

# Center for Urban Population Health

2005 Annual Report



University of Wisconsin  
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH**



**Aurora  
Health Care®**

# Center for Urban Population Health

A UW/UWM/Aurora Health Program

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Dear Colleagues and Partners,

I am proud to present to you the 2005 Annual Report of the activities of the Center for Urban Population Health. We highlight herein several major projects that have impacted positively the health of our urban community in 2005.



The past year was pivotal for the Center for several reasons. We began developing a five-year strategic plan identifying and updating short- and long-term goals. We were nearing completion of this process when discussions began about enhancing public health initiatives in the Milwaukee area. We have since revisited our strategic plan to ensure that our activities will compliment Milwaukee's public health efforts.

One part of our strategic plan that did not need to change was the Center's mission: To conduct and facilitate original population health research and education initiatives that improve the health of urban communities through collaboration with academic and community organizations. This mission emphasizes our core duties of population-based research, information technology support, training and development, and community outreach.

To accomplish this, we continue to focus on several areas of urban community health:

- Maternal and infant health
- Child and adolescent health risks
- Aging and chronic health conditions
- Adult and youth violence prevention
- Infectious and communicable diseases
- Social, behavioral and cultural determinants of health
- Data warehousing, access, integration and sharing

In the coming year, Center faculty and staff will capitalize on our strategic community and academic partnerships, and in coordination with them, play an expanded role in the public health initiatives being planned. We look forward to collaborating with our partners in creating a healthier future for the residents of Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Ron Cisler, PhD  
Director, Center for Urban Population Health  
Associate Professor of Health Sciences, UW-Milwaukee  
Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences, UW School of Medicine and Public Health



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# Table of Contents

<b>Our People</b> .....	4
<b>Our Resources</b> .....	7
<b>Our Training and Development Activities</b> .....	8
Bridges to the Future 2005.....	8
Milwaukee AHEC Community Health Internship Program (CHIP) 2005.....	9
Health Careers Opportunity Program Summer Enrichment Program Level II (HCOP/SEP II) .....	9
Health Careers Club of Greater Milwaukee .....	10
Teaching Activities .....	10
Fourth Year in Milwaukee.....	11
Advancing the Knowledge of Health Care Providers.....	12
<b>Our Research</b> .....	14
Improving the Vision of Milwaukee’s Children .....	14
Improving the Health of Milwaukee’s Children.....	16
School Children as Research Participants.....	17
Understanding African American Youth Violence.....	18
Improving the Health and Fitness of Aurora Health Care Employees and Family .....	19
Other Projects .....	20
Publications.....	21
Presentations/Posters .....	23

# Our People

## Executive Committee

Bevan Baker, CHE, *Milwaukee Health Department*  
Dennis Baumgardner, MD, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Milwaukee Clinical Campus*  
Deborah Blanks, CEO, *Social Development Commission*  
Ron Cisler, PhD, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and UW School of Medicine and Public Health*  
Maureen Durkin, PhD, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health*  
Patrick Falvey, PhD, *Aurora Health Care*  
Randy Lambrecht, PhD, *(Chair) UW-Milwaukee*  
Sally Lundeen, PhD, RN, *UW-Milwaukee*  
Jeffrey Stearns, MD, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Milwaukee Clinical Campus*  
Nick Turkal, MD, *Aurora Health Care*

## Center Scientists

Dennis Baumgardner, MD, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Milwaukee Clinical Campus*  
John Brill, MD, MPH, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Milwaukee Clinical Campus*  
Ron Cisler, PhD, *UW-Milwaukee and UW School of Medicine and Public Health*  
Michael Fleming, MD, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health*  
Loren Galvão, MD, MPH, *UW-Milwaukee and UW School of Medicine and Public Health*  
Tim Halkowski, PhD, *University at Albany, S.U.N.Y.*  
Paul Hartlaub, MD, MSPH, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Milwaukee Clinical Campus*  
Mary K. Madsen, PhD, *UW-Milwaukee*  
Michael Malone, MD, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Milwaukee Clinical Campus*  
George Mueller, PhD, *Aurora Health Care*  
Susan Partington, PhD, RD, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health*  
Jeffrey Stearns, MD, *UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Milwaukee Clinical Campus*  
Geoffrey Swain, MD, MPH, *City of Milwaukee Health Department and UW School of Medicine and Public Health*  
Melanie Thompson, MD  
Min Wu, PhD, *UW-Milwaukee*

## Current Core Faculty and Staff

Sharon Abston-Coleman, MHA, MT, *Outreach Program Manager II*  
Marilyn Anderson, *Secretary II*  
Lee Banfi, MBA, CPA, *Director of Business Services*  
Jessica Bergstrom, MPH, *Assistant Researcher*  
Ron Cisler, PhD, *Associate Professor and Director*  
Loren Galvão, MD, MPH, *Associate Scientist and Community Health Promotion Director*  
Andrew Marek, BS, *Programmer Analyst*  
Stephanie Mather, BA, *Program Assistant, Business Services*  
Susan Partington, PhD, RD, *Methodology & Statistics Director*  
Trina Salm Ward, MSW, CCRC, *Research Program Manager II*  
Andrea Schreiber, BA, *Associate Research Specialist*  
Lea Soderstrom, BA, *Associate Research Specialist*  
Dale Steber, MS, *Supervisor, Information and Technology Core*  
Geoffrey Swain, MD, MPH, *Associate Professor*  
Anne Marie Talsky, BA, *Administrative Assistant II*

## New Staff



**Jessica Bergstrom, MPH, Assistant Researcher.** Jessica's role includes collaborating with physicians, scientists, programmers and researchers on biomedical and population-based research; developing an interface for UWSMPH and UWM faculty in Aurora Care Management and clinical quality improvement initiatives; participating in grant writing processes; and collaborating with community groups on planning outcome analyses of health interventions. She has a Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Jessica has a strong public health research background, including pediatric asthma, tobacco control and women's health.

**Andrew Marek, BS, Programmer Analyst.** Andy's role includes developing, implementing and maintaining computer systems; documenting system specifications; programming; and assisting in the development of wireless hand-held and database-driven web applications. Andy has a Bachelor of Business Administration from UW-Milwaukee with a major in Management Information Systems and a minor in Computer Science.



**Stephanie Mather, BA, Program Assistant.** Stephanie provides support to the Director of Business Services and the Center for Urban Population Health including UW personnel matters and a variety of fiscal support responsibilities. Stephanie has a Bachelor of Arts degree from UW-Milwaukee with a major in Psychology and a minor in Business.

**Trina Salm Ward, MSW, CCRC, Research Program Manager II.**

Trina's role includes working with CUPH Core leaders and the Director in advancing areas of research; coordinating and overseeing the conduct of applied urban population research; contributing to the research agenda; working collaboratively with UW, UW-Milwaukee, Aurora Health Care and community organizations; coordinating budget and fund utilization/monitoring and strategic planning; and program staffing and management. Trina has a Master of Social Work degree from UW-Milwaukee, and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Psychology from St. Norbert College. Trina has seven years' experience working in research and academic settings, including collaborating with professional and community organizations, and managing a research unit.



