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The NIH AAPI-HSIG Newsletter was initiated by Dr. Dan Xi and led by Karen Qi, Editor-in-Chief, with a team of editors, Dan Xi and Catherine Yu. The bi-monthly newsletter featuring news and events related to the NIH and AAPI-HSIG, as well as publications about AAPI health research in PubMed, is produced by the AAPI-HSIG science communication group and distributed through NIH AAPI-HSIG mailing listservs to AAPI-HEALTH-SIG@LIST.NIH.GOV and other email lists to extramural communities.

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NEWS & EVENTS

NIH AAPI-HSIG Facts & Inaugural Seminar

The NIH AAPI-HSIG was established in 2021 (<https://oir.nih.gov/sigs/AAPI-HSIG>) and was approved by Dr. Michael M. Gottesman, Director of the NIH Office of Intramural research. The NIH AAPI-HSIG is open to all in the intramural and extramural NIH community, as well as HHS staff. It provides a scientific exchange and collaboration platform for assemblies of scientists and staff at NIH, HHS, extramural academia, or other Federal and Non-Federal entities who have an interest and passion in advancing the NIH mission and improving AAPI-health and research, and serves as NIH high-quality trusted resources for AAPI-health research and education. The AAPI-HSIG hosted a very successful inaugural seminar on September 23, 2021. There were 500+ registered and 250+ live attendees. Dr. Dan Xi, Program Director at National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Chair of the NIH AAPI-HSIG gave a brief introduction of the mission, goals, and vision. She also highlighted a few ongoing initiatives or projects, such as hosting the first-ever focused scientific seminar series on AAPI-health research at the NIH, planning the first-ever annual AAPI heritage month health research symposium, and establishing AAPI-health research Pubmed MeSH search term in collaboration with the National Library of Medicine. Many staff from various NIH ICs* were acknowledged for their contributions and supports in the development of the AAPI-HSIG and inaugural webinar.

Scientific News

New AAPI Health MeSH Term Available for Literature Searches on NIH PubMed about the health research on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including Native Hawaiians: ([Asian Americans\[mesh\]](#) OR ([Asia\[mesh\]](#) AND [US/ethnology\[mesh\]](#))) AND [Health\[mesh\]](#)

NIH Grant Funding Information Website: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

Upcoming Events

NIH AAPI-HSIG Webinar: Dr. Mindy DeRouen, "Incidence of Lung Cancer Among Never-Smoking Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Females" - November 30, 2021 from 1-2PM EST

Open to the public. Click [here](#) to register.

NIH Common Fund's Transformative Health Disparities Research Initiative Community Listening Sessions - November 9, 10, 16, and 18

For more information, dates, and times, please visit: <https://hd-transformation-engagements.com>

NIH Calendar of Events Website: <https://calendar.nih.gov/>

Past Events

NIH Asian American Pacific Islander Health Scientific Interest Group Inaugural Seminar - September 23, 2021

By Dan Xi and Karen Qi

Outstanding remarks from Dr. Eliseo Perez Stable, Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, set the stage nicely for the inaugural seminar by Dr. Grace Ma, the speaker, Associate Dean for Health Disparities at Temple University. Dr. Perez Stable discussed the disaggregation of data, priority health issues, and use of interpreters in language-discordant encounters for AAPI. Dr. Grace Ma is the Founding Director of the Center for Asian Health and Laura H. Carnell Professor at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine. In this lecture, Dr. Ma outlined several issues: diversity among AAPI Populations, 'model minority' invisibility in scientific research, multilevel barriers to healthcare, disparities impacting AAPI health, examples of multilevel approaches to population health equity. Dr. Ma also presented priority health concerns for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, such as hepatitis B, diabetes, and lung cancer. Last but not least, she emphasized the often-invisible effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on AAPI health.

Finally, the webinar ended with interactive discussions in the panels of program officers and intramural senior investigators, including attendees from NIH and extramural communities. These discussions covered issues such as research funding needs, improvement of statistical power, needs in clinical research and clinical trial recruitment, and reduction of aggregated data by separating Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians and Asians American in clinical research data collection. Webinar news was announced in the NIH Record (<https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2021/09/17/ma-featured-inaugural-seminar-aapi-health-disparities-sept-23>).

The webinar was co-sponsored by the NCI Integrative Medicine Cancer Health Disparities Working Group. Click [here](#) to watch the recording.

