

Fall 2007



Back row (L-R) Orita McCorkle, Jaimie Hunter, Ti Klingler, Alain Bertoni, Alicia Grayson, Kristen Hairston  
Front row (L-R) Sarah Langdon, Jorge Calles, Ronny Bell, Melicia Whitt-Glover  
(Not pictured: Kismet Loftin-Bell, Kathy Townsend, David Mount)

Inside this issue:

Director's Note	2
Upcoming Events	2
Research Update	3
Community Outreach	4
Health Minute	4
Spotlight	5
SNMA	5

Center Who's Who

Ronny Bell, PhD, MS  
*Director*

Alain Bertoni, MD, MPH  
*Director, Research & Evaluation*

Melicia Whitt-Glover, PhD  
*Director, Community Outreach*

Jorge Calles-Escandón, MD  
*Director, Faculty and Student Development*

Kathy Townsend, MS  
*Director of Development*

Kristen Hairston, MD, MPH  
*Faculty*

David Mount, PsyD  
*Faculty*

Jaimie Hunter, MPH  
*Research Associate*

Kismet Loftin-Bell, MALS,MSL  
*Research Associate*

Sarah Langdon  
*Associate Project Manager*

Orita McCorkle  
*Research Specialist*

Ti Klingler  
*Administrative Assistant*

Alicia Grayson  
*Receptionist*

In September 2007, Dr. Ronny A. Bell was named Director of the Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health. Dr. Bell is also a Professor in the Dept. of Epidemiology, Division of Public Health Sciences at Wake Forest University School of Medicine (WFUSM). Dr. Bell received his bachelor's degree in public health nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his Masters degree in epidemiology from Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and his PhD in nutrition from UNC-Greensboro. He is a native of Robeson County, North Carolina, and is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe. Dr. Bell has been a part of Wake Forest University Health Sciences for 16 years.

The mission of the Angelou Research Center (ARC) is three-fold and aims to:

1) Improve the wellness and quality of life of minorities by reducing the burden of disease through research and developing ways of translating research into effective health-care strategies; 2) Foster the development of innovative programs in health education for minority populations; and 3) Promote career advancement of minorities in health care and biomedical sciences professions.

Dr. Bell recently sat down to discuss his vision for the Center and the three programs that address the Center's mission.

**Q:** Dr. Bell, how would you describe your vision for the Angelou Research Center?

**A:** My vision for the Center is to have local and national infrastructure and influence to reduce and eliminate health disparities in minority and underserved populations.

**Q:** Can you describe the three program areas of the Center, and their current efforts?

**A:** The three program areas are: Research and Evaluation, directed by Dr. Alain Bertoni, Community Outreach, directed by Dr. Melicia Whitt-Glover, and Faculty and Student Development, directed by Dr. Jorge Calles.

In the area of research, we here at the Center are strategically aligned with a world class institution in WFUSM. The Center's research focuses on community-based and clinical research, because we recognize the importance of developing relationships with community members and organizations as well as other academic and medical institutions. With the development of "The People's Clinic" project in the African

*Continued in Director's Note, page 2*

## Director's Note

American, American Indian and Latino communities, we have forged exceptional partnerships that we look forward to continuing to work with to benefit these communities.

Our Community Outreach program is doing a wonderful job of getting the ARC name into the community via participation in various community events. Community Outreach is also developing a database of minority individuals who are interested in being participants in research projects. We also hope to continue to create networks with traditionally minority institutions as we develop future programs. The ARC has also sponsored, and will continue to sponsor, symposiums and conferences to bring together professionals across

disciplines who are interested in reducing health disparities and improving health incomes in our minority communities.

The Faculty and Student Development program is uniquely positioned to take advantage of WFUSM's awareness of diversity. The ARC has a long standing relationship with the WFUSM chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), as well as our many affiliated faculty, staff, and community health professionals. All of these groups and individuals are committed to working with the ARC to increase the numbers of minority students and professionals in the health and health care arena. We are hopeful that the relationships we develop with other

institutions will also become a pipeline for bringing minority students, residents, and faculty to WFUSM.

**Q:** Dr. Bell, what do you see as the next step for the ARC?

**A:** We are currently working with several task forces on campus to enhance the diversity of our faculty and student population, and to develop models for other academic centers to enhance their campus diversity. We need to expand our presence in the community to address the needs of minority communities both locally and on a national level. We also need to develop specific collaborations with organizations and other academic institutions to conduct research projects focusing on health disparity priority areas.



