

## **ADAPT's Research Partnerships: (2011-2023)**

### **1. Increasing Utilization of Preventive Care in Asian American Women in Massachusetts:**

A collaboration between Dr. Lisa Gualtieri (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine) and Chien-Chi Huang, Asian Women for Health (AWFH), with the goal to identify barriers to utilization of preventive services by Asian American Women in Massachusetts through focus groups with Chinese-American, Vietnamese-American, and South Asian-American women as a first step toward developing interventions to increase utilization. *Funded by the Tufts Community Research Center. [See full report.](#)*

**2. Healthy Chinatown:** A collaboration between Dr. Virginia Chomitz (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine), Chien-Chi Huang, Asian Women for Health (AWFH), and Giles Li, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC). The goal of this project was to better understand rising obesity rates among Chinese children by gathering formative data about nutrition and physical activity. *Funded by the Asian American Pacific Islander Health Forum.*

**3. Health of Asians and Chronic Diseases Pilot Study:** A collaboration between Dr. Karen Freund (Tufts CTSI and ICRHPS) and Megan Cheung, Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center (GBCGAC). The goal of this pilot project is to test the feasibility of a longitudinal cohort study that would seek to better understand potential causes of cancer in the Chinese community. *Funded by the National Cancer Institute.*

**4. Health of Boston Chinatown: A health needs assessment:** A collaboration between Dr. Susan Koch-Weser (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine) and Giles Li, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC). The goal of this project is to conduct a population-based survey of Chinatown residents that queries their health needs and health concerns. *Funded by Tufts Collaborates. Access at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10810730.2021.1998847>*

**5. Asian American Breast Cancer Awareness:** A collaboration between Dr. Carolyn Rubin (Tufts CTSI, Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine and Tufts Cancer Center), Chien-Chi Huang, Asian Women for Health (AWFH), and the Asian Breast Cancer Project. The goal of this project was to develop a community-level intervention to increase knowledge and awareness of breast health and breast cancer among Chinese and Vietnamese women and to encourage women to have a mammogram. *Funded by the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Access at: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6528474/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6528474/)*

**6. Defining the Empowerment Process:** A collaboration between Dr. Carolyn Rubin (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine) and Dawn Sauma, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK). The goal of this project was to explore culturally situated understanding and practices of empowerment among Chinese and Hindi survivors of domestic violence. *Funded by the Tufts Community Research Center. Access at: <https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/ATASK.pdf>.*

**7. Oral Health Knowledge, Attitude & Behavior of Parents at ABCD Chinese Church Head Start:** A collaboration between Dr. Christine Rioux (Tufts University), Dr. Risha M. De Leon (Tufts University School of Medicine) and Mei-Hua Fu, ABCD Chinese Church Head Start. This project aimed to contribute to the existing Oral Health Initiative in improving the caries rate among the children of ABCD Chinese Church Head Start and can be a basis for further

development of a comprehensive oral health program. *A service project supported by the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF).*

**8. Health and Housing: Assessing baseline health and housing characteristics of new residents in the Chinatown affordable housing units:** A collaboration between Drs. Virginia Chomitz and Carolyn Rubin (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine) and Dr. Mariana Arcaya, Urban Planning and Public Health at MIT, Hamilton Ho, Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC). The goal of this project was to describe housing and health conditions experienced by a sample of low income renters in affordable housing in Boston (One Greenway), and to establish baseline conditions that can form the basis of a longitudinal study of health and housing quality. *Supported by MIT Urban Planning and Public Health and Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine.*

**9. Pathways to Autism Diagnosis and Services within a Chinese-American Community Population:** A collaboration between Drs. Christina Mule and Christina Sakai (Tufts Medical Center) and Giles Li, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC). This mixed-methods study sought to address recognized disparities in the diagnosis and treatment of autism in Chinese-immigrant children. The results of this [study](#) will be used to inform the development of an intervention targeted to the needs of Chinese –immigrant children with autism. *Funded by the Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund.*

**10. Care Coordination for Asian Elders:** A collaboration between Dr. Mohan Thanikachalam and Dr. Susan Koch-Weiser (Tufts Department of Public Health and Community Medicine), Megan Cheung and Catherine Chang, Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center (GBCGAC). An extension of the Community Based Empowerment and Participatory Care Model, this pilot project provided care coordination and community-based support to 40 Asian seniors to enable them to sustain self-health management skills and continue to live independently in the community. *Funded by the Tufts Health Plan Foundation.*