# Our People *(continued)*

## Other Staff News

- **Sharon Abston-Coleman, MHA, MT**, received the 2005 Award In Appreciation of Continued Dedication from UW-Milwaukee's College of Health Sciences.
- **Ron Cisler, PhD**, received the 2005 Dean's Research Award from UW-Milwaukee's College of Health Sciences in June. In September, he was granted tenure, and now holds associate doctoral faculty status with the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Cisler also continues as a Center Scientist with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research through UW-Milwaukee.



*Ron Cisler (left) and Dean Randall Lambrecht at the 2005 UWM College of Health Sciences awards.*

- **Susan Partington, PhD, RD**, was promoted to Associate Scientist.
- **Geof Swain, MD, MPH**, joined the National Immunization Advisory Committee of the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO). Also, a paper on which Swain is an author was nominated for the 2005 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Charles C. Shepard Science

Award in the Category of Assessment and Epidemiology. (Reed KD, Melski JW, Graham MB, Regnery RL, Sotir MJ, Wegner MV, Kazmierczak JJ, Stratman EJ, Li Y, Fairley JA, Swain GR, Olson VA, Sargent EK, Kehl SC, Frace MA, Kline R, Foldy SL, Davis JP, Damon IK. (2004) The Detection of Monkeypox in Humans in the Western Hemisphere. *New England Journal of Medicine* 350:342-50.)

- **Andrea Schreiber, BA**, was promoted to Associate Research Specialist.
- **Dale Steber, MS**, earned a Master of Science degree in Computing from Marquette University, and was promoted to Supervisor of the Information and Technology Core. He also completed the Aurora Health Care Leadership Academy with a project entitled *Cerner Central Scheduling Feasibility Study*.
- **Marilyn Anderson** spent several days at the Tommy Thompson Center assisting with Hurricane Katrina victims and providing administrative support. She also performed a concert for them with the "Just Wanna Sang" gospel group.

## Saying Good-Bye

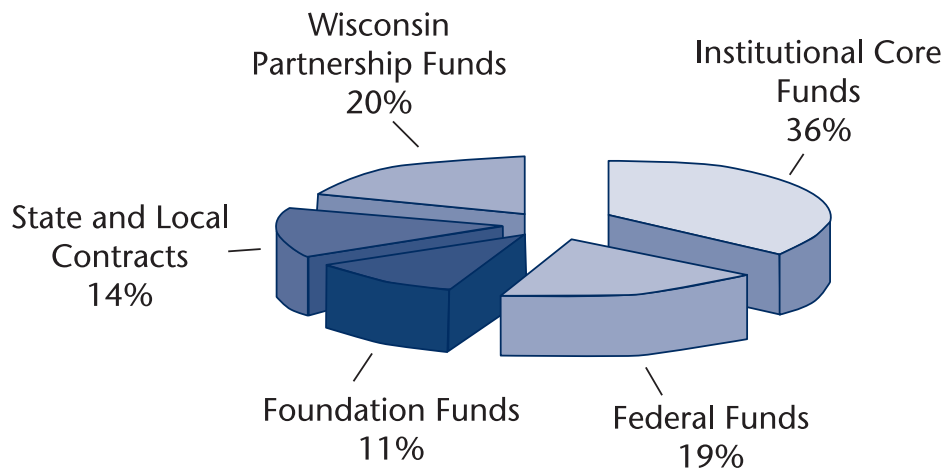
- **Timothy Halkowski, PhD**, accepted a faculty position at the State University of New York at Albany.
- **Karla Hemesath, PhD**, left the Center to take on additional responsibilities in her role with medical education at UW School of Medicine and Public Health and Aurora Health Care.
- **Meredith Mueller, BA**, is pursuing graduate school in Boston, Massachusetts.
- **Laura Paluch, BA**, is pursuing graduate school at Marquette University.

# Our Resources

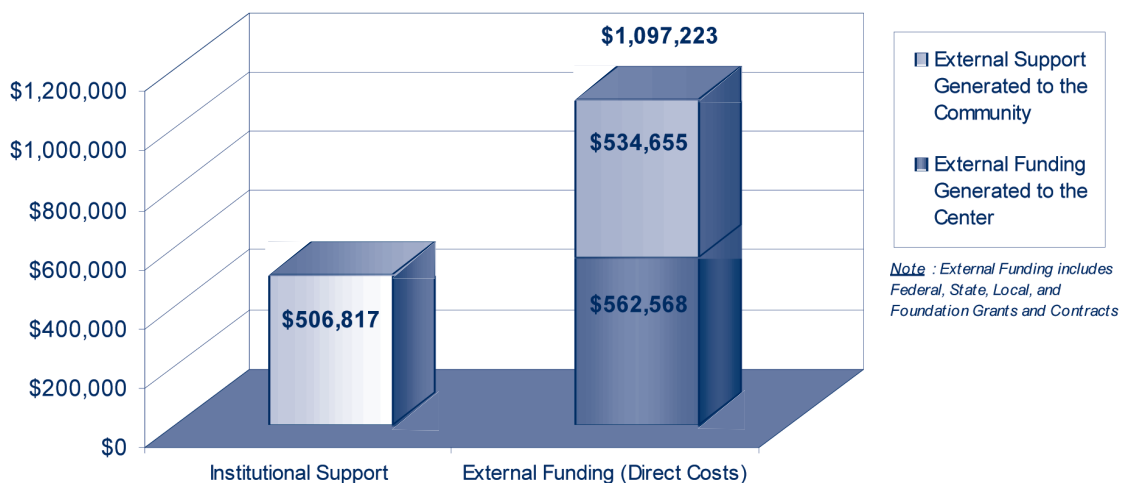
The Center receives infrastructure funds committed by its institutional partners – the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Aurora Health Care. From 2003 to 2005 (three years), these partners have infused about \$1.8 million of research funding to the Center. With this base funding we have been able to return approximately \$3.8 million in extramural grants and contracts back to our institutional partners and out to our community.

The charts below include extramural grant and contract support to the Center’s community partners.

