

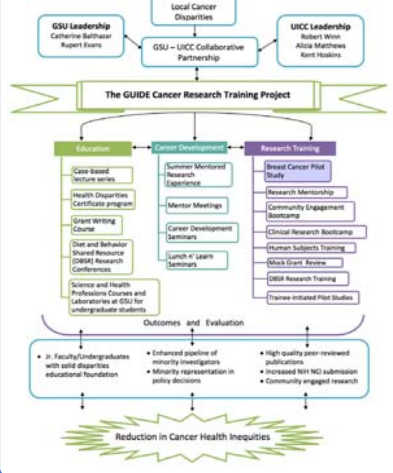
Governors State University, University of Illinois Cancer Center

INTRODUCTION

The Governors State University (GSU) - University of Illinois Cancer Center (UICC) Disparities Education Cancer Research and Training Project (The GUIDE Project) aims to increase the representation of minority investigators who are conducting community-engaged research designed to reduce regional cancer disparities. The institutions are jointly conducting a pilot research project addressing the local disparity in breast cancer outcomes, and providing education and designed to attract and prepare investigators for careers in cancer disparities.



The GUIDE Project supports training and career development in cancer disparities research for junior faculty at GSU through a partnership with UICC, and a science and health professions pipeline program for GSU undergraduate students. The approach will encourage faculty, students and administrators at GSU to become more knowledgeable about health issues in their local environment.



OVERALL/ADMINISTRATION

The GUIDE Project is based on a model of bi-directional engagement within a framework grounded in assets-oriented assessment methods and the community empowerment model of health promotion. Principles derived from these models will guide partner interactions and project governance. These principles will also provide a framework for interaction with local underserved communities. An assets-oriented approach encourages leaders from both institutions and local community leaders to identify and mobilize existing resources to create a shared vision of change. The community empowerment model fosters equitable collaboration between GSU faculty and UICC investigators/mentors as well as with community stakeholders from neighborhoods in south Chicago and the suburbs surrounding GSU.

To assure that the partnership aligns with the aims of the grant, the objectives and activities were divided into three phases: 1) planning, 2) priority setting, and 3) implementation. Planning and priority setting were the main focuses of the first six months of The GUIDE Project.

Year 1 Priorities

- Build strong communications model and network between GSU and UIC Cancer Center (Organizational meeting)
- Develop allocation of resources between two institutions (IAC)
- Develop administrative structure and project decision making process (IAC)
- Engage and develop community partners in the Southlands (Town hall)
- Evaluate Project administration and implementation (IAC report/revision)

The GUIDE Project	
Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCI summer opportunities for undergrads and faculty • The two institutions complement each other well • The UI Cancer Center has been able to serve as a bridge between East and West Campuses • Partnerships with undergrads • Able to build on existing programs • Tier 1 diverse research institution • Nearly 30 million in research funding • Able to identify undergrads that can participate in project • Serve as a look-in to medical intervention • Many people at GSU have strong community ties and already work as stakeholders • Innovative undergraduate programming designed to develop student abilities for success in college • Strong support for first-generation college students • Strong relationship w/ South Suburban Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A real need for GUIDE program due to high rates of cancer in the South Side and South Suburban • Southern Healthcare Forum • Gender role • Untapped cancer rates in south suburbs • Ability to develop partnerships with community members • ICPH data for South Suburban • Need for community places for patients to get screened and receive survivorship support • FQHCs • Ability to expand to other south suburban community hospitals • Dr. Pampa Tomayo requested to get involved with South Suburban and binky hospitals
Weaknesses	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance between the universities • Need for better documented data for south suburbs • State Infrastructure (budget) • Pipeline gap for graduate students • Robust graduate programming but difficulty moving undergrads into graduate programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Funding landscape • Federal Funding

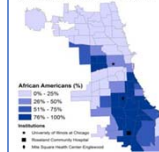
PILOT

Advances in cancer genetics and risk assessment make it possible to identify women with increased risk for breast cancer (BC) due to genetic and other risk factors. An array of interventions is available to reduce BC incidence and improve early detection among asymptomatic women. National practice guidelines now recommend individualized risk assessments (IRA) to determine BC risk status as part of routine primary healthcare. Genetic counseling for in-depth evaluation and to determine the role of predictive DNA testing is a critical step in developing an individualized plan for risk reduction.

