards for Excellence in Women's Health from the NAWH, for his research efforts in treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease in postmenopausal women.

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Boston, MA 02115  
(617) 732-8798  
(617) 264-5210 (fax)  
<http://www.hmcnet.harvard.edu/coe/>

**University of Illinois at Chicago**  
1640 West Roosevelt Road, Room 503  
UIC M/C 980  
Chicago, Illinois 60608  
(312) 413-1924  
(312) 413-7423 (fax)  
<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/womenshealth/>

**Indiana University School of Medicine**  
Indiana Cancer Pavilion  
535 Barnhill Drive, RT-150  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 274-2754  
(317) 274-2785 (fax)  
<http://www.iupui.edu/~womenhlt/>

**Magee-Womens Hospital**  
University of Pittsburgh  
300 Halket Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3180  
(412) 641-1141  
(412) 641-1151 (fax)  
<http://www.magee.edu/cewh2.htm>

**MCP Hahnemann University**  
Institute for Women's Health  
The Gatehouse  
MCP Hospital  
3300 Henry Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19129  
(215) 842-7041  
(215) 843-7946 (fax)  
<http://www.auhs.edu/institutes/iwh/coe.html>

**University of Michigan Health System**  
Women's Health Program  
1342 Taubman Center (Level One)  
1500 E. Medical Center Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0384  
(734) 936-9837  
(734) 763-5992 (fax)  
<http://www.med.umich.edu/whrc/ctr.excel.html>

**University of Pennsylvania**  
1355 BRB II/III  
421 Curie Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6142  
(215) 573-3569  
(215) 573-5408 (fax)  
<http://www.obgyn.upenn.edu/cewh/>

**University of Puerto Rico**  
Medical Sciences Campus  
P.O. Box 365067  
San Juan, PR 00936-5067  
(787) 753-0090  
(787) 758-2525 ext. 2813  
(787) 753-0090 (fax)  
<http://www.rcm.upr.edu/2klwhc/>

**Tulane and Xavier Universities  
of Louisiana**  
Tulane University School of Public Health  
and Tropical Medicine  
127 Elks Place, EP-7  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(877) 588-5100  
(504) 988-4657 (fax)  
<http://www.tulane.edu/~tuxcoe/>

**Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center**  
PO Box 573050  
Winston-Salem, NC 27157-3050  
(336) 713-4220  
(336) 713-4228 (fax)  
<http://www.wfubmc.edu/women/>

**University of Washington, Seattle**  
4245 Roosevelt Way NE  
Campus Box 354765  
Seattle, WA 98105  
(206) 598-8991  
(206) 598-8957 (fax)  
<http://depts.washington.edu/~uw98coe/>

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
Meriter Hospital-Park/6 West  
202 South Park Street  
Madison, WI 53715  
(608) 267-5566  
(608) 267-5577 (fax)  
<http://www.womenshealth.wisc.edu/>

## For additional women's health information and resources:

**National Women's Health Information Center**  
Office on Women's Health  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, D.C.  
800-994-WOMAN  
888-220-5446 (TDD)  
<http://www.4woman.gov/>  
**CoE Home Page:**  
<http://www.4woman.gov/owh/coe>

*US News and World Report 2000  
Ranks 6 CoE Universities in  
Top 10 for Women's Health*

**Rankings**

- 1—Harvard University
- 2—University of California-San Francisco
- 3—University of Pennsylvania
- 4—University of Washington-Seattle
- 7—University of California-Los Angeles
- 8—University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

**We'd Like to Hear from You**

We welcome your input. If you have suggestions or comments on *Models for the Nation*, or if you would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive future issues, please contact Gabrielle Wilson at 301-984-7191 or [gwilson@matthewsgroup.com](mailto:gwilson@matthewsgroup.com).

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