## 2005 Funding (Direct Costs)



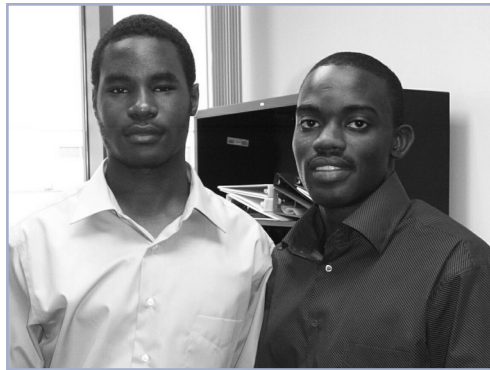
## 2005 Institutional Support Compared to External Funding





# Our Training and Development Activities

In 2005 the Center participated in several programs designed to encourage young people to enter a health care career. The programs, Bridges to the Future, the Milwaukee AHEC Community Health Internship Program (CHIP), Health Careers Opportunity Program Summer Enrichment Program Level II (HCOP/SEP II), and the Health Careers Club of Greater Milwaukee were coordinated for the Center and Aurora Health Care by Sharon Abston-Coleman.



*Ajibola Ayanwale (J.J.) and Patrick Ndon*

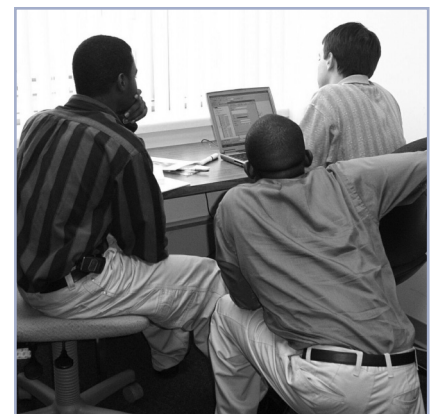
## Bridges to the Future 2005

The Bridges to the Future program is a collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) designed to increase the number of underrepresented students in the biomedical science professions, especially research fields. The program does this by offering students research experiences with UWM faculty.

The Center's students were Ajibola Ayanwale and Patrick Ndon. Dale Steber, the Center's Information Technology Supervisor, was their mentor.

Their project was titled *Vision Screening and Geographic Information Systems*. Working with Steber, the students performed a statistical analysis of data from Project 20/20 using geographic information systems (GIS) technology.

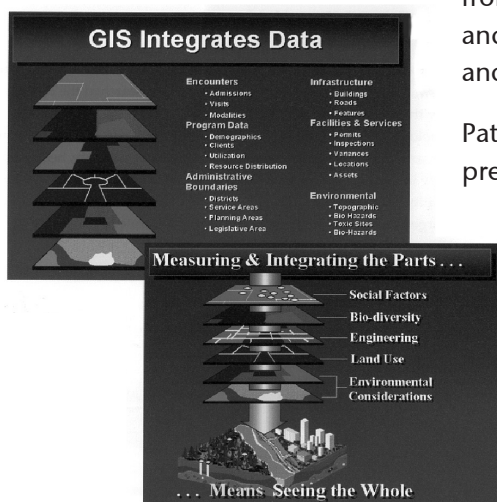
Project 20/20 leverages the use of information technology to re-engineer the school vision screening process. It is undertaken as a partnership between Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), Prevent Blindness Wisconsin (PBW) and the Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH). (Please see full description on page 14.) Data from the project was converted and displayed as georeferenced data through the GIS technology. This enabled the team to analyze the data, draw conclusions from observed patterns, and make predictions and propositions.



*Ajibola Ayanwale (J.J.), Patrick Ndon, and Dale Steber*

Patrick and Ajibola (J.J.) presented their project at UWM's Health

Careers Opportunity Program and Bridges to the Future 2005 Health Symposium. They also had their abstract published in the Abstract Program of the 2005 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students held in Atlanta, Georgia.



## Milwaukee AHEC Community Health Internship Program (CHIP) 2005

The Center is proud to announce that for the second year in a row, our CHIP intern's project, the *Database of Public Health Information*, was selected as the winning project in the Milwaukee AHEC Community Health Internship Program. Our intern was Heather Olson, a University of Wisconsin undergraduate in medical science. During the five weeks she was with the Center, Heather developed the infrastructure for a web-based, searchable database of public and population health data sources under the direction of Ron Cisler and Anne Marie Talsky. The database was created in Microsoft Access and is designed to be searchable on a number of variables. Heather also populated the database and reviewed approximately 200 data sources in order to write summary descriptions and assign key words to each source. It is anticipated that additional resources will be added this summer and that the program will be available on the CUPH web site later in the fall of 2006.



*(l-r) Heather Olson, Susan Partington, Anne Marie Talsky and Ron Cisler review the Database of Public Information.*

## Health Careers Opportunity Program Summer Enrichment Program Level II (HCOP/SEP II)



*2005 HCOP Summer Enrichment Level II Participants.*

In May 2005, a four-week job shadow program was conducted for the second consecutive year at Aurora Sinai Medical Center. Students shadowed health care professionals in the Clinical Laboratory, Internal Medicine Residency, Sports Medicine/Rehab and Radiology/Imaging. The job-shadow program was developed in collaboration with staff from Aurora Sinai Medical Center and UW-Milwaukee HCOP.

The UWM College of Health Sciences and Aurora Sinai faculty and staff assisted in preparing students for upper-level science

courses, provided clinical laboratory experience and helped them develop cultural competence. Special thanks to the Aurora Sinai staff, Dr. Mark Gennis and Shashi Davar (Internal Medicine Residency Program), Barbara Lafford (Clinical Laboratory/ Pathology), Nicole Huebschmann (Sports Medicine/ Rehab), and Mildred Green and Joy Kralik (Radiology/Imaging). Successful completion of SEP II enhances a student's likelihood of meeting requirements for acceptance to a health major.

## Health Careers Club of Greater Milwaukee

In October 2005, the original Rufus King Health Careers Club became the Health Careers Club of Greater Milwaukee when it moved to Aurora Sinai Medical Center. The move allowed the club to expand its membership to three additional high schools: Community High School, Genesis High School and Messmer High School. The club meets every other Tuesday from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the medical center. It is designed to offer students encouragement, guidance and mentoring to help them pursue a career in health. The club was developed in collaboration with Tito Izard, MD, and staff from the Aurora Sinai Family Care Center.

## Teaching Activities

Dale Steber taught *Health Care Database Design and Management* for the UWM Health Care Administration Department in the UWM College of Health Sciences during the fall semester of the 2005 school year.

In collaboration with Sharon Abston-Coleman, Aurora Sinai Internal Medicine Residency staff and Sarah A. Scott Middle School for the Health Sciences staff, two fourth-year medical students and 21 different medical residents participated in the teaching modules at Sarah A. Scott during the spring and fall semesters of 2005.

Ron Cisler taught a *Graduate Seminar in College of Health Sciences – Population Health Research* for the UWM College of Health Sciences, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Graduate Seminar. He also supervised Dale Steber's project entitled *Cerner Central Scheduling Feasibility Study* through the Aurora Health Care Leadership Academy.



In 2005, Geof Swain presented a variety of lectures and small group sessions on public health principles and practices for residents and students of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, the Medical College of Wisconsin and Marquette University. He is also a field supervisor for the UW Population Health Practice Fellowship Program and provides expertise, guidance, research opportunities and networking links for Program Fellows who choose to work out of the Milwaukee Health Department.

