

**Decisions and Follow-up Activities Agreed on at
UMich-Fiocruz Symposium (Rio de Janeiro - August 7-9, 2013)**

**Group 1: Management and Prevention of Chronic Diseases
Thematic Areas they agreed to work on together:**

1. Race Differences in Health

- Geographic heterogeneity in race differences (between and within countries) and factors associated with this heterogeneity (racial gap in health modified by multiple factors that need to be understood and studied)
- Comparison of associations of self-reported racial identity, African admixture, education, and discrimination with health/cognition in both countries
- Factors contributing to race differences in health in both countries (social, behavioral, psychological, biological):
 - Med adherence
 - Self-management of chronic conditions
 - Cognition

2. Social determinants and social consequences of illness

- Intergenerational mobility and health
- Neighborhood context
- Occupational factors
- Gender
- Income consequences of illness/health shocks

3. Predictors of chronic disease/cognition/disability in Brazil

- Description of prevalence, trajectories, and predictors of trajectories
- Geographic origin and mobility
- History of infection
- Use of technology in addressing disability

Next steps:

- 1) Working groups on specific areas with regular skype calls among investigators working on the specific research question;
- 2) Plans for ELSA and ELSI investigators to come to UM;
- 3) First Webinar on Modern Causal Inference Methods: in early February, 2014.

Group 2: Breastfeeding/Milk Bank Collaboration

1. Tele-Medicine Conferences

- a. Discuss differences in breastfeeding practices and ways to promote breastfeeding
- b. Research on Cross-cultural differences in breastfeeding practices and attitudes

2. Exchanges

- a. November, 2013 - UM researchers to attend Milk Bank meeting in Brazil;
- b. Spring 2014 - Brazil Group visit UM;
- c. Medical student/resident exchanges:
 - in 4th year elective and 1 month resident clinical rotation
 - M1 project over next summer;
- d. UM nutritionists to come to Fernandes Figueira Milk Bank to train

Steps to meet Longer-Term Goals

- a. Activities to help develop a Milk Bank at UM that is different from dominant US model
 - most US banks the milk is sold whereas in Brazil it is free
 - develop more volunteer model
 - use of recycled glass products to save costs);
- b. Establish student/resident exchanges to promote cross cultural learning in field of breastfeeding;
- c. Research studies.

Group 3: Comparative Collaborations in History

1. History of Heart Diseases (US, Brazil, and Argentina and/or Mexico)

-- Compare development of cardiology as a discipline, looking at UM cardiologist Frank Wilson as intermediary between US and Brazilian cardiologists and development of technology/treatments/specialized centers within broader social/political contexts

2. Comparative Work on Race, Genetics, and Society in Brazil and US

--Development of ideas and research in anthropology, sociology and examination of values and impact on society

3. Urbanization, Poverty, and Health

--Look at favelas, the work of Anthony Leeds, intersection of favela social movements, organization, urban planning, political structures, and health in post-WW2 era,

comparing case of favelas in Rio de Janeiro and developments in US, also broader examination of how changes in demographics, larger social changes, and political changes affected health

--In these areas, pursue possibilities of working on these topics in conjunction with Group 1, that will be approaching these same topics from different, complementary methodological perspectives.

4. The Development and Use of Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Debates in US and Brazil

Plans:

-- Continue working groups via skype calls and email on above research areas and working to bring in more faculty and students into collaborations on areas;

-- Student exchanges, using 'Sandwich' grants to UM and short-term exchanges between UM and Fiocruz;

-- Short-term training courses on history of science and medicine co-led by Fiocruz and UM professors:

- 1 International Course (1 week) in Rio, August 2014, on history of science and medicine (general title): 2 Prof of UM, Profs of Fiocruz.
- 1 International course on race, genetics, and health (general title), 1 week, August 2014 (connection with Epidemiology, History, and Anthropology) and to be transmitted as web conferences for long-distance training.

-- 50 years of 1964 military dictatorship - Fiocruz History Unit is planning a year of seminars, thinking about democracy, citizenship and health in a broad perspective. UM researcher to present her book on student movement in symposium at time of 50th anniversary of 1964 Military coup.

Group 4: Environment and Health

1. Water and Health

-- Water governance (e.g., the role of water committees and empowering citizen science);

-- Waterborne diseases

- Evaluating interventions such as improved sanitation conditions and infrastructure;

- Role of primary care/health team programs in evaluating environmental/sanitation conditions;
- Urban/rural comparisons

- Developing methods to evaluate the acceptability, cost-effectiveness of different methods of decontaminating water in rural Amazon;
- Comparative analysis of regulations for recreational water (WHO/EPA)

2. Environmental Health Monitoring and Assessment

- Methods and indicators for environmental health monitoring and assessment
 - Pesticides and metals
 - Methodological aspects related to ecotoxicology and biological monitoring

- Cross over with Sustainability group

3. Climate Change and extreme events

- Flooding and drought

4. Zoonosis research

- Surveying potential reservoir hosts that have potential to spill over to humans;
- Understanding human encroachment in natural areas;
- Systematic survey of human populations that live in areas adjoining urban forests.

Mechanisms

- Exchange of students and researchers

- MSc./MPH projects, internships;
- Postdoctoral fellows;
- PhD students

- Develop joint proposals

- Training

- Short courses funded by Fiocruz

--Microbial risk assessment workshop that is case-based where students are actively using what they are learning to present case studies at end of workshop.

To facilitate all groups' next steps, Fiocruz and UM will co-host a bilingual web site with individual group wikis and platforms for joint planning and uploading of relevant papers and other documents.