



DOLE CENTER
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

THE

SCHIEFELBUSCH

INSTITUTE FOR

LIFE SPAN STUDIES

at the University of Kansas

Annual Report 2002-2003

Research-based solutions for the challenges of human and community development, disabilities and aging

The Life Span Institute

at a Glance

Who:

Investigators, research and administrative staff, graduate, and post-doctoral students

The LSI brings together 130 scientists who are affiliated with twenty-two academic departments to study human development from its genetic origins through the final stages of life. These investigators are supported by 350 research and administrative staff members, including 85 graduate research assistants.

The Institute has two affiliated multidisciplinary graduate/doctoral programs, the Child Language Doctoral Program and the Gerontology Graduate and Doctoral programs, as well as several post-doctoral training programs.

What:

Research, training, technical assistance, direct services, and leadership

The Life Span Institute's 12 centers have more than 120 programs and projects active at any one time that constitute basic and applied research, training, direct services, consultation, and technical assistance.

Research informs everything that the Institute does and ranges from groundbreaking studies in cellular and molecular biology of the early stages of development to designing schoolwide models to improve classroom behavior and learning.

Last year, more than 72,000 people benefited from the Life Span Institute's technical assistance, training, and service activities, including 22,900 professionals and paraprofessionals.

When:

History

When the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies was established in 1990, it had a distinguished heritage of 67 years as the Kansas Bureau of Child Research, 35 of those years under Richard L. Schiefelbusch for whom the Institute is named. When the Gerontology Center, among others, joined the Bureau to form the Institute in 1990, Kansas became home to one of the premier research institutes on human and community development, disabilities, and aging in the world.

Where:

Administrative and Research Locations

The Institute's central office is in the Robert J. Dole Human Development Center at the University of Kansas in Lawrence with components at the John T. Stewart Children's Center and Malott Hall, in Kansas City at the Juniper Gardens Children's Project and the University of Kansas Medical Center's Ralph L. Smith Research Center, and at the Life Span Institute in Parsons.

Much of the work of the Institute is accomplished in and directly benefits underserved Kansas City neighborhoods and rural Kansas counties. Several projects are statewide, and are increasingly multi-state, national, or international in scope.

How:

Funding

The Life Span Institute attracts more combined federal, state, and private dollars than any other designated research center at the University of Kansas, drawing \$19.5 million in sponsored project support in 2003. Each state dollar brings in nearly seven external dollars.

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Life Span Studies

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Welcome

I'm pleased to invite you to review the 2002–2003 annual report of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies.

The notion of merit is central to the success and impact of any great research institute. At the Life Span Institute, we are interested in only those ideas, techniques, discoveries, and approaches that have great merit. If something doesn't work, if it doesn't matter, if it is not replicable in the real world, it must be modified or discarded. And if something does work, if it has value, then we want to prove this by rigorous methods that will stand the test of time. This is an endless process that requires all of the highest human attributes—critical thinking, creativity, persistence, patience, passion, and much more.

We are increasingly aided in this pursuit by new tools and technologies. In this annual report, we have provided a few poignant examples of technologies that among other things probe the human brain, detect subtle cues of language impairments, measure the energy used by the human body, spread research-based knowledge throughout the world, and more.

The mission of the Life Span Institute—to find research-based solutions for the challenges of human and community development, disabilities, and aging—remains our anthem. We pursue this in partnership with our stakeholders—the students, faculty, and staff of the university, funding agencies and contributors, the citizens of Kansas, and countless colleagues throughout the world. This report cannot do justice to this effort. But it can give the reader a sense of our collective purpose and tireless efforts.

Steven F. Warren, Director
Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies

The Centers

Intellectual disabilities, the aging brain, how we learn to talk and think, the independence of individuals with physical disabilities in society—these are among the big themes that drive the work of the affiliated Centers of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies.

Each Center draws together a distinct group of researchers from diverse fields and backgrounds with a common interest in investigating specific problems of human development, disabilities, and aging. Together the Centers represent a broad range of approaches to human problems from preconception to the end of life.

While scientific innovation requires specialization, it also increasingly demands collaboration. The Life Span Institute provides the infrastructure that supports this through project development and management; administrative and technical support; research design and measurement; data storage and analysis, and dissemination.