## Fourth Year in Milwaukee

The Fourth Year in Milwaukee offers UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UWSMPH) students an opportunity to spend their fourth year in Milwaukee immersed in urban community medicine.

The program, conceived and developed by Thomas C. Jackson, MD, and John R. Brill, MD, faculty with UWSMPH's Milwaukee Clinical Campus, provides students with enhanced skill development in clinical and community medicine in an urban setting, as well as experience incorporating a population health perspective into their practice.



*Protectants and Hazards of the Bread of Healing Clinic environment on Milwaukee's north side.*

about HIV/AIDS and global health with Loren Galvão, and a session on cultural competence with Anne Marie Talsky. Geof Swain at the Milwaukee Health Department did a session on public health concepts. And the students learned about geographic information systems (GIS) possibilities and epidemiology from Andrea Schreiber.

In 2005, the students were asked to do "windshield surveys" of neighborhoods around Aurora's two free clinics: Bread of Healing Clinic (in Cross Lutheran Church) on Milwaukee's north side, and Walker's Point Community Clinic on the near south side. Using visual assessment, key informant interviews and data research, the students were to identify the assets and health hazards in the neighborhoods. The pictures in this section represent some of their results.

*Protectants and Hazards of the Walker's Point Clinic environment on Milwaukee's south side.*

The first month of the program is the Clinical Clerkship in Rural and Community Health arranged by Anne Marie Talsky. During this month, the students participate in an urban community medicine immersion experience designed to acquaint them with Milwaukee, its health resources and deficits, as well as give them an understanding of population health concepts such as the social determinants of health, cultural competence and a broader understanding of health and well-being.

In 2005, Center staff provided several didactic experiences for the students including a presentation by Ron Cisler on population health concepts, a discussion



## Advancing the Knowledge of Health Care Providers

According to the projections by the U.S. Census Bureau based on the 2000 Census, by 2030, the U.S. population “pyramid” will be replaced by a beehive as shown in Figure 1. In Wisconsin, approximately 21% of the population will be 65 or older and the median age will have risen from 36.0 to 41.6. As a result, most physicians in Wisconsin will have a number of older patients in their practice. For this reason, one of the top ten resolutions announced at the 2005 White House Conference on Aging was to support geriatric education and training for all professional and non-professional health care workers.

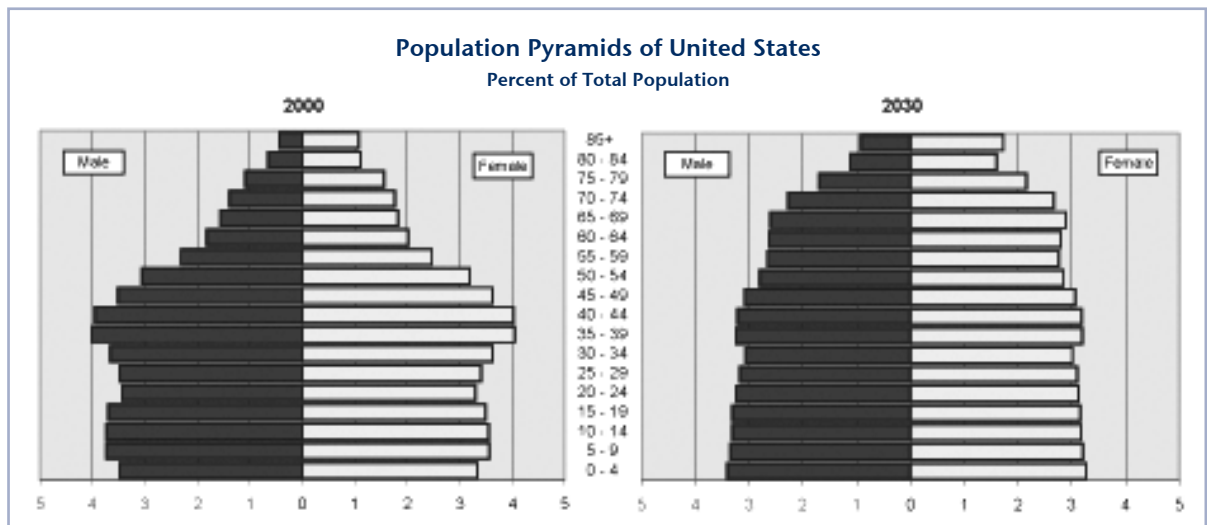


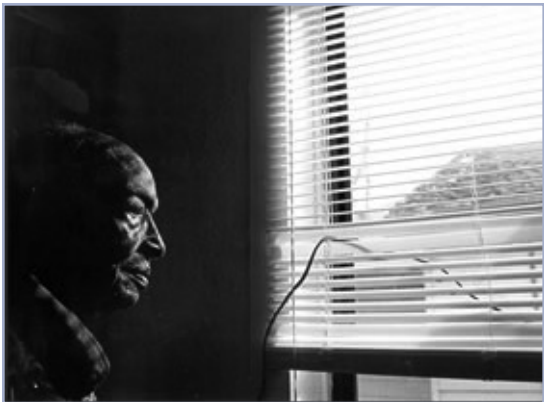
Figure 1: <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/52PyrmUS3.pdf>

In 2001, Michael L. Malone, MD, medical director of the Aurora Geriatrics Institute, came to the Center with an idea to use the power of the Internet to improve caregivers’ ability to care for older patients. Malone wanted to work with the Center to develop a template for producing web-based Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs in geriatrics that would focus on physicians, nurses and pharmacists, offering them expert information on concerns related to the elderly patient.

Malone met with Dale Steber, then the Center’s IS Project Lead. Steber created a template that allows for easy development of additional programs. New text can be plugged directly into the component modules. He also created a database system to record registration information, pre- and post-test scores, CME information and other data. The programs are free and give participants from around the world the opportunity to interact with geriatric experts.

Initially, the programs were hosted by Aurora Health Care’s Alternative Delivery and Community Programs in partnership with the Aurora Geriatrics Institute, and the Wisconsin Geriatric Education Center (WGEC). The programs are now hosted by the Center.

Six programs have been offered since 2001 with an average participant count of 1,044. The most popular program was *The Management of Persistent Pain in Older Persons*. That program drew 2,415 registrants. Users include health care administrators, social workers, students and residents, in addition to the target groups. Since 2002, the American Geriatrics Society has been selecting the topics for the courses based on their national guidelines for the care of the elderly, and providing the experts. Most of the programs have been funded in part by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions (5 D31 HP 80007-02). Some programs were also funded in part by education grants from pharmaceutical companies.



*The Management of Persistent Pain in Older Persons*

The most successful feature of the courses is the case studies. And there is a good reason for this. Faculty of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Milwaukee Clinical Campus, write the studies from their clinical experiences with patients in the Aurora Geriatrics Institute as well as the cutting-edge Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) unit at Aurora Sinai Medical Center.

