Proposal to launch a Global Mental Health Promotion program (GMHP) within Yale's Center for Methods in Implementation and Prevention Science(CMIPS)

Summary

The Global Mental Health Promotion (GMHP) program will focus on bridging the gap between knolwedge and practice in mental health especially in low and middle income countries. This effort will utilize implementation science to identify barriers and opportunities that limit or enhance the translation of evidence-based mental health interventions into clinical practices. Emphasis will be on the process of program implementation, acceptability and fidelity; as well as cultural adaptations of interventions, integration into existing service frameworks, scale-up and sustainability.

Our current global mental health projects are diverse in both focus and location, across many countries. For example, in Nigeria, Theddeus Iheanacho, Associate professor, Yale School of Medicine (Yale profile), has existing relationships with a well-developed, community-based research network anchored on the *Health Beginning Initiative* and implemented in collaboration with 200 local churches, University of Nigeria and the Nigeria Implementation Science Alliance. He also leads the ongoing *HAPPINESS Project*, developed and managed in collaboration with Imo State University, Imo State Government and CBM International, a global NGO focused on implementing health interventions for those with disabilities. In India, Donna Spiegelman, Susan Dwight Bliss Professor of Biostatistics and Director, Center on Methods for Implementation and Prevention Science, YSPH, (Yale profile) and Zafra Cooper, Adjunct Professor, Yale School of Medicine (Yale profile) are part of the research team of *ESSENCE (Enabling Translation of Science to Service to Enhance Depression Care)*, a 5-year research project which aims to bridge the gap between science and mental healthcare services by scaling up evidence-based interventions for mental disorders, in particular for treating depression. Ashley Hagaman (Yale profile) has worked with teams in Nepal on studies of suicide, in Haiti on *task-sharing in community health care* and in Pakistan on prevention of *perinatal depression*. We believe that findings from these projects can inform the effective and sustainable adapation and scale up of evidence-based interventions for mental disorders in resource-limited settings.

Specifically, the GMHP program within CMIPS will:

1. Seek funding to develop, design and conduct implementation research in in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) focused on (a) adapting evidence-based interventions for mental disorders, (b) integrating behavioral treatments into existing healthcare and stable community infrastructures, and (c) capacity building for implementation and prevention research in mental health care in collaborating LMIC institutions.

2. Provide platforms for dissemination and exchange of ideas in global mental health promotion

3. Provide high quality training in global mental health promotion and implementation science grounded in theory, practice and hands-on learning that encourages inter-professionalism and facilitates collaboration.

4. Develop robust multidisciplinary collaborations among Yale faculty members and other global mental health programs across the country and around the world.

These objectives will be achieved through

1) a dedicated and structured GMHP grant writing team,

2) regularly updated information on CMIPS website, grand rounds presentations, faculty and implementers network/work groups, hosting scientific conferences and scholarly/research publications.

3) engagement of public health trainees in ongoing GMHP research and implementation and prevention science methods training.

4) building on and expanding existing research collaborations among Yale faculty and with other universities, non-profits/NGOs, governments and government agencies.