The Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program

Grant Aim 1
Educate a cohort of 11 PhD/MPH students in a transdisciplinary program of study

11 Transdisciplinary Scholars
- The scholars completed previous degrees at 10 universities, 7 from out-of-state.
- Scholars are enrolled in 6 different PhD programs: Community Health, Kinesiology, Nutritional Sciences, Human Development and Family Studies, and Social Work

New Graduate Degree
- A new PhD/MPH degree option was created and approved by the Board of Trustees.
- All scholars have completed their MPH degree

Transdisciplinary Courses
- 2 new courses on Childhood Obesity Prevention were developed and focused on:
  - Causes, Correlates and Consequences
  - Policies, Programs and Interventions
- A Seminar course taught each semester by I-TOPP faculty covers obesity-and-transdisciplinary education-related topics
- Other courses taken by all I-TOPP scholars include: Grantmanship and Ethics; Pediatric Clinical Nutrition; Human Development Research & Theory; and Family Theories

Scientific Meeting Presentations
- I-TOPP scholars have delivered 114 presentations at over 30 different types of professional meetings

Publications
- I-TOPP scholars have 44 publications in 26 different journals

Grant Aim 2
Sponsor a Visiting Faculty Program, Lecture Series and Biennial Symposium to build interactions between I-TOPP faculty and scholars and international leaders in childhood obesity prevention

Summary of Grant Aims and Progress to Date

12 Symposium Speakers in Three Biennial Symposia
- Dr. Cynthia Ogden, The Center for Disease Control
- Dr. Molly Bray, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Dr. Madeleine Sigman-Grant, University of Nevada
- Dr. Stephen Matthews, The Pennsylvania State University
- Dr. Jayon Lusk, Oklahoma State University
- Dr. Luanh Birch, University of Georgia
- Dr. Diianne Worrell, University of North Carolina
- Dr. Jason Mendoza, University of Washington
- Dr. Russell Patel, University of South Carolina
- Ms. Dawn Melchiorre, Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Dr. Bonnie Spring, Northwestern University
- Dr. Terry Huang, City University of New York School of Public Health

13 Lecture Series Speakers
- Dr. Myles Faith, University of North Carolina
- Dr. Ellen Wartella, Northwestern University
- Dr. Robert Whitaker, Temple University
- Dr. Maureen Black, University of Maryland School of Medicine
- Dr. Daniel Stokols, University of California, Irvine
- Dr. Anthony Comuzzie, Texas Biomedical Research Institute
- Dr. Sheryl Hughes, Baylor College of Medicine
- Dr. Diann Neumark-Sztainer, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Kim Greder, Iowa State University
- Dr. Jayne Fulkerson, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Melissa Munn-Chernoff, University of North Carolina
- Dr. David Stodden, University of South Carolina
- Dr. Kirsten Davison, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

2 Visiting Faculty
- Dr. Madeleine Sigman-Grant, University of Nevada
- Dr. Kirk Erickson, University of Pittsburgh

Measures
- Misra Questionnaires: Behavior Change Collaborative Activities Index, and Interdisciplinary Perspectives Index
- Short Answer: Questions related to notions, experiences, and expectations related to TD education and childhood obesity
- Focus Groups: Faculty and Scholar focus groups designed to determine and discuss characteristics of TD research/education, program attributes, barriers, goals, investments. Recordings were transcribed, and thematically coded.
- Kinetic Drawing: Five minutes allotted to draw a transdisciplinary research intervention team, doing something that prevents or reduces childhood obesity. Each scholar described the drawing, identified emotions or feelings when drawing, and described how it reflected their career state at this time as well as insights or opportunities or challenges of TD training.
- Statement of Purpose: Each student composed a statement of purpose for their graduate school application. These documents were analyzed for content related to expectations.

Two Annual Review Questions: We ask two questions related to TDE as part of each annual review conducted in January. 1) What if any barriers to transdisciplinary research/education have you encountered? 2) What resources would enhance your transdisciplinary research/education if they were made available?

Childhood Obesity II course: Group project ratings and video of presentations
- Abstract Ratings: Dissertation abstracts will be rated on transdisciplinarity.
- Number of I-TOPP scholar publications and variety of disciplines represented by authors
- Number and variety of professional meetings attended by I-TOPP scholars

Grant Aim 3
Assess student transdisciplinary knowledge, attitudes, and research outputs at baseline and multiple time points and compare transdisciplinary orientation of I-TOPP scholars to MPH and PhD students.

