The mission of the School of Rural Public Health is to improve the health of communities, with emphasis on rural and underserved populations, through education, research, service, outreach and creative partnerships.
Message from the Dean

At the School of Rural Public Health, we aim to improve the health of communities, and one way we accomplish that mission is through our faculty, student, and staff research. In 2011, the School realized its largest expenditures in research since its inception in 1998 with nearly eight million dollars in extramural expenditures. Faculty research interests and extramural funding have ranged from interventions to foster healthy aging, to the impact of water quality on pregnancy outcomes. This report lists our Board of Regents approved research centers, research programs, and key research areas; research projects; and faculty publications. Our faculty were successful in securing several new grants and contracts such as a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program subcontract to test stand-biased desks for the classroom to help prevent childhood obesity (Dr. Mark Benden, principal investigator [PI] on the subcontract); a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded Prevention Research Center Special Interest (SIP) project on a multi-component fall prevention program (Dr. Marcia Ory, PI); and an NIH-funded grant on the development and validation of agent-based models of alcohol related violence (Dr. Dennis Gorman, PI). We are particularly excited that our faculty and staff were instrumental in procuring three new projects through the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) including a prevention project on enhancing colorectal cancer screening in a family medicine program (Dr. Jane Bolin, Co-PI); an education project to improve cancer outcomes in four counties in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Julie St. John, PI); and a subcontract with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School regarding technology-directed advanced radiation therapy of lung cancer (Dr. Robert Ohsfeldt, PI on subcontract). A full listing of 200 projects is included in this report.

Recognizing the importance of disseminating research findings, our faculty published over 100 full articles in 2011 in a wide range of public health journals and journals in related disciplines. A full listing is included in this report as well. Along with our faculty and staff, I would also like to recognize our students and former students who served as first authors or co-authors on numerous papers. At our school, we strongly believe that education and research go hand-in-hand, and that investment in training the next generation of public health researchers will lead to better health for populations across Texas, the United States, and the world.

Craig H. Blakely, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Dean, School of Rural Public Health
Texas A&M Health Science Center
RESEARCH EXPENDITURES BY FISCAL YEAR

The School of Rural Public Health research expenditures have continued to increase annually despite severe economic challenges which have reduced federal and state funding sources while simultaneously increasing competition for these same dollars. One reason for the continued growth in research expenditures is the continued pursuit of creative partnerships, a hallmark of the school’s mission. This approach is exemplified by a diversified funding portfolio which includes not only traditional federal funding sources such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) but also a variety of state agencies, community collaborations, and private foundations.
BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVED CENTERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CENTER NAME</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PI/DIRECTOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Community Health Development (CCHD)</td>
<td>CDC funded Prevention Research Center (PI: Kenneth McLeroy, PhD, Regent Professor; Co-PI: James Burdine, DrPH; Director: Monica Wendel, DrPH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Health Organization Transformation (CHOT)</td>
<td>NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers Program (PI and Director: Larry Gamm, PhD, Regent Professor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Rural Health Research Center (SRHRC)</td>
<td>established with funding initially from The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (Director: Jane Bolin, PhD, JD, RN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness (USA Center)</td>
<td>CDC funded Center for Public Health Preparedness (PI and Director: Barbara Quiram, PhD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Ergonomics Center</td>
<td>Jerry Congleton, PhD (PI and Director)</td>
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SRPH PROGRAMS

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<tr>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program on Healthy Aging</td>
<td>Marcia Ory, PhD, MPH, Regent Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program on Aging and Long-Term Care Policy</td>
<td>Catherine Hawes, PhD, Regent Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program on Public Health and Water Research</td>
<td>Thomas McDonald, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities</td>
<td>Joseph R. Sharkey, PhD, MPH, RD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program for Health Workforce Analysis &amp; Policy</td>
<td>Ciro V. Sumaya, M.D., MPHTM, Regent Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program for Reproductive and Child Health</td>
<td>Anne Sweeney, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program on GIS and Spatial Statistics</td>
<td>Dennis Gorman, PhD</td>
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KEY RESEARCH AREAS

