Georgia Southern Examines the role of Adiposity

October 28, 2015

Leptin was initially identified as an anti-obesity hormone, acting as a negative feedback adiposity signal to maintain energy homeostasis by binding to the leptin receptors in the hypothalamus. To assess the role that adiposity plays in the association between leptin and major depressive episode (MDE), we analyzed the data of 1046 men and 1359 women aged 20–39 years, who completed an interview and had blood collected as a part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) between 1991 and 1994. Waist-hip ratio (WHR) was used as an indicator of adiposity.

The association between depression and leptin is moderated by adiposity among women. Leptin deficiency associates with increased odds of depression among women with normal adiposity. Leptin resistance associates with elevated odds of depression among women with abnormal adiposity. Functionality rather circulating level of leptin is of clinical implications for depression development among women. No moderating effects were observed among men.

“The role of adiposity in the relationship between serum leptin and severe major depressive episode,” was published in Psychiatry Research.

Dr. Chinedu C. Ubani, Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology alumni of the Jian-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University (JPHCOPH) was the lead author. Dr. Jian Zhang, associate professor of epidemiology at the JPHCOPH was the co-author.
Georgia Southern Receives Georgia Department of Natural Resources and NOAA Grant

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The Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have awarded Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University professors Dr. Asli Aslan and Dr. Jeff Jones a two year grant for $273,694 to study water quality at Jekyll Island recreational beaches. The research team includes partnering with the Jekyll Island Authority and providing hands-on field and laboratory experience for GSU students in this work. The research will focus on the non-point sources of potential pollutants from wildlife on and around the island. The grant also focuses on educating the public about natural cycles in water quality tied to wildlife as well as seasonal variations and evaluating any risks to swimmers and fishers.
Georgia Southern Receives Contract from Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

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Charles Owens, Director of the Center for Public Health Practice and Research at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Georgia Southern University, was recently awarded a $70,000.00 contract from the Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The team includes Angie Peden, Center Coordinator, Dr. Britton McKay, Associate Professor, & Spencer Barron, Graduate Assistant. The award supports the completion of a one year study to facilitate statewide input from the EMS community to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the Georgia EMS system. Georgia’s EMS program is now turning 50 years of age and with the evolving health care environment it is important to assess Georgia's EMS delivery systems position and director for the future. This work is the first part of a two year project that will provide foundation direction for EMS policy and practice.