UC San Diego SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | Center for Community Health

About Us

UC San Diego School of Medicine Center for Community Health promotes health equity in the community through education, research, service and training. We achieve this goal largely through translational research, translating advances from basic science and clinical research into the community. Our Center promotes optimal health in all populations through interventions that target chronic disease and obesity prevention.

We are excited to welcome the following new members to our team!

Ramon Hernandez, DrPH, MPH - Associate Director

Elly Brown, MBA - San Diego Food System Alliance Director

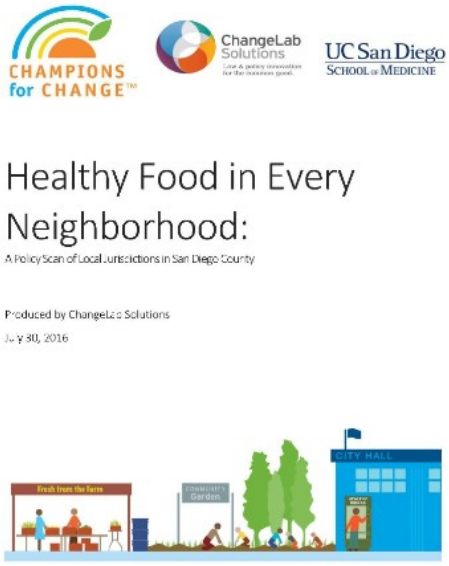
Joe Prickitt, MS, RD - Senior Director, Southern California Nutrition Incentive Program



Transforming Access to Healthy Food in National City

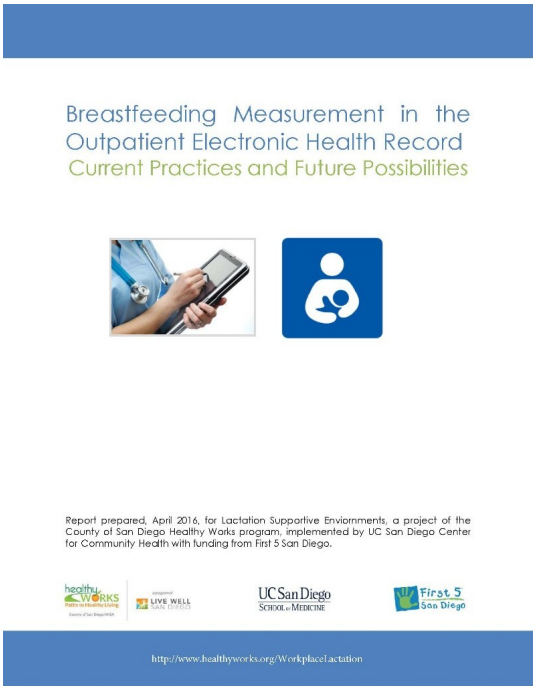
When referring to his family, Wrigley's Supermarket manager Ivan Arabo includes the entire National City community. "My grandfather, father and uncles have all been an integral part of helping Wrigley's become what it is today, but without the support of the community, Wrigley's wouldn't be here," Arabo said. This commitment to their community is the foundation for the partnership between Wrigley's and UC San Diego Center for Community Health.

Read more



Healthy Food in Every Neighborhood: A Policy Scan of Local Jurisdictions in San Diego County

Produced by ChangeLab Solutions



New Report Features Inclusion of Breastfeeding Measures in Outpatient Electronic Health Records

in partnership with the UCSD Center for Community Health, the report identifies three key policy strategies, farmers' markets, community agriculture, and healthy government procurement policies, jurisdictions can deploy to improve the environment in which people purchase food. This tool is intended to stimulate discussion about different policy options for improving healthy food access across San Diego County, especially in underserved neighborhoods.

Read more

The report - Breastfeeding Measurement in the Outpatient Electronic Health Record: Current Practices and Future Possibilities - has garnered much attention and has been recognized by the California Department of Public Health and the California WIC Association as a potentially important addition to the 9 Steps to Breastfeeding Friendly Clinics. In addition, the report may also be used to support legislation for AB-2589 Public Health: lactation services and equipment.

