



OVERVIEW

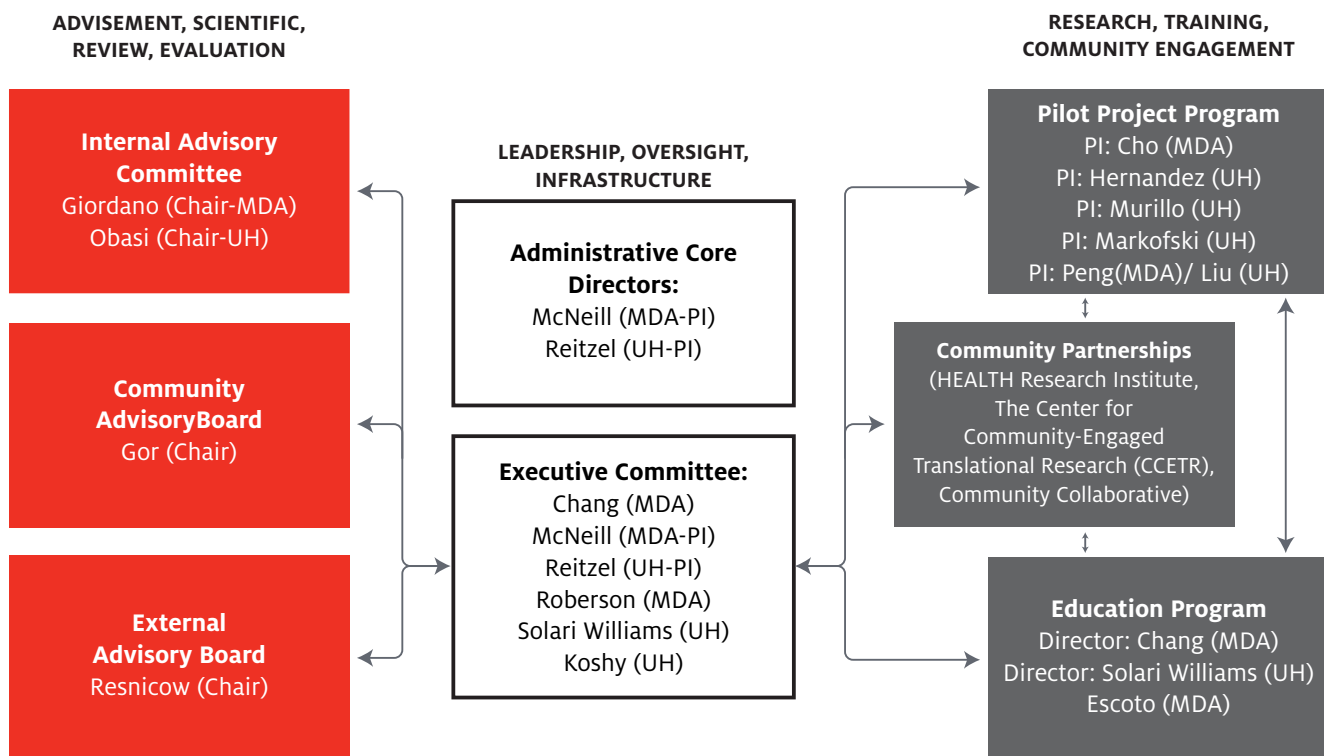
The UHAND Program to Reduce Cancer Disparities is a collaborative partnership between the University of Houston (UH) and the University of Texas MD Anderson (MDA) Cancer Center, devoted to the elimination of cancer inequities. This is important because:

- Black men and women have the overall highest cancer death rates.
- Cancer is the leading cause of death among Hispanics.
- Racial/ethnic minorities are more likely to be poor and uninsured.
- An estimated 50% of cancer cases in the US could be prevented through healthy lifestyle choices such as eating a healthy diet, getting enough physical activity, and maintaining a healthy weight.
- Racial/ethnic minorities are less likely to participate in clinical trials.

WE AIM TO:

- Develop a research and educational partnership between UH, MDA, and the Houston community to stimulate collaborative cancer disparities research related to tobacco use, poor diet, and physical inactivity among black and Hispanic populations.
- Support the development of Early Stage Investigators through a rigorous collaborative research program to increase participation of racial/ethnic minorities in cancer research and mitigate disparities in cancer risk.
- Increase the number of underrepresented racial/ethnic minority students and faculty involved in cancer disparities research by providing them with research training, mentorship, and community-based service learning experiences.

UHAND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





PILOT RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Pilot Research Program supports collaboration between faculty members from the University of Houston (UH) and MD Anderson (MDA) Cancer Center on research emphasizing the prevention of cancer-related health disparities among black and Hispanic groups.

Mexican Immigrants' Biological and Behavioral Cancer Risk Based on Stress

Dr. Daphne Hernandez of University of Houston
Dr. Hua Zhao of MD Anderson Cancer Center

The Role of Perceptions and Barriers to Physical Activity in Cancer Risk Among Mexican Immigrants

Dr. Rosenda Murillo of University of Houston
Dr. Lorraine R. Reitzel of University of Houston
Dr. Lorna H. McNeill of MD Anderson Cancer Center
Dr. Qian Lu of MD Anderson Cancer Center

Watchful Living: A Lifestyle Intervention for Black Prostate Cancer Patients on Active Surveillance and Their Partners

Dr. Dalnim Cho of MD Anderson Cancer Center

A lifestyle intervention to improve skeletal muscle strength and function, and reduce risk of developing cardiometabolic diseases, in prostate cancer survivors on active surveillance

Dr. Melissa Markofski of University of Houston
Dr. Lorna H. McNeill of MD Anderson Cancer Center
Dr. Karen M. Basen-Engquist of MD Anderson Cancer Center

Novel Formulation of Synthetic Retinoid for Chemoprevention

Dr. Guang Peng of MD Anderson Cancer Center
Dr. Xinli Liu of University of Houston

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community engagement in research is critical to unite the interests and needs of health professionals, academics, and communities. UHAND scholars will meet with mentors from the community to discuss ongoing needs in the community relative to cancer disparities. The goal of this partnership is to allow scholars to gain experience with how academic research can translate to helping those in our communities. Our Community Advisory Board, comprised of several prominent community members deeply rooted in Houston's communities, will provide support to enhance the training our scholars receive and help us conduct needed outreach activities in the community. We also have a Community Partners Network, which serves an integral role in providing community-based service-learning opportunities for our scholars.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The percentage of underrepresented minorities in academia remains low and those who succeed report unfair and differential treatment. The Education Program is designed to position students (UHAND scholars), particularly those underrepresented in the sciences, to develop the attitudes, knowledge, and skills to conduct research on reducing cancer disparities. The program provides undergraduate and graduate students with a deep understanding of the social determinants of health and includes:

- Mentored research projects specific to cancer disparities research.
- Didactic coursework, seminars, and journal clubs in cancer disparities and career development.
- Interactive, community-based service learning experiences.
- Summer research experiences.
- Individual Development Plans to help identify and track scholars' academic and professional goals.
- Training on the responsible conduct of research and regulatory compliance.