

## **CERTIFICATE AND POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING IN CANCER RESEARCH**

The Certificate and Post-Doctoral Training in Cancer Research brings together SDSU and UCSD faculty and mentors to guide the training program and the trainees. The purpose of the program is three-fold:

- Convene faculty from SDSU and UCSD who are involved in providing instruction related to health disparities (not necessarily cancer disparities) and explore the development of an organized plan for providing this instruction to our various constituencies. The goal is to possibly develop an integrated disparities curriculum that could be a model of inter-program cooperation and mutual benefit.
- Develop an Advanced Certificate in Cancer Disparities that will provide specialized training in cancer disparities research for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Develop course offerings related to cancer disparities.
  - Cancer Biology for Non-Physicians (Spring 2010)
  - Cancer Disparities (Fall 2010; More information is forthcoming)
- Recruit post-doctoral fellows and place them in labs with highly productive mentors for two years of research training. The goal will be to train individuals to be independent scientists able to conduct their own research related to cancer disparities.

### **The Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee**

**The Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MAC) is the postdoctoral training program oversight board** of the Comprehensive Partnership and is comprised of the Program Directors and SDSU and UCSD faculty and mentors. The MAC oversees all aspects of the program, which includes reviewing applications of postdoctoral fellow applications and making recommendations for final selection, assessing the progress of postdoctoral fellows, and evaluating the overall progress of the postdoctoral training program.

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Tracy Downs, M.D.  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
Departments of Surgery and Urology, UCSD

Hillary Klonoff-Cohen, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, UCSD

Joni Mayer, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Graduate School of Public Health, SDSU

### **Health Disparities Curriculum Review Committee**

The **Health Disparities Curriculum Review Committee (HDCRC) is the curriculum evaluation and development task force** of the Comprehensive Partnership and is comprised of SDSU and UCSD faculty and mentors. The HDCRC assesses how health disparities are taught at both SDSU and UCSD, ensures appropriate breadth and depth in the area of health disparities (with an emphasis on cancer), and ultimately, makes recommendations to those individuals who have responsibility for curriculum development. Local Advisory Committee (LAC) and Community Liaison Subcommittee (CLS) members as well as SDSU and UCSD faculty who are responsible for teaching health disparities at the undergraduate and graduate levels are also invited to participate in HDCRC meetings.

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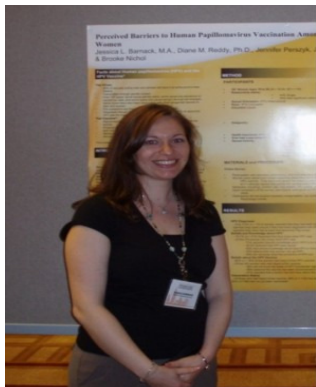
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### U54 Postdoctoral Fellows



**Jessica Barnack-Talavaris, Ph.D.**  
[jbarnack@projects.sdsu.edu](mailto:jbarnack@projects.sdsu.edu)

Dr. Barnack earned her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology, with a major in Health/Social Psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Her research interests include reproductive and sexual health issues, the role of gender and ethnicity in health behaviors and outcomes, coping with chronic disease, and attitudes toward health behaviors and illness. At the Comprehensive Partnership, she is currently working on research related to HPV and cervical cancer, and issues related to consumer advertising of products such as tobacco, prescription medication, and weight-loss. Dr. Barnack is also involved in some of the community outreach activities of the Partnership.



**Kate Murray, Ph.D.**  
[kmurray@projects.sdsu.edu](mailto:kmurray@projects.sdsu.edu)

Dr. Murray earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Arizona State University. Her interests include the development, implementation and evaluation of culturally appropriate health programs for marginalized and underserved populations. In particular, she is interested in enhancing programs for recent migrants who face cultural, linguistic, financial and other barriers to quality health services. At the Comprehensive Partnership, Dr. Murray is involved in projects related to barriers to healthcare, issues of acculturation, enhancing advocacy efforts for underserved populations, and outreach activities to increase access to cancer prevention screening and to raise awareness of cancer concerns within underserved communities.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES:** Contact Hazel R. Atuel, Ph.D., Program Director, at [hatuel@projects.sdsu.edu](mailto:hatuel@projects.sdsu.edu).