Another very popular feature is an interactive component of each program called “Professor Gray.” Clicking on Professor Gray’s icon activates a pop-up box containing targeted teaching points (pearls) aimed at changing provider practice behaviors. This teaching method is designed to provide the participant the opportunity to practice using the guidelines.

Each course also offers a live, on-line chat with at least one of the course experts. Participants have called into these chats from around the world.

In 2005, the Center formed a new partnership with the WGEC, Aurora Health Care and the Marquette School of Dentistry to produce a first-of-its-kind interactive on-line dental CME program titled *Geriatric Oral Health: The Missing Link to Comprehensive Care*. This program was unique in that it offered a continuing schedule of in-person trainings on the topic as well as the on-line program.



*Professor Gray*



*Geriatric Oral Health: The Missing Link to Comprehensive Care*

### Future Plans

The Center continues to produce Dr. Malone’s programs. A new one on falls and the elderly will be coming out later in 2006. An on-line geriatrics journal club is also being considered. This would involve an on-line chat with authors of articles

published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Association*. The intent is to encourage the translation of research more readily into clinical practice.

Links for the programs that are still active can be found at the Center’s website ([www.cuph.org](http://www.cuph.org)), the Wisconsin Geriatric Education Center website ([www.wgcec.org](http://www.wgcec.org)), or the American Geriatrics website (<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/>).

# Our Research

## Improving the Vision of Milwaukee's Children

Today it is estimated that nearly 25% of school-age children have vision problems and that children from low-income families are at greater risk for vision problems that often predict poor academic performance. Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is the 26th largest school district in the country. Over 77% of its elementary students receive free or reduced lunch, an indicator of the number of children living in poverty. It is critical, therefore, that all MPS children receive early vision screening. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, if a vision problem can be recognized early, children can be treated much more successfully before the vision problem begins to affect their learning.

The Center for Urban Population Health has been collaborating with MPS and Prevent Blindness Wisconsin on *Project 20/20: Advanced Technology for Vision Screening* to:

- Demonstrate the impact of technology on the efficacy and efficiency of vision screening and follow-up eye care.
- Provide service to approximately 5,000 students annually in 30 urban elementary schools.

A Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) grant provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce funds the project.

In 2005, the Center implemented a wireless, hand-held database that interfaces with a vision-screening device (the WelchAllyn SureSight Autorefractor). The results of the screening are instantly recorded in a secure database that is accessible on-line and generates referrals for children identified as needing follow-up care. Computerization of the results allows the school to make sure each child for whom a referral was made received the appropriate treatment. Over 130 eye care providers have signed on to offer low- or no-cost care for low-income children.



*Students line up to have their vision screened under the Project 20/20 program.*



*Figure 1: WelchAllyn SureSite Autorefractor*

More than 100 volunteers from eight different organizations were trained to use the autorefractor and hand-held device. For the 2004/05 school year, over 1,400 kindergarten and fifth grade students were referred for an eye exam. During the 2005-06 school year, approximately 3,000 students will be screened using this system, and we estimate that at least 700 of them will be referred for an eye exam. Children will continue to be screened using this technology in future years.



*Prevent Blindness Wisconsin volunteers and student.*

Kathleen Murphy, Health Services Coordinator at MPS, states “Project 20/20’s greatest strength is actively engaging the community in the health and well-being of its children. From community volunteers trained to perform school-based vision screening, to raising funds to secure follow-up care and eyeglasses for children without insurance, it is the school/community partnerships that have ensured the success of this program. Because of Project 20/20, there are many children that now see their bright future and many volunteers that want to continue to play a part in it.”

Monica Cail of Prevent Blindness Wisconsin adds, “Project 20/20 has allowed volunteers to maximize their potential, screening more children in less time. The data collection technology has greatly reduced the amount of time school staff spend on managing screening paperwork, allowing them to focus on the students. I think the best part of the project, though, is the fact that we are able to identify children with potential vision problems and help them receive the care they need so they can learn.”

Milwaukee Public Schools, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin, Prevent Blindness America, and the Center are pursuing additional funding opportunities to (1) implement this technology throughout the MPS system, (2) make the database system available to other school systems, day care providers, etc., throughout the country and (3) compare the effectiveness of using an autorefractor for vision screening versus traditional screening methods.

## Volunteers

Alverno College Nursing Students  
Aurora School-Based Health Nurses  
Children’s Hospital Nurses  
Kiwanis Club  
MATC<sup>1</sup> Optician Students

MSOE<sup>2</sup> Student Nurses  
UWM<sup>3</sup> School Nurse Project Nurses  
Ms. Kathy Stresman  
Ms. Kristen Weisman

<sup>1</sup>Milwaukee Area Technical College

<sup>2</sup>Milwaukee School of Engineering

<sup>3</sup>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee



## Improving the Health of Milwaukee's Children

In 2004, the Center and the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) system teamed up to obtain a grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future to develop a system to improve the health of Milwaukee's children. Based on MPS's fundamental precepts of a data-driven decision-making process, the partners felt that it was essential to begin collecting data to respond to the health needs of its students.



The Health Information Improvement Project (HIIP) will assess the general health and health risks of Milwaukee youth with a longer-term goal of examining the impact of public health-trained nurses and health specialists in utilizing broad-based normative data for improving health outcomes and decreasing risk behaviors. This multi-level, systems-based project will (1) collect data on the

health of students in Milwaukee Public Schools, (2) use the data collected to plan preventive health interventions with a school-based health team and (3) develop and implement the "Milwaukee School Health Model" focusing primarily on curricular and other preventive health interventions with school children.

Data collection activities will be conducted at eight MPS schools – four schools that have school nurses providing health services and four schools that do not have nurses. Information will be collected from both first- and fourth-grade school children.

A team comprised of representatives from the Center, MPS and the UWM College of Nursing's Institute for Urban Health Partnerships met throughout 2005 to finalize plans for the project, apply for Institutional Review Board approval from the various organizations involved and hire the necessary staff.



## School Children as Research Participants

Although public health research focusing on the health of school-age children is consistently encouraged by recent federal, state and local health initiatives, partnering with schools has become increasingly complex. In the past few years, an important, much needed emphasis has been placed on protecting health information, especially that of children and other vulnerable populations. Consequently, the number of school districts and institutional review boards requiring an active parental consent process has grown.

Originally, the HIIIP project was conceived under the assumption of passive consent that would have ensured approximately 1,200 student participants. Because of the Center's desire to collect specific and potentially sensitive health data from the students, the research review board at MPS required an active parental consent process for all potential student participants. Active consent requires that parents affirmatively give permission for their students to participate in the project. This is in contrast to passive consent where permission to participate is assumed unless parents return a form indicating that they do not want their child to participate.

