

Table 1.4.c.1 Collaborative Centers in the College of Public Health and Health Professions

Florida Center for Medicaid and the Uninsured (FCMU)	<p>The mission of the FCMU is to conduct research, policy analysis and education on issues related to access, quality and cost of health care for underserved populations. Critical to our mission is the timely dissemination of information to policy makers, providers and advocates. FCMU serves as a campuswide home for researchers and analysts interested in health care as it is experienced by Florida’s diverse, vulnerable and underserved populations. The center advances its mission in a number of ways. First, the center actively pursues grants and contracts from national foundations and agencies to support the work of UF health services researchers interested in underserved populations. Second, the center serves as a resource to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for the study of issues pertaining to Florida’s Medicaid program state health policy. In this regard, the center engages in a contractual arrangement with AHCA to research issues that pertain to the development of policy options for Florida Medicaid. The dissemination of data, findings and policy options to stakeholders is a key element of the center’s work. In addition to publication in major health services research journals, the center produces and distributes policy papers, issue briefs and fact sheets. The center also holds periodic meetings and forums that engage Florida’s lawmakers, their staff and other advocates in health policy debates. Critical to the expansion and sustainability of health services research is the development of younger researchers and analysts. The center is committed to serving as a research base for graduate students interested in low-income and vulnerable populations.</p>
National Rural Behavioral Health Center (NRBHC)	<p>The NRBHC was founded through the collaborative effort of the College and the UF Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), with a primary goal of supporting behavioral health scientists, educators, scholars and practitioners dedicated to improving behavioral health care for rural Americans. The center has focused on three different research and training areas: 1) innovative models of behavioral health service delivery in rural settings, 2) violence prevention, and 3) recovery from rural disaster and trauma. In the area of behavioral health service delivery, the NRBHC works with the Columbia County School District on Project CATCh, a program that links district students and their families with mental health services, some of which are provided by NRBHC graduate student and postdoctoral trainees. Center faculty also train graduate students to provide services in primary care clinics in rural communities through a training rotation in the Dixie County Public Health Department. NRBHC faculty are additionally working with faculty in the Colleges of Nursing and Education on a Community-Based Participatory Research project targeting mental health promotion and social isolation in rural immigrant Latinos. For violence prevention, the NRBHC has worked with the Columbia County School District on several grant projects aimed at reducing youth violence and the risk factors associated with violence. With regards to disaster and trauma in rural communities, center faculty developed an expanded curriculum entitled “Triumph Over Tragedy: A Community Response to Managing Post-Disaster Stress, 2nd Edition” which is targeted for Cooperative Extension, community leaders, first responders and health and mental health professionals who play an integral role in helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover following a disaster. NRBHC faculty have also trained Cooperative Extension professionals, public health personnel and teachers regarding the mental health effects of disasters, school violence and other critical events.</p>
Center for Pain Research and Behavioral Health	<p>The Center for Pain Research and Behavioral Health is dedicated to the investigation and understanding of the experience of pain in humans and to educate future scientists and health professionals consistent with the most current knowledge in the area of pain. The Center involves a collaboration of scientists from several disciplines (Clinical Psychology, Dentistry, Medicine, Neuroscience, Physical Therapy, Nursing, Computer Science and Engineering) who have pooled their resources and expertise to more fully understand the etiology, diagnosis and rehabilitation of pain conditions. Projects range from basic science investigations of pain processing in the human brain to prediction of treatment outcome in clinical trials for chronic pain. Trainees working in the lab also conduct research in several clinical settings including the Spine Center, Psychiatry Pain Center and Rheumatology.</p>
Center for Pediatric Psychology and Family Studies	<p>The focus of this center is on behavioral health and adjustment in children, youth and families. Clinical child and pediatric psychologists, psychiatrists, pediatricians and their students work collaboratively on a variety of research activities related to quality of life, adherence to medical treatments, coping with issues associated with chronic illness or injury, and the behavioral and social adjustment of children with both</p>

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internalizing and externalizing behavior disorders and their families. The Center currently supports projects evaluating treatment for children with ADHD, autism, obesity, traumatic brain injury, craniofacial anomalies, obsessive compulsive disorders and other behavioral health related problems. These interdisciplinary projects involve collaborative efforts between the UF Department of Clinical and Health Psychology, the UF Department of Psychiatry and the UF Department of Pediatrics. The Center provides a source of support for development of new research initiatives or for expansion of current projects through such mechanisms as yearly mini-grants to graduate students, provision of stipend and tuition for graduate research assistants, and funding for faculty laboratory equipment or supplies. In addition, the Center is active in supporting and organizing national conferences related to research in clinical child and pediatric psychology. For example, in 2011 the Center will co-sponsor the International Conference on Parent-Child Interaction Therapy.

Center for Statistics and Quantitative Infectious Diseases

The Center for Statistics and Quantitative Infectious Diseases is a joint program of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington, and the University of Florida. Our main interest is in quantitative methodologic developments related to scientific and public health aspects of infectious diseases, including epidemiology, evaluating interventions, immunology and vaccinology. Our research focuses on prevention and intervention in infectious diseases of global health importance, as well as emerging infectious diseases, such as pandemic influenza. The quantitative methods include statistical, epidemiologic, mathematical modeling, computational biology and bioinformatic methods. Our group is in the MIDAS network and is partially supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at NIH.

