



Daniel J. Oppenheimer  
Communications Manager  
oppenheimer@austin.utexas.edu  
Office: 512.471.9142  
Cell: 512.745.3353

June 5, 2014

## **Researchers at the University of Houston to Receive Hogg Foundation Grants to Study Mental Health**

AUSTIN, Texas – Two University of Houston assistant professors have received grants from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health to conduct research studying various aspects of mental health.

The two research projects were among nine selected from a pool of 51 applicants from universities across Texas. The foundation awarded the grants, totaling \$173,250, to tenure-track assistant professors in Texas whose research will advance our overall understanding of mental health.

Dr. Jodi Berger Cardoso, Graduate College of Social Work, was awarded a grant of \$19,250 to study mental health and parenting stress in undocumented Latino immigrants and their U.S. children within the context of deportation risk. She will collaborate with Community Family Centers (Houston) and the Workers Defense Project (Austin) to identify undocumented Latino families with U.S. children under 18 years of age. Because these families, representing a population of 5.1 million, are marginalized due to their legal status and may be reluctant to participate in research, little is known about their parenting experiences and how these experiences shape and are shaped by their mental health.

“Undocumented Latino parents of citizen children in Texas face considerable challenges, including the threat of deportation, family separation, uncertainty about the future and extreme financial hardship,” said Cardoso. “This grant from the Hogg Foundation will provide me with resources to examine parenting stress, mental health and depression in parents at risk for deportation.”

Dr. McClain Sampson, Graduate College of Social Work, was awarded a grant of \$19,250 to study the feasibility and effectiveness of utilizing a home visit intervention for postpartum depression in a primary care setting that predominantly serves low-income mothers of color. Intervention for postpartum depression is relevant in Texas where many mothers may be at risk due to higher than average poverty rates and the demand for mental health services outstripping the supply.

“Postpartum depression is more common than we think, but it is treatable,” said Sampson. “The funding from Hogg Foundation allows me to investigate affordable and sustainable ways to prevent postpartum depression among a population of women who may not typically have access.”

The goals of the Hogg grants are to increase the pool of junior faculty doing quality mental health research and to encourage the disbursement of research findings through presentations at state and national conferences and meetings.

“Addressing and eliminating disparities in the provision of mental health care is of the utmost importance to the foundation, and our funding reflects that,” said Dr. Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., executive director of the Hogg Foundation and vice president for diversity and community engagement at The University of Texas at Austin. “The research being done by Dr. Cardoso and Dr. Sampson is exciting to us because of the researchers’ focus on underserved populations.”

The Hogg Foundation advances recovery and wellness in Texas by funding mental health services, policy analysis, research and public education. The foundation was created in 1940 by the children of former Texas Gov. James S. Hogg and is part of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin.

###