Participating in a research project with a school-based focus has taught staff at the Center several important lessons. Researchers doing school-based health projects must first understand the necessity of an active consent process in certain situations. Children are a vulnerable population and it is up to the research community to ensure that their risk

is minimized, even when it may lead to lower participation rates or less generalizable results. Take a realistic look at the data to be collected. Can it be considered sensitive? Could the mere asking of the question cause distress in the child? If either answer is "Yes," it is important to anticipate the need for active consent and



to plan timelines, budgets and recruitment efforts accordingly. This will help to avoid a delay in project implementation while restructuring recruitment, etc., and at the same time demonstrate to the Institutional Review Board good faith efforts at subject protection. The lessons learned by the Center in the course of this process will strengthen our future public health research.

## Understanding African American Youth Violence

The Social Development Commission and the Center for Urban Population Health have joined with four community-based organizations to search for a better understanding of youth violence. The project is funded by a grant from the Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management through the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research at UW-Milwaukee.



Deborah Blanks, CEO and Ella Dunbar, Community Liaison Officer, both from the Social Development Commission, are leading the project, and work closely with Ron Cisler at the Center. The participants from the community organizations include Denise Griffin (Greater Galilee Baptist Church), Saleem El-Amin (New Horizon Center, Inc.), Debra Fifer and Marna Winbush (Mothers Against Gun Violence) and Bonnie Melvin (Arms Around Armani).

These four organizations are known in the African American community for their work with youth and families. Although each uses the self-help/mutual aid model, each has a unique focus, varying organizational strengths and management philosophies and styles. All of these factors enhance their ability to achieve positive outcomes.

The project's vision is to use the African American tradition of mutual aid and self-help practices to:

- Identify the styles and practices of the four participating organizations;
- Provide perspectives of the African American community in Milwaukee;
- Gain insight on the issue of reducing youth violence.

The project has two phases:

**Phase I** involves intensive, open-ended interviews with the leaders of the four community organizations to capture the uniqueness and strengths of each participating organization that serves youth and families and identify what each organization is doing to decrease youth violence and to get their input on how youth violence has impacted the community. These interviews began in 2005.

**Phase II** will evaluate the interviews and, using one or more focus groups, determine areas for additional follow-up. The potential outcomes of this project include understanding the role of community leaders in restoring African American traditions in addressing community issues, a questionnaire on community perspectives of youth violence and broad community advocacy and policies regarding youth violence prevention.



## Improving the Health and Fitness of Aurora Health Care Employees and Family

Eat healthy foods in moderate amounts and get plenty of exercise. Such simple advice. But for many of us, it's not so easy. We need a little help. The Aurora Healthy Lifestyle Study (AHLs) is designed to examine the effects of computer-based weight control techniques on the weight and overall health of Aurora Health Care (AHC) employees and families in Milwaukee.



*Study Coordinators Andrea Schreiber and Lea Soderstrom*

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) provides the funding for the study. The Principal Investigator is Paul Hartlaub, MD, MSPH, a Center Scientist, and co-investigators are Susan Partington, Ron Cisler and Neal Linkon (AHC). Center staff Lea Soderstrom and Andrea Schreiber took over coordination of the study from Laura Paluch in 2005. Recruitment of study participants began in September 2004 from a variety of Aurora sites. All employees and their immediate family members were eligible to join the study if they met certain requirements.

More than 470 participants were recruited into the study. Once recruitment concluded in 2005, three types of baseline data were collected: self-assessed physical and mental health, demographic characteristics and biometric indicators. In addition, height, weight, blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol and hemoglobin A1c data were collected for each participant.

Once the baseline data was collected, the participants were randomized into two groups: the experimental group that receives access to the on-line weight loss tools, and a control group that does not have access to the tools. The experimental group participants will have access to the on-line weight loss tools for one year. Each participant has a password-protected site where they can access the tools.

Biometric data will be collected for each participant three more times, at three-month intervals. Participants will also complete the same surveys distributed during the baseline assessment period at specific intervals during the study. The collection of this repeat data will allow the researchers to assess how the participants have changed over time, and will allow them to make comparisons between changes in the experimental and control groups. Eighteen months after the initial data collection, the study will culminate with a follow-up screening where final biometric and survey data will be collected. The researchers will then complete final data analysis.

**My health trackers**  
 » Weight tracker    » Food tracker    » Activity tracker  
 » Fluid intake tracker    » Blood pressure tracker

**Your calorie balance for March 15, 2006**

The values below are taken from the [Activity Tracker](#) and [Food Tracker](#) tools. **Please note:** If you haven't entered all your food, beverages and activities, the totals will not be meaningful. Calculation is for a 23 year old Female that is 5'3" tall.

Calories consumed from the <a href="#">Food Tracker</a> :	1,685
Minus base calories burned from day-to-day activities:	-1,951
Minus extra calories burned (from <a href="#">Activity Tracker</a> ):	-345
<b>Net calorie balance (calories in minus calories out)</b>	<b>-611</b>

Congratulations: You have burned off more calories than you consumed during this time period. Burning off more calories than you consume will lead to weight loss. For example, burning off 500 calories more than you consume per day will lead to about one pound of weight loss per week.

## Other Projects

**Assessment of Children with Special Health Care Needs.** Project to assess the prevalence of children with special health care needs (CSHCN) residing in the City of Milwaukee. The CSHCN Screener®, an instrument designed to identify CSHCN, was included in the administration of the Greater Milwaukee Survey, implemented by the Institute for Survey & Policy Research at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee in 2004. The Center is doing the data analysis. *S. Partington, R. Cisler, K. Blair (MHD)*. 2003 to present.

**Aurora Community Health Survey.** Analysis and interpretation of Aurora Community Health Survey data for a variety of purposes to include publication and marketing. *S. Partington, R. Cisler*. 2003 to Present.

**Brief Alcohol Intervention: The Healthy Moms Project.** Study designed to test the effect of brief clinician advice on improving the health behaviors of women during the postpartum period. The Center supported the coordination of the project in the Milwaukee and Waukesha area. *M. Fleming (UWSMPH), M. Mueller*. Completed.

**Cerner Central Scheduling Feasibility Study for the Metro Region.** Investigated whether the Aurora Metro region should consider adopting a central scheduling paradigm to improve patient satisfaction and access while increasing revenue and reducing costs. *D. Steber (principal investigator), A. Borchardt (AHC), J. Clark (AHC)*. Completed.

**Comparison of Filshie Clip and Pomeroy Method for Obstetric Sterilization.** *D. Siddiqi (principal investigator-UWSMPH), S. Partington, A. Al-Niaimi (AHC/UWSMPH), B. Selman, R. Narayan (UWSMPH)*. In design phase.

**Correlation Between First Two Values and Last Two Values of Three-Hour Glucose Tolerance Test.** *A.S. Khadye (principal investigator-UWSMPH), J. Bergstrom*. Ongoing.