Dr. Ronny Bell

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed persons can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

## Upcoming Events

**5th National Health Disparities Conference.** *Diabetes Health Disparities: Determinants, Prevention, Treatment and Policy.* November 12-13, 2007. Nashville, TN. Sponsor: Meharry Medical College

**Breakthroughs in Reducing Health Care Disparities.** November 12-13, 2007. Washington, DC. Sponsor: National Committee for Quality Assurance

**Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial / Ethnic Minorities and Medically Underserved.** November 27-30, 2007. Atlanta, GA. Sponsor: American Association for Cancer Research

**10th Annual Diabetes Management Conference.** November 30, 2007. Winston-Salem, NC. Sponsor: Wake Forest Univ. School of Medicine and UNC-Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy.

**2007 National HIV Prevention Conference.** December 2-5, 2007. Atlanta, GA. Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Forsyth County Dept. of Public Health Summit.** *Finding the Balance: Personal Responsibility and Community Responsibility for Health.* January 15th, 2008. Winston-Salem, NC. Sponsor: Forsyth County Dept. of Public Health

**29th Annual Minority Health Conference.** *The Impact of Poverty, Culture, and Environment on Minority Health.* February 29, 2008. Chapel Hill, NC. Sponsor: UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

**Southeastern Symposium on Breast Cancer Disparities.** March 28, 2008. Winston-Salem, NC. Sponsors: Angelou Research Center, The Susan B. Komen Foundation, The Avon Foundation.

**4th Annual Southeast Indian Studies Conference: Tradition, Identity, and Recognition.** April 3-4, 2008. Pembroke, NC. Sponsor: University of NC at Pembroke.

**The Society for Arts in Healthcare 19th Annual Conference.** *Embracing Our Past, Shaping Our Future: 21st Century Innovations.* April 16-19, 2008. Philadelphia, PA. Sponsor: Society for Arts in Healthcare

**NHMA 2008 National Conference.** *Health Care Reform: A Priority for Hispanic Communities.* April 17-20, 2008. Washington, DC. Sponsor: National Hispanic Medical Association

**6th Biennial Conference.** *Cancer, Culture, and Literacy.* May 15-17, 2008. Clearwater Beach, FL. Sponsor: Moffitt Cancer Institute, University of South Florida.

## Research Update

### Hispanic Health Media Project

The Hispanic Health Media Project, Principal Investigator Dr. Jorge Calles, completed its funding period August 31st, 2007. We are excited to announce, however, that Que Pasa Media, Inc, our community partner in this project, has agreed to continue providing both radio time and newspaper space in kind. This will allow the *La Clínica del Pueblo* weekly radio show and newspaper article to continue to educate and serve our NC Latino community. We are currently working on additional projects to sustain and expand our achievements with the Hispanic Health Media Project to better serve both the NC and US Latino population.

### The People's Clinic: A NC Minority Health Education Collaborative

The Angelou Research Center congratulates the Winston-Salem Chronicle for their receipt of the Mental Health Media Award on October 25th, 2007 from the Mental Health Association of Forsyth County. This award is given to members of the media who have shown great support for mental illness in the community. The Angelou Research Center is pleased to have contributed articles to the Chronicle's mental health initiative as part of The People's Clinic.

The People's Clinic continues to have great success in providing health education outreach to minority

communities across the state of NC. We have over 120 weeks of programming in the African American community and nearly a year of programming in American Indian community. The articles produced and disseminated through our community partnerships have been widely accepted and are liked by the communities we serve.

The study team has also submitted an abstract to the 4th Annual Southeast Indian Studies Conference, which will be held on April 3-4, 2008, in Pembroke, NC.

#### Presentations

**Jaimie Hunter, MPH**, gave a presentation entitled "Voices of African American Health" at the Society for Public Health Education National Conference in Washington DC, October 31

-Nov. 3 2007.

**Dr. David Mount** will be presenting a poster entitled "The association of hypertension on cognition in type 2 diabetes: implications for diabetes education and self-management practices" and **Orita McCorkle** will be presenting a poster entitled "Are deficits in learning and memory risk factors of hypertension?" both at the 5th National Health Disparities Conference in Nashville, TN, November 12-13, 2007.

**Jaimie Hunter, MPH**, and **Sarah Langdon** will give a presentation entitled "Voices of African American Health: A Partnership to Elucidate Health Disparities" at the Society for Arts in Healthcare 19th Annual Conference, Apr. 16-19 in Philadelphia, PA.

## Affiliated Faculty Research

### Multimodal Neuroimaging Training Program

Dr. David Mount (ARC Affiliate Faculty) recently participated in the Multimodal Neuro-imaging Training Program (MNTP), a joint program of the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. The program is a NIH 6-week summer workshop to teach the synergy of multi-modal neuroimaging. The workshop consisted of basic lectures, hands-on laboratory work, a multimodal neuroimaging symposium focusing on "Alzheimer Disease", and completion of projects, emphasizing the methodologies of multiple imaging modalities. A goal of the workshop was to train researchers for adequate handling of the increasing

complexity of combining multimodal neuroimaging data with the knowledge of various data acquisition and processing approaches, and appropriate interpretations. MNTP training faculty were divided into three different categories: neuroscience, methods, and modeling to teach neuroscience and multimodal imaging effectively.

