

Projects Funded by the NIH (National Institutes of Health)

The GoodNEWS Trial (Genes, Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness, and Spiritual Growth)

The GoodNEWS (Genes, Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness, and Spiritual Growth) Program has been active in Dallas, Texas congregations since 2002 and has been pilot tested in African-American congregations throughout South Dallas. The present study builds on the success of the existing GoodNEWS collaboration, by expanding the program's community-based health maintenance component and connecting it more closely with the medical community. The GoodNEWS Trial was initiated in 2007 with the following aims: to assess the effect of a health promotion program combined with a maintenance intervention in African-American congregations, on increasing levels of physical activity and dietary change compared to the health promotion program alone, determine the effect of the health promotion program and maintenance intervention on modifiable cardiovascular risk factors compared to the health promotion program alone and identify individual and group sociodemographic factors associated with increasing and decreasing levels of physical activity and dietary change. We are gathering evidence to see if it is possible to reduce or prevent disease, through combining faith and health in a collaborative way and supporting one another in creating healthy individuals, congregations, and communities. (PI: M DeHaven; Funded by: NIH/NHLBI Grant # R01 HL087768)

North Texas Healthy Heart (NTHH)

The North Texas Healthy Heart (NTHH) study assesses the relationship of various psychosocial factors and cardiovascular physiologic markers to better understand potential contributors to cardiovascular health disparities. Participants undergo an extensive interview, body measurements, blood testing, and multi-slice computed tomography of the heart and abdomen to obtain calcium scores and visceral fat scores. This study has taken place in two phases, with a total of 571 participants having been recruited. (PI: R Cardarelli; NIH/NCMHD 1-P20-MD001633-010003)

Projects Funded by Foundations, Industry, and Private Donations

The Mental Health Screening and Treatment Initiative (MHSTI)

The Mental Health Screening and Treatment Initiative (MHSTI) is a collaborative, multi-institutional project developed by investigators from the Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth (UNTHSC), Texas Wesleyan University, and Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (TC-CSCD). The overarching goal of the MHSTI project is to provide routine mental health screenings using an innovative audio-visual computer system for TC-TAIP probationers during routine visits with Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDCs). This will be a key step towards
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