

JACKSON HEART STUDY NEWS

Issue 1

JUNE 1999

From the Desk of the JHS Director

This issue of *Jackson Heart Study (JHS) News* is the first to be published and distributed to Jackson Heart Study (JHS) staff and other readers. We hope this format will allow information to flow among the JHS Director's Office, the Coordinating Center (JSU), the Exam Center (UMMC), the Undergraduate Training Center (Tougaloo), the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the Office of Research on Minority Health (ORMH).

In part, the purpose of this issue is to enlist your support in transmitting a list of major accomplishments or activities on a monthly basis, reporting a variety of time-sensitive, new and on-going JHS developments, committee meeting highlights, activities and meeting dates, special announcements, new staff, birthdays, etc. Relevant scientific news and notices from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will also be included periodically.

The timeline for submission of information for *JHS News* will be the first two weeks of each month. Newsletter production will take place the third week and distribution the last week in each month.

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NHLBI Report

As you all know, we have concluded negotiations for the Jackson Heart Study contract. We are on schedule for a June 1, 1999 award date. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to meet this deadline.

On February 24, Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor-Department of Health and Human Services (Labor-DHHS), held the FY 2000 NIH appropriations hearing. Dr. Harold Varmus, Director, NIH, was the principal witness. The subcommittees expressed great interest in a number of research initiatives, one of which was the NHLBI Jackson Heart Study. Along the same lines, we had an inquiry from Dateline NBC. They are interested in research into racism and discrimination and access to health care, particularly from heart disorders. The story is in the planning stage so we will keep you posted.

The following is an introduction from our newest staff and JHS team member, Cheryl R. Nelson:

I received my M.S.P.H. in Epidemiology (cardiovascular) from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Public Health in 1981. I've worked a few places since graduating from UNC but spent most of my years (13 years) as a health statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS/CDC-Hyattsville). At NCHS my major duties included being a project leader for the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS), a national probability study of visits to doctors offices. I was also the Ambulatory Care Statistics Branch project manager of the drug database. My research interest revolves around morbidity and mortality disparities in the African-American community (and other minority communities) and their access to health care services.

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Office of Research on Minority Health, National Institutes of Health (NHLBI/ORMH/NIH) will continue to promote and encourage collaboration between the partner institutions (JHS Coordinating Center, Exam Center and the Undergraduate Training Center) by administering the JHS contract and providing on-site staff, financial and technical support.

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The information to be printed should be e-mailed by the 15th of each month to Clara Fortner in Microsoft Word. Information should cover upcoming months since the distribution will be the last week in each month.

The length of JHS News will vary based on the amount of information received. Initially, each Center will be assigned one column (1/2 letter-size sheet) to print news; more may be allocated when the actual length of the Newsletter is determined. Contributors are encouraged to submit information on an on-going basis. Your suggestions about the format and contents of this issue, future publications and distribution of *JHS News* are welcomed. Call (601) 815-5060/e-mail cfortner@medicine.umsmed.edu.

Your input in this effort will aid in fostering awareness among all of us about all aspects of this important study. Hopefully, it will also encourage a sense of community among those of us committed to performing work of the highest quality, in order to engender better health among African-Americans.

JHS Exam Center Update

Roles: The roles of the University of Mississippi Medical Center regarding the Jackson Heart Study are (1) to recruit JHS participants, (2) to keep participants involved and (3) to provide clinical examinations.

Contract Negotiations: On May 10, 1999 Dr. Dan Jones and others conducted the final negotiations with NHLBI for the JHS Examination Center. The final budget submission will reach NHLBI by May 14, 1999. Needless-to-say, everyone involved is pleased to have completed this task and we all look forward to beginning the new contract on June 1st.

Recruitment: Participant Recruitment Survey (PRS) Begins! Following approval of a revised design by OMB in April, the PRS is scheduled to begin on June 1, 1999. The staff trained from May 17-28. The PRS is a multi-method approach to study the factors influencing participation and continuation in research studies like the JHS. Community residents, ARIC participants, and ARIC dropouts will be interviewed over the next 3 months. Structured questionnaires and in-depth interview strategies with individuals and hard-to-reach groups will be used to gather data. Findings from this study will provide a planning base for recruitment strategies and for community mobilization.

