

Community research inventory

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Julian Agyeman

Project 1

Title: 'Vacant Lot Reclamation and Transformation: Improving Social and Environmental Conditions in Boston's Environmental Justice Communities'.

Principal Investigator: Julian Agyeman

Co-Investigators: Kara Fitzpatrick, Abby Yenco, Monica Magari

Funding Source: The Anonymous Foundation, commissioned by The Sustainable Neighborhoods Group (Jorge Martinez, Project Right; Bette Toney, Roxbury Master Planning & Tommy's Rock Neigh. Assoc; David Bryant, Trustees of Reservations; Sherri Brokopp, Urban Ecology Institute; David Queeley, Trust for Public Land; Gene Benson, Alternatives for Community and Environment; Andria Post-Ergin, Department of Neighborhood Development City of Boston). Value \$27,500. October 2006-May 2007.

Project 2

Title: 'Feasibility Study for a 'Sustainable Community Planning Institute'

Principal Investigator: Julian Agyeman

Co- Investigator: Sarah James (planning consultant), Caroline Campbell

Funding Source: Tufts Institute for the Environment. Value \$19,500. May 2007.

Publications

Agyeman, J (2005) *'Sustainable Communities and the Challenge of Environmental Justice'* (NYU Press)

Agyeman, J and Ross, H (forthcoming) *'Building power in Minority Neighborhoods: Boston University Medical Center's Bio-safety Level Four laboratory'* in S Ostrander and K Portney (eds) *Acting Civically*. University Press of New England

Agyeman, J, Newhall-Smith, K and Ringelheim, J (2006) *'Mainstreaming Diversity: From Paradigm to Practice? Research into Urban Audiences and Environmental Education'*. Lincoln, MA. Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Linh Phan

Project 1

Title: A Comparison of Knowledge about Asthma Between Asians and Non-Asians at Two Pediatric Clinics."

Investigators: Angela C. Lee, Doug Brugge, *Linh Phan*, and Mark Woodin.

Description: To comparatively assess asthma knowledge for Asian and non-Asian populations, 333 parents and children were surveyed at two geographically close urban clinics that had a large percentage of Asian patients, most of whom were Chinese. A single focus group of Cantonese-speaking parents of asthmatic children suggested that a combination of cultural factors and lack of knowledge contribute to lower knowledge scores in this Asian population. Asthma education programs need to be developed, tailored to recent Asian immigrants and tested for efficacy.

Project 2

Title: "Built environment and health-related crimes: A retrospective study in Boston Chinatown."

Principal Investigator: Linh Phan

Co-Investigators: Doug Brugge, Nina Fefferman.

Description: To examine the effects of the built environment on health-related crime reports from the years 1988 to 2004 in an urban Chinatown. Boston Police Department (BPD) crime records were obtained and analyzed. Crimes were divided into three major categories: 1) violent crime, 2) property crime, and 3) drugs and prostitution. Crime data included type of crime, date and reporting area, a BPD geographic locator. Analysis using Geographic Information Systems was applied to visualize the distribution of crime. Temporal analysis assessed changes in crime subtypes by year. We developed a model, which assigned values to features of the built environment relative to their expected tendency to attract or repel crime.

Results: The temporal pattern for drug and prostitution crimes was distinct from the pattern for violent and property crimes. This is likely due to police activities on drug and prostitution crime reports, as compared to the relatively robust nature of reporting for violent and property crimes. Our model was moderately predictive, suggesting the built environment does play a role in the distribution of crime across time and space and that our presumptions of which elements had more or less effect on crime were partially correct.

Conclusions: The area zoned for adult entertainment appeared to be the major source of crime. Despite relatively substantial declines in the intensity of adult businesses over the study period, we saw only small reductions in property crime and no reduction in violent crime, suggesting that deeply entrenched crime patterns are not easily reversed.

Katherine L Tucker

Project 1

Title: Nutrition, stress and bone in older Puerto Ricans. NIH R01 AG027087 2007-10

Principal Investigator: Katherine L Tucker

Co-Investigator: Bess Dawson-Hughes, Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa, John Griffith,
Marian T Hannan (Harvard)

Community Partner: La Alianza Hispana

Description: The major goals of this project are to characterize bone mineral density in Puerto Rican adults and to assess the relationship with social and environmental stress and nutritional status.

