

Rural Health Interdisciplinary Research Core (RHIRC)

IDRB Internal Symposium
October 27, 2020

Goal

- ▶ To expand the Rural Health Interdisciplinary Research Core (RHIRC) at MARC and UTEP as a regional and global hub and resource for innovative interdisciplinary rural health research.

RHIRC Team



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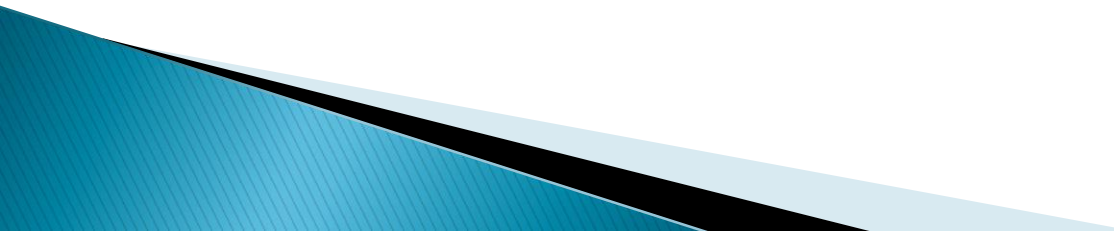
Steven Varela
UTEP

Rachel Sonne
TX Dept. of
State Health
Services

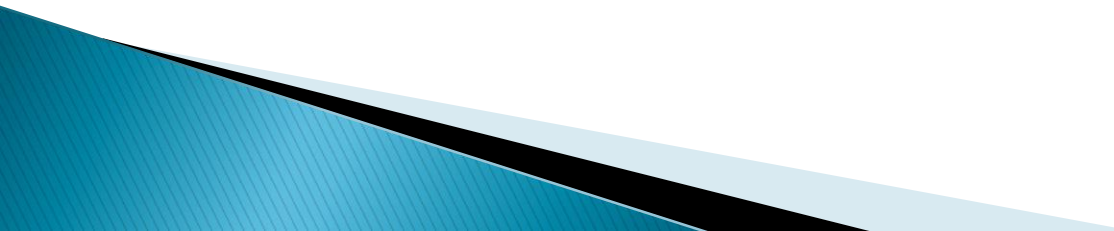
Faculty collaborators and affiliations

- ▶ Team Leader: Thenral Mangadu, MD, MPH., PhD., Associate Professor, **Public Health Sciences**. Director, Minority AIDS Research Center (MARC)
- ▶ RHIRC Collaborators and Affiliations:
 - ▶ UTEP: Ramana Chintalapalle, PhD, (**Engineering**), Hannah Kang, PhD. (**Pharmacy**); Manuel Llano, PhD. (**Science**); Nate V. Robinson P.E., (**Engineering**); Steve Varela, MA, (**Academic Technologies**)
 - ▶ Southwest Viral Med (SWVM): Ogechika Alozie, MD, MPH, FACP, AAHIVS
 - ▶ TTUHSC, UTMB Galveston: Adrian Billings, MD, PhD.
 - ▶ TX Office of Border Public Health: Adriana Corona Luevanos, MBA
 - ▶ TTUHSC Paul Foster School of Medicine: Bharathi Gadad, PhD.; Shrikanth Gadad, PhD.
 - ▶ TX Department of State Health Services: Rachel Sonne, MD, MPH.

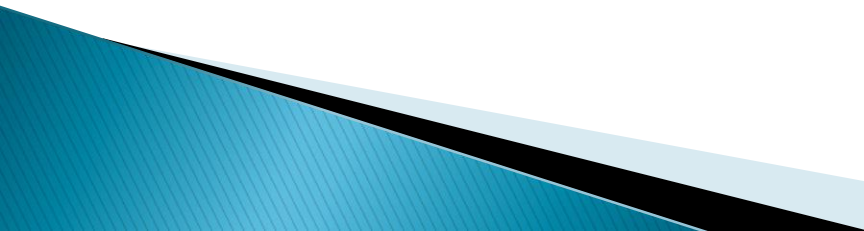
Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-oriented and Time-bound (SMART) Objectives

1. Annually build capacity through **meaningful outcome-oriented partnerships** with interdisciplinary faculty and stakeholders;
 2. Establish the infrastructure (IDRB) and seed funding toward **larger scale multi-institutional** extramurally funded research
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Objectives contd.