Results of pilot focus groups conducted in planning the PRS will be presented at an international conference in July 1999.

Sociocultural Protocol Development: Pilot testing of the sociocultural measures is in progress. Focus group interviews around each of the major constructs of stress and coping, racism and discrimination, health care access, socioeconomic status, religion, and health practices have already begun. Field testing of the instruments to be used during the Participant Induction Interview, the Annual Follow-up Interview, and the Clinic Examination Visit will begin in the next few weeks.

Dr. David Williams will be in Jackson on June 2nd for a consultation visit.

The abstract submitted to the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks by the Sociocultural working groups has been accepted for presentation in July 1999.

Other: Dr. Sharon Wyatt attended a conference on Socioeconomic Status in Bethesda, MD on May 10-12, 1999.

Dr. Dan Jones presented at The American Society of Hypertension Meeting held from May 17-21 in New York City. His presentation addressed ARIC data related to obesity and blood pressure.

Sonja Fuqua presented an overview of the JHS to the Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses State Association on Friday, May 14th in Biloxi, MS.

Calendar of Events

JHS Participant Recruitment, Retention and Adherence Subcommittee, Room A108, School of Nursing, UMMC. June 1st and June 29th, 1999, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Regular monthly meetings will be held in June and July. Next meeting scheduled for August 3rd.

Consultant Visit, Dr David Williams, June 2nd, 8:00-4:30 p.m. Details to be distributed via email. JHS Community Mobilization Public Information Forum. Saturday, June 12, 1999; 12 Noon – 1:30 p.m. Location TBA. Call (601) 815-5065 for information.

Norman M. Kaplan, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Monday, June 14, 1999; 12 Noon, R153 UMMC Research Wing. Sponsored by Dept. of Physiology & Medicine CECR. Topic: "What is the Role of Excess Sodium Intake in Causing Cardiovascular Disease?"

JHS Coordinating Center Update

Roles: The roles of Jackson State University are (1) to inform the community about the Jackson Heart Study, (2) to get the community involved and (3) to develop a data coordinating center.

Community Mobilization: Community Mobilization (CM) is a multi-level, systematic approach to garnering support from all segments of the community. CM is premised on respect for the knowledge and expertise community residents bring to the table to solve problems. It is doing "with" and not doing "to" the community.

In mobilizing the community for the Jackson Heart Study, the goal is to disseminate information regarding the study and provide opportunities for substantive community input into the development and implementation of the study. In this effort, we have organized a very comprehensive committee structure representing all sectors of the community whose role is to provide leadership and direction for CM activities. Effective community mobilization presupposes that "local people are best able to solve local problems and that they will support what they create."

Community Mobilization Office (CMO): The CMO is currently staffed with 2.25 full-time employees. Dr. Joseph Cameron, Professor of Biology at Jackson State University devotes 25% of his time as Community Mobilization Director. Other full-time staff includes Gloria Billingsley, Community Mobilization Outreach Coordinator and Tasha D. Gill, Health Education Specialist.

CM Activities and Accomplishments:

- Dr. Herman A. Taylor, Jr. was presented a proclamation and resolution at the February 16th City Council Meeting by Mayor Harvey Johnson and the City Council, proclaiming February as "Jackson Heart Study Month."
- Public Information Forums/Seminar Series were instituted and held in February and April. "The Importance of Minority Involvement in Health-Related Research" was held on February 15th. Dr. Aaron Shirley was the speaker. "Houses of Worship: An Inspirational Way to Reach New Clients for Health Care Program" was held on April 15th. Dr. Robert Kaman, Director of Health Promotions and Professor of Health Sciences of the University of North Texas was the speaker. Both of the events were well attended.
- "Jackson Heart Study: A Legacy of Health" is the theme CM is utilizing to promote the Jackson Heart Study. A general information JHS brochure and promotional items (ink pens, scratch pads, magnets, key rings, church fans) are available for dissemination.
- Arrangements have been made with the Metro Center Mall for a JHS Information Booth to be set up monthly through October 1999. The first booth was set up at Center Court on Saturday, May 15th from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. The JHS brochure and promotional items and health-related literature on cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, fitness and nutrition were distributed. A TV/VCR played videos on cardiovascular disease and fitness in addition to clips on JHS media. CM staff and a work-study student manned the booth and responded to inquiries.
- A Billboard and Media Campaign have been developed along with locations and possible slogans.
- Contacts have been made with radio and TV stations to arrange for paid advertising and public service announcements.