Project 2

Title: Center for research on nutrition and health among older Puerto Ricans in Massachusetts. NIH P01 AG023394 2003-08

Principal Investigator: Katherine L Tucker

Co-Investigators: Jose Ordovas, Chao Lai, John Griffith, Luis Falcon (Northeastern)

Collaborators: Raymond Hyatt, Doug Brugge

Community Partner: La Alianza Hispana

Description: The major goal is to determine effects of stress and nutrition on chronic conditions in Puerto Rican adults

Project 3

Title: Micronutrients, stroke and cognition in aging. NIH R01 AG21790 2002-07

Principal Investigator: Marshal Folstein

Co-Investigators: Katherine L Tucker, Irwin Rosenberg, Tammy Scott, Wendy Qiu, John Griffith

Collaborators: Daniel Weiner

Community Partner: Boston Home Care

Description: The major goal is to examine associations between nutrient deficiency and cognitive decline in homebound elders.

Project 4

Title: USDA Delta Nutrition Intervention

Description: Research Initiative in the tri-state Mississippi Delta region to understand how nutrition may be increasing risk of chronic disease in those areas and how to design interventions. These studies involve many community partners.

Website: Puerto Rican Center on Population Health and Health Disparities
<http://cphhd.hnrc.tufts.edu/>

Publications

1. Merete C, Falcon LM, Tucker KL. Vitamin B6 is associated with Depression in Massachusetts elders. J Am Coll Nutr (in press).
2. Buell J, Arsenault L, Scott T, Qiu W, Rosenberg I, Folstein M, Tucker KL. Multivitamin use and B vitamin status in a homebound elderly population. J Nutr Health Aging
3. Qiu WQ, Mwamburi DM, Folstein S, Goldin-Perschbacher MR, Buell J, Collins L, Leins D, Liu TC, Hibberd P, Rosenbeg I, Scott TM, Siegel RD, Summergrad P, Yee J, Tucker KL, Folstein M. Premorbid Intelligence is Related to Precursors of Diabetes in the Homebound Elderly. Psychosomatic Med
4. Gao X, Nelson ME, Tucker KL. Television viewing is associated with prevalence of metabolic syndrome in Hispanic elders Diabetes Care 2007;30:694–700.
5. Seaverson EL, Buell J, Fleming DJ, Bermudez O, Wood R, Potischman N, Chasan-Taber L, Tucker KL. Iron deficiency anemia is more prevalent in Hispanic than in non-Hispanic white older adults. J Nutr 2007;137:414-420.
6. Gao X, Martin A, Lin H, Bermudez OI, Tucker KL. Alpha-tocopherol intake and plasma status of Hispanic and non-Hispanic white elders is associated with dietary intake pattern. J Nutr 2006;136:2574-79.
7. Scott TM, Peter I, Tucker KL, Arsenault L, Bergethon P, Bhadelia R, Buell J, Collins L, Dashe JF, Griffith J, Hibberd P, Leins D, Liu T, Ordovas JM, Patz S, Price LL, Qiu WQ, Sarnak M, Selhub J, Smaldone L, Wagner C, Wang L, Weiner D, Yee J, Rosenberg I, Folstein M. The Nutrition, Aging, and Memory in Elders (NAME) study: design and methods for a study of micronutrients and cognitive function in a homebound elderly population. Int J Geriatr Psych 2006;21:519-28.
8. Qiu WQ, Price LL, Hibberd P, Buell J, Collins L, Griffith J, Leins D, Mwamburi DM, Rosenberg I, Smaldone L, Scott TM, Siegel RD, Summergrad P, Sun X, Wagner C, Wang L, Yee J, Tucker KL, Folstein M. Executive dysfunction in homebound older people with diabetes mellitus. J Am Geriatr Soc 2006;54:496-501.
9. Bermudez OI, Ribaya-Mercado JD, Talegawkar SA, Tucker KL. Hispanic and non-Hispanic white elders from Massachusetts have different patterns of carotenoid intake and plasma concentrations. J Nutr 2005;135:1496-1502.
10. Gao X, Bermudez OI, Tucker KL. Plasma C-reactive protein and homocysteine concentrations are related to frequent fruit and vegetable intake in Hispanic and non-Hispanic white elders. J Nutr 2004;134(4): 913-918.
11. Carithers T, Dubbert PM, Crook E, Davy B, Wyatt SB, Bogle ML, Taylor HA Jr, Tucker KL. Dietary assessment in African Americans: Methods used in the Jackson Heart Study. Ethn Dis 2005;15:S6-49-55.
12. Tucker KL, Maras J, Champagne C, Connell C, Goolsby S, Weber J, Zaghoul S, Carithers T, Bogle ML. A regional food-frequency questionnaire for the US Mississippi Delta. Pub Health Nutr 2005;8:87-96.