- Aging and health promotion
- Aging and disability
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Border health
- Cancer prevention
- Community health development
- Community-based participatory research
- Chronic disease management
- Cost-effectiveness analysis
- Ergonomics
- Emergency medical preparedness and response
- Environmental exposures and birth defects
- Environmental health
- Food security
- Health information systems
- Health services research
- Health systems research
- Health care associated infections
- Health care cost and quality
- Long-term care and aging policy
- Nutrition and obesity
- Occupational safety and health
- Prevention research
- Public health training
- Quality of life
- Reproductive health
- Rural disparities
- Rural health policy
- Rural emergency preparedness and response
- Veterans health
- Translational research
- Tobacco cessation and prevention
- Underserved and vulnerable populations
- Water quality

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Prevention Research Center, CDC, PI: McLeroy
- Program for Rural and Minority Health Disparities Research, NCMHD, PI: McLeroy
- Statewide Evaluation of Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies in Texas, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, PI: Ory
- National Evaluation of Evidence Based Programs for Seniors, Administration on Aging, PI: Ory
- Central Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network, CDC, PI: Ory
- Texas Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network Collaborating Center, CDC, PI: Sharkey
- Texas Healthy Aging Research Network Collaborating Center, CDC, PI: Sharkey
- Nitrates, Nitrites, and Nitrosatable Drugs and Birth Defects, NIH, PI: Brender
- Center for Health Organization Transformation, NSF I/UCRC, PI: Gamm
- (TECS-PERLC) Training and Education Collaborative System Preparedness & Response Learning Center, CDC, PI: Quiram
- Nursing Care Assessment Form Project, Texas HHSC, PI: Phillips
- Enhanced Smoking Cessation for University Students (SUCCESS), sub to M.D. Anderson/NCI/NIH (ARRA), PI: Colwell
- Factors Motivating and Affecting Information Seeking in Health Information Exchange, NIH, PI: Ohsfeldt
- Standardized Antibiotic Use in Long-term Care (SAUL), AIR, AHRQ, PI: Phillips
- Brazos Partnership to Prevent Childhood Obesity Research (Dynamic Classroom), NIH, PI: Benenden
- Education to Promote Improved Cancer Outcomes, CPRIT, PI: St. John
- Enhanced Colorectal Cancer Screening, CPRIT, Co-PIs: McClellan/Bolin
ACTIVE GRANTS & CONTRACTS CY2011

Alexander, James. East Texas Medical Center (ETMC) Corporate History Project, East Texas Medical Center (ETMC), $50,000 (2011-2012) [CHOT].*

Benden, Mark. Teen Driver Cell Phone Blocker, Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), $105,396 (2010-2011).

Benden, Mark. SBIR: Refining and testing a novel stand-biased desk for the classroom to prevent childhood obesity, Positive Motion, LLC (prime is CDC), $50,000 (2011-2012).*

Bolin, Jane. VA Project ARCH Evaluation, sub to Altarum Institute (Prime Department of Veterans Affairs), $280,455 (2011-2015) [SRHRC].


Bolin, Jane. Anti-Psychotic Medication Protocol (AMP), CHOT member-Lone Star Circle of Care, $100,000, (2010-2012) [CHOT].


Brender, Jean. ARRA Admin Supplement to Nitrates, Nitrates, and Nitrosatable Drugs and Risk of Selected Birth Defects, ARRA administrative supplement, NIH/NIEHS, $281,342 (2009-2011).

Brender, Jean. Prenatal Exposure to Nitrosatable Drugs and Drinking Water Nitrates and Risk of Selected Birth Defects in Offspring, National Birth Defects Prevention Study, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSSH), $20,000 (2011).*

Brender, Jean. Mining Massive Geographically Referenced Environmental Health Data to Identify Risk Factors for Birth Defects, subcontract to Texas State University (prime is EPA), $107,672 (2011-2014).*


Carrillo Zuniga, Genny. Texas Asthma Control Project, Texas Department of State Health Services, $254,921 (2009-2012).

Côté, Murray. Nursing Home Value-Based Purchasing Demonstration Project, subcontract to Abt Associates (prime is CMS), $71,944 (2010-2011).

Colwell, Brian. Youth Tobacco Education Project, Texas Department of State Health Services, $433,405 (2003-2012).

Colwell, Brian. Enhanced Smoking Cessation for University Students (Success II). Subcontract to M.D. Anderson (prime is NIH/NCI), $203,578 (2010-2012).


Gamm, Larry. Center for Health Organization Transformation (CHOT), National Science Foundation I/UCRC, $441,000 (2008-2013) [CHOT].