**11. Mitigation of Negative Impacts of Gentrification through Arts & Culture:** A collaboration between Dr. Carolyn Rubin (Tufts Department of Public Health and Community Medicine), Drs. Virginia Chomitz and Susan Koch-Weser (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine), Drs. Felicia Sullivan and Peter Levine (Tufts Tisch College of Civic Life), Dr. Noe Montez (Tufts School of Arts & Sciences, Department of Drama & Dance), and Giles Li and Cynthia Woo (Pao Art Center- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center). A series of three research projects looking at the role of arts and culture in supporting social cohesion and social connectedness in the wake of gentrification in Boston Chinatown. *Funded by the ArtPlace America, Tufts Collaborates, and the National Endowment for the Arts. (Sept. 2017-2020)*  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1524839921996336>

**12. Health and Housing:** A collaboration between Drs. Virginia Chomitz , Carolyn Rubin (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine), May Lui and Angie Liou of the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC). A follow up to the baseline study, includes re-surveying residents at 66 Hudson and individuals on the waiting list for subsidized housing. *Funded by Tufts Collaborates* (July 2019 – June 2020). Initial findings at:  
[https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzab035\\_062](https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzab035_062).

**13. Asian CARES (Center for Addressing Research, Education and Services):** A collaboration between Dr. Carolyn Rubin (Tufts CTSI, Tufts Department of Public Health and Community Medicine) and Ben Hires of the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC), and three other community-based organizations: Dawn Sauma, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK), Sovanna Pouy, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA), and Lisette Le, Vietnamese American Initiative for Development (VietAID). This preliminary research was conducted to expand understanding of how problem gambling

manifests in Asian families and inform the development of tools and community-based resources for prevention and early intervention efforts. *Funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. (2019-2021)* [https://massgaming.com/wp-content/uploads/Asian-CARES-Research-Report-9.21\\_Report.pdf](https://massgaming.com/wp-content/uploads/Asian-CARES-Research-Report-9.21_Report.pdf)

**14. Health Effects of Anti-Asian Racism in the U.S. (Boston) – The HEAR US study:** A collaboration between Drs. Alice Tang and Kimberly Dong Breen (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine) and Yoyo Yau and Ben Hires, Boston Neighborhood Chinatown Center (BCNC) – a qualitative study on the effects of anti-Asian racism in a Chinese community during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Funded by the Tufts Office of the Vice Provost, Springboard grant. (June 2021 – May 2022)*

**15. Evaluating Community Mental Health Support Spaces for Members affected by Deportation and Un-Documentation Status:** A collaboration between Dr. MyDzung Chu (Tufts CTSI/ICRHPS), the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), and Chloe Yang, ADAPT summer intern. The project is an evaluation of AARW's pilot mental health support spaces for individuals and family members affected by deportation orders in the Southeast Asian community and un-documentation status in the Chinese community in Greater Boston to inform AARW's future programming. (June 2022-August 2022)

**16. Assessing Mental Health Needs in Asian Communities in Greater Boston and Cultural-Responsiveness of a Mental Health First-Responder Training:** A collaboration between Dr. MyDzung Chu (Tufts CTSI) and Ben Hires of the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC), and Chien-Chi Huang of the Asian Women For Health (AWFH). The lack of funding and workforce with culturally competent mental health training have hindered CBOs' capacity to sufficiently respond to increasing demands for mental health services. This project aims to better understand the mental health needs of Asian communities in Greater Boston through focus groups and evaluation of the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). It will provide important insights about the diverse mental health needs among Asian Americans and inform culturally tailored approaches for community-level mental health trainings. *Funded by a seed grant from Tisch College Community Research Center (TCRC). (July 2022-June 2023)*

**17. Measuring Well-being:** A joint release by ADAPT and the Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research (LZC). Measuring Well-being, a reference list for researchers and organizations wishing to measure the impact of mental health and well-being interventions for immigrant populations, offers a snapshot of selected validated scales within the domains of Discrimination (Racism); Resilience; Stress, Anxiety, and Depression; Trauma; Well-being; and the COVID-19 Pandemic. (June 2023). Access at: <https://immigranthealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Measuring-Well-Being.pdf>