Jamie DeLemos

Title: Geochemical controls on uranium mobility to inform human health exposure assessment in the Church Rock Mining District: Navajo Nation, NM.

Principal Investigator: Jamie DeLemos
Advisors: Doug Brugge and John Durant.
Community: Navajo, New Mexico.

Funding sources: NIH Water and Health fellowship, TIE graduate student fellowship, Switzer, Graduate School of Arts, Science and Engineering, Tufts Summer Scholars (to hire Navajo Student).

Description: The Church Rock Chapter in the Eastern Agency of the Navajo Nation in New Mexico is disproportionately burdened by 33 documented abandoned mine sites. Extraction and processing of uranium ore left contaminated wastes exposed to the environment, impacting sediment, soil, and water. In 2005, I began my doctoral research collaboration with the University of New Mexico and the Eastern Navajo Health Board as a Diné Network for Environmental Health (DiNEH) project team member. This community-based participatory research effort aims to reduce uranium exposures resulting from ingestion of drinking unregulated water, and identify the relative risks for chronic kidney disease in the Navajo population resulting from additional uranium exposures such as soil and sediment ingestion, historical mining or milling occupation, and residential proximity to uranium mine waste. To address these issues, I organized and led a field campaign in the summer of 2006 to meet with collaborators, attend community meetings, and collect water, sediment, and vegetation samples for analyses. These data were collected to characterize both the spatial distribution of uranium contamination and the geochemical controls on mobilization and transport of uranium from waste sites. Incorporation of the field and experimental data with self-reported exposures from an IRB approved health survey will be used to form the exposure assessment of a multi-level risk model being developed to identify the relationship between kidney disease and uranium exposure. These data will be integrated with geographic information systems (GIS) as a risk communication strategy to report back to the community. The spatial and geochemical investigation, exposure assessment, and risk communication will form the three interdisciplinary components of my doctoral dissertation with the ultimate goal of informing policy and public health intervention.

Publications

deLemos, J.L, Rock., T, Brugge, D., Slagowski, N.L. and Johnnye Lewis. Lessons from the Navajo: assistance with environmental data collection ensures cultural humility & data relevance. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research Education, and Action*. Accepted

Susan Ostrander

Title: "Immigrant City Then and Now." Oral histories, photographs, and artifacts from two generations of immigrants to the city in Somerville

Principal Investigator: Susan Ostrander

Co-Investigators: Deborah Pacini-Hernandez, Jennifer Burtner

Community group: Welcome Project

Funding Source: No funding was sought for the Tufts component. The Welcome project has received a \$10,000 grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities. Additional funding is being sought to support the work of the Welcome Project and the Somerville Museum.

Description: The voice of immigrants are captured through oral histories, photographs, and artifacts from two generations of immigrants to the city from different racial-ethnic groups in Somerville. Organized around focused oral history interviews with two generations of immigrants to the city: an older second generation (largely Italian, Greek, some Irish) and a newer first generation (Brazilian, El Salvadoran, Haitian, Vietnamese, etc.) The gathered resources will be presented at an exhibit in the Somerville Museum in October 2007. We are especially interested in issue of work, school, and community. The long term aim of the project is to bring together these two generations for a series of conversations about similar and different immigrant experiences and to strengthen community in the city of Somerville. The exhibit will be an occasion for community dialogue aimed at easing tensions between these two groups. Research aims for Tufts faculty include an exploration of issues of immigration in relation to barriers and facilitators to social mobility (human, social, and cultural capital), and immigrant socialization to and participation in community civic and political engagement.

David M. Gute

Title: Assessing and Controlling Occupational Health Risks to Immigrant Populations in Somerville, MA

Principal Investigator: David M. Gute

Co-Investigators: Ray Hyatt, Anne Marie Desmaris, Mark Woodin

Community Partners: Immigrant Service Providers Group (Alex Pirie), Brazilian Womens Group (Moinica Chianelli), Community Action Agency of Somerville (Ismael Vasquez), Haitian Coalition (Franklin Dalembert), Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (Marcy Goldstein-Gelb) and Cambridge Health Alliance (Dr. Rose Goldman)

Funding Source: National Institute of Health, a 4 year three part program

Project Aims: 1. Create and implement an annual on-going needs Assessment that will characterize and track changes in the understanding of occupational risks and job related work practices among immigrant populations residing in Somerville. 2. Establish a peer-based sustainable community capability for gathering and disseminating information on work and health among these immigrant populations. 3. Create a community-based organizational structure, a cooperative, to address work related risks to immigrant workers in Somerville. The initial focus of the cooperative will be to address the needs of women housecleaners.