Dr. Sherita Hill Golden, "Diabetes Health Disparities: Biology, Race, or Racism" - September 29, 2021

By Karen Qi

Dr. Sherita Hill Golden is the Hugh P. McCormick Family Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism, as well as the Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Johns Hopkins Medicine. Her lecture covered various facets of institutional racism, such as the history of experimentation on vulnerable groups without their consent and the policies that resulted in discriminatory housing and residential segregation. Finally, she discussed the ways in which policies and healthcare interventions can mitigate health disparities in endocrine disorders. Click [here](#) to watch the recording.

NCI Integrative Medicine Cancer Disparity Working Group AAPI-Heritage Month Inaugural Webinar - May 25, 2021

By Dan Xi

On May 25, 2021, NCI Integrative Medicine Cancer Disparity Working Group hosted a timely AAPI-Heritage Month Inaugural Webinar: Reducing Disparities among Asian American Cancer Survivors by Dr. Qian Lu, NCI grantee and Professor in the Department of Health Disparities Research, Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She discussed her work on developing culturally sensitive psychosocial interventions that aim to reduce disparities among Asian American cancer survivors. NCI's program directors, Drs. Anil Wali and Dan Xi were the co-moderators. The event was featured in the weekly email announcement of the NCI Director, Ned Sharpless, M.D., and was open to the public.

PUBLICATIONS

featuring papers published in October on AAPI health and health disparities

[In or out of the game? Counter-stereotype paradoxes and Asian-identified student-athlete mental health](#)

How does being a student-athlete impact the mental health of Asian-identifying mental health? In a study conducted by Alisia G. T. T. Tran, the author aimed to examine the effects and interactions of discrimination, idealizing stereotypes, and exercise on Asian-identified student-athlete mental health. Using data from the Health Minds Study, the author tested a pair of counter-stereotype paradox hypotheses, whereby it is predicted that conforming to idealized stereotypes of Asians heightens links between discrimination and mental health. This publication was highlighted to demonstrate the pros and cons of conforming to idealizing stereotypes, thus challenging the Asian American model minority imagery.

[Use of Korean dramas to facilitate precision mental health understanding and discussion for Asian Americans](#)

In this pilot study performed by Van My Ta Park and colleagues, the researchers capitalize on the widespread global popularity of Korean drama television shows in order to create an educational tool to increase precision mental health knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of Asian Americans. The authors investigated attitudes toward and acceptance of using Korean dramas in this way by conducting workshops in a convenience sample of Asian Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area spanning three different language groups: English, Vietnamese, and Korean. The results of the pilot study revealed positive reactions from all language groups, which demonstrates the promise of using Korean dramas as an effective health educational tool among Asian American populations.

[Chinese American adolescents' experiences of COVID-19 racial discrimination: Risk and protective factors for internalizing difficulties](#)

As the COVID-19 pandemic brought on increased anti-Asian racial discrimination and increased xenophobia in the United States, it is critical to highlight scientific research on the impact of such discrimination on the mental health of Asian Americans. Charissa S. L. Cheah and her colleagues performed a study to examine this impact in 211 Chinese American parent-adolescent dyads. The authors assessed how two factors, level of bicultural identity integration in Chinese American adolescents and degree of parental promotion of mistrust against other ethnic-racial groups, affected and interacted to affect the relationship between racial discrimination and internalizing difficulties for Chinese American adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Health literacy in Korean adults and Korean American immigrants: Implications for achieving health equity](#)

Health literacy is critical for making informed decisions with regard to one's health. Soondool Chung and colleagues compare health literacy levels of Korean citizens and Korean American immigrants in the United States. Their study investigates factors that influence health literacy in both groups across three separate age groups. Results indicate that Korean citizens and Korean American immigrants differ in their health literacy levels, with Korean citizens having a higher mean health literacy score overall. The author's findings suggest a need for community-based health literacy education programs in both countries, which should be adjusted specifically according to the target age group. This paper was highlighted to emphasize the heterogeneity of the AAPI community and the need for tailored approaches to health equity.

[Internalized model minority myth among Asian Americans: Links to anti-Black attitudes and opposition to affirmative action](#)

How does internalization of the Model Minority Myth for Asian Americans relate to the perpetuation of racial inequality in the United States? Researchers Jaqueline Yi and Nathan R. Todd attempted to answer this question with 251 Asian American college students by testing a path analysis model linking internalized Model Minority Myth to anti-Blackness and beliefs about affirmative action for Black Americans. The authors investigated not only the direct effects of internalized Model Minority Myth on these outcomes, but also the indirect effects linking internalization to anti-Blackness and opposition to affirmative action via just world beliefs and colorblind ideologies. Results from Yi and Todd's study demonstrate that increased internalized Model Minority Myth among Asian American college students predicted increased anti-Blackness and greater affirmative action opposition. This article was highlighted to draw attention to the ways stereotypes can hinder solidarity among minority groups.