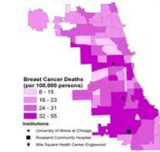
Breast Cancer Mortality in Chicago by Neighborhood
(Reported as Deaths/100,000)

Roseland South Chicago	West Englewood South Chicago	Lincoln Park North Chicago	Lakeview North Chicago	Illinois U.S.
43.5	39.2	13.8	21.8	23.6 22.9

Concentration of Black Residents Neighborhoods in Chicago



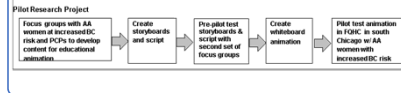
BC Mortality Rate in Chicago by Neighborhood



Implementing population-based BC risk assessment in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) to identify women who would benefit from genetic counseling provides an opportunity to impact the large BC mortality disparity observed between African-American (AA) and white women. This pilot research project builds on previous work examining the feasibility of implementing population-based IRA in FQHCs as part of routine care. More than 1200 minority women completed the assessment and 10% met criteria for a genetic counselor. Half of these women were referred for a free genetic counseling session, but only 15% of eligible women scheduled an appointment. Follow-up interviews revealed a strong desire for information among AA women identified with increased BC risk, providing an opportunity to deliver culturally tailored messaging in the form of an educational intervention designed to increase uptake of genetic counseling.

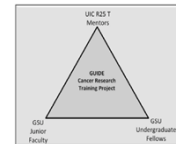
Year 1 Priorities

- Develop a multidisciplinary team of investigators (completed)
- Create a culturally tailored educational intervention delivered on a mobile device platform designed to improve uptake of genetic counseling among underserved AA women with increased BC risk who receive care in FQHCs. (Initiated)



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Several intensive interventions have been shown to increase the engagement and representation of underrepresented minorities in research and research careers. The GUIDE Project builds on established best practices by providing a summer research internship program for undergraduate students to build interest and basic competencies in cancer/health disparities research, and by supporting junior faculty as they develop skills to establish a program of cancer/health disparities research to provide (1) a sustainable source of long-term research and training opportunities and (2) build the expertise and experience to serve as mentors. The GUIDE fosters a mentoring triad of UICC Experienced NCI funded researchers, GSU Junior Faculty and GSU undergraduate students.



The comprehensive training and career development program for GSU junior faculty includes academic coursework in health disparities, accelerated "boot camp" experiences in several aspects of community-engaged and translational research, mentored involvement in ongoing research, and career development opportunities, including preparation of a K-award at the completion of the program.



Year 1 Priorities

- Develop career development plans and activities for junior faculty at GSU. (Organizational meeting)
- Creation of career development plan for each junior faculty member (Q3)
- Application to grant funding to support research interests (Q3 and 4)
- Application for supplement for additional junior faculty participant (Q3)
- Pairing with UIC mentor (Q4)
- Engagement with GSU students to develop mentorship skills (Q3 and 4)
- Identify and engage minority students at GSU and UIC Cancer Center to assist with pilot project and junior faculty research opportunities (Organizational Meeting)
- Identify and develop plan for GSU to support protected time for career development of early investigators (IAC)

PROGRESS TO DATE

Currently in its third quarter, The GUIDE Project is completing the planning and priority-setting phases and has exceeded the expected timelines for initiating its Training and Education Core program and Pilot Project implementation.



NEXT STEPS

Partnership Development

- Annual priority setting and evaluation
- Growth of community engagement and communication strategies
- Development of training and education calendar
- Continued pursuit of funding opportunities for research and training

Pilot Project

- Complete focus group investigations
- Develop educational content and animation
- Pre-pilot with additional focus groups

Training/Education and Mentoring Development

- Finalize mentor matches, mentor contracts and career development plans
- Continued training and education for junior faculty
- Establishment of faculty writing group
- Implement undergraduate research fellowship program
- Continued emphasis on scholarship and productivity
- Growth of community-engaged researcher network

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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