Participatory Action Research:
Researchers and Community Partners
Working Together for Real-World Success

WED. 30 MARCH 2016 / 12:00 PM / UCONN STORRS, STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

12:00-12:30 Lunch
12:30-12:45 Welcome, opening remarks
12:45-1:15 Keynote Presentation:

- Speaker: Suzanne Cashman, ScD (30 Minutes)

The Dance of Participatory Action Research: What are the steps? Do I lead, follow, or just try to stay in time?

Dr. Cashman will briefly trace the development of Participatory Action Research, highlight the continuum of participatory approaches to conducting research, and review key issues, opportunities, and challenges with this approach.

1:15-2:15 Moderated Panel: Community-Based Participatory Research

In this interactive session, panelists share their experiences with CBPR in the areas of obesity prevention, healthy eating, active living, and workplace health.

- Kim Gans, UConn Storrs
- Neta Taylor, Greater Providence YMCA
- Julius Preston, CT Department of Corrections, CT State Employees Assn.
- Alicia Dugan, UConn Health
- Virginia Chomitz, Tufts University

2:15-2:30 Mini break, networking
2:30-3:15 Topic-Based Round Tables
3:15-3:30 Mini break, networking
3:30-4:20 CPH-NEW Research-to-Practice Forum: Pilot grant presentations

- Katrina Burch: Reducing commuting stress and work-related rumination
- Jennifer Garza: Informing interventions to protect/promote the health of custodians

4:20-4:30 Closing remarks, evaluation, adjourn

Speaker information on page two
SPEAKERS

Suzanne Cashman:
Dr. Cashman is a Professor and Director of Community Health in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Cashman has spent 35 years teaching graduate public and community health courses, developing curricula for medical and public health students and residents, and conducting community-based evaluation research.

Kim Gans:
Dr. Gans is Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Connecticut and Adjunct Professor at Brown University. Her research focuses on interventions in community-based settings with diverse populations to improve eating habits, increase physical activity, and prevent/control obesity.

Neta Taylor:
Ms. Taylor is Vice President of Healthy Living at the YMCA of Greater Providence. She has been involved with the YMCA movement for more than 20 years in three different countries. She has worked on several research projects with academic partners related to health promotion and disease prevention.

Julius Preston:
Julius Preston is President of the CT State Employees Association Correctional Supervisors Council and a Captain with the CT Department of Corrections. He initiated a PAR study with CPH-NEW to improve correctional supervisors' health and safety. He is a member of the intervention design team, and strong advocate of participatory research.

Alicia Dugan:
Dr. Dugan is an industrial-organizational psychologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the UConn Health. She is interested in lifestyle factors that influence health and the contextual variables that affect lifestyle. Her goal is to use research to develop, implement, and disseminate effective interventions for behavioral change.

Virginia Chomitz:
Dr. Chomitz is Assistant Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University. She studies community-based participatory research on obesity prevention, healthy eating, and active living promotion.

Katrina Burch, MA:
Ms. Burch is a PhD Candidate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at the University of Connecticut Storrs. Katrina’s research interests are in commuting as a boundary between the work and home domains, as well as workplace safety climate and safety behaviors.

Jennifer Garza, ScD:
Dr. Garza is an Ergonomist at the University of Connecticut Health, Farmington, CT. Her research interests are in the health protection and promotion of custodians.