**Delirium Among Older Adults Hospitalized with Acute Myocardial Infarction.** *A. Kahn (principal investigator-UWSMPH), A. Meyer (UWSMPH medical student), E. Chapman (UWSMPH medical student), J. Bergstrom, J. Halm (UWSMPH), J. Marx (UWSMPH), M. Malone (UWSMPH)*. Completed.

**Diabetes Care Management.** Flagship study to explore Aurora Care Management data by Center investigators. *P. Hartlaub (UWSMPH/AHC), S. Strath (UWM), A. Swartz (UWM), R. Cisler, P. Falvey (AHC), D. Steber*. In design phase.

**Factors Influencing the Completion and Content of Advance Directives.** Pilot project to assess whether it is feasible to use data from Aurora Health Care to examine factors influencing the completion of advance directives. *Maureen Smith (principal investigator-UWSMPH), D. Vanness (UWSMPH), J. Cleary (UWSMPH), R. Cisler, J. Bergstrom*. 2005 to Present.

**Global Information Systems (GIS) Mapping of Teen Repeat Pregnancies.** Using GIS, mapped data from the Identification of Repeat Pregnancies in Milwaukee project for the Milwaukee Health Department. *K. Blair (MHD), A. Schreiber, S. Partington*. Completed.

**Homicide Review Commission.** The Milwaukee Police Department, the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office and community organizations make up a comprehensive initiative to promote healthy and safe neighborhoods and reduce the occurrence of homicides in Milwaukee County. *B. O'Keefe (MPD), M. O'Brien (MPD, Harvard), R. Cisler*. Ongoing.

**Milwaukee Data Consortium.** Activities to provide the community, researchers and policy-makers with a resource for accessing and utilizing health-related data sets and provide Milwaukee with an indicator set that measures progress on the Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 objectives. A major portion of the project will be developing a health indicator set for Milwaukee that reflects state and local health priorities. *K. Blair (MHD), S. Partington, D. Steber, R. Cisler.* Ongoing.

**Minimizing Error Maximizing Outcome (MEMO): The Physician Worklife Study II.** Investigating the relationship between ambulatory practice organization and the quality of care received by patients including medical errors. *M. Linzer (principal investigator), B. Horner-Ibler (site PI for Milwaukee site-UWSMPH), L. Paluch (research specialist), A. Maguire (Medical College of Wisconsin).* Completed.

**New Concept Mental Health Training Institute.** This is a 2004 planning grant funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Wisconsin to develop a mental health curriculum for Milwaukee-based community organizations. *J. Perry (principal investigator-New Concept Self Development Center, Inc.), R. Cisler, V. Key (New Concept), D. Seal (MCW).* Ongoing.

**Normoglycemia in Older Versus Younger Patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction.** *A. Kahn (principal investigator-UWSMPH), E. Chapman (UWSMPH medical student), A. Meyer (UWSMPH medical student), J. Bergstrom, J. Halm (UWSMPH), J. Marx (UWSMPH), M. Malone (UWSMPH).* Ongoing.

**Patient Satisfaction Survey.** Conduct bi-annual survey of outpatients at Milwaukee Clinical Campus clinics and report results. *S. Partington (project leader), D. Steber, L. Soderstrom, M. Anderson.* Ongoing.

**PeriData.Net™: Perinatal Database Technology Development and Maintenance Contract.** Contract with the Wisconsin Association of Perinatal Care (WAPC) to develop and maintain a statewide perinatal database. *R. Cisler, D. Steber, A. Marek, S. Partington.* January 2005 – December 2014.

**PeriData.Net™: A Rural/Urban Information Network.** To extend the PeriData.Net perinatal database to rural Wisconsin birth hospitals and train these users in the database applications, including analysis and use. *A. Conway (WAPC), R. Cisler, M. Weiss (Marquette University), D. Steber, A. Marek, S. Partington.* January 2005 – Present.

**Preliminary Analysis of Data from Hypertension Control Trial in Ghana.** *J. Halm (principal investigator-UWSMPH), J. Bergstrom.* Ongoing.

**Utilizing Population-Based Criteria to Determine Individual Clinical Significance Outcomes of Alcohol Treatment.** *R. Cisler, S. Saunders (Marquette University), R. Kowalchuk (Southern Illinois University), H. Trinh (UWM), D. Kivlahan (University of Washington), P. Wirtz (George Washington University), A. Zweben (Columbia University).* July 2003 – Present.

## Publications

Baumgardner DJ, Knavel EM, **Steber D, Swain GR.** (2005). (Abstract) Urban Blastomycosis: A Tale of Two Cities. *Revista do Instituto de Medicina Tropical de São Paulo.* 2005:47 (Supplement 14):62.

Baumgardner DJ, **Steber D,** Glazier R, Paretsky DP, Egan G, Baumgardner AM, Prigge D. (2005). Geographic Information System analysis of blastomycosis in Northern Wisconsin, USA: waterways and soil. *Medical Mycology.* 43:117-125.

- Cisler RA**, Kivlahan DR, Donovan D, Mattson ME. (2005). Assessing non-drinking outcomes in combined pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy clinical trials for treatment of alcohol dependence. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, Supplement No. 15 (July):110-118. *In conjunction with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research.*
- Cisler RA**, Kowalchuk RK, Saunders SM, Zweben A, Trinh HQ. (2005). Applying Clinical Significance Methodology to Alcoholism Treatment Trials: Determining Recovery Outcome Status with Individual- and Population-Based Measures. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*. 29(11):1991-2000.
- Couper DJ, Hosking JD, **Cisler RA**, Gastfriend DR, Kivlahan DR. (2005). Factorial designs in clinical trials. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*. Supplement No. 15 (July):24-32. *In conjunction with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research.*
- Donovan D, Mattson ME, **Cisler RA**, Longabaugh R, Zweben A. (2005). Quality of life in alcoholism treatment clinical trials. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*. Supplement No. 15 (July):119-139. *In conjunction with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research.*
- DiFranceisco W, Pinkerton SD, Dyatlov RV, **Swain GR**. (2005). Evidence of a Brief Surge in Safer Sex Practices Following HIV Testing Among a Sample of High-Risk Men and Women. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*. 39(5):606-612.
- Galvão LW**, Oliveira LC, Diaz J, Kim D, Marchi NM, Van dam J, Castilho R, Chen M, Macaluso M. (2005). Effectiveness of female and male condoms in preventing exposure to semen during vaginal intercourse: a randomized trial. *Contraception*. 71(2):130-136.
- Galvão L**. (2005). Strategic Assessment of HIV/AIDS at Brazilian Borders: a participatory approach in bridging research with policies and programs. *Wisconsin AIDS/HIV UPDATE* pp 19-23, Summer 2005.
- Guda N, **Partington S**, Freeman M. (2005). Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy in the management of chronic calcific pancreatitis: a meta-analysis. *JOP. J. Pancreas (On-line)* 6(1):6-12.
- Hosking JD, **Cisler RA**, Couper DJ, Gastfriend DR, Kivlahan DR, Anton RF. (2005). Design and analysis of Trials of Combination Therapies (TCTs). *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*. Supplement No. 15 (July):34-42. *In conjunction with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research.*
- Kalichman SC, Cain D, Weinhardt L, Presser P, Zweben A, Bjodstrup B, **Swain GR**. (2005). Experimental Components Analysis of Brief Theory-Based HIV-AIDS Risk Reduction Counseling for Sexually Transmitted Infection Patients. *Health Psychology*. 24(2):198-208.
- Ott CH, Plach SK, Hewitt J, Beauchamp J, Cashin S, Kelber S, **Cisler RA**, Weiss J. (2005). Smoking-related health behaviors of employees and readiness to quit. *American Academy of Health Nurses*, 53(6):249-256.
- Partington SN**, **Cisler RA**, Blair KA. (In press.) Prevalence of Children with Special Health Care Needs in Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Data from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Statistical Area. *Wisconsin Medical Journal*.
- Salm Ward T**. (2005). Using Social Work Skills in Research. Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs, *NASW SectionConnection*., Summer 2005:3-4. *In conjunction with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research.*

