



BRIDGES \$13.2 million award will support reducing health disparities

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Pictured from left to right are: Marla Berry, Thomas Ernst, Abby Collier, Robert Nichols, Martha Crosby (representing the Biomedical Informatics Core), John Chen, Mariana Gerschenson, and Qing Li at JABSOM Kaka'ako.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) John A. Burns School of Medicine has been awarded \$13.2 million over five years for the 'Bioscience Research Infrastructure Development for Grant Enhancement and Success' (BRIDGES) project. The funding, from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services,

UHM. The Principal Investigator is Dr. Marla Berry and the Program Director is Dr. Robert Nichols.

"BRIDGES is the renewal of the UH Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program that has been supported by the NIH for 25 years", according to Dr. Mariana Gerschenson. "Our aim is to promote collaborations and intellectual exchange among basic scientists and clinicians to develop new disease-specific diagnostic tests, therapeutic interventions, and preventive strategies for health disparities of regional and national importance".

Gerschenson is one of a team of scientists who will lead teams in subject areas called "cores." The other core areas and their directors include: Marla Berry, Administrative Core; Abby Collier, Human Tissue Biorepository; Thomas Ernst, Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Mariana Gerschenson, Histopathology; Judith Inazu, Evaluation, Qing Li, Proteomics; Robert Nichols, Microscopy and Behavioral-Electrophysiology Murine Phenotyping; Julia Patriache, Biomedical Informatics Core; John Chen; and David Easa, Collaborations and Partnerships Activity.

These activities are designed to closely complement the basic science, clinical and patient-oriented activities of the RCMI Clinical Translational Research Center, (RCTR RMATRIX), the Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research (CNPHDR), the Hawai'i Statewide Research and Education Partnership (INBRE HSREP), and the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE), Gerschenson said.