The Society for Prevention Research was formed to: (a) advocate, support, and promote diversity initiatives within SPR on behalf of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and (b) encourage the conduct of prevention research and the design of culturally-relevant interventions that address the various needs of racially and ethnically diverse populations. As part of this mission, the DNC is committed to creating and enhancing networking opportunities for members of SPR, to facilitate the conduct of high quality prevention science with racially and ethnically diverse populations. In addition, the DNC supports research and interventions that are attentive to a broad range of diversity issues. SPR’s commitment and support of diversity issues, as now implemented by the DNC, underscores the importance of diversity in the forms of gender, ethnicity, training, research content and foci, career level, and occupational type, as this diversity enhances the development and conduct of research, service delivery, and social policies that advance prevention science.

The foundation for the DNC was the Diversity Network Reception that was initiated in 2006 by Felipe Gonzalez Castro, chair of the 2006 Annual Meeting. The Diversity Network Reception, now in its 8th year, has become a highlight of the annual meeting. In 2009, the SPR Board of Directors recommended to the membership of the Society that the bylaws of the organization be revised to include the DNC as a standing committee. The membership approved the bylaw revisions in May 2009. The DNC is a standing committee of SPR, and the chair is an ex-officio member of the SPR Board of Directors. The DNC Steering Committee is comprised of volunteers who develop and oversee DNC programming and activities, as well as coordinate membership, training, and communications. A member of the DNC Steering Committee chairs the Minority Travel Award Committee which reviews and selects awardees of the annual Minority Travel Awards. The Annual SPR Fundraising Dance, started in 2002, helps to support the travel awards. Membership in the DNC is open to anyone interested in the DNC’s mission. If you are interested in joining the DNC, e-mail the chair Phillip Graham at dncinfo@preventionresearch.org.

Current objectives for the DNC are:

- To develop methods for recruiting and retaining members representing racial and ethnic diversity, and interested in research with diverse populations
- To provide a forum for discussion of diversity issues and research, and to support and encourage research on diversity issues; with diverse populations, and for reducing disparities
- To identify best practices for adapting empirically-based prevention programs to be appropriate for settings that are diverse in resources, priorities, and concerns

As the DNC membership grows, we will tailor our activities to best represent the interests and goals of that membership, and the larger SPR membership. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for activities and programming to highlight diversity issues at dncinfo@preventionresearch.org.

The DNC Steering Committee
Crystal Barksdale, Rhonda Boyd, Felipe Gonzales Castro, David Cordova, Elvira Elek, Phillip Graham (chair), Jennifer Kam, Sharon Lambert, Leslie Reeves, Caryn Rodgers, Paula Smith

Diversity Network Committee Meeting Events

Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm
(2-023) DIVERSITY NETWORK COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM, Seacliff B

HIV PREVENTION AMONG GAY MEN OF COLOR

Chair: Phillip W. Graham, PhD, RTI International
Discussant: David Cordova, PhD, University of Michigan
Presenters: George Ayala, PhD, The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), Keletso Makofane, PhD, The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), Glenn-Milo Santos PhD, University of California, San Francisco and Department of Public Health, San Francisco, Sonya Arreola, PhD, RTI International (See page 46.)

Understanding HIV Service Barriers and Facilitators among Men who have Sex Worldwide Utilizing Community-Based Survey Methods, George Ayala

Predictors of Survey Drop-out in a Global Survey of Diverse MSM, Keletso Makofane

Syndemic Conditions Associated with Increased HIV Risk in Global Sample of MSM, Glenn-Milo Santos

Structural, Community and Individual Factors Related to Sexual Happiness: Sexual Health among a Global Community of MSM, Sonya Arreola
Diversity Network Committee and DNC Meeting Events

Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 7:45 pm - 8:45 pm

(2-053) DIVERSITY NETWORK RECEPTION, Grand Ballroom B

Chair: Phillip Graham

Come and share in an evening of fellowship and networking opportunities for SPR’s diverse membership. This includes opportunities to become more involved in SPR’s Diversity Network Committee, as well as opportunities to identify others interested in conducting prevention science research with populations diverse with respect to race, ethnicity and culture, both within the US and across international communities.