

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN INTEGRATIVE HEALTH DISPARITIES AND EQUITY RESEARCH (CIHDER)

AGG
IES DO

Request to Establish

Elimelda Moige Onger, PhD
Professor of Physiology and Interim Dean
John R and Kathy R Hairston College of Health and Human Sciences
04/22/2022

- Health disparities/inequities remain a public health crisis.
 - > Minority ethnic groups are disproportionately burdened by chronic and infectious diseases
 - > Persistent differences in health outcomes by race and ethnicity
 - > Underrepresentation of minority groups in biomedical research and clinical trials is exacerbating the health disparities
 - In part due to historic mistrust of the research community and a lack of access to clinical trials
- Health equity is one of the most pressing social justice issues of our time
 - > NC A&T has a history rooted in advocacy for social justice and is a trusted entity in minority communities, especially African Americans
- The complexity of underlying causes of health inequities demands a multidisciplinary and holistic approach – CIHDER overcomes unit silos

To bring together students and scholars of diverse disciplines and backgrounds to;

- formulate new, relevant and transformative research, theories, and models
- bring greater clarity and understanding to health disparities and health inequities
- create solutions for elimination of health disparities and inequities

- CIHDER will enhance infrastructure and collaboration for human subject research essential for health disparities and equity research.
 - > creating resources to enhance recruitment and retention of participants in biomedical research and clinical trials, key elements for achieving health equity.

Goal 1: *Create an intellectual climate that encourages the creative exchange of ideas and increases the quality of the professional environment*

Goal 2: *Commit to excellence in teaching, research, public service, and engagement*

- CIHDER will act in synergy with academic units and existing university centers to support graduate programs in the health and social sciences.

Goal 3: *Position the university to be a national, premier research-intensive, doctoral, science, and technology-focused learning institution*

- Also aligns with transition from R2-R1

- CIHDER will engage communities in central North Carolina to develop solutions that alleviate health disparities

Goal 4: *Embrace an entrepreneurial spirit that intentionally engages university and community partners to expand economic development and civic engagement*

- > Establish trusted long-term relationships with communities of interest for advancing health disparities research
 - Collaboratively identify research questions and implement projects
 - Build partnerships with community stakeholders, industry, and foundations
 - Dissemination of biomedical research and clinical trials findings
 - Empower communities to better manage their health

Summary of CIHDER Structure

Shared Core Resources

For cutting-edge behavioral, basic, clinical and/or translational health disparities research

Research
Infrastructure

- BSL3 biosafety level capabilities & Biobanking resources
- Behavioral and focus group spaces
- Data security and data analytics (Computing & software capabilities for population level studies)

Successful Investigators

- Faculty Mentoring
- Training Workshops
- Proposal development
- Cultural Competency skills
- Teams Science & collaborative research
- Increased external funding

Investigator
Development

Outreach &
Community
Engagement

Trusted sustainable relationships
with communities & key
community stakeholders

- Recruitment and retention of participants
- collaborative research
- dissemination

CIHDER

- Identified and designed spaces for CIDHER administrative offices and center support services on the second floor of Hines Hall
- Received UNC System approval for position of Center Director
 - > Using our networks to generate interest in the position
- Identified several funded research projects that will operate under CIHDER
- Initiated health disparities seminar series and continued support for health equity symposium
- Identified signature priority research areas:
 - > Informing future grant proposal development and faculty recruitment
- Commenced community engagement aligned with CIHDER goals
- **Next Steps:** Be operational in the 2022/23 academic year - Hire Center Director, Create internal and external advisory boards, marketing/website development, embark on fundraising for long-term sustainability (develop center grants, engage alumni)

Thank You