Within the scope of the MNTP, Dr. Mount completed a project entitled "**Effects of Cued Recall Strategy on Neural Activity Patterns: A Block Design fMRI Study.**" He studied changes in hemodynamic responses in learning and recall paradigm. The primary aim of the study was to delineate the neural correlates of cued immediate recall, and test the hypothesis that

manipulation of immediate cued recall has distinguishable neural signatures.

### Reducing Childhood Lead Poisoning among Latino Children through Education and Screening

A research team of Principal Investigator Quirina M. Vallejos, MPH and Co-Investigators Thomas A. Arcury, PhD (ARC Affiliate Faculty), Sara A. Quandt, PhD (ARC Affiliate Faculty), Antonio J. Marín, MA, and Chan M. Lane, MA, in the Dept. of Family and Community Medicine and the Div. of Public Health Sciences have received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency to do an 18-month project to design, implement, evaluate and disseminate a Lay Health Advisor (LHA)

curriculum on lead poisoning prevention to Latino parents in western NC. The team will work with providers and community members in Burke, Catawba and Wilkes counties to educate Latino parents about lead poisoning prevention and encourage them to have their children under 6 tested for blood lead levels. The LHA curriculum design will be informed by two focus groups with Latino parents and by input from an advisory committee consisting of representatives from the Latino communities, local health departments and Latino service agencies in each of the 3 project counties. The curriculum will be evaluated and will then be made available online for anyone who is interested in implementing it in their area.

## Community Outreach Update

The ARC Community Outreach team continues to move forward. In coming months, we will participate in the Women of Promise 2nd Annual Conference on Nov. 17, 2007; <http://womenofpromise.net/index.htm>, the SciWorks Cancer Exhibit, on Dec. 8, 2007; (see <http://www.sciworks.org/CommunityDays.html> for more details), the 2008

Forsyth County Health Summit on Jan. 15, 2008; (see [www.healthycommunity.ws/](http://www.healthycommunity.ws/) for more details), and the 2008 WFUSM Share the Health Fair, Jan. 12, 2008 at Marketplace Mall, Winston-Salem, NC.

The Community Outreach team is also working hard to identify signature ongoing ARC events. Suggestions include an annual event surrounding Minority Health

Month (April of each year) and a bi-annual project that would combine arts and health. We are also exploring opportunities to provide ongoing health-related information to the community in a variety of ways such as continuing to publish articles in local newspapers, placing kiosks or health booths in various community settings, and finding an off-campus site

in the community where we could have additional office space and provide health and related information.

The Community Outreach team currently meets on the 3rd Wed. of each month at 1:00 PM. We welcome suggestions and additional volunteers. If you would like more information, please contact Dr. Whitt-Glover at [mwhitt@wfubmc.edu](mailto:mwhitt@wfubmc.edu) or (336) 716-9354.

## Co-Sponsored Internal Medicine Grand Rounds

On October 18, 2007, the Angelou Research Center co-sponsored the Department of Internal Medicine Grand Rounds presentation. Grand Rounds is presented weekly, and invited faculty from within WFUSM and other institutions speak on various topics related to the practice of medicine.

The ARC was happy to invite Shoou-Yih Daniel Lee, PhD, from the UNC-Chapel Hill, to discuss health literacy



in minority populations and its effect on healthcare delivery and health outcomes.

Through his research, Dr. Lee developed the SAHLSA instrument to test health literacy in the Latino population, which members of the ARC research team are administering in Winston-Salem, NC, as pilot data for future research.

While visiting the Center, Dr. Lee was able to meet with Dr. Bertoni to discuss current Center research, as well as with many ARC affiliated faculty. We are looking forward to collaborating with Dr. Lee and UNC-Chapel Hill on future projects.

## Health Minute

With the publication of *Healthy People 2010*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) set two objectives for improving the health of the nation by 2010: (1) increase quality and years of healthy life, and (2) eliminate health disparities. The focus areas for eliminating health disparities originated with *HP 2000* and include 6 major and 4 minor areas: cancer, CVD, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, and infant mortality; plus mental health, hepatitis, syphilis, and tuberculosis.

So, how are we doing? According to a mid-course review of *HP 2010*, the African Americans have improved with respect to disparities in asthma deaths, pneumonia in children under the age of five years, some STD cases, and new AIDS cases. Disparities *increased* in prostate cancer deaths, streptococcal diseases, smoking during pregnancy, and genital herpes. Latinos have improved with injury and violence, nutrition, and tobacco use, but disparities have increased in new AIDS cases and deaths, diabetes, health insurance coverage, tuberculosis, hepatitis A & B, and syphilis.