Center descriptions begin on page 8.

Room for *Discovery*

Fat Fighters

The U.S. surgeon general calls American's swelling rates of obesity more dangerous than weapons of mass destruction. Low and high fat diet gurus vie for public and professional credibility. Meanwhile Americans in record numbers and at younger ages suffer and die from obesity-related diseases. But at KU, a group of scientists led by Professor Joseph E. Donnelly, director of the LSI's Center for Physical Activity and Weight Management, quietly succeed in helping people—including Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway—lose weight and keep it off based on years of research. A key component of the Center's success is the Energy Balance Lab's whole-room indirect calorimeter that measures energy expenditure precisely under various experimental conditions. It is one of only six such facilities in the country.



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Doug Koch / KU University Relations

Airlock food? Subjects get their food through an airlock in the whole-room indirect calorimeter, a small, comfortable room where they live for 24 hours while the energy expenditure of everything they do is recorded.



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Professor John Colombo adjusts the headband of the eye tracker. The magnetic tracker has four motion sensors that work with an infrared beam that reflects light from the surface of the cornea to a camera interfaced with a computer. The eyetracker software then plots and analyzes when, how long, and exactly where the child gazes at the image on the monitor.

Tracking down development

Professor John Colombo searches for clues in the brain development of infants and young children that might predict later problems by developing measures of attention and learning for infants and toddlers.

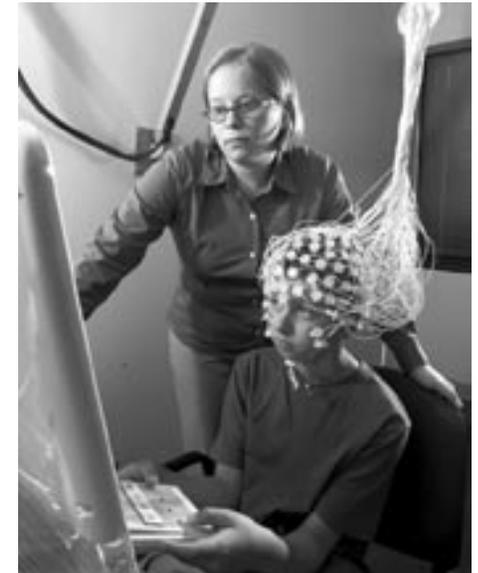
Among the tools he uses is an eyetracking technology, which allows him to more precisely “see” through the eyes of his young research participants. One of the

projects in Professor Colombo’s laboratory, conducted by graduate student Christa Anderson, uses the eyetracker to compare the gaze patterns of children with autism, children with developmental speech delays, and typically developing children to various images. The aim is to determine whether the eye movement patterns of children with autism might provide a means for early diagnosis of the disorder.

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Hearing out language disorders

The Biobehavioral Neurosciences in Communications Disorders Center became the Life Span Institute’s twelfth affiliated research center in November 2002 with the award of a five-year \$1.7 million grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Distinguished Professor Mabel Rice, an internationally renowned scholar in the area of child language acquisition and disorders, directs the new center.



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Stacy Betz, child language doctoral student, uses the EEG/ERP to document the pattern of electrical charges of a child’s brain when he hears a spoken sentence.

Lending more than a helping hand

Assistive technology such as motorized scooters or communication devices can be expensive, and the Kansans who need them may have high medical bills, live on fixed incomes or be unable to get conventional bank loans to purchase these unconventional items. Neither Medicare nor Medicaid pays for major equipment purchases such as modified vehicles or computers that would allow Kansans with disabilities to live and work independently or simply communicate or move about. But a consumer-controlled

loan cooperative developed by LSI disabilities researchers has changed that for at least 70 Kansans in the past two years. The Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative (KATCO) is a federal-state-private partnership that was the brainchild of LSI associate scientist Sara Sack and senior scientist Charles Spellman. As it enters its third year of existence, KATCO has loaned more than \$400,000 to 70 Kansans in 18 counties for vehicle and home modifications, computers and other technology.



IMPACT, Inc.

Curtis Dougherty of Parsons got a KATCO loan for a van with a lift and driver modifications. "Without my van, I would be confined to my office instead of serving 18 counties as an independent living counselor."