Read more

USDA Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grant

Working with Northgate Gonzalez Markets and other community

Beating the Odds: Honoring the Accomplishments of Eastern Kang Sim, MPH, PhD

Dr. Eastern Kang Sim recently

partners, the Center will develop, implement, and evaluate a multi-tiered intervention program that enables low-income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) consumers across San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties to make healthier choices and purchase more fruits and vegetables by providing incentives at the point of purchase.

Read more

Using a Guided Self-Help Treatment Model for Childhood Obesity Management in the Primary Care Setting

A new Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant aims to decrease rates of childhood obesity using a treatment program of 12 bi-weekly family sessions in the primary care office. This model has the potential to improve access to quality weight management services for overweight or obese children from all socioeconomic levels and geographic regions.

Read the abstract

defended his thesis and earned his PhD from the Joint Doctoral Program of Public Health in the Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University and School of Medicine, UC San Diego. Learn more about Dr. Kang Sim's unique and inspiring journey.

Read more

Welcome Aboard New Worksites!

Live Well @ Work has been busy actively recruiting and engaging new worksites across San Diego County. We would like to welcome these new sites and provide a brief introduction to their businesses and offer a sneak peek of their visions for their newly established worksite wellness programs.

Read more

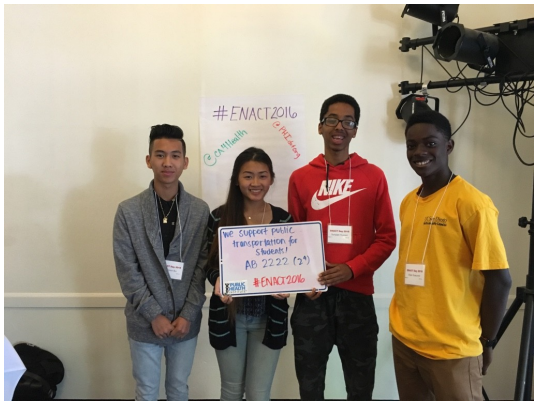
5-2-1-0 TV Spot

In partnership with Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP), UCSD launched its media

Kussy Mackenzie Featured in Champions for Change Commercial

Kussy Mackenzie, Project Manager and Evaluation Specialist, is featured alongside her son in a new Champions for Change commercial!

Watch the commercial



ENACT Day 2016

Several members of the Youth Advisory Council attended ENACT Day 2016 in Sacramento, CA. ENACT Nutrition and Physical Activity Day brought community members and advocates from all over California together in Sacramento to learn about and support state policies promoting nutrition and physical activity.

Read more

campaign to address the 5-2-1-0 initiative, an initiative of REACH Chula Vista, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Watch the commercial

Good Food at Work, School, and Play: Healthy & Sustainable Vending Forum

In an effort to make the healthy choice the easy choice, and provide people more of the foods they want, UC San Diego Center for Community Health, the County of San Diego Public Health Services, the American Heart Association, and the San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative hosted a healthy and sustainable vending forum on Thursday, June 23, 2016.

Read more

Local Breastfeeding Champion Recognized

Congratulations to Naomi Billups, Public Health Nutrition Manager for the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, who received the 2016 San Diego County Breastfeeding Coalition Breastfeeding Champion Award! The award recognizes a community leader dedicated to promoting breastfeeding. Read more

New Cookbook: *A Fresh Twist on Traditional Recipes*

The California Department of Public Health NEOP Branch recently published a new cookbook, *A Fresh Twist on Traditional Recipes*. Center for Community Health staff collaborated with Leah's Pantry to develop 30 recipes with City Heights residents for the cookbook.
Read more

Beaumont Elementary Hosts Site Visit

A site visit to Beaumont Elementary in Vista, CA by representatives from the California Department of Public Health and San Diego County Health

and Human Services showcased the success of the *Harvest of the Month in the Classroom* program and highlighted two school champions. Read more

Meet Visiting Professor, Dr. Mônica Vasconcelos

Over the course of the past year, we have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside visiting scholar Dr. Mônica Vasconcelos, Professor of Pediatrics at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil. Learn more about her research, clinical expertise, and why San Diego and California hold a special place in her heart. Read more

