

# BUILDING GLOBAL RESEARCH CAPACITY FOR ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO CAMPUS-BASED SEXUAL AND RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

*Phase I experiences from the University of  
California and collaboration with partner  
university researchers in Africa*

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

# Introduction

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College and university campuses should be environments that foster health and well-being and prevent relationship violence. Nonetheless...

- Sexual assault, harassment, stalking and dating violence remain prevalent on campuses throughout the world.
  - In the U.S., most campuses have established sexual violence and sexual harassment policies and prevention programs, but their efficacy and acceptability are unestablished.
  - Globally, many campuses have no policies or prevention programs in place at all, and those that do face extreme pushback from many directions, and impact is unknown.
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# Background

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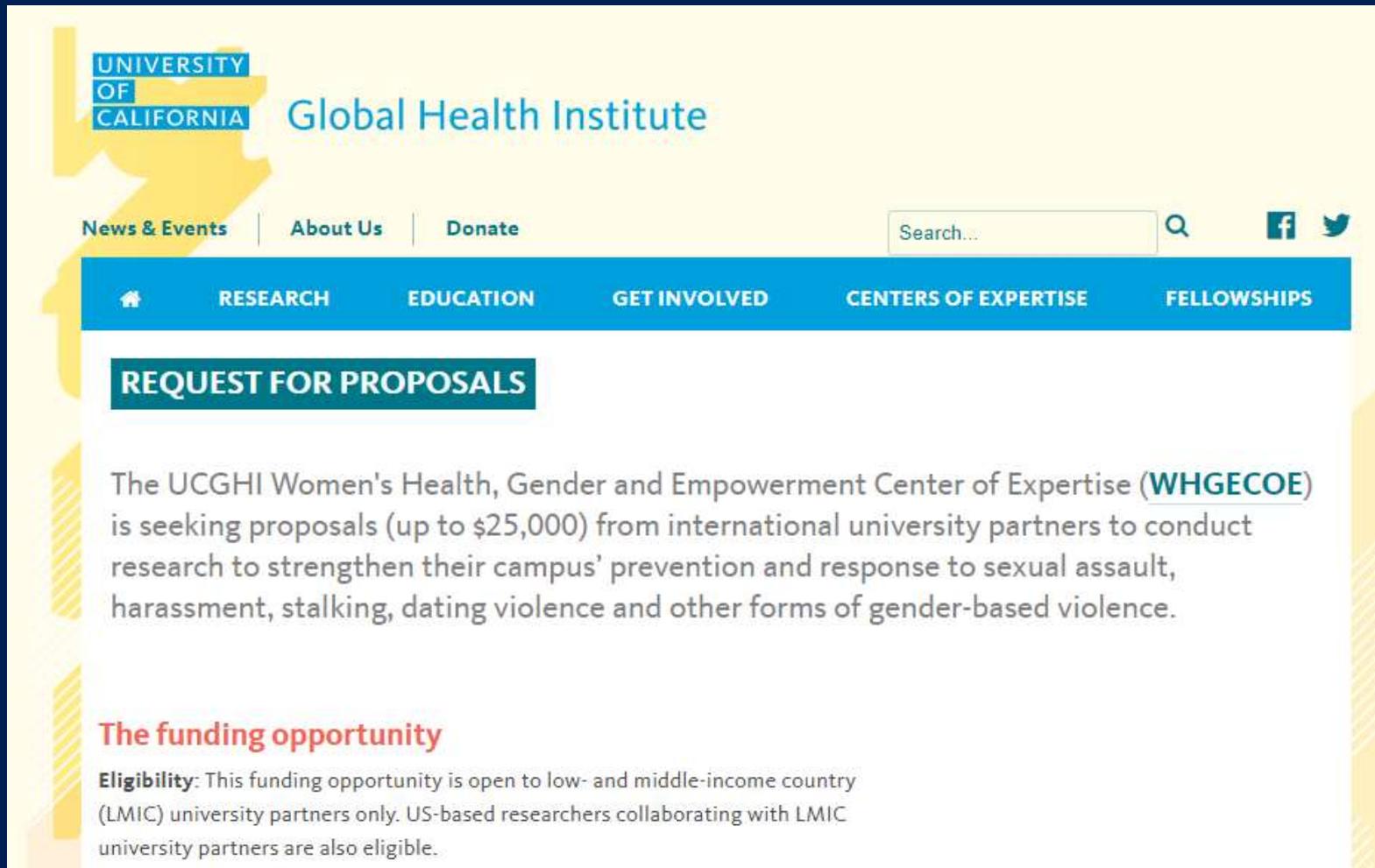
University of California Global Health Institute Women's Health, Gender and Empowerment Center of Expertise established its "Signature Research Project" to strengthen the infrastructure of colleges and universities, globally, for addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence and other forms of sexual misconduct.