Virtually community partners

Jerry Schultz, associate director, and Michelle McKinley, coordinator for global partnerships of the Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development, unveiled the Community Tool Box of the Americas to the Pan American Health Foundation conferees in Santiago, Chile, in October 2002.

The Community Tool Box of the Americas is an Internet resource being developed by the Work Group and partners at the Pan American Health Organization throughout the Americas. The website is based on the Work Group's Community Tool Box <http://ctb.ku.edu>, which has over 6,000 pages of practical information for building healthy

communities, and was used by more than 50,000 people last year.

Community Tool Box of the Americas users will be able to call up research-based, culturally grounded support on dealing with issues such as infant/child health, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, reproductive health, water quality, and violence.



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R. Steve Dick / KU University Relations

Shelter in the storm

Lawrence residents with mobility impairments, like those across the country, need safer places to evacuate and better evacuation procedures during tornadoes and other disasters according to Glen White and Michael Fox who are studying the problem nationwide.

White, who directs the Research and Training Center for Independent Living, and Fox, associate professor of health policy and management, said that 9/11 galvanized the disaster planning community into action when some employees who used wheelchairs could not evacuate with their co-workers from the World Trade Towers. Closer to home, the May 2003 Lawrence tornadoes prompted the researchers to recommend the installation of central safe rooms in housing, particularly in places such as retirement communities. The three-year study will yield a best-practices resource book for disability and emergency response agencies.

Two Things at Once

As we age, our ability to do two or more things at once diminishes—like talking, walking up steps and carrying a bag of groceries—according to the research of Susan Kemper, distinguished professor of psychology, and Ruth Herman, LSI assistant research professor. But

stroke survivors—even those with apparently excellent recoveries—show even more the costs of doing two things at once. According to Kemper, this damage to our “cognitive reserve” is missed by standard clinical assessments, as is the opportunity for early treatment.

Childcare study refutes prevailing beliefs

Dale Walker, LSI assistant research professor, has just completed a three-year study of infants and toddlers in child care programs, Beacons of Excellence, that suggests that the best indicator of the quality of a child care center is the how caregivers communicate with children—over and above adult-to-child ratio or the education level of caregivers.

Research *across the life span*

Mabel L. Rice, director of three of the twelve Life Span Institute research centers, the Merrill Advanced Studies Center, the Child Language Doctoral Program, and the Biobehavioral Neurosciences in Communications Disorders Center, was named the first Fred and Virginia Merrill distinguished professor of advanced studies on May 7, 2003.

The Leawood couple pledged \$1 million to the Kansas University Endowment Association to establish the Merrill professorship that further ensures the success of the center they established through a 1990 gift to the Kansas University Endowment.

Liliana Mayo, director and founder of Life Span international affiliate, Centro Ann Sullivan del Perú, received the university's top honor on May 16, 2003, during commencement events. The Distinguished Service Citation, which is bestowed on those who have become leaders in their professions and communities, is the highest honor given by KU and the Kansas Alumni Association.

Ann P. Turnbull, co-director of the Beach Center on Disability and special education professor at the University of Kansas, assumed the national presidency of the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) on May 23 at the organization's 127th annual meeting in Chicago. Turnbull and her husband, H. Rutherford "Rud" Turnbull III, who co-directs the Beach Center, are the only husband and wife to both be elected to the AAMR presidency in the organization's 100-year history. Rud Turnbull served from 1985-86.

Roderick Bremby, associate director for the Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development and assistant research professor, was appointed Secretary of Health and Environment by Governor Kathleen Sebelius on January 7, 2003.

Rhonda J. V. Montgomery resigned her directorship of the Gerontology Center on January 1, 2003, to assume the Helen Bader Endowed Chair of Gerontology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Social Welfare.

Travis Thompson, Smith professor of psychiatry at the Kansas University Medical Center, who directed the Institute for Child Development, assumed the position of program director of FEAT, a large organization for children with autism in Minneapolis in August 2003. He has a joint appointment as a professor in the University of Minnesota School of Medicine affiliated with the Child Development and Neuroscience Center.

