

**Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues Grants (ProDIGS)  
Five 2004 ProDIGs Grantees Selected  
(July 2005 Communiqué)**

The ProDIGs program is administered by APA's Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) in collaboration with the APA Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) with funding provided by the APA Science Directorate's Academic Enhancement Initiative (AEI). ProDIGs "seeks to increase the capacity of ethnic minority serving postsecondary institutions and faculty to engage in health disparities research and to encourage student involvement in health disparities research training at early levels of the educational pipeline." Since 2002, the project has sought to target early career faculty at ethnic minority serving institutions for small grant awards of \$6000 to \$7000 that support activities associated with the preparation of an initial research project/curriculum development application for federal or foundation funding. ProDIGs awardees also are required to participate in the MFP/Psychology Summer Institute (PSI). The PSI provides professional development and experiential activities to young ethnic minority scholars (advanced graduate students to early career faculty) that is designed to enhance their current research skills and advance their careers through the provision of goal-based mentoring by seasoned researchers, interaction with federal research funding officials, and specialized training modules. This year the PSI will be held July 17-21, 2004 in Washington, DC.

Awardees are expected to complete their research activities within 18 months after their award and to prepare a major funding proposal to federal agencies or private foundations within 24 months after award of their grant.

The 2004 ProDIGs grantees are listed below along with brief descriptions of their proposed research projects:

Assistant Professor **Carlotta Arthur, PhD** of Meharry Medical College will examine *Psychological Stress, Optimism and Wound Healing in African Americans*. Dr. Arthur's research will survey 60 low-income African American adult male and female oral surgery patients of the Meharry Medical College Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic and initiate a pilot study on the relationship among stress, optimism and wound healing.

Assistant Professor **Ling-chuan Chu, PhD** from Delaware State University will focus on *Body Image and Weight-related Issues among African American College Students*. The proposed research seeks to use focus groups methods to explore the effect of body image on African American college students' perceptions of weight-related issues and strategies for motivating such college students to lose and maintain weight. The study will also introduce group interventions to help African American college students maintain a health lifestyle, and prevent weight gain.

Assistant Specialist **Su Yeong Kim, PhD** of the Center on the Family, University of Hawaii at Manoa, will examine *Adolescent Adjustment in Chinese Immigrant Families* by investigating contemporaneous relationships among parent-child acculturation discrepancy, unsupportive parenting and adolescent adjustment in Chinese immigrant families and collecting and analyzing the second and third wave of data of an on-going study involving 400 families. These data will be used in testing a causal model where initial levels of parent-child acculturation discrepancy predict the quality of parenting practices and adolescent adjustment and explore whether parent gender, adolescent gender and adolescent translating activities moderate the proposed relationships.

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Assistant Professor **Glen Milstein, PhD** of The City College of The City University of New York will assess *Church-Based Intervention to Reduce Mental Illness Stigma and the Disparity of Mental Health Care among Latinos* through conduct of a bilingual study of a church-based intervention of 64 Latinos designed to reduce mental illness stigma and increase willingness to seek mental health care in the Washington Heights section of New York. Psychology students from City College will assist in conducting this study.

Assistant Professor **Susan Sy, PhD**, of Mount St. Mary's College will survey 250 Latina daughters of immigrant families to gain a better understanding of stress-related risk and protective factors that promote mental health resiliency in this population during their transition to adulthood. Her proposed study on *Mental Health in Daughters of Immigrant Families* will utilize undergraduate students from Mount St. Mary's core psychology courses in the development, administration, and analysis of the core survey and provide these students structured coursework on minority mental health research.

A request for 2005 ProDIGs proposals will be forthcoming. For more information about ProDIGs, contact Sonja Preston at [spreston@apa.org](mailto:spreston@apa.org).