Doug Brugge

Project 1

Title: The Healthy Public Housing Initiative

HPHI Partners: Boston Housing Authority and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC); the Committee for Boston Public Housing (CBPH), the West Broadway Tenant Task Force and the Franklin Hill Tenant Task Force; Boston's three schools of public health at Boston University, Harvard University, and Tufts University; and Peregrine Energy and Urban Habitat Initiatives.

Funding Source: The Healthy Public Housing Initiative was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (grant # MALHH0077-00), as well as grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Boston Foundation, and the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust.

Description: HPHI has been followed by a grant to the City of Boston that funds development and implementation of a new integrated pest management program in public housing.

Project 2

Title: Chinatown Public health research

Community partners: Chinese Progressive Association, the Chinatown Resident Association, the Josiah Quincy Elementary School.

Description: Chinatown public health research consists of a series of projects, mostly run by students and mostly not funded. In the last few years asthma has been a significant focus of this work, but we have also conducted studies on crime in the community and on obesity. An outgrowth of the student projects has been an asthma education program that T-NEMC and the Josiah Quincy Elementary School were funded to develop. An offshoot of the Chinatown asthma work has been a CBPR survey of asthma in Dorchester with the Boston Urban Asthma Coalition. This Blue Cross/Blue Shield funded program has an evaluation component that I head up. We are also developing an NIH proposal to study asthma in the Chinese immigrant population in more detail.

Project 3

Title: The Navajo Uranium Miner Project

Description: Recently published our full book on the subject. In addition, several papers have emerged either from unfunded efforts, contract work on an NIH funded ethics project and from a graduate student thesis. Currently, we have a proposal in to the National Library of Medicine to begin work on a new book that would document the early years of uranium mining in two Navajo communities.

Publications:

deLemos JL, Rock. T, Brugge D, Slagowski NL, Lewis J. Lessons from the Navajo: assistance with environmental data collection ensures cultural humility & data relevance. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research Education, and Action* (accepted).

Brugge D, deLemos JL, Bui C. The Sequoyah Fuels Incident and the Church Rock spill: Unheralded nuclear releases in Native American communities. *American Journal of Public Health* (in press).

Lee AC, Brugge D, Phan L, Woodin M. A comparison of knowledge about asthma between Asians and Non-Asians at two pediatric clinics. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* (on line in advance of print publication).

Brugge D, Lee AC, Woodin M, Rioux C. Native and foreign born as predictors of pediatric asthma in an Asian immigrant population: A cross sectional survey. *Environmental Health: A Global Access Science Source*, 2007, 6:13 (2 May 2007).

Panikkar B, Brugge D. The Ethical issues in uranium mining research in the Navajo Nation. *Accountability in Research* 2007, 14:121-153.

Brugge D, Welker-Hood K, Kosheleva A, Saddler S. Association and correlation of self-reported home environmental factors and health symptoms. *Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health*. 2006, 61:33-41.

Freemam ER, Brugge D, Bennett-Bradley WM, Levy JI, Rivera Carrasco E. Challenges of Conducting Community-Based Participatory Research in Boston's Neighborhoods to Reduce Disparities in Asthma. *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* 2006, 83:1013-1021.

Brugge D, Panikkar B, Snell J, Welker-Hood K. Lessons from Developing Methods to Study the Relationship of Energy and Water Savings to Housing Conditions and Resident Health. *Local Environment* 2006, 11:701-717.

Levy JI, Brugge D, Peters JL, Clougherty JE, Saddler S. A community-based participatory research study of the efficacy of multifaceted in-home environmental interventions for pediatric asthmatics in public housing. *Social Science & Medicine* 2006; 63:2191-2203.

Brugge D, Missaghian M. Protecting the Navajo People through tribal regulation of research. *Science and Engineering Ethics* 2006; 12:491-507.

