

ABSTRACT: 2019 ELAM Institutional Action Project

Project title: *Establishing the Center for Integrative Health (CIH) at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC-CIH)*

Fellow's name and institution: Chwan-Li (Leslie) Shen, PhD, CCRP; Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Collaborators: Michael Blanton, PhD; Betsy Jones PhD; Naima Moustaid-Moussa, PhD; Volker Neugebauer, PhD; Yan Zhang

Topic Category: Research

Background:

Emerging evidence suggests linking complementary, alternative, and integrative evidence-based health interventions into traditional allopathic medicine offers superior benefits to patients. However, without a research infrastructure facilitating interaction between traditional biomedical research and complementary/alternative/integrative approaches, we have limited opportunities to develop effective integrated solutions. The TTUHSC-CIH for research in health and wellness will facilitate communication, collaboration and research implementation across traditional allopathic and complementary, alternative, and integrative medical research.

Purpose:

To establish the TTUHSC-CIH for research in health and wellness. TTUHSC-CIH will serve as a platform to develop infrastructural support to facilitate grant acquisition for basic, translational, and clinical science interdisciplinary research. The TTUHSC-CIH will also provide research-related educational opportunities to medical students, residents, and fellows. The objectives are:

1. Recruit participation from faculty members across diverse disciplines.
2. Encourage research collaborations among center members for submission of grant proposals for internal and external funding.
3. Co-sponsor a CIH Integrative Medicine Symposium on April 12, 2019.

Approaches:

- Organize a steering committee to develop a strategic plan.
- Identify and recruit center members.
- Gain institutional leadership support to enhance participation among faculty, fellows, residents, and medical students.
- Identify funding sources in integrative health research to build research support and capacity.
- Design center marketing materials.
- Host Quarterly center meetings to discuss collaborative research projects/proposals and provide feedback to members on the study designs.
- Encourage collaborative peer-reviewed journal publications at high impact journals.
- Encourage center members to mentor medical students in complementary/alternative/integrative research.
- Obtain funding for the 2019 Integrative Medicine Symposium.

Outcomes: To date, over 30 faculty members across diverse disciplines have joined the TTUHSC-CIH. We have widely promoted the center to institutional leadership. We are building our center website and designing promotional materials for the upcoming symposium. We have hosted regular center meetings to discuss proposal design, center promotion, symposium, and future plans. We have identified a list of potential complementary/alternative/integrative grant opportunities, and have received five collaborative research grants. We have secured funds to plan and co-sponsor the upcoming Symposium with expenses to support two keynote speakers, as well as funds to sponsor two medical student summer research projects. We have explored education grants to facilitate orientation to complementary/alternative/integrative health for a medical student summer short rotation course.

Discussion:

The TTUHSC-CIH has tremendous potential to grow cross-disciplinary integrative health research. Methods for measuring productivity and national visibility of the center will be on-going including tracking of grant submissions and awards, publications, presentations, and new team science collaborations. The ultimate goal of the TTUHSC-CIH is to compete for extramural funding for training and center grants.



Establishing the Center of Excellence for Integrative Health (CEIH) At Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC)



*Chwan-Li (Leslie) Shen, PhD, Professor, Director of CEIH, Associate Dean for Research, School of Medicine, TTUHSC, Lubbock, TX
Collaborators: Michael Blanton, Betsy Jones, Naima Moustaid-Moussa, Volker Neugebauer, Yan Zhang*

Background

- Linking complementary, alternative, and integrative evidence-based health interventions into traditional allopathic medicine offers better quality of life and health outcomes to patients.
- A research infrastructure is needed between traditional biomedical research and complementary, alternative, and integrative approaches.
- The TTUHSC-CEIH for research in health and wellness will facilitate communication, collaboration and research implementation across traditional allopathic and complementary, alternative, and integrative medical research.

Purposes

To establish the TTUHSC-CEIH for research in health and wellness.

Objectives:

- To serve as a platform to develop infrastructural support to facilitate grant acquisition for basic, translational, and clinical science interdisciplinary research.
- To provide research-related educational opportunities to medical students, residents, and fellows.
- To recruit participation from faculty members across diverse disciplines.
- To encourage research collaborations among center members for submission of grant proposals for internal and external funding.
- To Co-sponsor a CEIH Integrative Medicine Symposium on April 12, 2019.

Approach

- Organize a steering committee to develop a strategic plan.
- Identify and recruit center members.
- Gain institutional leadership support to enhance robust participation.
- Identify funding sources in integrative health research.
- Design center marketing materials.
- Host quarterly center meetings to discuss collaborative research projects and proposals.
- Encourage collaborative peer-reviewed journal publications at high impact journals.
- Mentor medical and graduate students.
- Obtain funding for the 2019 Integrative Medicine Symposium.



Outcomes

- Over 30 faculty members have joined the TTUHSC-CEIH.
- The Center has been widely promoted to institutional leaders.
- The website is being built to promote the upcoming symposium.
- There are regular center meetings on research collaborations.
- We have identified a list of potential complementary/alternative/integrative grant opportunities.
- We have received five collaborative research grants.
- We have secured funds to co-sponsor the upcoming Symposium.
- We have funds to sponsor two medical student summer research projects.
- We have explored education grants to facilitate orientation to integrative health for a medical student summer short rotation course.

Discussion

Methods for measuring productivity will be ongoing including tracking of grant submissions and awards, publications, presentations, and new team science collaborations. The ultimate goal of the TTUHSC-CEIH is to compete for extramural funding for training and center grants. The TTUHSC-CEIH has tremendous potential to grow cross-disciplinary integrative health research and create national visibility for TTUHSC-CEIH.



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