

**Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues (ProDIGs) Grantees Participate in the First Minority Fellowship Program Psychology Summer Institute (MFP/PSI), July 16-19, 2003 - (March 2004 Communiqué)**



**MFP/PSI Participants**

The ProDIGs initiative is administered by the Public Interest Directorate's Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) in collaboration with the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) with funding provided by APA's Science Directorate's Academic Enhancement Initiative. 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. Targeting early career psychology faculty at ethnic minority serving institutions, ProDIGs awards small grants to support activities associated with the preparation of an initial research/curriculum development application for federal or foundation funding from such agencies as the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHHD), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and others. A component of the grant is participation in the MFP/Psychology Summer Institute. The Institute provides grantees activities designed to enhance their professional development and research skills through the provision of goal-based mentoring, interaction with federal funding officials, and a series of specialized training modules. It is expected that grantees' activities will be completed within 18 months after award and that the grantees will prepare a major funding proposal within 24 months.

Grantees participated in the first *Psychology Summer Institute* (PSI) held July 16-19, 2003 in Washington, D.C. The four-day Institute brought together selected Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) recipients (advanced graduate students to postdocs) and ProDIGs grantees. The event was attended by more than fifty MFP and ProDIGs grantees, invited guests, federal representatives and speakers. An exciting component of the Institute provided ProDIGs grantees the opportunity to have their research concept papers critiqued by experienced researchers and federal representatives from agencies that focused on their specific areas



**MFP/PSI Mentors**

of research. This unique experience afforded grantees the opportunity to strengthen and revise their concept papers based on the input they received, and to become more informed and familiar with the funding opportunities and officials in their areas of research for future grant submission. Federal representatives included officials of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), the Center for Substance Abuse

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Prevention (CSAP), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), National Institute of Child and Human Development (NICHD), National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) National Health, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

The Institute was organized into three thematic tracks based on specialized needs and professional experiences of the MFP and ProDIGs participants. Track One offered activities and mentorship for those participants supported by the MFP *Mental Health Research* (MHR) training grant funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Track Two offered activities targeted to participants supported by the *Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services* (MHSAS) training granted funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the third Track provided focused experiences relevant to the ProDIGs grantees. Within each track, training and mentoring were provided by experienced researchers. Trainers and mentors for ProDIGs grantees included: **Mark Chavez, PhD**, National Institute of Mental Health; **Hector Myers, PhD**, University of California, Los Angeles; **S. Darius Tandon, PhD**, Johns Hopkins University; **Mark Appelbaum, PhD**, University of California, San Diego; **Jules Harrell, PhD**, Howard University.

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