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# At SVRI 2017 in Brazil



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The UCGHI Women's Health, Gender and Empowerment Center of Expertise (**WHGECOE**) is seeking proposals (up to \$25,000) from international university partners to conduct research to strengthen their campus' prevention and response to sexual assault, harassment, stalking, dating violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

### The funding opportunity

**Eligibility:** This funding opportunity is open to low- and middle-income country (LMIC) university partners only. US-based researchers collaborating with LMIC university partners are also eligible.

# A few months later, in 2018, at the University of California

We received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to conduct research at 3 UC campuses

- Survey related to sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating and intimate partner violence, stalking and reproductive and sexual health;
- To be conducted with undergraduate and graduate students;
- To use validated instruments used on other campuses.



# NAVIGATING THE ROAD BLOCKS...

## STUDENT-LED RESEARCH TO ASSESS THE CLIMATE FOR SEXUAL AND DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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*Formative, mixed-  
methods research  
at three University  
of California  
campuses*



# The UC Speaks Up Project

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Three UC-campus qualitative research study to understand climate surrounding SVSH and inform recommendations for SVSH prevention priorities and next steps.

**UCSB**

UC San Diego

**UCLA**

# UC *SPEAKS UP*



<http://ucspeaksup.org/>



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# UC Speaks Up Goals

1. Assess students' (undergraduate, graduate and professional) and faculty and staff perceptions of the campus environment related to sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking and dating violence.
2. Assess how undergraduate students define and contextualize sexual consent, to refine campus climate survey scales and improve prevention programming.
3. Seek recommendations for next steps from students, staff and faculty.
4. Create toolbox for other university and college campus to begin their own research.

# Data collected

- 178 in-depth interviews with students, staff and faculty members.
- 35 focus group discussions with students.
- 150 free-listing exercise to assess how undergraduate students conceptualize consensual sex.

# Main findings – undergraduate students

- Lack of knowledge about available services
- Fear of reporting and using services b/c of mistrust in system
- Many had negative experiences with campus services
- Very interested in involvement in prevention but unaware of how to become engaged
- Perceived alcohol as a significant risk factor
- Misunderstood mandatory reporting and Title IX

# Main findings – NCAA athletes

- Felt disconnected from main campus
- Felt unable to report any incidents on sexual violence due to fear of negative repercussions on their athletic funding and/or career
- Were not comfortable with main intervention approach of talking to coaches about sexual violence incidents, preferred working with peers

# Main findings – graduate students

- Feel very disconnected from campus community and resources
- Have unmet need for knowing how to address harassment from faculty and senior postdocs
- Felt unable to report because their career would be jeopardized
- Misunderstood mandatory reporting and Title IX

# Main findings – staff and faculty

- Did not understand their role as mandatory reporters and as a result...
- Many were afraid to talk with students about their experiences
- Most felt disconnected from campus violence prevention programming

# Global pilot grant program

- Moi University in Kenya
- University of Zambia
- Western Cape University, South Africa
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- University of Witwatersrand, South Africa



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- UC San Diego Center on Gender Equity and Health

## Co-investigators

- Dr. Jay Silverman, UCSD
- Dr. Dallas Swendeman, UCLA
- Dr. Laury Oaks, UCSB

## Research management

- Claire Amabile, UCSD
- Stephanie Sumstine, UCLA
- Eunhee Park, UCLA

**MOSTLY TO THE AMAZING STUDENT  
RESEARCH TEAMS AT EACH CAMPUS  
AND OUR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

# Thank you!!

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