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;
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.