JHS Undergraduate Training Center

Roles: The roles of Tougaloo College are (1) to develop an undergraduate training center in public health and epidemiology that will encourage minority students to pursue careers in these fields and (2) to provide a four-week outreach program for high school chemistry and biology students in Hinds, Madison and Rankin counties.

Summer Workshop: Tougaloo College is organizing a four-week long summer workshop for high school students. The workshop, "Investigations in Life Sciences", invites high school students who have taken chemistry. Students who have only taken biology will also be considered. Workshop dates are June 7-July 12, 1999. A \$300.00 stipend will be paid to participating students. Contact Dr. B. D. Mehrotra at (601) 977-7794 or 977-7791 for more information.

Epidemiology Course: Tougaloo will also conduct a free six-day Intensive Course in Epidemiology from July 12-17, 1999. Professor Moyses Szklo will teach it from Johns Hopkins University. The course is open to advanced undergraduate and graduate students and practicing health professionals. Call (601) 977-7794 or 977-7791 for applications.

NHLBI Field Center

The Jackson Heart Study Publications and Presentations Subcommittee looks forward to its first official meeting since its membership was recently approved by the Steering Committee. Potential agenda items include roles and objectives, meeting logistics, status and tracking of ARIC manuscript proposals by JHS investigators, development of guidelines for JHS publications, potential resources for JHS investigators including a slide library, possible manuscripts that could be pursued during early stages of the JHS, and other topics suggested in the interim. We would like to invite Jackson Heart Study investigators and staff to submit any suggestions or ideas that they would like to have considered by the subcommittee to Cecil (Buzz) Burchfiel, Ph.D. (cburchfiel@medicine.umsmmed.edu, phone 815-5046, fax 815-1102) or contact other committee members (Drs. Mike Andrew, Joe Cameron, Bob Garrison, Dan Jones, Bam Mehrotra, Herman Taylor, Sharon Wyatt, and Mrs. Clara Fortner). We would also like to encourage JHS investigators to provide a brief status update concerning each of the ARIC-related manuscripts for which they have lead responsibility (including related abstracts or presentations). Eventually, we will develop an electronic form to facilitate these periodic updates.

Considerable progress has been achieved in developing new manuscript proposals, presenting results at national and local meetings, developing working groups in special interest areas, and in completing several draft manuscripts. In addition, the recently published issue of the American Journal of Medicine Sciences (March 1999) devoted to the 1997 JHS Symposium provides unique recommendations for future scientific directions.

JACKSON HEART STUDY
Jackson Medical Mall
350 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive
Jackson, MS 39213

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Birthday:

Dr. Cashell Jaquish's birthday was May 22nd. HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY CASHELL!

Announcement:

Gloria Billingsley, Community Mobilization Outreach Coordinator passed comprehensive exams in March in her pursuit of a Ph.D. in Public Administration at Jackson State University. Gloria received four awards (Academic Achievement Award for the Highest GPA for a Doctoral Student, Book Award, The Ralph Bunche Award for Scholarship and Service, and Student of the Year Award) at the Department of Public Policy and Administration's Annual Awards Banquet in May.



New Staff:

April Travis, Research Associate, BS in Social Work, Jackson State University, 1998; Joseph Rush, Research Associate, BBA, MS in Sociology anticipated in August, 1999; Rena Beal, AD, Nursing; Dianne Jones, BA in Education, MA Counseling. April, Joseph and Rena will conduct the structured questionnaire interviews for the JHS Participant Recruitment Survey. Dianne will conduct the focus group interviews. Welcome aboard!

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US POSTAGE