Center for the Study of Emotion and Attention

Faculty and students at the multi-disciplinary Center for Research in Emotion and Attention (CSEA) are engaged in basic and applied research in human emotion, as emotion modulates attention, perception, memory and other cognitive processes. Experiments conducted at the Center have addressed emotion's autonomic and somatic reflex physiology, its behavioral expression and evaluative-report indices. Using electroencephalography and functional magnetic resonance imaging, CSEA investigators are exploring the brain structures that mediate emotional reactivity, assessing neural circuit activation and connectivity in the context of external affective cues and memory imagery. An important applied focus of CSEA research is the study of anxiety and mood disorders, undertaken with patients from the Fear and Anxiety Disorders Clinic, a Health Center specialty clinic that is part of the Center laboratory complex. The Center provides laboratory training in psychophysiology and neural imaging research methods at the Post-Doctoral, Graduate Student and Post-Baccalaureate levels. Center affiliated Investigators include faculty from the Clinical and Health Psychology (PHHP), Psychology (CLAS) and the Departments of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering at UF. In addition to its resident faculty, the Center benefits from frequent visits of its affiliated investigators from the broader, U.S. and international research communities.

Florida Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation (FIDR) and The Florida Trauma Rehabilitation center for Returning Military Personnel (FTRC-RMP)

The Florida Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation (FIDR) unites University of Florida faculty and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) investigators to advance the science and practice of rehabilitation in minimizing or eliminating disability, while expanding education in rehabilitation and related professions. Within the FIDR is the Florida Trauma Rehabilitation Center for Returning Military Personnel (FTRC-RMP). The focus of the FTRC-RMP is to advance rehabilitation practice through research and education to meet the needs of returning military personnel from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hearing Research Center

The Hearing Research Center brings together researchers, clinicians and public health policy professionals interested in issues related to hearing and communication. The center's missions are two-fold, including the discovery of new fundamental knowledge about hearing, hearing disorders and the physical and biochemical processes that drive those disorders; and translation/application of those findings with corresponding public health outreach to effectively educate health professionals and public populations. To achieve this mission, the center draws on faculty from the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the College of Medicine and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Faculty affiliated with the Hearing Research Center are interested in understanding and ultimately reducing the influence of age-related hearing loss, noise-induced hearing loss, hearing loss induced by ototoxic drugs, and hearing loss that develops as a consequence of genetic syndromes. Strategies of interest

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include novel therapeutics that reduce the onset or progression of hearing loss and communication difficulties, improved hearing aid and cochlear implant processing strategies to ameliorate existing deficits, as well as gene therapy approaches to restore auditory function to the profoundly deaf. Center-initiated collaborations complement efforts within the College of Public Health and Health Professions targeted towards joining public health professionals with their counterparts in the health professions. Pooled resources and expertise provide an opportunity for future scientists and health professionals to receive multidisciplinary research training and clinical training with the most current knowledge in the area of hearing loss and hearing protection. The center emphasizes the importance of translational research and student training in the special challenges associated with translational research, as well as information dissemination to health professionals and the general public. The Center funds lectures by visiting scholars, student research activities, and preliminary data collection in areas of interest.

Institute for Advanced Study of Communication Processes

The Institute for Advanced Study of Communication Processes (IASCP) is an organization representing several disciplines including, Phonetic Sciences, Hearing Sciences, Linguistics, Human Factors, Engineering and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. Its membership is comprised of a large corps of on-campus investigators, as well as numerous colleagues from across the country and around the world. IASCP's many functions are:

- To encourage and foster research by providing aid to faculty attempting to obtain grants and contracts.
- To expand the scientific/scholarly thrust for both graduate and undergraduate programs in the Communication Processes.
- To provide faculty with scientific facilities not ordinarily found in typical University units and departments.
- To strengthen the relevant existing academic programs by providing these (collaborating) departments with additional research and laboratory resources.
- To stimulate scientific programs taught by its scholars/teachers.

In this regard, IASCP sponsors innovative programs that tend to bring larger numbers of students into greater contact with faculty who are established in fields related to human communication, to attract relevant scientists and scholars to the University system, and to provide service through the practical application of its research.

Institute for Mobility, Activity, and Participation

Located within the College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida, the Institute for Mobility, Activity and Participation (I-MAP) was formed in 2009 to support a substantial increase in driving-related research. The goal of I-MAP is to conduct driver safety research related to all age groups, study the use of alternative transportation options such as use of buses, and personal mobility such as getting around at home. Within I-MAP researchers will execute these activities as a means to preserve, promote and improve independent, safe and appropriate mobility for individuals and within populations. Currently, researchers at I-MAP are engaged in projects related to the driving issues of people with Parkinson's disease, traumatic brain injury/post traumatic stress disorder/depression, seizure disorders such as epilepsy, and patients who are taking different medications. We have also studied personality as a predictor (e.g. extroverts, vs. introverts) of driving performance. Researchers at I-MAP are interested in cross-disciplinary collaboration and affiliation with investigators at the University of Florida and beyond its campus borders. In addition to collaborations in the United States, I-MAP has formed partnerships with researchers in Canada, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Australia, Israel and South Africa; and its expansion is expected to grow.