

\$2.4 million grant will integrate psychological and medical care for area low-income population



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

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The federal HRSA grant will enhance whole person care for patients of SAC Health System in San Bernardino while creating a pipeline of providers for the underserved.

Loma Linda, CA, July 11, 2016 – The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration has awarded Loma Linda University School of Medicine a \$2.4 million grant to conduct a collaborative project between the school's department of family medicine and the School of Behavioral Health's department of psychology.

This federal grant will help low-income patients by integrating behavioral health with medical training offered at SAC Health System in San Bernardino.

U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar said in a statement, "This grant comes at a perfect time when the SAC Health System begins offering services in the new Loma Linda University – San Bernardino Campus facility."

"San Bernardino County has high Medi-Cal enrollment, and higher than average unemployment and poverty rates. The SAC Health System and Loma Linda University School of Medicine will work collaboratively to serve this population in San Bernardino with the funds being offered in this grant," Aguilar continued.

While this grant will help patients, it will also create a sustainable pipeline of family medicine physicians and primary care psychologists who can work together to improve mental and physical health in the same clinical setting. This pipeline is particularly important in the Inland Empire, which has a shortage of physicians as well as medically underserved populations of patients.

The project, called IMPACT (*Integrated Medical-home for Patients: Access, Cost and Targeted Management*), will create this sustainable pipeline of family physicians and primary care psychologists, as it will train medical and psychology students from Loma Linda University as a means to improve behavioral health integration workflow.

Training family medicine faculty and residents and medical/psychology students in team communication and leadership skills, another cog in the IMPACT program, aims to manage patient populations with a well-functioning interprofessional team. Dual service learning tracks will also be created for medical and psychology doctoral students including didactics, mentoring and placement at a federally qualified health center to provide care for the underserved in the Inland Empire region.

"Five percent of our nation's population consumes 50 percent of the health care costs and resources," says Roger Hadley, MD, dean of the School of Medicine. "Among these chronically ill patients there are inevitable behavioral issues that must be considered in the management of their care. The most effective way to treat these complex cases is to work collaboratively with the different health care professions."

"This grant provides an expanded opportunity for the department of psychology to work with the department of family medicine in an integrated health model to serve the patients at SAC Health System," said Beverly Buckles, DSW, dean of the School of Behavioral Health. "The stipends that will be provided for students will be a tremendous help in financing their graduate education."

About Loma Linda University Health

Loma Linda University Health includes Loma Linda University's eight professional schools, Loma Linda University Medical Center's six hospitals and more than 900 faculty physicians located in the Inland Empire of Southern California. Established in 1905, Loma Linda University Health is a global leader in education, research and clinical care. It offers over 100 academic programs and provides quality health care to 40,000 inpatients and 1.5 million outpatients each year. A Seventh-day Adventist organization, Loma Linda University Health is a faith-based health system with a mission "to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ."