**NE1439 Annual Meeting - June 5-7, 2016**

**Aqua Blue Hotel and Conference Center**

**1 Beach Street, Narragansett RI, Phone: 401-783-6767 -** [**http://www.v-inn.com/**](http://www.v-inn.com/)

**Participants:**

Sarah Francis (ISU); David Buys (MSU); Judith Gilbride (NYU); William Rice, Prema Ganganna, Elgloria Harrison and Lillie Monroe-Lord (UDC); Nancy Cohen and Qianzhi Jiang (UMass); Chery Smith – (UMN); Matthew Delmonico, Ingrid Lofgren and Furong Xu (URI); Melissa Ventura-Marra (WVU).

2013-2016 Officers – Ingrid, chair; Sarah, chair-elect; Melissa, secretary; and Kathleen, member-at-large.

**Monday, June 6th**

8:00 am

* Breakfast and meeting started with Ingrid giving overview of agenda for the next few days.

8:25 a.m.

* Ingrid reviewed minutes from 2015 meeting; copies available on Sakai site. Judith moved to approve minutes, Sarah seconded the motion. Everyone in agreement.
* *Sakai site*. Discussed use of Sakai site. Items available under “modules”. Ingrid explained that you need to be on “view” to download a module.
* *Yearly reports*. Ingrid reminded everyone that the individual sites need to report to the group on the provided template. The template is limited in characters. She asked each site to be sure to stay within character count so she and Sarah do not have to decide what content is most important.
* *Quarterly group meetings*. Chery suggested having calls between meetings; discussion was made to re-introduce calls at least one per semester for the whole group and as needed for those working on individual projects as needed.

9:00 am

* Dr. Mallory Koenings provided USDA update (via Skype); many voiced that Dr. Koenings presentation was very helpful and informative. Discussed ways older adult population may fit under priority areas for USDA funding (i.e. function/efficacy of nutrients, perhaps CVD focus since many in the group work on some level in this area). Gave update us on implementation on NIFA from Farm Bill; 2016 RFAs that have been published may be of interest to our multistate; 2016 EPSCOR states-many of us qualify; ways to communicate our research (i.e. blogs), Centers of Excellence projects, and REEport also discussed. Note: Important to address 4 points of justification, if want it reviewed as Center of Excellence must state it in the application. Dissemination and increasing awareness all participating institutions have to be able to achieve reach. Take findings to stimulate economic community they work with. We could also apply for equipment grants; standard funds; foundational grants (research grants and don’t have to be fully integrated with teaching, research, extension). NIFA Funding Acknowledgement updated last year. Discussed USDA new communication efforts.
* Our group discussed how outcomes are communicated within universities and to USDA. Sarah will draft a template we can use to write own piece. Communication efforts needed to increase visibility and show accomplishments of multistate.

10:00 am

* Annual station report: Judith, Chery (paper accepted to SNEB on data she presented on last year), Bill Rice: Objective 2; experiment 2 – churches, congregate meal sites, hope to finish interviews by January 2017, planning focus groups to find trends/misperceptions on barriers/data analysis of surveys soon. Qianzhi Jiang (UMass) presented on 2 projects. Currently working with Iowa and Rhode Island on survey. UCD: Urban food concept/hub; URI.

11:30 am

* Rick Rhodes – Associate Director of RIAES presented. Gave a historical perspective and future need for collaboration and the consolidation of outcomes. See research activity guideline book.
* Mission becomes the challenge: to enable research on high priority topic beyond scope of single agricultural station in a more efficient/comprehensive way. Solving complex problems; problems that one institution couldn’t solve alone.
* The descriptions under objectives don’t need to be in the detail in which we have them. We need to demonstrate interdependence in our universities. How to achieve interdependence and synergy among institutions? How do we together tackle complex issue? (i.e. how can poverty and obesity coexist? food desserts in urban areas; how to take care of those most in need)
* What is one important product or outcome or impact of our work? What is the clear impact of what we are doing, and can we describe it in terms people can take hold of? Need to clearly demonstrate an outcome.
* Create impact to director – i.e. this is what we have done, what has been accomplished; what we are doing and how its making a difference; how we are making progress on the problem). Can we say we are making progress and where are we making progress? Who are the stakeholders we serve and funding agency providing us with support? This is how we are functionally changing the health trajectory of older adults.
* Suggested letting directors at institutions know there is a gap in funding as they may not know. Many may not be aware. He was not aware that despite middle-aged older adults being in need, that funding limited to childhood obesity priority area. They are the advocates; they tell convey this; they should be advocating for inclusion of the population. Directors should act on our behalf.

12:30 pm

* Lunch buffet

1:30 pm

* Research Presentation: URI RESTORE-ME; Sam Slezak – URI

2:30 pm

* Update from Sabine O’Hara – UCD; discussed with her our collaborative efforts over past year and upcoming collaborations. Says her role make sure we are connecting and treating like a multistate collaborative project rather than individual projects.
  + Nancy discussed the UMass project she completed and current phase of that project with multiple states; just submitted UMass, WV, NY, ISU; now collecting on nutrition perceptions in older adults, UMass, ISU, URI.
  + URI, ISU and NH - accepted manuscript in JAGGs, really liked sample size and multistate, - larger sample size than each state individually could produce.
  + Ingrid – R01, program officers supported R21 for development piece sarcopenia program.
* Sabine: Integration of overall wellness, not just nutrition or activity; consider intersection between rural/urban; what is larger intersection between nutrition and wellness; what would be two themes?