Greenfield RO, Lee AC, Tang R, Brugge D. Screening for asthma in Cantonese-speaking immigrant children. *BMC Public Health* 2005; 5:48.
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/5/48>

Brugge D, Kole A, Lu W, Must, A. Susceptibility of elderly Asian immigrants to persuasion with respect to participation in research. *Journal of Immigrant Health*. 2005; 7:93-101.

Bennett A, Depina M, Hickson B, White M, Brugge D, Salas FL, Zotter J, Osgood N-D. To breath or not to breath: A preliminary report on asthma and the environment in Dorchester. Boston Urban Asthma Coalition, Dorchester, MA, 2006.

Chen C, Brugge D, Leung A, Finkelman A, Lu W, Rand W. Preferred Language and Asthma among Asian Americans. *aapi nexus: Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Policy, Practice & Community*. 2005; 3:31-43.

Brugge D, Benally T, Yazzie-Lewis E eds. The Navajo People and uranium. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM, 2006.

Brugge D, Hynes P Eds. Community research in environmental health: Lessons in science, advocacy and ethics. Ashgate Publishing Ltd., UK 2005.

Lowe L, Brugge D. Grassroots Organizing in Boston Chinatown: A comparison with CDC-style organizing. Ostrander and Portney eds. *New Scholarship on Civic Engagement*. University Press of New England (Accepted).

Rusty Russel

Project 1

Title: Survey and Analysis of Racial Diversity in Community Development Organizations

Description: Survey and analysis of racial diversity in community development organizations

Project 2

Title: Race and Income as Drivers of Regional Transit Service Disparities

Community partner: Alternatives for the Community and the Environment

Description: Analysis and report on racial and income disparities in Boston area transit service to serve as template to measure future progress

Project 3

Title: Poverty and Child Neglect: Exclusive Punishment for the Poor?

Community partner: Casey family services

Description: Analysis of data and research on the relationship between race, class and gender, and families whose children are placed into foster care – including philosophical and legal views on whether state policies target children and their parents based on socio-economic status

Project 4

Title: Demographic Study of Housing and Income in Chinatown

Community partner: Chinese Progressive Association

Description: Analyzing housing and population data to get a clearer picture of demographic trends and gentrification in the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston

Project 5

Title: Is Chapter 40R the Right Route for Ipswich?

Community partner: Town of Ipswich

Description: Smart growth planning in the center of town via two new state statutes -- Chapters 40R and 40S

Project 6

Title: Multi-Municipal Efforts to Restore the Urban Waterfront – Case Studies of the Best Practices

Community partner:

Description: Identifying successful ways to restore the lower Mystic River waterfront -- particularly approaches that connect smart planning to politics

Project 7

Title: Peabody Street – South River Pocket Park: Connecting Place, History, Culture and Community Needs

Community partner: Salem Sound

Description: Turning a small brownfield area near a low-income, riverfront neighborhood into a pocket park

Project 8

Title: Green Line Extension: Stations in a Neighborhood Context

Community partner:

Description: For the proposed Green Line MBTA extension into Somerville and Medford, an analysis on how to successfully integrate transit stations into neighborhoods, including a case study with best practice recommendations

Project 9

Title: Feeding Somerville's Vibrant Cultures

Community partner: Somerville CDC

Description: Assessing the need for a place-based economic development strategy focusing on equitable redistribution of food resources that is capable of promoting economic growth in the low- and moderate-income communities of East Somerville

Project 10

Title: Conserving Freshwater and Coastal Resources in a Changing Climate

Community partner:

Description: Internal manual of best practices to anticipate and plan for the environmental changes caused by global warming

Odillia Bermudez

Project 1

Title: Acceptability of home delivered meals to Boston elders

Partners: Chinese Golden Age Association and other collaborators

Description: the study participants included Chinese, African Americans, Hispanics, and Non-Hispanic Whites, the intervention focused on Chinese elders. (2003 - 2007 , ENDED APRIL 2007)

Project 2

Title: Strategies to modify allostatic load in Hispanic elders (2003 - 2008)

Partners: Hispanic Community Organization, Casa Hispana

May Chin

Title: Asthma Prevention & Management Initiative,

Partners: A collaborative program between the Josiah Quincy Elementary and Upper Schools and Tufts-NEMC.

Funding Source: It is a 3 year grant funded by BCBSMA Foundation through their "Closing the Gap" initiative.

Description: To decrease disparities in underserved populations.

Bart Laws

Project 1

Topic: An intervention study to improve antiretroviral adherence.