American Indians have improved with respect to stroke and hepatitis A, but disparities increased in the areas of diabetes, new AIDS cases, HIV testing, infant mortality, health insurance coverage, and some STDs.

Research is important in helping scientists understand how best to partner with minority communities to improve health status, health care access, and health care quality. Participation in research is another way to expand the knowledge base about health disparities. For example, it may be that certain treatments or interventions work better in some communities than others, and research is the only way to find out. For this reason the ARC is dedicated to developing culturally appropriate research programs and efforts such as creating a database of minority individuals who wish to participate in research studies. Activities like these will help us best elucidate all the factors behind health disparities. It is essential for research institutions to partner with community organizations and members in these endeavors, as they are the experts on their own communities.

## Faculty/Staff Update

### Welcome

**Orita McCorkle** joined the ARC in June 2007 as a Research Specialist. Ms. McCorkle had been doing student research in the Center since June 2006.

### Congratulations

**Dr. Alain Bertoni** has been promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Bertoni is ARC Director of Research and Evaluation and faculty in the Dept. of Epidemiology, Div. of Public Health Sciences.

**Dr. Sara A. Quandt**, ARC Affiliate and Professor, Dept. of Epidemiology, Div. of Public Health Sciences, received the National Rural Health Association's Outstanding Researcher Award in May 2007.

**Dr. Scott Rhodes** has been promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Rhodes is ARC Affiliate and Faculty in the Dept. of Social Science and Health Policy, Div of Public Health Sciences.



**Spotlight on...**

**Kristen G. Hairston, MD, MPH**



Dr. Kristen Gill Hairston joined the Angelou Research Center as a faculty member in July 2006. Dr. Hairston is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism. She

divides her time between research projects and seeing patients. Her research interests include factors affecting deposition of abdominal adipose and metabolic consequences of abdominal adipose tissue. Dr. Hairston's research primarily looks at these issues in premenopausal women of color. Her previous research includes assessments of obesity risk factors in children and the effectiveness of certain diabetes medications in the African-American population. Her current research focuses on clinical ways to measure subcutaneous and visceral adipose tissue and the health

implications of these fat deposits. In her endocrine clinical practice, she addresses issues with diabetes, thyroid disorders, osteoporosis, calcium problems, obesity and other hormone imbalances.

Dr. Hairston also enjoys educating the community about these various issues through speaking engagements at venues like *Best Health at Hanes Mall* and local churches. She actively participates with local and national organizations to help improve the health of underrepresented communities through written publication and various symposiums.

Dr. Hairston holds a BA in

psychology from WFU, and a Doctorate of Medicine and Master's of Public Health from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed additional training in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology at University of Maryland Medical Center.

As a faculty member of the Angelou Research Center, Dr. Hairston spends much of her time mentoring medical students and house staff. Dr. Hairston lives in Winston-Salem with her husband and two children. Her hobbies include cooking, crafts and working with young people in her community.

**From the Student National Medical Association**



The WFU Chapter of SNMA has a tradition of community service and this year we have decided to expand on our prior commitments. In the past we have partnered with Student Sight Savers to assist with glaucoma screenings throughout the area, participated in health fairs with numerous churches and business, and assisted with many activities sponsored by the Sickle Cell Association of the Piedmont.

This year we have added *Project T.E.A.C.H.*, started by Bryant Cameron Webb as a Schweitzer Fellow Project. This tutoring program pairs a medical student with a high school sophomore once a week throughout the school year to mentor them about health disparities and help them to achieve in school. We will also be hosting a 2 day pre-medical student conference for college students throughout the state of NC to talk to them about the process of matriculating into medical school as well as succeeding once in medical school. Additionally, we have ongoing partnerships with Aids Care

Service to visit and cook for their clients, as well as working at Habitat for Humanity to provide students a multitude of community service projects to participate in. As we head into the future, we hope to build upon our past but continue to create and foster new relationships. We will be ending the school year with our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Medical Excellence banquet on May 18, 2008 to honor our graduating seniors. We hope to see everyone there!

Lastly, our chapter would like to say thank you to the school and the surrounding community for their past and ongoing support of our chapter.

**2007-08 WFUSM Officers**

- Co-Presidents:** Tuere Hightower-Hughes, Cheryl Onwuchuruba
- Vice President:** Ugo Nwankwo
- Secretary:** Jewell Carr
- Treasurer:** Cortney Wilson
- MAPS/Post-Bac Liaison:** Carmen Robinson
- Banquet Chair:** Juliana Robles
- Fundraising Chair:** Jarmella Russell
- Social Chairs:** Shar Mateo, Bamidele Olatunbosun
- Volunteer Chair:** Nichole Johnson

[www.wfusm-snma.com](http://www.wfusm-snma.com)

Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health

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<http://www.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth/>

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**Hope Lives!**

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