**Swain GR.** (2005). Chlamydial Sexually Transmitted Diseases. *In The 5 Minute Clinical Consult*. M.R. Dambro, ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, 222-223.

**Swain GR,** Ward GK, Hartlaub PP. (2005). Death Certificates: Let's Get It Right. *American Family Physician*. 71(4):652-656.

Weiner EL, **Swain GR,** Wolf B. (2005). Wellness Promotion for Residents: What Programs are Doing to Promote Positive Functioning. *Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education*. 11(1):47-50.

Zarkin GA, Bray JW, Mitra D, **Cisler RA,** Kivlahan DR. (2005). Cost methodology of COMBINE. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, Supplement No. 15 (July):50-55. *In conjunction with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research.*

## Presentations/Posters

**Abston-Coleman S.** "Careers in the Clinical Laboratory." Health careers presentation at the Health Careers Club of Greater Milwaukee. Milwaukee, WI, November 2005.

**Abston-Coleman S.** "Health is Happiness Day." College careers presentation to 75 middle school girls of Best Friends Inc. UW-Milwaukee, WI, January 2005.

**Abston-Coleman S.** "UJIMA: For a Better Tomorrow." Health careers presentation for African American Female Teach-In (Sixth Annual) at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School. Milwaukee, WI, March 2005.

**Abston-Coleman S,** Gennis M. Collaborative education teaching modules for 6th, 7th & 8th grade students with the Internal Medicine Residency Program of Aurora Sinai Medical Center. Sarah A. Scott Middle School for the Health Sciences - Milwaukee, WI, October 2004 to December 2005.

**Abston-Coleman S,** Krupp J, Phillips C, Trester Hansen M, Woods C. Teaching Sex Education to Middle School Students. Poster presented at Aurora Health Care, Inc. Scientific Day, Milwaukee, WI, May 2005.

Baumgardner DJ, Knavel E, **Steber D,** **Swain G.** "Urban Blastomycosis: A Tale of Two Cities" (Poster). IX International Conference on Paracoccidio-idomycosis, Águas de Lindóia – SP, Brazil, 2005.

Baumgardner DJ, Knavel E, **Steber D,** **Swain G.** "Urban Blastomycosis: A Tale of Two Cities" (Poster). 33rd Annual Meeting, North American Primary Care Research Group, Quebec City, Canada, 2005.

Blanks D, **Cisler RA,** Dunbar E. Building effective community partnerships using African American traditions: Understanding youth violence. Nonprofit Research Colloquium: Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management. University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, December 2005.

**Cisler RA.** Challenges and opportunities in inter-institutional partnerships for health. In S. Goelzer (Moderator), *The University and Community – Emerging Partnerships in Health. The Transformation of Health Care and the Role of the University.* Madison, WI, November 2005.

**Cisler RA.** Population Health as a Unifying Model for Inter-Professional Campus-Community Partnering. In C. Fox (Moderator), *Research Essentials Symposium, Building Research Collaborations Across Disciplines.* Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions Annual Conference. Houston, TX, October 2005.



**Galvão L.** “Effectiveness of female and male condoms in preventing exposure to semen during vaginal intercourse: a randomized trial in Brazil.” Oregon Health and Sciences University, School of Nursing, Portland, OR, May 2005.

**Galvão L.** “Global Issues in HIV/AIDS and Maternal & Child Health.” American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy, October 2005.

**Galvão L.** “Global Issues in HIV/AIDS and Maternal & Child Health.” UW Medical School, Milwaukee Clinical Campus, Milwaukee, WI, July 2005.

**Galvão L.** “Highlights and Challenges: Lessons learned from the XV AIDS International Conference in Bangkok, Thailand”. UW Medical School, Milwaukee Clinical Campus, Milwaukee, WI, April 2005.

**Galvão L.** “HIV/AIDS and other Infectious Diseases in the Hispanic Community in Milwaukee and Wisconsin”. Allianza Hispanic Community Partnerships Symposium, Milwaukee, WI, February 2005.

**Galvão L.** “Partnering with Community-Based Organizations and Developing Community-Academic Partnerships: Lessons Learned from the CUPH.” Technical Assistance Workshop on the Community-Academic Partnership Fund, Milwaukee, WI, July 2005.

**Galvão L.** “Strategic Assessment of HIV/AIDS in the Brazilian Borders”. Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR, February 2005.

**Partington S.** PeriData.Net™ Training for Wisconsin Hospitals. Madison, WI, February, June and July 2005. West Allis, WI, June 2005. Green Bay, WI, June 2005. Wausau, WI, July 2005. Marshfield, WI, November 2005. Milwaukee, WI, November 2005. Reedsburg, WI, November 2005.

**Salm Ward TC.** “Social Workers in the Research Field.” A presentation to University of Wisconsin Social Welfare graduate students. Milwaukee, WI, January 2005. *In conjunction with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research.*

**Salm Ward TC, Keller-Koplinski MA.** “Form 90 Training”. A training session provided for Marquette University graduate and undergraduate psychology students. Milwaukee, WI, May 2005. *In conjunction with the Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research.*

**Swain GR.** “The Blind Men and the Elephant: What’s Up in Public Health?” Department of Family and Community Medicine’s Annual Winter Refresher course, 2005, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, February 2005.

**Swain GR.** “Missed Opportunities for Immunizations: Why They Matter in Milwaukee.” The Protect All Kids Immunization Coalition Annual Immunization Workshop, Milwaukee, WI, April 2005.

# *Center for Urban Population Health*

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