Partners: Bart Laws, Ira B. Wilson (NEMC, The Health Institute), Ylisabeth Bradshaw (Public Health and Family Medicine)

Funding Source: Seed funding came from the Tufts Faculty research development fund (I forget the exact name of it) and we are now operating on an R21 grant from NIDA

Description: I have developed a system for coding and analyzing physician-patient communication called the Generalized Medical Interaction Analysis System (GMIAS). We implemented the system in connection with an intervention study Ira led to improve antiretroviral adherence. The GMIAS is an innovative approach to understanding communication based on Speech Act Theory. As part of the project, we developed software to facilitate the coding process, called Interview Analyzer.

Project 2

Topic: Communication with health care providers among English speaking, Spanish speaking and Cantonese speaking clients

Partners: Doug Brugge, Tim Edgar of Emerson College

Description: Analysis of people who speak English, Spanish and Cantonese in communication with their health care providers. In addition to participating in the analysis, I am translating the Spanish material into English.

Project 3

Title: Study of the food environment in ethnically contrasting neighborhoods

Partners: Odilia Bermudez and Bart Laws

Description: Developed a concept paper for a study of the food environment in ethnically contrasting neighborhoods, which would observe the availability and marketing of low-nutrition, calorie dense snack foods in local small stores. Whether this will turn into a full-scale proposal or get funding remains to be seen.

Project 4

Topic: an intervention to improve coordination and integration of care for Spanish speaking people who are diagnosed with mental disorders, HIV, and/or substance abuse disorders

Partners: Doug Brugge and Bart Laws, with the help of other department faculty

Description: Developed a proposal for an exploratory/developmental project to pilot an intervention to improve coordination and integration of care for Spanish speaking people

who are diagnosed with mental disorders, HIV, and/or substance abuse disorders. While a fully developed version of the proposal exists, we are currently reconsidering some of the concepts and research aims.

Project 5

Partners: Doug, Tim and I with the Forsythe Institute

Description: There is the possibility of a future collaboration, which does dental research, but at this point we don't know quite what they have in mind. We're scheduled to meet with them on July 17, so keep a placeholder for that.

Paula M Minihan

Title: Family Matters: Using Bright Futures to Promote Health and Wellness for Children with Disabilities

Principal Investigator: Paula M Minihan, ,

Co-Investigator: Aviva Must,

Community: Family Voices: Barbara Popper and Betsy Anderson

Mentor Parents: Alison card (VT), Beth Dwortezky (MA), Rose Kardasian and Lauren Agoratus (NJ), Phyllis Landry-Ratcliffe (LA), Amy Lightbody (WA)

Funders: National Center on Birth Defects and Development Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Tufts SNA-contract & \$425,056. Dates: 2003- 2004

Description: *Family Voices*, a nationwide parent-run organization representing the interests of families of children with special health care needs, and Tufts University – using a participatory action research strategy – are conducting a controlled non-clinical intervention study to determine if mentor peer support helps such families meet their health goals for their children. Mentor peer support is defined as support, encouragement, and information from a parent who also has a child with a special health care need and is an experienced peer supporter. The study is one of the first efforts designed specifically to help families of children with special health care needs find ways to encourage their children to have healthier lifestyles – it is focused on areas of healthy eating, physical activity, and reducing children’s screen time or sedentary behavior. Participating families select the health goals they wish to work on from the national Bright Futures health recommendations for children. The study is being implemented in five states – Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, and Washington and involves families who are economically, ethnically and linguistically diverse. We have also conducted a national online survey as well as interviews with parents & Louisiana about the impact of the 2005 Hurricane.

James Jennings

Project 1

Title: "Study of Foreclosure Patterns in the Arlington Neighborhood of Lawrence, Massachusetts"

Partners: This was a collaborative project between the Arlington Community Trabajando CDC, based in the Arlington Neighborhood, and James Jennings at Tufts University.

Description: The project involved the exploration of foreclosure patterns and development of GIS presentations for analysis on the part of a team that included Jennings, and community participants. Based on this report, a coalition of grassroots organizations petitioned the Lawrence City Council to designate the Arlington Neighborhood as a 'Foreclosure Watch Zone'. Tufts graduate students in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (Yvette Villa and Amy Kuykendall) assisted in collecting information about similar efforts across the nation. This was an unfunded project and conducted on a pro bono basis.