Gamm, Larry. Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Implementation and Optimization for a Multi-Site Urban and Rural Health System, CHOT member-Scott & White, $50,000 (2010-2012) [CHOT].


Gamm, Larry. Center for Health Organization Transformation, Various Memberships, $600,000 (2009-2012) [CHOT].

Gorman, Dennis. Development and Validation of Agent Based Models of Alcohol Related Violence, NIH/NIAAA, $307,995 (2011-2013).*


Hong, Yan. Designing and Testing Mobile Application for Older Cancer Survivors to Use Community Resources, Scott & White Health System, $50,000 (2011-2012).*

Hong, Yan. A Mobile Application to Promote Physical Activity and Access to Health Information among Seniors in Central and Rural Texas, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, $10,000 (2011-2012).*

Huber, John C (Chuck). Genes, Hormones, Growth, and Body Fat: Project Heartbeat, subcontract to The University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health, NIH, $128,055 (2007-2011).

Huber, John C (Chuck). Health Care Associated Infections Data Validation, Texas Department of State Health Services, $57,000 (2011).*

Johnson, Christopher D. Capacity for Change and Multi-project Management, $300,000, CHOT members-Texas Health Resources and Texas Children’s Hospital (2010-2012) [CHOT].

Jiang, Luohua. Indian Health Services Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (DDTP) Demonstration Projects Coordinating Center, subcontract to University of Colorado Denver (prime is Indian Health Services), $82,015 (2011-2013).*

Lillibridge, Scott. Western Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Administrative Core, Subcontract to University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston (prime is NIH), $358,176 (2007-2012).

Lillibridge, Scott. Mandatory Field Training for Health Care Providers Participating in TexMATF-1 Pandemic Influenza Emergency Response, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSSH), $305,000 (2011).*


McDonald, Thomas. Building Environmental Awareness for Teachers and Parents in Head Start Centers in Webb County, Texas, EPA, $100,000 (2011-2012).*

McDonald, Thomas. Border Environmental Health and Toxicology, ATSDF, $750,000 (2009-2012).


McDonald, Thomas. External Safety Support, TTI, $30,000 (2010-2012).

McLeroy, Kenneth. Prevention Research Center (PRC). Center for Community Health Development 5 year renewal, CDC, $6.4M (2009-2014) [CCHD].


McLeroy, Kenneth (Monica Wendel, Co-PI). Evaluation of minority youth tobacco education program. Subcontract to American Legacy Foundation (prime is DHHS), $235,343 (2011-2014) [CCHD].
McLeroy, Kenneth (Monica Wendel, Co-PI). Evaluation of Legacy Partnerships for Healthier Communities, American Legacy Foundation, $375,403 (2011-2013) [CCHD].*

McLeroy, Kenneth. International Conference to Advance a Population Health Research Agenda, CDC Conference, CDC, $152,000 (2011-2012) [CCHD].*


Millard, Ann. Enhancing infrastructure supporting walking: Capacity building with some implementation to improve the health of school children, Texas Department of State Health Services, $150,000 (2010-2011).

Millard, Ann. Baby Café, Hidalgo County WIC, $12,000 (2011-2012).*

Millard, Ann. SKIP (School Kids at Play)-Outdoor Recreation and a Community Coalition, subcontract to Edinburg I.S.D. (prime is Texas Department of State Health Services), $4,200 (2011-2012).*

Millard, Ann. C-HELP: Cancer Health Education and Leveraging Partnership, subcontract to Lower Rio Grande Valley Community Health (prime is CPRIT: Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas), $12,000 (2011-2012).*


Miller, Thomas R. Assessment of Impact of C. difficile on Hospitalized Patients in Texas, 2000-2009, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), $30,000 (2011).*

Ohsfeldt, Robert. Technology Directed Advanced Radiation Therapy of Lung Cancer, subcontract to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (prime is CPRIT), $232,440, (2011-2016).*


Ohsfeldt, Robert. Functional Outcomes in OEF/OIF Veterans with PTSD and Alcohol Misuse, Central Texas Veterans Administration, $34,071 (2010-2013).


Ory, Marcia G. Texas Healthy Lifestyles, subcontract to Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (prime is AoA) $124,714 (2007-2011).

