2020 EGIH FACULTY SEED GRANT Awardee

Mapping the Inflammation and Epigenetics Landscape of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Indian Mothers and Their Babies

This project will recruit a Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) and control cohort in northern India to measure inflammation levels, along with other critical metabolic and disease pathways, through the salivary epigenome of mothers (at enrollment) and infants (at one year of age). The cohort will be followed for ten years to determine the long-term health effects of GDM. To identify other risk factors of GDM, the team will also collect self-reported questionnaires, including physical, demographic, socioeconomic, and psychological information.

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SURVIVE AND THRIVE: TRANSFORMING LABOR-RELATED EMERGENCY CARE IN ETHIOPIA’S HEALTH SYSTEM BY LINKING NOVEL ASSESSMENT WITH REAL-TIME DATA-TO-ACTION SOLUTIONS

The Survive-Thrive Study on emergency readiness and at-risk infant feeding will promote maternal-neonatal well-being with two arms. The Survive arm has three stages: 1) Formative Evaluation to assess labor-related emergency readiness at health facilities (obstetric & neonatal), 2) Iterative Solutions to design real-time, data-to-action solutions for improving emergency readiness and 3) Pilot Testing the synergistic emergency readiness solutions in Ethiopia’s health system and measuring the pilot outcomes. The Thrive arm will focus on formative evaluation of early nutrition feeding practices—particularly for vulnerable infants who survived birth-related emergencies or were born with low birth weight. Collectively this project will provide innovative data on how to best support infant survival and feeding among vulnerable infants.

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STOP SEPSIS NOW: DEVELOPING AND TESTING INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT NEONATAL SEPSIS IN AMHARA, ETHIOPIA

This project will develop interventions to prevent newborn sepsis, specifically: 1) co-design and test practical intervention packages customized to each facility’s WASH-sepsis profile, and 2) evaluate the feasibility and impact of these interventions on process indicators (e.g., cleaning practices, hand hygiene) and outcomes (environmental/hand contamination and neonatal sepsis morbidity and mortality). This study will lead to the development of proposals for NIH, bilateral aid agencies, and NGOs to design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based interventions at scale to reduce newborn sepsis.

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TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: ESTABLISHING A NURSING REGULATORY COUNCIL IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia struggles to provide universal health coverage (UHC) for its population. The largest cadre of health workers is the Health Extension Worker, accounting for 47% of the workforce, followed by nurses, approximately 30%. Physicians comprise <5% (1). For nurses to be able to realize their role in achieving UHC, they must not only be adequate in number, but adequately trained and regulated according to global standards. While the Nursing Association of Ethiopia attempts to provide guidance on nursing practice, Ethiopia lacks a legal nursing regulatory council. Emory has worked in partnership with the Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK) and nurse leaders from Addis Ababa University. Since Emory has a long history of working in both countries, this project will use a South-to-South approach, where Emory will facilitate the development of a plan to advance nursing regulation in Ethiopia through collaboration and sharing of knowledge, experience, materials, and documents between the NCK and a group of nurse leaders in Ethiopia.

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2020 EIGHI Faculty Seed Grant Awardee

Chronic Cough Across Races: Understanding and Comparing Chronic Cough Symptoms Due to Air Pollution Among Chinese and Indian Immigrants and the American Population Living in Atlanta, Georgia.

This project will assess individual's exposure to environmental hazards through a series of multiple-choice questions, including demographic information (social determinants of health), housing details (household pollution), behavior and activity pattern (ambient pollution). Based on the new collaboration through this grant, medical doctors will diagnose patients and provide them with treatments, while environmental scientists measure patients' exposure to health hazards in their environment.

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COLLABORATIVE ADVANCED TRAUMA CARE: EXPANSION AND EVALUATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN TRAUMA CARE IN PAKISTAN

This project will implement a three-part expansion of the Collaborative Advanced Trauma Care (CATC) program with the objective of streamlining and lessening overall burden of trauma morbidity and mortality in the Pakistan, through expansion and evaluation of the CATC course implemented throughout 5 hospitals in the Indus Health Network (IHN), a large free-of-cost hospital system that reaches all areas of the country. Additionally, the project will establish a regional trauma referral network and trauma registry, and develop a smartphone-based application to improve out-of-hospital trauma care as well as hand-off procedures within the referral network.

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EXPOSURE TO SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION IN VIETNAMESE COLLEGE MEN

This study supplements a parent randomized controlled trial (RCT) testing the impact of a web-based educational entertainment program to prevent sexual violence among college men in Vietnam. 793 men attending two universities in Hanoi completed a baseline survey in September 2019. The team will administer at 6 and 12 months post-baseline a new module on men’s online (and offline) exposure to sexually explicit material in the prior 6 months, a new module on child maltreatment to capture important confounders, and modules from the parent study on cognitive/attitudinal/affective mediators and sexual violence perpetration. Findings will inform adaptations of the web-based SV-prevention program to include a learning module on SEM for college men in Vietnam and globally.

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2020 EGHU FACULTY SEED GRANT Awardee

WORKING TOWARDS AN ETHIOPIA-EMORY COLLABORATION ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (WE CARE)

WE CARE will develop an antimicrobial stewardship toolkit for Ethiopian hospitals to assess current practices and implement locally relevant strategies with an overall goal to decrease inappropriate antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance. This project will utilize an expert multidisciplinary team including new collaborators to the Ethiopia-Emory partnership and a mixed methods study design to achieve study objectives.

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