Some 180 colleagues, family, and admirers celebrated founder **Richard L. Schiefelbusch's** 85th birthday at the Adams Alumni Center July 11, 2003. Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway opened the presentation that was hosted by Mabel Rice, Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished professor of advanced studies. Joe Spradlin, professor emeritus, recalled how Dick's great heart, political acumen, and finally, toughness, built a great Institute from a small, neglected program. Steve Warren, current Life Span director, gave an energetic and optimistic report from the present, and Kim Wilcox, dean of the college of arts and sciences, said that Life Span exemplified the research institute of the future. But perhaps the most poignant moment of the evening came from Carol McMillin, Dick's daughter, who said that she, "doesn't walk in her father's shadow, but lives in his glow."

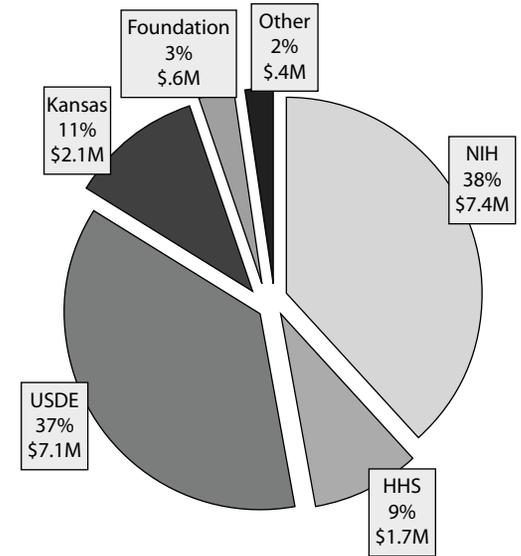
From FY 2002 to FY 2003, external awards increased to \$19.5 million—the largest amount in LSI history. In addition, indirect costs increased by nine percent over FY 2002, which can be attributed to the \$1.3 million increase LSI received in National Institutes of Health awards.

Continued vitality is also evident given that 25 of the nearly 100 awards were new in FY 2003. These new awards included major funding for communication-oriented proposals, prevention of obesity projects, and personal attendant service and support activities. The Life Span Institute continues to attract more combined federal, state, and private dollars than any other designated research center at the University of Kansas.

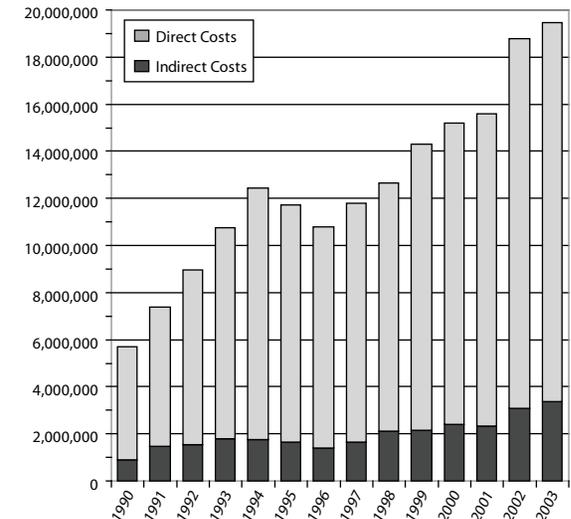
The National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Education remain the leading funding sources at \$7.4 million and \$7.1 million respectively. With the addition of \$1.7 million in Health and Human Services Department funding, federal awards account for nearly 85 percent of the Institute's overall external funding.

The Life Span Institute continues to leverage external funding at an increasing rate. In 1990, every dollar the state of Kansas invested in the Institute yielded more than \$3 in external awards. By 2003, every dollar the state of Kansas invested in the Life Span Institute yielded nearly \$7 in external awards.

LSI Funding by Agency FY 2003 \$19.5 Million



LSI Funding History External Grant Dollars FY 1990 to 2003



The Centers of the Life Span Institute

Kansas Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Center

The Kansas Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (MRDDRC) is one of 14 national centers dedicated to the scientific investigation of the causes, prevention, and treatment of intellectual and developmental disabilities supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Research is conducted in labs, in clinics, and the community as close to 75 investigators from the biological and behavioral sciences seek solutions to the challenges of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Seventy research projects are organized around four themes: language, communication disorders and cognition in mental retardation; risk, intervention, and prevention in mental retardation; the neurobiology of mental retardation, and the cellular and molecular biology of early development. The need for fundamental, systematic research on disabilities is as critical now as when the NICHD research centers were established nearly 40 years ago. The MRDDRC remains at the forefront of this national effort.