Publication: Based on this project, James Jennings and Ana Luna published an op ed appearing in the Boston Herald. The op ed is titled, "The Real Home Wreakers" Dec. 30, 2006

Project 2

Topic: Identifying poverty as a continuing and major challenge for the city of Boston

Partner: Coalition of grassroots organization, and Boston City Council

Funding Source: unfunded

Description: James Jennings worked with a coalition of grassroots organizations in Boston to encourage the Boston City Council to adopt a resolution identifying poverty as a continuing and major challenge for the city. The Boston City Council agreed to hold hearings on the problem of poverty in Boston. This is an unfunded initiative; Jennings is involved on a pro bono basis. There have not been any publications arising from this effort, but Jennings has produced a number of maps illustrating characteristics of poverty in Boston. These were shared with members of the Lawrence City Council. If funding could be found, this group would like to compose a report on poverty based on the latest census data and projections.

Paul Kirshen

Project 1

Title: Impacts of Climate Change on Sea Level Rise in Northeastern USA,

Partners: Many at UMass Boston, for Union of Concerned Scientists

Funding Source: Not funded,
on going.

Project 2

Title: Guidance Tools for Planning and Management of Urban Drainage Systems under a Changing Climate,

Partners: NOAA, (Principal Investigator, 2007-2009, with University of Colorado). Starting in Fall 2007 with Somerville and Aurora CO.

Funding: \$300,000

Project 3

Title: Keeping Water Local- Cost Benefit Analysis of Water Resource Planning, Application of W.E.A.P. for Holistic Water Resources Management in Massachusetts: A Pilot Study in the Town of Sharon, Riverways Program of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game.

Partners: Stockholm Environment Institute-US Center, with MA Dept. of Fish and Game and Town of Sharon

Funding: Tufts share is \$25,000, total value is \$100,000

Project 4

Title: Improved Science and Decision Support for Managing Watershed Nutrient Loads for US Environmental Protection Agency, (Co-Principal Investigator, 2003-2007)

Partners: worked with towns in upper Mystic River.

Funding: approximately \$750,000, with others at Tufts and Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Publications:

Note: All publications arising from community-university partnerships in the last 3 years that are either in print or in press.

Kirshen, P., Watson, C., Douglas, E., Gontz, A., Lee, J., and Tian, Y., Coastal Flooding in the Northeastern USA under High and Low GHG Emission Scenarios, /submitted/ to special issue of Mitigation and Adaptation

Strategies for Global Change, 2006.

Knee, K., Kirshen, P.H., Vogel, R., Ruth, M., Adaptation to Sea Level Rise in Metro Boston, /submitted to/ Climatic Change, 2006.

Kirshen, P., Ruth, M., and Anderson, W., Interdependencies of Urban Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies: A Case Study of Metropolitan Boston USA, accepted by Climatic Change, 2007

Heberger, M., Oriel, K., Kirshen, P., and Durant, J., Regression Models for Forecasting Beach Closures in Urban Rivers and Lakes, accepted by Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management, 2006

Ruth, M., Donaghy, K., and Kirshen, P.H., (eds.) /_Climate Change and Variability: Local Impacts and Responses,_ Edward Elgar Publishers, Cheltenham, England, 2006./ / /

Kirshen, P., Donaghy, K., and Ruth, M., Conclusion: Assessing Impacts and Responses, Chapter 8 of Ruth, M., Donaghy, K., and Kirshen, P.H., (eds.) /_Climate Change and Variability: Local Impacts and Responses,_ Edward Elgar Publishers, Cheltenham, England, 2006./ /

Kirshen, P., Ruth, M., and Anderson, W., Climate's Long-term Impacts on Urban Infrastructures and Services: The Case of Metro Boston, Chapter 7 of Ruth, M., Donaghy, K., and Kirshen, P.H., (eds.) /_Climate Change and Variability: Local Impacts and Responses,_ Edward Elgar Publishers, Cheltenham, England, 2006./ /

Ruth, M., Amato, A., and Kirshen, P., Potential Impacts on Heat Related Mortality of Changing Temperatures in Urban Areas: Methodology and Application to Metropolitan Boston, in _Smart Growth and Climate Change: Regional Development, Infrastructure and Adaptation_, M. Ruth (editor), Edward Elgar, 2006.

Kirshen, P., Ruth, M., and Anderson, W., Integrated Impacts of and Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change in Metropolitan Areas; A Case Study of the Boston Metropolitan Area, in _Urban Dimensions of Environmental Change: Science, Exposures, Policies, and Technologies,_ H. Feng, L. Yu, and W. Solecki (editors), Science Press USA Inc, New Jersey, 2005.

