

TReND Responds to the Challenges of Defining & Measuring Tobacco's Role in Health Disparities

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Making the Difference in Tobacco-Related Health
Disparities Science: TReND Progress, Process, and
Opportunities for Future Investment

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An Equal Opportunity
University



*Discovery consists of seeing
what everybody has seen and
thinking what nobody has
thought*...Albert Sznet-Gyorgi

It Took a Village.....

- Transdisciplinary Approach to Science
- Questioning the Previous Landscape
- Targeted and Focused Research on Priority Populations

Conceptual Issues Addressed by the Network

- Defining Tobacco-Related Health Disparities
- The Importance of “Within” Group Differences
- Constructs and Labels
- The Addiction Cycle for Priority Populations
- The Mythology of Race
- **Hard to Reach** or *Failure to connect?*

Statistical Issues Addressed by the Network

- Outdated Methods and Measures for 21st Century Science
- Confounding variables & TRHD
- The Intersection of “Race”, Education and SES
- Valid and Reliable Measures
- Measuring Income and Wealth

TReND Network Making A Difference

- Established critical need for qualitative & quantitative research
- Importance of consistency and consensus when measuring and reporting data
- Considerable heterogeneity within groups
- Communities as research collaborators

Inheriting the TReND Legacy

- Foundation for New Discovery
- Reducing the Gap Further
- Charge to the Next Generation of Scholars in THDR

Parting Thoughts

- Tobacco health disparities research in the 21st century should not be reflective of a rear view mirror approach..that is looking backward to find answers. In order to close the existing gap we need to frame our research questions based on the foundation of scholarship that exists and move forward..

• Linda A. Alexander, 2010

References and “*Must Reads*”

- American Journal of Preventive Medicine *Tobacco Policy and Its Unintended Consequences Among Low-Income Women*, (Guest Eds), Moore R., McLellan, D., Tauras, J., Fagan, P. Volume 37, Number 2, (Supplement), August 2009
- Nicotine & Tobacco Research *Special Issue on Light and Intermittent Smoking*, (Guest Eds.) Fagan, P. Rigotti, N. Volume 6 Supplement 1, February 2009
- Addiction *Conceptual and Methodological Issues for Research on Tobacco-Related Health Disparities*, (Guest Eds) Flaherty, B., Alexander L., Clayton R. Volume 102 Supplement 2, October 2007

TRHD Research & The Future

- *“There are two possible outcomes: if the result confirms the hypothesis, then you’ve made a measurement. If the result is contrary to the hypothesis, then you’ve made a discovery.”...Enrico Fermi*

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