Hey Community Engagers,

We have a new Community Engagement Program Manager! Montelle Taméz will join us on December 1, 2010. With more than 10 years’ experience in the public health sector, and applying strong expertise in program planning and implementation, grants management and community-based health education and promotion, Montelle will be a welcome addition to the Community Engagement and Research core of the CCTSI. Prior to joining the CCTSI, Montelle was the grants manager for the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Pulmonary Disease (CCPD) Competitive Grants Program and the Tobacco Education, Prevention and Cessation (TEPC) Grant Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), where she directed all pre-award aspects of the multi-million dollar grant programs and supported the legislatively-mandated Review Committees. Montelle also oversaw the provision of technical assistance and training to more than 70 grant recipients, establishing protocols for assessing needs and delivering outcomes-based strategies. Throughout her time at CDPHE, Montelle engaged in a diverse array of cross-functional, statewide activities designed to develop linkages between the Amendment 35 grant programs and other chronic disease initiatives, surveillance, and evaluation initiatives. Prior to her position at CDPHE, Montelle was employed by the American Cancer Society, managing community-based cancer control and health initiative programs. She represented the American Cancer Society as a scientific partner on the Latino/a Cancer Prevention Network and numerous coalitions and task forces. Throughout her educational and professional career, Montelle has been an active participant in efforts to address health disparities, particularly in the Latino/a Community. Montelle was raised in Colorado Springs and attended Colorado State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, with a focus in Journalism and Speech Communications and a certificate in Latino Studies. Montelle plans to pursue a Masters of Public Health from the University of Colorado’s School of Public Health.

PACT Council member Marc Ringel will attend the Clinical Research Ethics (CRE) Key Function Committee (KFC) 2010 Annual Meeting in Chicago on Nov 4-5, being hosted by Northwestern University and the University of Chicago CTSA programs. You may recall that Marc is the Community Engagement PACT liaison to our CCTSI Ethics core, and he will represent CCTSI Community Engagement at this meeting. In addition to sessions on consulting services, biobanks, IRB quality assessment and collaborative research projects, this meeting is a chance to join in discussions of the future of the CTSA ethics programs. Chicago is Marc’s home town, so he is tacking on a few personal days to enjoy “home.”

Preview of November 9th PACT Council meeting:

- Andy will be with us -- at least for part of the meeting.
- Sara Miller is pulling together a nice gift featuring your many thoughts and sentiments to be presented to Andy. Thank you all!
• Committee reports are now to be in written format in order to better use your committee report time to field questions and develop solutions via the PACT Council for each committee.
• Marc Ringel is coordinating with CCTSI Ethics to present an overview of that core and discuss potential collaboration
• Watch for Council meeting agenda and written PACT Committee reports to be sent on Nov 3

Focus on PACT Communities - **LUCHAR**
Latinos Using Cardio Health Actions to Reduce Risk (LUCHAR) is a community group that aims to improve the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in Hispanics. LUCHAR uses a comprehensive research program aimed at increasing awareness of CVD risk in the Hispanic community and increasing participation of high-risk Hispanics in the health care system, developing more effective models of care delivery for high-risk patients in a health system, and identifying markers that will more effectively identify Hispanic patients at high risk of CVD than current approaches based on traditional risk factors. This year, trainees in the Colorado Immersion Training Program are working closely with the LUCHAR staff and community partners. Following the training program, students present an overview of their research interests and specific project ideas to a ten-member community advisory board (CAB), convened especially to serve as reviewers. The CAB listens to trainee research ideas, considers implications and opportunities research offers to their community, and considers the feasibility of conducting proposed research among Latinos in Denver.

Have a good weekend!
Jack Westfall