April 2017
The Center for Energy Balance in Cancer Prevention and Survivorship, of the Duncan Family Institute, facilitates and conducts state-of-the-science research to understand the relationship between activity, nutrition, obesity and cancer, and uses this knowledge to optimize interventions to decrease cancer risk and improve cancer outcomes. The Center sponsors collaborative research, transdisciplinary educational opportunities and seminars to create, produce and disseminate innovative and practice-changing research results.

Upcoming Conferences
May 9-11, Houston, TX
Annual GAP Conference
May 30-June 3, Denver, CO
ACSM Annual Meeting
May 30-June 2, Washington, DC
Society for Prevention Research

June 2-6, Chicago, IL
American Society of Clinical Oncology: ASCO Annual Meeting
June 7-10, Victoria, Canada
International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity: Advancing Behavior Change Science
June 12-15, Clearwater Beach, FL
NIH Science of Team Science (SciTS) Conference
June 25-27, New Orleans, LA
AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting: The Premier Forum for Health Services Research

Upcoming Abstract Submission Deadlines
September 25-28, Atlanta, GA
10th AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved
Abstracts due: June 12

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Center for Energy Balance in Cancer Prevention and Survivorship

Energy Balance Research Seminar
April 20, 2017

Title: The Role of Family, Culture, & Body Image on Eating and Physical Activity in Hispanic Families
Facilitated by: Norma Olvera, PhD, FTOS
Location: CPB8, Room 5
Time: 12:00–1:00 PM

Research Spotlight: Getting to Know Norma Olvera, PhD, FTOS

Norma Olvera has been interested in the cultural and familial influences on weight, self-image and health – particularly for minorities – since her early days as a psychologist. A native of Mexico City, she earned her BA in Clinical Psychology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico City, Mexico. She went on to earn both her MA and PhD in Developmental Psychology, with an emphasis on childhood obesity, from the University of Houston (UH).

“I’ve always had an interest in parenting issues,” she explains. “My first year in grad school I had a professor who was conducting research on obese parents, and I was quickly trained to study specific behaviors, through observation. We investigated parent-child interaction regarding food and eating and the influence of mothers on how and what their children ate. We learned that at an early age, children clearly have likes and dislikes for food and that their parents’ education, culture and economic status heavily impacts their eating habits.”

Dr. Olvera has studied a variety of dietary issues related to families over the years. In the late 90s she learned that families who make changes as a group lose weight more easily and successfully than individual members on their own. In Texas towns close to the Mexican border, she learned that environment impacts health. “There are few places to exercise and eat a healthy meal, no sidewalks, and rodents running wild,” she recalls. Her work here led her to the Houston Independent School District, where she along with other nutrition investigators began to work with the HISD lead dietician to shape new policies to provide healthier food for students.

Dr. Olvera has a long research relationship with Dr. Karen Basen-Engquist, and they have worked together in examining barriers to physical activity in cancer survivors. More recently, Dr. Olvera and Dr. Basen-Engquist and her Energy Balance research team have been looking at measuring intensity of physical activity and its impact on adiposity reduction in Hispanic and African American teens. This kind of collaboration fosters interdisciplinary approaches to address health issues in diverse populations.

In 2005, Dr. Olvera funded BOUNCE Healthy Lifestyle Program (Behavior Opportunities Uniting in Nutrition, Counseling and Exercise) at UH to promote healthy eating, positive body image and exercise among Hispanic and African American girls and their families. Starting as a summer initiative, BOUNCE has been supported by developing afterschool nutrition and exercise programs, grocery shopping tours, gardening, cooking demonstrations, and 5k fun runs all year-round. “Through our programs, we hope to demonstrate to parents and their children that exercise and good nutrition can be both fun and empowering.”

A Professor in Psychological, Health and Learning Sciences, at the UH College of Education, Past President of the Hispanic Health Coalition and an active member of numerous boards, Dr. Olvera doesn’t have to work in the summer. But she chooses to continue her efforts with BOUNCE each year. “I am challenged to figure out what works and what doesn’t. There are emotional aspects of eating – kids are bullied by family members, and diseases like diabetes and alcoholism can be passed from one generation to another. Parents can be unhappy with their lives. Families may be poor, and have no transportation. There are a host of issues that impact healthy eating and regular exercise.”

A labor of love for Dr. Olvera, the BOUNCE program continues to grow and evolve. “We have learned that forgiveness for making mistakes and self-compassion play a large role in enabling kids to make lasting health changes in their behavior. It’s so uplifting to see just one child with everything against them lose weight, gain confidence and feel and look better. The ripple effect this creates in their friends, families and communities is so important. A sense of self-worth is everything.”