3. Submit at least 3 large scale national and/or international interdisciplinary rural health research grant proposals per year;
 4. Enhance RHIRC's **technological innovation** capacity and infrastructure toward rural health **services and policy gaps**
 5. **Prepare** an interdisciplinary and modern health **workforce** advancing rural health care.
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Rationale and Approach

- ▶ only regionally located rural health interdisciplinary core of its kind
 - ▶ focus on the bio–psycho–social aspects of rural health disparities for current global rural health priorities
 - ▶ Multiple research approaches
 - ▶ capitalize on
 - best practices and strategies implemented in interdisciplinary research at Minority AIDS Research Center (MARC)
 - integration the combined data, methodologies, concepts, knowledge and skills of our RHIRC team
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Implementation: Occurs in Stages and on a Continuum

Initial Implementation

Assessment, new knowledge built on evidence, Convergent/translational models and partnerships

Adapt, Maintain, Expand

Systems approach
Modify and Expand based on lessons learned: Better Practices ;
Dissemination : local and Global

Sustain and Innovate

Enhance structural capacity to sustain our Rural Health Hub


Planned Outcomes 06/2020 to 06/2025

Intended Outcomes (annual)	Impact
<p>Interdisciplinary /convergence research funding opportunities identified</p> <p># of grant proposals submitted; # of grant proposals funded ;</p> <p>Total Research Expenditure per year</p> <p># of publications, patents, policy briefs and other scholarly products ; # of student trainees ;</p> <p># of new faculty and disciplines integrated in research; # of community members served</p>	<p>Across campus and inter-institutional Interdisciplinary collaborations and action research;</p> <p>UTEP's growth as a Rural Health Professionals Training Institution;</p> <p>UTEP's presence as a rural IDR hub/resource for regional and global stakeholders ;</p> <p>Reduction of barriers to care and improved quality of care in rural communities;</p> <p>Advancing of UTEP's R1 goals</p>

Outcomes as of date

- ▶ Submitted one grant proposal to DHHS Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) (RHIRC members: Drs. Mangadu, Billings, Sonne & Ms. Corona with community partner Aliviane Inc.)
- ▶ HRSA awarded \$1 Million overall for Rural Opioid Response Implementation and CBPR (09/2020– 08/2023)
- ▶ Vargas–Medrano, J., Diaz–Pacheco, V., Castenedaa, C., Miranda–Arnago, M., Longhurst, M., Martin, S. L., Ghumman, U., Mangadu, T., Chheda, S., Thompson, P. M., & Gadad, B. S. (Accepted July 2020). Psychological and neurobiological aspects of suicide in adolescents: Current outlooks. *Brain, Behavior & Immunity– Health*.

Timeline Fall 2020

- ▶ Move into IDRБ 09/2020– 10/2020
 - ▶ RHIRC meetings to plan semester-specific objectives
 - Research Questions and Designs
 - Funding Opportunities and matching team expertise to each opportunity
 - Resources inventory to leverage
 - Scholarly Products
 - Professional Development
 - ▶ Begin Implementing RCORP Grant
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RHIRC Teaming Statement

- ▶ **Core values:**
 - **social justice**
 - **interdisciplinary research teams in multiple settings**
 - **innovative and flexible strategies**
 - **convergence research program**
 - **complex research questions/real-world issues**
 - **interdisciplinary and/or translational research**
 - **ongoing reflection and program monitoring**
 - **aligned with UTEP R1 mission and objectives.**

Questions / Comments?

Thank you!

