U54 Partnership
University of Guam (UOG) – (UHCC)

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US Affiliated Pacific Islands - USAPI
U54 Partnership Grant
Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE) by Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP) Regions
Leadership – Multiple PIs

University of Guam
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University of Hawaii Cancer Center
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• Carl Wilhelm Vogel, MD PhD
UOG/UHCC Partnership - 2018

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U54 PACHE Overall Aims

1. **develop the cancer research capability and competitiveness of faculty at UOG and UHCC:** increase investigator-initiated funding and peer-reviewed publications

2. develop the **focus of UHCC research on cancer health disparities** with regional relevance (e.g. betel nut chewing, cervical cancer screening & prevention)

3. **raise awareness of cancer and cancer prevention in the multiethnic communities** served by UOG and UHCC

4. **increase the number of cancer and biomedical science researchers of Pacific Islander ancestry** in the U.S. by continuing to offer MS, and PhD training programs for Pacific Islander students in cancer-related fields.
Partnership To Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE)

INFRASTRUCTURE:

• 30 faculty/investigators & administrative staff
  • Program Manager (Alicia Borja MPA)

• Cores: Administration, Planning and Evaluation, Community Outreach, Research Education

• Research Projects (Pilots and Full Projects)

• Shared Resources (Guam Cancer Registry (SEER), Biostats / Epi, IT)
Impacts

• Policy influence for cancer prevention and control policy in Guam & Saipan

• Guam Cancer Registry

• Graduate Student Trainees

• 16 collaborative research projects
  • cervical, breast liver & oral cancers

• >80 publications, >100 presented abstracts & 11 grant awards
Outreach CORE

Community-based participatory research has led to landmark tobacco control legislation in Guam, resulting in decreased tobacco use and increased tobacco taxes:

- P.L. 30-80: increased tobacco taxes from $1 to $3 per pack, 15% allocated to GU Cancer Trust Fund and 1% to GU Cancer Registry.
- P.L. 33-121: prohibits smoking in vehicles when a minor or pregnant woman is present
- PL. 32-160: prohibits sales of e-cigarettes to minors.
- P.L. 30-163: prohibits importation of ingestible tobacco/nicotine products
- P.L. 30-63: prohibits smoking within 20 feet of public entrance
- P.L. 34-01: raised minimum age of legal access to tobacco products to 21
- Selling of Betel-Nut to Minors (CNMI PL 19-66)
Outreach CORE

Activities to increase cancer prevention / Cervical and Colon CA screening

Physician education for Micronesian migrants in GU & HI

UHCC & UOG Outreach Intersection — Developing CA Clinical Trials in Guam (NCORP) ..... FHP Clinic of Guam
Research Education CORE

- 34 Pacific Islander students trained in cancer research (26 MS, 8 PhD) - 2 grads now UOG faculty.
- 7 summer research fellowships awarded to UOG faculty, 2 successful cancer research proposals.
- 5 online training modules developed for graduate students attending UOG & UHCC.
- Research Learning Community established at UOG for master’s students (monthly journal club, seminars)
- UOG’s Micronesian Studies Program with emphasis in “Pacific Island Cancer Health Disparities”
Partnership To Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE)

Research Projects:

• Full Project I: Identification of Pro-Inflammatory Molecules involved in Areca Nut Carcinogenesis, by Jiang Yang, PhD (UOG) and Reinhold Penner, MD, PhD (UHCC)

• Full Project II: The Betel Nut Intervention Trial (BENIT), by Yvette Paulino, PhD (UOG), Thaddeus Herzog, PhD and Adrian Franke, PhD (UOCC).

• Pilot Project II: Adolescent Betel Nut Use in Guam, by Francis Dalisay, PhD (UOG) and Pallav Pokhrel, PhD and Wayne Buente, PhD (UHCC).

• Pilot Project III: Identification and Application of Improved Biomarkers reflecting Betel Consumption, by Adrian Franke, PhD (UHCC) and Laura Biggs, PhD (UOG).

• Admin Supplement: The Influence of Areca (Betel) Nut Chewing on the Oral Microbiome in Micronesia, by Yvette Paulino, PhD (UOG) and Brenda Hernandez, PhD, (UHCC)
Research Projects (continued):

• Pilot Project I: *Reducing Cervical Cancer Screening Health Disparities Among Pacific Islanders Living in GU and HI*, by Lilnabeth P. Somera, PhD (UOG) and Neal Palafox, MD, MPH (UHCC).

• Pilot Project IV: *Betel nut (Areca catechu) chewing and liver cancer in Guam*, by Brenda Hernandez, PhD (UHCC) and Yvette Paulino, PhD (UOG).

• Pilot Project V: *Accessible Breast Cancer Screening in the Pacific*, by John Shepherd, PhD (UHCC) and Anna Varghese, PhD (UOG).