[Head and neck squamous cell carcinomas among males of the three largest Asian diasporas in the US, 2004-2013](#)

While the majority of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) cases are in Asia, the extent of HNSCC among Asians in the United States has not been completely examined. This study conducted by Shaveta Khosla and colleagues seeks to fill this gap. Using data from the National Cancer Database, Khosla et al. compare the proportion of HNSCC cases in males from the three largest Asian subpopulations in the United States (Chinese, South Asian, and Filipino) to that in Non-Hispanic White males diagnosed with HNSCC between 2004-2013. The researchers found that Asian diasporas have a comparatively increased likelihood of certain HNSCCs and a higher likelihood of having a diagnosis at a younger age.

[Beyond Black and White: Mapping Misclassification of Medicare Beneficiaries Race and Ethnicity](#)

For research and evaluation of health disparities, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services use two variables related to race and ethnicity: enrollment database (EDB) beneficiary race code and the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) race code. In this study, authors Irina B. Grafova and Olga F. Jarrín examine state-level variation in misclassification of race/ethnicity in EDB and RTI race codes in comparison to self-reported race/ethnicity collected during home health care services in 2015. Results reveal substantial variation for Hispanic, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native Medicare beneficiaries. Thus, the authors suggest using caution when using EDB and RTI race codes in Medicare datasets to interpret minority health outcomes and state-level health care disparities; rather, using self-reported race/ethnicity data may improve accuracy of minority health outcomes and state-level health care disparities research and reporting.

[Implications of the 2019 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Primary Prevention Guidelines and potential value of the coronary artery calcium score among South Asians in the US: The Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America \(MASALA\) study](#)

According to the 2019 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association guidelines, South Asian ethnicity is considered as a "risk-enhancing factor" for increased atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Waqas Haque and colleagues investigated the implications of this guideline through assessment of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk using data from the Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) community-based cohort study. The authors' findings suggest that considerable overtreatment may result from systematic consideration of borderline risk South Asians as statin candidates. Statin therapy may be personalized by additional risk assessment using coronary artery calcium scores.

[Associations between accessibility to health care service, social support, and Korean Americans' mental health status amid the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

This study by Jihyun Jane Min, Shinwoo Choi, and Hyejoon Park investigates the relationships between perceptions of social support, health care accessibility, and mental health of Korean Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors used online surveys and generated 790 responses from Korean American participants residing in 42 states. Results demonstrated that language barriers that inhibit access to COVID-19 information were associated with poor mental health in this group, highlighting the need to equip community health care services with translation and interpreter resources. Additionally, perceived social support from family and close friends was found to be positively associated with mental health.

[Current Gaps in Breast Cancer Screening Among Asian and Asian American Women in the United States](#)

This article written by Young-Jin Sohn and colleagues aims to characterize gaps in breast cancer screening among Asian and Asian American women in the United States with attention to factors including cultural stigma, socioeconomic status, and overall access to breast cancer care.

Other Announcements

Job Listing: [NCI intramural position for cancer health disparities](#)

The Laboratory of Human Carcinogenesis (LHC) at the Center for Cancer Research (CCR) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland is recruiting a tenure-track investigator or preferably a tenure-eligible investigator focused on health disparity of cancer to join the Intramural Research Program's mission of high impact, high reward science.

****Acknowledgements***

NIH Office of Intramural Research: Dr. Michael Gottesman and Christopher Wanjek

Director, NIMHD: Dr. Eliseo J. Perez-Stable

NCI: LeeAnn Bailey, Anthony Tedder, Anil Wali, Dan Xi, Catherine Yu

NHGRI: Paul Liu

NHLBI: Xinzhi Zhang, Keji Zhao

NIA: Ramesh Vemuri

NICHD: Karen Lee

NIDDK: Yihong Ye

NIGMS: Lei Ming

NIMH: Karen Qi

NIMHD: Kelvin Choi, Rina Das, Elizabeth Garofalo, Phuong-Tu Le

All Others: NIH colleagues and staff who provided input and support, and the NIH FAPAC Chapter