**18. Impact of the "Cliff Effect" on Working Populations in the Asian Immigrant Communities:** A collaboration of a multidisciplinary research team, Dr. MyDzung Chu (Tufts CTSI/ICRHPS), Dr. Elaine Donnelly (Tisch College), and Yoyo Yau (BCNC). The aim of this project is to better understand the impact of the "cliff effect" on the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)'s Children and Family Services and ESL student workforce. The cliff effect is defined as the drop-in public supports (such as SNAP benefits, affordable housing, and transportation and utilities subsidies) that occur when earnings go up. In addition, the project seeks to understand cultural and population-specific contexts of the cliff effect on the Asian, working-class communities in Greater Boston, and primarily among immigrant women who are the predominant childcare workers. *Supported through the Tisch Faculty Fellow Project. (Oct. 2022-Oct. 2023)*

**19. Chinatown HEROS Project: Heat Equity and Resilience in Open Spaces Study:** A collaboration between Dr. MyDzung Chu (Tufts CTSI/ICRHPS), Dr. John Durant (Tufts SOE), the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC), Ponnappa Prakkamakul (landscape architect/Multimedia artist), and Tufts students. The project aims to develop a climate and heat resilient data collection and education campaign to engage local youths and families in the vision and design of climate-resilient, healthy, and equitable open spaces in Chinatown, and the dissemination of research and design recommendations to community stakeholders like the City of Boston to inform their future planning and funding decisions. *Funded by a pilot grant from the NYU Langone's Collaborative Center in Children's Environmental Health Research and Translation (CEHRT).* (Feb. 2023 - Jan. 2024)

**20. Barriers and motivators associated with access to care and participation in research studies for Parkinson's Disease among Asian Americans:** A collaboration between Dr. Alice Tang (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine), Dr. Bryan Ho (Tufts Medical Center Movement Disorders Program), and Chien-Chi Huang, Asian Women for Health (AWFH). The goal of this project is to determine the cultural and systemic barriers that Asian Americans face in accessing care and participating in research studies for Parkinson's Disease. *Funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation.* (March 4, 2022 – March 3, 2024)

**21. The Hudson Street Stoop Initiative to evaluate the impact of public art installations in Boston's Chinatown: Storytelling With Impact on Neighborhoods and Generations (SWING):** A collaboration between Drs. Alice Tang and Kimberly Dong Breen (Tufts Public Health and Community Medicine) and Jeena Chang, Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC), with the goal to evaluate the health effects of current and future art installations on the individual and community health of neighborhood residents. *Funded by the Tufts Mary Y. Lee Community Service Learning Faculty mini grant and the National Endowment for the Arts.* (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2024)

### Relevant resources informing the principles of community engaged research with Asian American communities:

- **Building Your Capacity (BYC): Advancing Research through Community Engagement Curriculum Guide** (2012). The BYC training program was designed to help community organizations increase their capacity to participate in community-engaged research (CEnR) efforts. It was a joint effort between: Three Boston-area universities with Clinical and Translational Science Awards: Tufts University (Lead Site) Harvard University Boston University and two community partners: The Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc. and The Immigrant Services Providers Group/Health. Access at: <http://www.tuftsctsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Building-Your-Capacity-Curriculum-2012.pdf>
- Rubin, C. L., Martinez, L. S., Chu, J., Hacker, K., Brugge, D., Pirie, A., ... & Leslie, L. K. (2012). **Community-engaged pedagogy: A strengths-based approach to involving diverse stakeholders in research partnerships.** Progress in community health partnerships: research, education, and action, 6(4), 481. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4415703/>
- Rubin CL, et al. (2014) **"We make the path by walking it": building an academic community partnership with Boston Chinatown.** Prog Community Health Partners 8(3):353–363. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cpr.2014.0046>

- LeClair A., et al. (2018). **Lessons learned from developing and sustaining a community-research collaborative through translational research.** Journal of Clinical and Translational Science, 2(2), 79-85. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cts.2018.7>
- Rubin, C.L., et al. (2022). **Asian American Research in the Post-Atlanta Era: Driving Community-Engaged Research That Is More Meaningful, Responsive, and Actionable for Local Communities.** In: Lerner, D., Palm, M.E., Concannon, T.W. (eds) Broadly Engaged Team Science in Clinical and Translational Research. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-83028-1\\_20](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-83028-1_20)