

ABSTRACT: 2015 ELAM Institutional Action Project Poster Symposium

Project Title: Debunking the model minority myth: Developing a Center for Asian Health

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Collaborators: Kenneth Polonsky, Dean for the BSD, Sharon O'Keefe, President of University of Chicago Medicine, Edwin Chandrasekar, Executive Director, Asian health Coalition

Background, Challenge or Opportunity:

Asian-Americans are now the most rapidly growing minority group in the US, growing 43.3% between 2000 and 2010. The Chicago metropolitan area has the largest concentration of Asian Americans in the Midwest and the 5th largest in the nation. There is a pressing need to prioritize Asian American health research. Studies have shown that current research and policy practices give rise to erroneous conclusions about Asian American health through the practice of omission, aggregation of subgroups and extrapolation.

Purpose/Objectives:

This lack of current research directed toward Asian Americans in the Midwest, coupled with a rapid increase in population size, provides the perfect opportunity for creating an infrastructure to address this gap in the body of scholarship. With this backdrop, the *University of Chicago Center for Asian Health (CAH)* will serve as an important research, training, outreach and policy forum to address the unique and understudied needs of Asian Americans in Chicago and the Midwest. Specifically to:

1. Develop and conduct research to understand, address, and reduce health disparities in Asian American communities;
2. Build new and strengthen existing private and public partnerships in order to increase outreach, advocacy, and research capacity to address Asian American health disparities and social inequalities;
3. Use research to inform policy and advance forward, public health issues impacting Asian Americans in Midwest.

Methods/Approach:

- Assess the current landscape for Asian health research
- Create a phase 1 strategy to merge the Asian Health Coalition (AHC), a non profit community based organization, with the University of Chicago to increase capacity for Asian health research
- Meet and solicit support from key faculty across the University of Chicago including the Biological Science Division, Harris School of Public Policy, Booth School of Business and the Social Service Administration.
- Develop a business model based on discussions key leaders including the Chief Financial & Strategy Office, the Dean of Research and the Dean for Diversity and Inclusion.
- Present the business plan to the Dean of the Biological Sciences Division, the President of the University of Chicago Medical Center and the Provost of the University of Chicago to ensure a shared vision and strategic goals and to solicit financial support.

Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy:

Evaluation of the CAH will include both short and long term outcomes. Short term outcomes will be evaluated by the successful integration of the AHC with the University of Chicago and will include the transition of key AHC staff, space and resource planning, fund management and reallocation, and the creation of a shared governance structure. Long term outcomes will be evaluated by increases in or the establishment of: multidisciplinary scholarly collaborations, multidisciplinary Asian health-related grants, multidisciplinary Asian health research, training grant for Asian health disparities and public policies that address specific health disparities among Asian Americans. The ultimate goal of the Center for Asian Health is to become a nationally recognized center of excellence for Asian health research.

Debunking the Model Minority Myth

Developing the University of Chicago Center for Asian Health

Karen E. Kim, MD, MS, Dean for Faculty Affairs, Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago,

Collaborators: Edwin Chandrasekar, Asian Health Coalition, Kenneth Polonsky, Dean, Biological Science Division, University of Chicago

Background/Challenge

Why study Asian Americans?

- Asian-Americans the **most rapidly growing** minority group
- Asian Americans are **underserved**
- Asian Americans have **culture** and **language barriers**
- Asian Americans have **unique health characteristics**
- Asian Americans are under studied through **omission, aggregation of subgroups and extrapolation.**

Why not study Asian Americans?

Objectives

To establish the *University of Chicago Center for Asian Health (CAH)* as a national leader in research, training, outreach and public policy to address the unique and understudied needs of Asian Americans in the Midwest.

Specifically to:

- Develop and conduct research to understand, address, and reduce health disparities in Asian American communities;
- Build new and strengthen existing private and public partnerships in order to increase outreach, advocacy, and research capacity to address Asian American health disparities and social inequalities;
- Use research to inform policy and advance forward, public health issues impacting Asian Americans in the Midwest.

Approach

- Create a phase 1 strategy to merge the Asian Health Coalition (AHC), a non profit community based organization, with the University of Chicago to increase capacity for Asian health research
- Meet and solicit support from key faculty across the University of Chicago
- Develop a business model based on discussions key
- Present the business plan to the Dean of the Biological Sciences Division, the President of the University of Chicago Medical Center and the University Provost to ensure a **shared vision and alignment with strategic goals**

Evaluation Outcomes

Short term outcomes

- Successful integration of the Asian Coalition with the University of Chicago

Long term outcomes

- multidisciplinary scholarly collaborations
- diversified multidisciplinary Asian health-related funding
- training grant for Asian health disparities
- public policies that address specific health disparities among Asian Americans.
- To be a nationally recognized center of excellence for Asian health research.

Expected Impact & Next Steps

To be a nationally recognized Center of Excellence for Asian health research.