3:00

* Sarah gave her report. SNAP education pushing for physical activity; working with congregate meal sites so they can focus the topic on nutrition. Working to reframe to focus on nutrition for other organizations to have the same message reinforced in multiple areas (i.e. extension, congregate site).

3:00 – 4 pm

* Need to have directors advocate for increased funding; draft email template to send to director: listening sessions, congressional representation, NERA pathway. Create press release template; get stakeholders to advocate.
* Other funding mechanisms with different levels of support

4:00 pm

* Guest speaker - Kali Thomas (Brown University)
* More than a Meal Project

5:00 – 6:30 Free time/talk with Kali Thomas

6:30 pm – Dinner

* The Coast Guard House (401-789-0700 – Vicki Hines – [vicky@thecoastguardhouse.com](mailto:vicky@thecoastguardhouse.com) ) (confirmed)

**Tuesday, June 7th**

8:00 am

* NE1439 Business Meeting/Executive Meeting
  + Discussed Sarah taking over as Chair, chair responsibilities. Send announcements out more often; aim for 1 phone call a semester; get annual report and minutes in; get minutes and annual reports loaded for September; get agenda done for next year’s meeting to get it approved.
  + Request to have Malory speak again; perhaps in-person if next year’s meeting is in DC.
  + Need to vote for board positions – 3 year

8:30 am

* David Buys – MSU; Research Presentation
  + Nutrition, Aging and Health Services Utilization in a Socioecological Framework

10:00 am

* Melissa Ventura-Marra – WVU; Reducing Diet-related Health Disparities; Research Presentation

12-1:00 pm

* Buffet lunch

1:00 pm

* *Election of officers for 2016-2019.* Sarah was Chair-elect, thus will be Chair; Melissa Ventura-Marra (WVU) – chair-elect; Furong Xu (URI) – secretary; Kathleen (NYU) to continue as member at large (should she agree). Decision was made to ask Kathleen to continue as member-at-large one additional year; make secretary a 2 year rather than 3-year term, keeping chair and chair-elect as 3 year terms. Judy moved to elect, Chery seconded the motion. Everyone agreed.
* *IAGG 2017 Symposium Application.* David suggested we submit a proposal for a group symposium to 21st International Association Gerontology and Geriatrics World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG2017). Presentation would be July 2017 but application is due July 2016. David to put in symposium – featuring land grants and multistate collaboration; 2-5 abstracts are needed as part of symposium; he will coordinate the application. Discussion of who would contribute. Those considering: URI, MSU, UMass, UDC, ISU, WVU. David needs the abstracts by July 10th for submission.

1:30 p.m.

* *Common core questions/variables.* Decision made to use BRFSS for most demographic questions. For age suggestion made to use as first choice – what is your birthdate; then what is your age. Others suggestion “In what year were you born?”. Physical activity (YPass used by URI). Health-related quality of life from CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/hrqol/hrqol14_measure.htm>). Other variables: work status, members of household. Melissa suggested Life’s Simple 7 because it includes diet, physical activity and smoking etc. It could also give us a way to assess cardiovascular health across our populations. Sarah and Ingrid will get draft out of core multistate questions with larger question set to use as interested. They will get this out for the first 1st conference call. Nancy suggested they take a look at the health indicators as well (http://www.healthindicators.gov/Indicators/).
* *Next year’s meeting*: Suggested dates: June 11-13th (first choice) and 4-6 (second choice). Need conference rate for 3 nights. Sites: 1st choice DC; other options: Charlotte, Minneapolis. Chery, Sarah, Prema will check on prices at respective locations.
* *Annual Research Award.* Davis suggested an annual research award. He will work to come-up with a name. The person will give the keynote for that year’s meeting. Will need nomination/application form. This could be put into press release.
* *Conference call:* For first conference call: email press release, list of questions, application for award.
* *NIH R21 grant submission.* Sarcopenia grant discussion; MSU, RI, ISU, (Sarah at ISU will take lead). Want to develop a video – used for physical activity to reduce risk of sarcopenia but increasing or even maintaining muscle mass; community-based sarcopenia program; existing programs wouldn’t be feasible in community; need an intensity sufficient to produce results; R21 RFA Institute of Aging, could be implemented through extension or senior centers, etc.; how to include environmental piece; messaging with Nancy and Prema help decide how to address environmental issues. What factors influence lean body mass; Year 1 development; Year 2 evaluation in different settings. Discussion of NIH proposal to be submitted by ISU, MSU, URI with Sarah taking lead. Other potential institutions interested in collaboration: UMN, UMass, UDC, WVU.

2:30 pm

* Adjourn