Kirshen, P., Ruth, M., and Anderson, W., Responding to Climate Change in Metropolitan Boston: The Role of Adaptation, New England Journal of Public Policy, Spring/Summer 2005. //

Amato, A., Ruth, M., Kirshen, P., and Horwtiz, J., Regional Energy

Demand Responses to Climate Change: Methodology and Application to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, *Climatic Change*, 71(175-201), 2005.

Dale Bryan

Title: Environmental Justice Across the Mystic: Bridging Agendas in a Watershed

Partners: Julian Agyeman and Dale Bryan,

Publication: In *Community Research in Environmental Health*," Doug Brugge and H. Patricia Hynes, eds., Ashgate, 2005.

Chris Economos

Title: Shape Up Somerville: Eat Smart. Play Hard.™

SUS Partners: Mayor Joseph Curtatone and the City of Somerville; the Somerville Board of Aldermen; the Somerville School Committee; the Somerville Public Schools Administration and School Food Service Department; the elementary school principals; 1st-3rd grade and physical education teachers; the Health Department School Nurses; the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development; the City's after-school programs; community organizations including Groundwork Somerville, the Immigrant Service Providers Group, MAPS and the Cambridge Health Alliance; pediatric clinicians; Shape Up Approved restaurants; and Somerville's 1st-3rd graders and their parents.

Funding Source: Shape Up Somerville was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and also received support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Dole, Stonyfield Farm, U.S. Potato Board, and Whole Foods Market.

Description: Shape Up Somerville: Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ was a 3-year (2002-2005), community-based environmental change intervention to prevent obesity in culturally diverse, high-risk, early elementary school children reduced weight gain over one school year.

Publications:

Economos CD, Hyatt RR, Goldberg JP, Must A, Naumova EN, Collins JJ, Nelson ME. "A Community Intervention Reduces BMI z-Score in Children: Shape Up Somerville First Year Results." *Obesity*. (May) 2007;15(5).

Folta SP, Goldberg J, Economos C, Bell R, Meltzer R. Food Advertising Targeted at School-Age Children: A Content Analysis. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. July-Aug 2006; 38:244-24.

Folta SC, Goldberg JP, Economos C, Bell R, Landers S, Hyatt R. Assessing the Use of School Public Address (PA) Systems to Deliver Nutrition Messages to Children: *Shape Up Somerville – Audio Adventures*. *J Sch Health*. 2006 Nov;76(9):459-64; quiz 482-4.

Folta SC, Bell R, Economos C, Landers, S and Goldberg JP. Psychosocial factors associated with young elementary school children's intention to consume legumes: a test of the Theory of Reasoned Action. *Am J Health Promot* 21(1):13-15, 2006.

Andrea Talis and Betty Yao

Title: Cancer Concerns in the Chinese community in Boston

Principal Investigator: Andrea Talis

Advisors: Doug Brugge and other members at the Steering Committee

Community: Chinese community in Boston

Funding sources:

Description: The study is learn about what the community thinks are the biggest problems related to cancer in the Chinese American Community in Boston. Our goal is to use the information to determine what cancer services would best support the community and which cancer services Tufts-NEMC should provide. We are interested in community members' personal opinions and experience with cancer, either personal or through friends or family members, and how members think they would deal with cancer if diagnosed. We will ask community members to participate in focus groups and filling out questionnaire to identify the most prevalent concerns related to specific cancers, their identification and treatment, in Chinatown and other local Asian communities closely associated with Tufts-NEMC. We would like to identify the barriers to medical care surrounds Tufts-NEMC. We also would like to explore and address reasons for the low enrollment of Asian cancer patients in cancer clinical trials. This community-based participatory research effort aims to develop interventions including community education materials, language appropriate materials, patient navigators and other interventions to increase cancer screening and early detection. We want to insure the materials developed are targeting literacy levels and language preferences of target populations and developed interventions to increase enrollment in clinical research and cancer clinical trial. To address these issues, a steering committee is formed to guide the development of a questionnaire and focus group questions that will be approved by the IRB. The survey will be conducted in public places to ensure a random collection of sample. The data collected from the questionnaire and focus groups will be compared to summaries of the cancer control data to guide in identifying priorities for intervention, barriers to prevention, diagnosis and treatment and key cancers in the community. This data will be presented in a report to the Cancer Center Leadership and will inform future program and potential grant submission.