Ory, Marcia G. Evaluation of Evidence-Based Disease Prevention Services, Texas Healthy Lifestyles, subcontract to Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (prime is AoA, ARRA funded), $125,618 (2010-2012).

Ory, Marcia G. Communities Putting Prevention to Work, subcontract to National Council on Aging (prime is AoA), $470,000 (2011-2012).

Ory, Marcia G. Pilot Evaluation of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, subcontract to National Council on Aging (prime is CMS, task order), $300,297 (2011-2013).*


Ory, Marcia G. Community Research Center for Senior Health, subcontract to Scott & White Health System (prime is NIH/NIA, ARRA funding), $129,077 (2010-2013).

Ory, Marcia G. South. West & Central Consortium-Genric Education Center of Texas, subcontract to University of Texas-San Antonio (prime is HRSA), $150,000, (2010-2015)*

Ory, Marcia G. Planning a Nationwide Evaluation of Evidence-Based Programs for Senior Health, AoA, $900,000 (2008-2011).

Ory, Marcia G. Project UPBEAT: Umbrella Partnership To Be Active in our Towns UPBEAT Obesity Prevention in Brazos Valley (UPBEAT), Brazos Valley Community Action Agency (BVCAA), $40,000 (2010-2011).

Ory, Marcia G. The Central Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CTxCPRCN), CDC Special Interest Project, $1,500,000 (2009-2014) [CCHD].

Ory, Marcia G. Impact, Sustainability & Scalability of Multi-component Falls Prevention Programs, CDC Special Interest Project, $1,321,277 (2011-2013) [CCHD].*

Phillips, Charles D. Nursing Care Assessment Form Project, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (TxHSC), $927,278 (2010-2013).


Sharkey, Joseph R. The Influence of Community Retail Food Environment on Household Food Access, Food Choice, and Dietary Intake of Mexican American Children in Colonias along the South Texas Border with Mexico, USDA RIDGE Program, Southern Rural Development Center, $34,970 (2010-2011).

Shipp, Eva. Migrant Adolescent Health Research Study, subcontract to UTHSC Houston (prime is NIOSH), $66,243 (2010-2012).

Shipp, Eva. Neuromotor Function and Work Injury Risk among Hispanic Adolescent Farmworkers (a.k.a. The HIP Project), The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health Injury Prevention and Education at The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler (prime is NIOSH/CDC), $724,345 (2011-2016).*

St. John, Julie. ÉPICO: Education to Promote Improved Cancer Outcomes, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), $487,589 (2011-2013), [CCHD].*

Sweeney, Anne. Trisomy 18 Project, TAMHSC and SRPH, $45,370 (2011).*

Sweeney, Anne. Estimating the Effect of Modeled Air Pollution on Ovarian Function and Complications of Labor and Delivery, The EMMES Corporation, $26,136 (2011).*

Sweeney, Anne. Validation of Retrospectively Reported Time-to-Pregnancy Data Coordinating Center, The EMMES Corporation, $228,432 (2011-2012).*

Wendel, Monica. Evaluation of the Shellbrook Intervention, Aids Foundation of Houston, $120,178 (2011-2012) [CCHD].*


Wendel, Monica. Evaluation of a Telehealth Pilot Project in the Brazos Valley, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, $56,023 (2011-2012), [CCHD].*

Wendel, Monica. Using a Community Health Development Approach to Increase Access to Opportunities for Physical Activity (Prevention Research Center Core Research Project #2), CDC, $69,492, (2011-2012) [CCHD].*

Zhao, Hongwei. A Unified Approach of Cost-Effectiveness Analysis, subcontract to UC Davis (prime is NIH), $249,686 (2009-2013).

Key:
* Denotes newly granted in CY2011.
[ ] Denotes Center affiliated projects.
CCHD = Center for Community Health Development.
CHOT = Center for Health Organization Transformation.
SRHRC = Southwest Rural Health Research Center.
USA Center = USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness.


86. Sharkey JR, Johnson CM,* Dean WR. Less healthy eating behaviors have a greater association with a high level of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among rural adults than among urban adults. *Food Nutr Res*. 2011, 55:5819.


*Bold denotes SRPH faculty or staff. An asterisk(*) indicates an SRPH student/graduate. Listed publications were published in final form in calendar year 2011, and do not include published meeting abstracts.
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For additional information regarding this report or research at the school, please contact
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