

Mugur Geana presented his research “I’ve Heard It on the Radio: Developing a CBPR-Driven Campaign to Promote Cancer Clinical Trial to Latino Communities in Rural Kansas” on July 13 at the Cancer Health Disparities Program Meetings 2001 in Washington, D.C. (8/8/11)

The qualitative study “A Computerized Intervention to Promote Colorectal Cancer Screening for Underserved Populations: Theoretical Background and Algorithm Development”, co-authored by **Mugur Geana** and researchers from KUMC, Washington University and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, has been accepted for publication in the *Technology and Healthcare Journal*. (8/8/11)

Peter Bobkowski participated in “Influence of Social Media on Youth Drug Use”, a conference call technical experts panel conducted by the University of Maryland’s Center for Substance Abuse Research, and sponsored by White House Officials of National Drug Control Policy. (10-3-11)

Peter Bobkowski’s grant proposal to the AEJMC Knight News Challenge has been selected for funding. The proposed project is for a high school news feed. (10-10-11)

Hyunjin Seo’s grant proposal to the AEJMC Knight News Challenge has been selected for funding (\$8,000). Seo worked with **Malcolm Gibson**, **Jon Schlitt** and **Tim Schedor** (*Kansan*). The grant will be used to create LarryvilleKU, an application of OpenBlock to the *Kansan*, and to improve the *Kansan’s* social media presence. (10-10-11)

Mugur Geana spent last week in San Jose, Costa Rica, meeting with representatives of the University of Costa Rica (UCR) School of Mass Communications, the School of Public Health, the Department of Graduate Programs and the university's International Office. **Geana** also met with representatives of the Office of Communications from the Costa Rican Social Security Ministry and visited communication agencies working on disease prevention campaigns. The purpose of his visit was to explore the possibility of initiating a multidisciplinary research collaboration between UCR and KU in the area of health communication, and builds upon the visit of UCR representatives to KU in October of 2010, and the visit of professors **Ann Brill**, **Barbara Barnett** and **Linda Lee** to UCR in spring of 2011. The concrete results of **Geana’s** visit is an agreement to collaborate to submit a grant proposal on using Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) to develop a health promotion campaign to address the epidemic of dengue fever in the Eastern province of Limon, Costa Rica. The joint KU-UCR project will engage partners from UCR's School of Mass Communications and School of Public Health, and KU's School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the Research Division of the Department of Family Medicine, School of Medicine. As part of this proposal, KU will provide training on CBPR to UCR partners in order to increase the health promotion and health communication research capabilities of UCR; it will also allow KU researchers to expand their area of research into health disparities affecting rural

communities as well as indigenous populations living in Central America. (10-31-11)

Pam Fine was among a small group of participants invited to discuss journalism education and journalism routines during a Research Exchange last week at the Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio. Participants are collaborating on project ideas on citizen deliberation and journalism. (11-21-11)

Ann Brill, Barbara Barnett, Linda Lee and Mugur Geana met with Ana Sittenfeld, Director for International Cooperation for the University of Costa Rica. The meetings focused on continuous partnership for study abroad opportunities for both KU and UCR students, as well as the establishment of a joint KU-UCR research program in health communication and public health. **Barnett** and **Geana**, in collaboration with colleagues from the KU's Department of Family Medicine and from the Public Health program are currently working on a grant proposal that focuses on community interventions to address the dengue epidemic affecting underserved populations on the Atlantic coast of Costa Rica. The proposal, if funded, will serve as a primer for KU-UCR's multidisciplinary research partnership as well as a pilot study for further funding opportunities. (11-21-11)

Teresa Lamsam's research with Haskell Indian Nationals journalism instructor **Rhonda LeValdo-Gayton** on how diabetes among Native Americans is portrayed in the media is the focus on an article on wellcommons.com. <http://wellcommons.com/groups/wellness/2011/nov/26/study-sheds-light-on-diabetes-among-nati/> (11-28-11)

Faculty and graduate students from the School of Journalism are asked to contribute to the new initiative "**Droplets of Research.**" This project, proposed by **Mugur Geana**, aims to stimulate collegial collaboration as well as being a repository of possible research ideas for graduate students, and to promote research at our school. Participants are requested to share research ideas that they have explored, but not immediately pursued. These preliminary findings should be shared as a short, but rigorous, one-page paper. There is no timetable for them, and everybody is welcome to publish. These "droplets" will be made available in a section of our school website, under the research tab, and their publication will be announced in the Monday Memo. The first "droplet" is provided by **Geana**: "Exploring the use of Facebook demographics as regional health indicators." (12-12-11)

Hyunjin Seo is co-Principal Investigator on a grant from the Kauffman Foundation in the amount of \$150,000. The project is aimed at examining the "flash mob" phenomenon and social media use of teenagers. (1-3-12)

Teresa Trumbly Lamsam's research on media coverage of diabetes among American Indians was featured on IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com. (1-23-12)

Barbara Barnett's research on media coverage of women who kill their children was featured in the [Lawrence Journal-World](#) and [Fox 4 News](#) in Kansas City. Barnett also participated in the university summit, "Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities" and served as a member of the planning committee. (1-23-12)

Mugur Geana is the Co-Principal Investigator on a study jointly funded by the University of Kansas and the University of Costa Rica (UCR). The research project "*Capacity building for Community Based Participatory Research driving public health campaigns to address the dengue epidemic in the Province of Limon, Costa Rica*" will bring together researchers from KU's School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and from the Department of Family Medicine, with researchers from the School of Mass Communications and the School of Public Health from the University of Costa Rica. The year-long project aims at establishing the bases for collaborative applied research on public health between the two universities. The project builds upon previous talks between KU and UCR driven by the visits of **Ann Brill**, **Barbara Barnett**, **Linda Lee** and **Geana** to UCR in 2011 as well as visits by UCR faculty, Carolina Carazo, Harold Hutt and Ana Sittenfeld, to KU in 2010 and 2011. **Geana's** research on patient-provider email communications was also featured in the Jan. 26 edition of [KU News](#). (1-30-12)

Hyunjin Seo's teaching application to the 2012 Best Practice Institute, organized by the KU Center for Teaching Excellence, has been funded. Seo will use the grant to explore new ways of combining theory and practice in her Social Media in Strategic Communication course. (3-16-12)

Doug Ward has been selected to participate in the Best Practices Institute of the Center for Teaching Excellence. He plans to work on creating elements for hybrid courses, which will combine online lectures, quizzes and other material with in-person classroom discussions and labs. Participants receive a \$1,000 grant. (4-2-12)

Hyunjin Seo's proposal to the KU New Faculty General Research Fund has been awarded. (4-2-12)

Doug Ward has been named recipient of a \$1,000 grant from the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities. The money is to be used for developing an interdisciplinary course tied to the digital humanities. That course will be part of the new J302 (Infomania), which will be taught for the first time in Spring 2013. Ward will teach a section of the course for students in the University Honors Program. The course will also be loosely connected with The Commons and its theme for next year, Big Data. (4-9-12)

Dr. Lissette Marroquin and Dr. Ana Leonora Rivera, both from the University of Costa Rica (UCR), met with researchers and faculty from the J-School as well as with colleagues from the Department of Family Medicine at KUMC. Over the weekend they traveled to Garden City to gain hands-on experience with research involving community participation. Their visit was funded by the grant that **Mugur Geana** and Lissette Marroquin received at the beginning of the year to address research capacity building at UCR and health communication interventions in the Province of Limon, Costa Rica. (4-30-12)