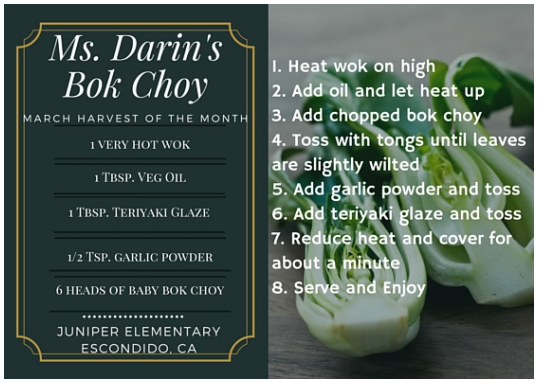
Walking (Safely) to the Good Food District

There are big plans in the works for Fresh Garden Market, a small neighborhood grocer located in the Mt. Hope neighborhood of Southeastern San Diego. Market owners Janice and Ricardo Hernandez are working with several partners, including the Center's Healthy Retail Program, to revitalize their market as a brand new healthy place to shop for local residents. Read more

Harvest of the Month Champion: Darin Brito

Juniper Elementary in Escondido, CA participated in the Harvest of the

Month in the Classroom program for the first time this year. Not only were students engaged in curriculum-based nutrition education in the classroom, but Darin, Juniper's Nutrition Site Manager, and her team made sure that learning continued in the cafeteria. Read more



UCSD to Bring Healthy Food to Needy

Low-income households from San Diego to Los Angeles will receive financial incentives to buy more fruits, vegetables and other healthy food through a UC San Diego project funded with a new federal grant. UC San Diego will receive about $3.4 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive for the multiyear Southern California Nutrition Incentive Program. Read more

Be There San Diego
Preventing Heart Attacks & Strokes

Be There San Diego

Be There San Diego works with faith-based organizations and primary care providers to improve cardiovascular health disparities in Southeastern San Diego. The project

has recently garnered media coverage.
Read more

Power Play! Impact Evaluation Article Published

The study evaluated the impact of the California Department of Public Health's *Power Play! Campaign* on daily fruit and vegetable (FV) intake and physical activity (PA) time among fourth/fifth-grade children attending low resource schools. Students participating in this 10-week campaign showed significant gains from baseline to follow-up in FV and PA time at school during recess/lunch compared with control children.
Read more

FDA Modernizes Nutrition Facts Label For Packaged Foods

The FDA recently finalized the new Nutrition Facts label for packaged foods to reflect new scientific information, including the link between diet and chronic diseases such as obesity and heart disease. The new label will make it easier for consumers to make better informed food choices. Read more

Award: Exemplary Staff Employee of the Year:

For over 16 years, Lourdes Rivera led evaluation efforts on UCSD projects addressing health disparities and improving health and education equity. On June 22, Lourdes was recognized as one of the 2015-2016 UCSD Exemplary Staff Employees of the Year. Thank you, Lourdes, for your dedication to UCSD and the community!

Award: 2016 Women of the Year:

Diane Moss, Executive Director of Project New Village, and Amina Sheik Mohamed, Director of Youth and Community Mobilization Programs at the Center for Community Health, were among 16 individuals recognized by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez for their

Award: Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action and Diversity Award:

Congratulations to Dr. Nancy Graff who received University-wide Individual Recognition at the 21st Annual Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action & Diversity Award Ceremony on March 3, 2016!

Webinar: Best Practices in Worksite Wellness:
Highlighting successful strategies around worksite wellness efforts to increase healthy food & physical activity access

Webinar: Introduction to Tray Waste Data Collection Techniques:
Featuring - Plate Waste Study: Process Protocol & Considerations

Resource: SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework Interpretive Guide:
Identifies and explains the indicators, outcome measures, and preferred methodologies for tracking the success of SNAP-Ed activities; developing state and local SNAP-Ed objectives; and reporting program evaluation results to FNS, other funders, and program stakeholders.

Conferences:
UC San Diego Public Health Research Day
UC San Diego Pediatrics Research Symposium
Pediatric Academic Societies - Baltimore, MD

Funders of the projects highlighted include but are not limited to the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), the California Department of Public Health's Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch (NEOPB), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Prevention Institute.

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