

FALL 2011

## CHORCUP Newsletter

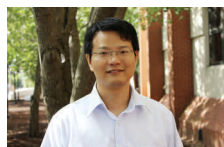
The Center on Health Outcomes Research and Capacity Building for Underserved Populations with SCI and TBI

### Student & Staff Updates!

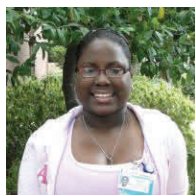


#### DRRP Graduate Student Update

Our graduate student, Jamar Booth, is currently in his second year in the Rehabilitation Counseling program at South Carolina State University. Upon graduation in May 2012, he plans to enroll in a doctoral program in Rehabilitation Counseling. During his time at MUSC, Jamar conducted research on "Occupational Interests after Spinal Cord Injury." He also worked on finding contact information for historically black colleges and universities in the south. We will use this contact information to disseminate our research findings to interested departments within the colleges and universities.



Yue Cao, PhD, MSPH



D'Andra Roper



Bernard Broughton II



Joshua Acuna, MPH



Nicole DeBarge, MS

She has 4 years of experience working in the healthcare industry, and as an administrative assistant. During this time she has helped patients at Roper Hospital with private care and worked as an administrative assistant with the United States Core of Engineers. She is a transfer student from Anderson University in Anderson, SC. Currently, she is majoring in biology, where she is enrolled in the "Two for Two" program between Trident Technical College and College of Charleston.

**Bernard Broughton II, BS,** Administrative Assistant I, holds a bachelor's degree in Public Health from Benedict College. He is currently working toward obtaining his Master of Health Services Administration degree from Strayer University. Bernard worked at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for two years doing presentations to endorse healthy lifestyles and personal choices of students at multiple universities. He also collected and reviewed data to implement programs for many communities. Bernard has worked with community health educators, disease intervention specialist, rural health program specialist and numerous healthcare professions. In the past three years, Bernard has focused on environmental emergencies and examined facilities for compliance with appropriate DHEC regulations. Currently, Bernard is working with our team obtaining data for research purposes.

**Joshua Acuna, MPH,** Program Coordinator II, holds a Master's of Public Health in Epidemiology from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He also has a Bachelor's of Art in Biology from Wake Forest University. Joshua worked at Wake Forest School of Medicine for two years and was involved in twelve projects at the time. In the past four years, he has focused on psychosocial factors associated with chronic diseases, occupational health, infectious diseases, environmental health, aging, and cognitive disorders. He has skills in data management, survey design, and data analysis. His interests are underserved populations and minority health. He moved to Charleston, SC to focus on psychosocial outcomes following SCI.

**Nicole DeBarge, MS,** is a graduate assistant for the SCI research team. She graduated from The University of Georgia in 2009 with a BSEd in Exercise Science and from The University of South Carolina in 2011, where she received her master's degree in Exercise Science. Nicole recently moved to Charleston and is currently completing her first year of coursework in the College of Health Professions PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Science Program. Nicole's research interests include examining the effects of exercise on functional and quality of life improvements in disease states in adolescents and adults.

#### New Staff Update

**Yue Cao, PhD, MSPH,** Research Associate, earned a joint degree in medical sociology and epidemiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He worked at the National SCI Statistical Center for three years and led four research projects before moving to Charleston. He has authored or co-authored 10 publications and 12 presentations. Dr. Cao's research interests focus on health disparities, psychosocial perspectives of rehabilitation among people with traumatic SCI, migration and health study, and life course study.

**D'Andra Roper,** Administrative Specialist, works on data entry, survey phone calls, and designated administrative needs.

## CHORCUP Updates!

### Checkout our SCIORG

#### website:

<http://www.musc.edu/chp/sciorg>

#### And blog:

<http://sciandtbiresearch.blogspot.com>

### DRRP 2 Study Update

We currently are in the data collection phase of DRRP *Study 2: Race-ethnicity and risk of adverse health outcomes after spinal cord injury: A multisite collaborative study*. The purpose of this study is to look at different health behaviors that you may or may not do that may lead you to or protect you from developing secondary conditions after spinal cord injury (SCI). We are collecting data from 3 different regions of the United States: Southeast (Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston SC),

Central (Craig Hospital, Denver CO) and West ( Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Downey, CA). To date ,we have received over 560 completed surveys from the combined centers.

### DRRP Study 1 Update

We currently are in the data collection phase of DRRP *Study 2: Health behaviors, access to healthcare, and health outcomes: Comparison of African-American participants with SCI and TBI with general population data from the BRFSS*.

The purpose of this study is to find out if people with SCI or TBI have access to medical and support services they need and if they receive routine medical screenings not related to their injury. The study includes African-American residents of South Carolina who have an SCI or TBI.

Interviews for study 1 have continued and 376 total interviews (187 SCI and 189 TBI) have been conducted as of September 1, 2011. We are dedicating more time to close out our data collection for this study over the next several months.

## Webcast on Racial Disparities after SCI

On July 26, 2011, Dr. Krause, principal investigator of the DRRP grants, presented our first webcast, titled, "Racial Disparities in Outcomes after Spinal Cord Injury: Twenty Years of Research." You can view the webcast presentation in full at this link: <https://tegr.it/y/4ye1>

The purpose of the webcast was to:

- Describe multiple studies we have conducted related to outcomes after SCI
- Highlight comparisons as a function of race/ethnicity
- Discuss the practical implications of these findings for underrepresented populations
- Discuss needs for future research.



CHORCUP is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR grant # H133A080064) for a five-year period (2008-2013).

Checkout the website: [www.musc.edu/chp/chorcup](http://www.musc.edu/chp/chorcup)

Email: [aust@musc.edu](mailto:aust@musc.edu)

Phone: 1-866-313-9963

## CAP Participants Enjoy the Charleston RiverDogs

On Friday July 8, 2011, our team sponsored the second of three outings to a Charleston RiverDogs baseball game for the RRTC and DRRP consumer advisory panels (CAP). Team and CAP members braved the heat to watch the high scoring baseball game, entertaining festivities between innings, and enjoy the spectacular post-game fire-

works show. The RiverDogs made it interesting in the 9th inning but came up short losing



to the Delmarva Shorebirds, 6-5. The outings continue to serve as another excellent opportunity for CAP participants and RRTC/DRRP staff and faculty to interact and socialize with each other. We very much appreciate the generosity of the RiverDogs Corporate Care Program for donating tickets for our CAP outings this year.