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**Timeline of the Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program (I-TOPP)**

**2011**
- First cohort of scholars started—Mary Christoph, Katie Robinson, Lauren Raine
- Craig Bandeen, PhD, presented "The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Financial Stress, and Childhood Obesity" at the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- First Biennial I-TOPP Symposium
- Mary Christoph, PhD, gave the invited plenary lecture "Promoting healthy eating and physical activity for children and their families" at Head Start’s 11th National Research Conference, Washington D.C.

**2012**
- I-TOPP Illinios Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program
- Second cohort of scholars started—Anneliese Feld, Roger Figueroa, Jaclyn Saltzman
- New PhD/MPH degree approved by University of Illinois
- New Class Offering: NUTR 530 Childhood Obesity I
- Publications by Roger Figueroa, scholars: "Nutrition Communication and Obesity Prevention in Hispanic Communities: A Qualitative Exploration of Media's Roles" in Research in Obesity.
- First Biennial I-TOPP Symposium
- First Class Offering: NUTR 530 Childhood Obesity I
- Start of the $4.5 Million grant over 5 years

**2013**
- Barbara Fiese, PhD, gave the invited plenary lecture "Pediatric health/safety and lifestyle for childhood and their families" at Head Start’s 11th National Research Conference, Washington D.C.
- New Class Offering: NUTR 531 Childhood Obesity II
- Publications by Mary Christoph and Katie Robinson, scholars: "Nutrition Communication and Obesity Prevention in Hispanic Communities: A Qualitative Exploration of Media’s Roles" in Research in Obesity.
- Third cohort of scholars started—Natasha Cole, Liliana Aguayo, Jessica Jarick, Julia Kim, Maria Pineros-Leano
- Second Biennial I-TOPP Symposium
- New Class Offering: NUTR 531 Childhood Obesity II
- Natasha Cole, scholar, received the Obesity and Pediatric Overweight/Obesity Award for Excellence in Obesity Research.
- Publications by Roger Figueroa, scholars: "Nutrition Communication and Obesity Prevention in Hispanic Communities: A Qualitative Exploration of Media’s Roles" in Research in Obesity.
- Joint Scientific Sessions at Experimental Biology "Transdisciplinary Training in Childhood Obesity Prevention: Approaches, Successes, and Challenges" by Dr. S. Donovan, I-TOPP, and Dr. D. Janvrin, Childhood Obesity Prevention Training Program, Pennsylvania State University

**2014**
- Third cohort of scholars started—Natasha Cole, Liliana Aguayo, Jessica Jarick, Julia Kim, Maria Pineros-Leano
- New Class Offering: NUTR 532 Childhood Obesity III
- Publications by Mary Christoph and Katie Robinson, scholars: "Nutrition Communication and Obesity Prevention in Hispanic Communities: A Qualitative Exploration of Media’s Roles" in Research in Obesity.
- Third Biennial I-TOPP Symposium
- Natasha Cole, scholar and Janet Liechty, PhD, published "Effects of the FITKids randomized controlled trial on the pediatric weight control and brain function" in Pediatrics.
- 1-year no-cost grant extension

**2015**
- I-TOPP Team selected by peers for the 2015 Team Award for Excellence: College of AES and Paul A. Fink Recognition Awards
- Publications by Jaclyn Saltzman, scholars: "Health Literacy is Associated with Healthy Attitudes about Weight Control for Children" in Appetite.
- Third Biennial I-TOPP Symposium
- New Class Offering: NUTR 532 Childhood Obesity III
- Publications by Roger Figueroa, scholars: "Nutrition Communication and Obesity Prevention in Hispanic Communities: A Qualitative Exploration of Media’s Roles" in Research in Obesity.
- Publications and presentations per each grant year (2011-9/2015) by the 11 scholars.

**2016**
- Third Biennial I-TOPP Symposium
- All 11 I-TOPP scholars completed the MPH portion of the program.
- Lauren Raine, scholar, received the 2016 Emerging Leaders in Nutrition Science Poster Competition Finalist, American Society for Nutrition.
- Anneliese Feld, scholar, and Britta L. and Charles J. Wolfe Award for her research on Fitness.
- Katie Robinson, scholar and Janet Liechty, PhD, published "Health Literacy is Associated with Healthy Attitudes about Weight Control for Children" in Appetite.
- Craig Bandeen, PhD, presented "The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Financial Stress, and Childhood Obesity" at the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- First Biennial I-TOPP Symposium
- Mary Christoph, Katie Robinson, Lauren Raine, Mary Christoph, and Katie Robinson, scholars received the 2015 Emerging Leaders in Nutrition Science Poster Competition Finalist, American Society for Nutrition.