The Minority Health Education and Research Office was first established in 2002. Their primary goal being to improve the overall health of the minority communities by increasing the health education being provided and increase the research being conducted in these communities. If we are to improve the health of a group of people we must design studies with specific goals in mind.

Dr. Jose Romero is the interim director of the program with Renee Cook being the administrative assistant. There is a community advisory board with two representatives from each the African American, Latino and Native American communities. In addition, Dr. Romero is the medical advisor that represents the Hispanic community on the advisory board, Dr. Jennifer Larsen represents the Native American communities and the position for medical advisor of the African American community is currently vacant. The advisory board makes recommendations regarding the health issues in their communities from which RFA’s are developed.

Applications are due November 1st each year. Dr. Romero points out that “applications are reviewed based on the areas of focus for each community listed in the RFA. However, these are not the sole areas in which an investigator can receive funding.” If an investigator has questions whether their project of interest would be potentially fundable, they can call Dr. Romero or ask for an appointment to meet to discuss their idea.

Proposed projects should be scientifically sound and be designed to yield novel or useful information that would address a health care disparity and or for preliminary data to apply for extramural funding. These seed grants range from $30,00 to $100,000 and must be completed in a years time. The money can not be used for salary support of the investigator but can be used to fund research personnel, supplies, travel to a research site, laboratory tests or equipment. Simultaneous IRB application is recommended so the project can be started as soon as the award is made. It is also strongly advised that the investigator partner with a community agency in developing the protocol.

Resources are available to aide in recruiting. Jose Villegas is a physician trained in Mexico with an office at the Chicano Awareness Center. He can help with recruitment, translating the consent form to Spanish and translating for subjects who are enrolled in a study. Jackie Hill and Ira Coombs are coordinators at Baker's Place clinic and are available to help with recruitment of African Americans into studies. Sayaka Kanade is the UNMC liaison to the Northern Plains Tribal Epicenter, located in Rapid City, South Dakota. She can help with the Tribal Council and IHS IRB application and approval.

Dr. Romero would be happy to discuss any study concerning health disparities in minority communities. He can be contacted at 9-8883.
Coordinator Updates

There is a saying that you learn something new everyday. Well the other day I learned something new that I thought others might find of interest. We all know that there are no professional fees assigned to out-patient clinical labs except for a “few” - never quite sure which few that might be but I knew I hadn’t run into them before. I was recently given a list so I thought you may find it helpful.

- Hbg fractionation & quantification; electrophoresis (eg, A2, S, C, &/or F)
- Molecular diagnostics; interpretation & report
- Protein; electrophoretic fractionation & quantification
- Protein electrophoretic fractionation and quantitation, other fluids w/ concentration
- Western Blot w/ interpretation & report, blood or other body fluid
- Western Blot w/ interpretation & report, blood or other body fluid, immunological probe for band ID, each
- Blood smear, peripheral, interpretation by physician with written report
- Bone marrow smear interpretation
- Fibrinolysins or coagulopathy screen, interpretation and report
- Coagulation/fibrinolysis assay, whole blood (eg, viscoelastic clot assessment), including use of any pharmacologic additive including interpretation & written report, per day.
- Platelet aggregation (in vitro), each agent
- Blood bank physician services; difficult cross match &/or evaluation of irregular antibody, interpretation & report
- Blood bank physician services; investigation of transfusion reaction including suspicion of transmissible disease, interpretation and written report
- Blood bank physician services; authorization for deviation from standard blood bank procedures (eg, use of outdated blood, transfusion of Fh incompatible units), w/ written report
- Fluorescent noninfectious agent antibody; screen, each antibody
- Fluorescent noninfectious agent antibody; titer, each antibody
- Immunoelectrophoresis; serum
- Immunonelectrophoresis, other fluids with concentration
- Immunoelectrophoresis; crossed (2-dimensional assay)
- Immunofixation electrophoresis; serum
- Immunofixation electrophoresis; other fluids with concentration
- Dark Field examination, any source; includes specimen collection
- Smear, primary source w/ interpretation; special stain for inclusion bodies or parasites

To find out-patient and in-patient pathology professional fees you can call Peggy Slagle at 9-7283. Professional fees are not given at a research discount. If estimating for laboratory pro-fees it is approximately 30% of the full technical fee. For budgeting purposes other professional fees can be obtained from Jenny Martinez at 9-6068.

When budgeting in-patient labs or these particular out-patient labs remember to include the professional fee so as not to be under budgeted.

Setting up Grant Accounts accurately is extremely important. Grant accounts must be set up on “S” accounts rather than “C” accounts. If you are unclear about how to go about doing this call the CRC and we will show you. 9-8555