NCI Provocative Questions: NIH funding opportunities announced for research on the effects of nutritional interventions on cancer treatment

We at the Center for Energy Balance have identified questions in the recent NCI provocative questions RFA that may be relevant to energy balance. Please join us for a brown bag group discussion of this funding opportunity announcement on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 12–1PM at FCT2.4152. Research Answers to NCI’s Provocative Questions (R01): RFA-CA-17-017; (R21): RFA-CA-17-018 Application due June 28, 2017.
Bionutrition Research Core News

“The Bionutrition Research Core proudly sent out their first pharmacokinetic test meal in March. This meal is being used to evaluate the effect of food on selected formulations and dosages of a chemotherapeutic drug. It is one of five multicenter trials for which the BRC is currently providing meals or research-related nutritional counseling. For more information about BRC services, please contact Program Manager Christine Ranieri at brc@mdanderson.org, or link to our website Bionutrition Research Core.”

NIH: Division of Cancer Control & Population Sciences Webinar:

This webinar will provide an overview of the R01 and R21 funding opportunity announcement, Cancer-related Behavioral Research through Integrating Existing Data PAR-16-256 (R01) and PAR-16-255 (R21).

Date: April 19, 2017
Time: 2-3 PM
Speaker: Richard Moser, Ph.D.

Register Now

Need Some Help Pushing that Paper Across The Finish Line?

Register for the Energy Balance Writing Retreat on April 14th, from 9-5pm in FCT3.5018 (Lab E). Step away from your desk, and work on papers in a quiet space with other researchers and investigators. If you are interested, please email Miranda Baum at mbaum@mdanderson.org by April 13th. We have 10 spots available.

Share Your Ideas to Help Shape the Next 10 Years of NIH Nutrition Research

The NIH Nutrition Research Task Force hopes to obtain input in developing the first-ever NIH-wide strategic plan for nutrition research. Click on https://ideabuzz.com/a/buzz/nih/strategic-plan to provide input. Closes on April 16th.

Current Funding Opportunities

National Institutes of Health [Standard dates apply]

Testing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity: PAR-14-315 (R01)
Developing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity: PAR-14-321 (R21/R33)
Collaborative Innovation Award, Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program (U01): PAR-15-172
Advancing Translational and Clinical Probiotic/Prebiotic and Human Microbiome Research: PA-15-127(R01)
Education and Health: New Frontiers (R21): PAR-16-078; (R01): PAR-16-080; (R03): PAR-16-079
Examination of Survivorship Care Planning Efficacy and Impact (R21): PA-16-011; (R01): PA-16-012
Exploratory/Developmental Clinical Research Grants in Obesity: PA-15-163 (R21)
Education and Health: New Frontiers (R21): PAR-16-078; (R01): PAR-16-080
Systems Science and Health in the Behavioral and Social Sciences (R01): PAR-15-048
Translational Research to Improve Diabetes and Obesity Outcomes (R01): PA-13-352
Leveraging Cognitive Neuroscience to Improve Assessment of Cancer Treatment-Related Cognitive Impairment (R01): PAR-16-212; (R21) PAR-16-213
Predicting Behavioral Responses to Population-Level Cancer Control Strategies (R21): PAR-16-257
Innovative Approaches to Studying Cancer Communication in the New Media Environment (R01): PAR-16-240; (R21): PAR-16-248
Cancer-Related Behavioral Research through Integrating Existing Data (R01): PAR-16-256; (R21): PAR-16-255
Stimulating Innovations in Behavioral Intervention Research for Cancer Prevention and Control (R21): PAR-16-278
National Cancer Institute Program Project Applications (P01): PAR-15-023
Physical Activity and Weight Control Interventions Among Cancer Survivors: Effects on Biomarkers of Prognosis and Survival (R21): PAR-16-123 (R01): PAR-16-122

American Cancer Society

The Extramural Grants department encourages applications for research projects that focus on the multifaceted relationship between nutrition, physical activity and cancer: Extramural Grants

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

Competitive Continuation/Expansion-Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services: RFA P-17.1-CCF
Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions: RFA P-17.1-DI
Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services: RFA P-17.1-EBP
Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services - See, Test & Treat® Program: RFA P-17.1-EBP-STT
Cancer Prevention Promotion and Navigation to Clinical Services: RFA P-17.1-PN