Steven F. Warren, Ph.D., Director; Peter Smith, Ph.D., Co-Director

Contact: 785 864-4295, mrddrc.ku.edu, mrddrc@ku.edu

Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities

More than 30 years ago, as the Institute's research on developmental disabilities took root, efforts began to translate this research into practice through what is now known as the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD). Virtually all of the Institute's direct service, technical assistance, and post-doctoral, pre- and in-service training are associated with KUCDD. These include clinics to diagnose and treat children with disabilities, a statewide project that provides assistive technology to people with disabilities,

and training childcare providers and social workers how to support individuals with disabilities. KUCDD research has state, national, and international impact in areas like self-determination, positive behavior supports, inclusive educational practices, early childhood education, community and workplace supports, and family systems and supports.

Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D., Director; Glen W. White, Ph.D., Associate Director; David P. Lindeman, Ph.D., Parsons Director; Chet D. Johnson, M.D., Kansas City Director; R. Matthew Reese, Ph.D., Kansas City Assistant Director

Contact: 785 864-4295, kucdd.ku.edu, lsi.ku.edu/kucdd

The Life Span Institute at Parsons

For more than 40 years the University of Kansas has maintained research, service, and training programs housed on the campus of the Parsons State Hospital, including a major component of the Kansas University Center for Developmental Disabilities. This Institute, located in rural southeast Kansas, has an exemplary record of research in the areas of language development, vision, and cognitive disabilities. Additionally, this program has provided significant service and training across the State of Kansas particularly in the areas of assistive technology, early childhood, and training for community-based organizations and agencies.

David P. Lindeman, Ph.D., Director

Contact: 620 421-6550, ext. 1713, www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu, parsons@ku.edu

Juniper Gardens Children's Project

The Juniper Gardens Children's Project began in 1964 when citizens from the northeast Kansas City, Kansas neighborhood joined with faculty from the University of Kansas to devise solutions to specific problems in educational achievement and parenting in that low-income community. The Project has grown over the

years from a small, community-based research initiative housed in the basement of a liquor store to a unique internationally recognized research center that includes multiple community sites, projects and investigators. The Project is particularly recognized for its contributions to the development of effective approaches for accelerating learning and reducing classroom conduct problems in both special and general education. In 1996 the Project was given the Research Award of the International Council for Exceptional Children in recognition of its outstanding research contributions.

Charles R. Greenwood, Ph.D., Director

Contact: 913 321-3143, www.jgcp.ku.edu

Beach Center on Disability

The Beach Center has a steadfast commitment to making a difference in the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families. It is committed to listening to the priorities of families and service providers, incorporating those priorities into the Center's research agenda, and carrying out research in a participatory way. Primary areas of Beach Center research include access to the general curriculum, disability policy, family-professional partnerships, family quality of life, positive behavior support, and self-determination. The Beach Center is affiliated with the School of Education's Department of Special Education. The Beach Center was named for Ross and Marianna Beach in 1988 in honor of their significant roles in advocating for families affected by disabilities in Kansas and throughout the world, especially in South America.

H. Rutherford Turnbull, III, LL.B./ J.D., LL.M. and Ann P. Turnbull, Ed.D., Co-Directors; Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D., Associate Director; Wayne Sailor, Co-Associate Director

Contact: 785 864-7600, www.beachcenter.org, beachcenter@ku.edu

Research and Training Center on Independent Living

The Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) was formed in 1980 to develop systematic approaches to enable people with disabilities across the lifespan to live independently, control their lives and shape their futures. The Independent Living Core addresses advocacy, services, and interventions, the Health Promotion Core promotes health practices that reduce the risk of health problems, and the Disability Policy Core is concerned with policy issues that impede or facilitate independent living. The RTC/IL is now developing an International Disability Research Core with contacts in Vietnam, Poland, Korea, and Peru.

Glen W. White, Ph.D., Director

Contact: 785 864-4095, rtcil.org, Glen@ku.edu

Gerontology Center

The Gerontology Center's affiliation with the Bureau of Child Research in 1990 paved the way for an extended research agenda of the newly formed Life Span Institute. Center researchers are interested in all areas of aging, but are distinguished by seminal research in communication, public policy, studies of long-term health care and housing alternatives, and aging in minority populations. The Center coordinates an interdisciplinary graduate concentration in gerontology for students enrolled in any master's or doctoral program at the University as well as a multidisciplinary graduate program that offers both masters and doctoral degrees in gerontology. Center staff members also work with a wide variety of public and private agencies in developing programs for older persons and their families and assisting agencies and organizations with evaluations of programs and public policies.

David J. Ekerdt, Ph.D., Interim Director

Contact: 785 864-4130, www.ku.edu/~kugeron, gerontology@ku.edu

Biobehavioral Neurosciences in Communications Disorders Center

The Biobehavioral Neurosciences in Communications Disorders Center (BNCDC) became the Life Span Institute's newest affiliated research center in 2002 when the National Institute of Deafness and Communication Disorders awarded a core grant to establish the center.

The BNCDC is a natural outgrowth of the Life Span Institute's long standing focus on communication and language development and intervention. The BNCDC's research spans a wide range of issues relevant to the causes and treatment of communications disorders from infancy to old age including studies on infant attention, the decline of working memory in old age as reflected in speech, and more precise measures of hearing loss to aid cochlear implant design.

Mabel L. Rice, Ph.D., Director

Contact: 785 864-4570

Child Language Doctoral Program

The Child Language Doctoral Program was established in 1983 as the first specialized degree program in the emerging field of child language acquisition. The program focuses on the interdisciplinary academic preparation and research training of child language specialists. The internationally recognized faculty bring diverse approaches to the study of how children communicate and speak. The program offers students a wide choice of research tools, facilities, and field sites including the Child Language Acquisition Studies Lab that has the largest known archive of transcribed spontaneous samples from preschool children diagnosed as receptive/expressive specific language impaired. Research sites and practica are provided by the Life Span Institute, the Language Acquisition Preschool, and the clinical and research facilities of the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

Mabel L. Rice, Ph.D., Director

Contact: 785 864-4570, www.clp.ku.edu, childlang@ku.edu

Merrill Advanced Studies Center

The Merrill Advanced Studies Center, founded in 1990 with an endowment from Virginia Urban Merrill and Fred Merrill, is a catalyst for scholarship on disabilities and policies that shape university research. Merrill conferences and publications establish new directions and build collaborative projects in both science and policy. World-class experts often meet as a group for the first time at Merrill conferences and go on to develop national projects that answer key questions in science. The Center publishes books on topics relevant to developmental disabilities and makes policy papers available online and in print. The Merrill web site at merrill.ku.edu has fact

sheets and discussions on science and policy for the general public.

Mabel L. Rice, Ph.D., Director

Contact: 785 864-4804, merrill.ku.edu, merrillcenter@ku.edu

Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development

The mission of the Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development is to promote community health and development through collaborative research, teaching, and public service. Formed in 1976, its current work is in three domains: community/public health, child/youth health and development, and community development. The Work Group has assisted with state and community initiatives in many critical areas, including substance abuse, adolescent pregnancy, youth development, rural health, health promotion, child well being, systems change, and neighborhood development in urban communities. Many years of the Group's work has been distilled into an Internet site, the Community Tool Box at ctb.ku.edu. This site provides comprehensive technical assistance, consultation, and distance learning to connect people, ideas, and resources for promoting community health and development.

Stephen B. Fawcett, Ph.D., Director

Contact: 785 864-0533, ctb.ku.edu, workgroup@ku.edu

Center for Physical Activity and Weight Management

The Center for Physical Activity and Weight Management joined the Institute in 2001 and supports research, training, and clinics for weight loss and weight maintenance. The Center is interested in the "metabolic syndrome," abnormal values for blood lipids, glucose, insulin, and blood pressure that accompany overweight and obesity. The Center also has a major effort aimed at preventing overweight and obesity in children by increasing physical activity and reducing high fat, energy dense foods in elementary schools. The Center's Energy Balance Laboratory features a whole-room indirect calorimeter that measures energy expenditure precisely under a variety of experimental conditions.

Joseph E. Donnelly, Ed.D., Director

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