Global Academic Program Proposal
Cover Sheet

College: Behavioral & Community Sciences (BCS)

Project Personnel: Paul Stiles, Department of Mental Health Law & Policy (USF)
Roger Boothroyd, Department of Mental Health Law & Policy (USF)
Catherine Batsche, Office of the Dean (USF)
Kofi Awusabo-Asare, Department of Population and Health (UCC)
Ahmed Adu-Opong, Department of Community Medicine (UCC)

Abstract:
The USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences and the University of Cape Coast propose the development of a research and educational partnership focused on international research ethics with a special emphasis on issues related to research involving children and youth. Working together, BCS and UCC faculty will focus on three projects: (1) a plan for instituting an IRB/research ethics infrastructure at UCC; (2) a proposal for an NIH R25 international research ethics grant; and (3) a collaborative research agenda focusing on youth resilience in a multi-cultural context. The NIH R25 mechanism supports educational opportunities for developing-country academics, researchers, and health professionals so they may gain experience in ethics related to performing research involving human subjects in international resource-poor settings. The proposal will be submitted to NIH in May, 2011 based on the work conducted during the GAP project. The GAP proposal will also result in UCC becoming an active member of the International Youth Resilience Research Network with the outcome being a collaborative research agenda involving faculty from USF, UCC, and other global partners in the network.

Budget: $5,000 Requested from GAP
$5,000 Match from Department of Mental Health Law & Policy
$4,000 Contribution from Dr. Stiles RIA

Letters of Commitment/Support:
Dr. Kofi Awusabo-Asare, Department of Population and Health, UCC
Dr. Roger Peters, Chair, Department of Mental Health, Law, & Policy, USF
Dr. Paul Stiles, Department of Mental Health, Law, & Policy, USF
Dean Junius Gonzales, College of Behavioral & Community Sciences
USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and
The University of Cape Coast Research Partnership

Introduction
The USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences (BCS) and the University of Cape Coast propose the development of a research and educational partnership focused on international research ethics with a special emphasis on issues related to research involving children and youth. The partnership will lead to the submission of an R25 proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for an international research ethics education grant involving USF and UCC faculties. The USF authors of this proposal (Drs. Stiles, Boothroyd, Batsche) have met with Dr. Kofi Awusabo-Asare, UCC Professor of Population and Community Health, and Dr. John Victor Mensah, UCC Professor of the Institute for Developmental Studies, and have been in email communication with Dr. Ahmed Adu-Oppong, UCC Department of Community Medicine. Dr. Kofi Glover served as our liaison with UCC faculty and he facilitated our on-campus meeting with Dr. Awusabo-Asare. As a result of these discussions, we are in agreement that the partnership has potential benefits for both institutions and will enhance the research programs of faculty at USF and UCC. The purpose of this proposal is to formalize a partnership between the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and the University of Cape Coast (UCC). The objectives are:

**Objective One:** To assist the University of Cape Coast with the development of a plan to establish and implement an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and other processes related to the responsible and ethical conduct of research, including the development of a training curriculum on research ethics.

**Outcome One:** Draft R25 NIH proposal for the development of international research ethics education/curriculum program between USF and UCC;

**Objective Two:** To invite UCC to join USF and 15 other world partners as members of the International Resilience Research network.

**Outcome Two:** To develop a long-term research agenda involving USF and UCC faculty focusing on culturally appropriate ethical practices in conducting research involving children, youth, and families in Ghana.

**Objective One: Research Ethics**
Relatively few universities in developing countries provide formal training in research ethics and the responsible conduct of research nor do they have research oversight boards (Kass et al., 2007). A survey of countries in the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that one third of the African countries had no mechanism for conducting research ethics reviews (Kirigia, Wambebe, & Baba-Moussa, 2005). Even when oversight committees were reported to exist, these institutions had often not had the opportunity to develop the infrastructure to oversee the monitoring processes (Kass et al., 2007). This situation is problematic for the National Institutes of Health because NIH often funds research that is conducted in developing countries either by U.S. researchers or by U.S. researchers in partnership with international colleagues. Therefore, NIH and the Fogarty International Center have joined forces to fund programs to develop and train professionals in non-U.S. countries on the ethical conduct of research, including the administration of research ethics boards.

Our initial work together will lead to a joint USF/UCC submission of an R25 proposal on International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development as part of the May, 2011 NIH competition. The purpose of the NIH R25 program is to “provide educational opportunities for developing country academics, researchers, and health professionals in ethics related to performing research involving human subjects in international resource-poor settings” (PAR-10-174 http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa--file/PAR-10-174.html). The USF authors of this proposal (Stiles, Boothroyd, Batsche) submitted a similar R25 proposal to NIH during the last competition cycle.
In 2008, that proposal received high marks from reviewers but was not approved for funding. The reviews indicated that the proposal had a sound conceptual foundation and an innovative curricular design for the research ethics training component. The primary reason the proposal was not funded was the lack of a direct, ongoing relationship with an academic institution in a developing country. The USF/UCC partnership directly addresses the deficiency in the first submission by providing a solidified collaborative relationship between the two universities. If funded, the proposal will provide funding to sustain the development of the UCC IRB program development as well as the implementation of a research ethics curriculum and training program for UCC faculty and students.

Although UCC faculty have already been successful research partners in grants funded by NIH, the University of Cape Coast has not yet been able to establish its own Institutional Review Board or to develop the related infrastructure to locally monitor the ethical conduct of research. UCC faculty have had to rely on the University of Ghana to obtain IRB approval for and monitoring of their research activities. UCC would like to establish its own IRB processes and has asked USF to assist with this process. Therefore, this proposal is designed to facilitate a USF/UCC collaboration that will result in (1) the development of IRB policies and procedures at UCC, and (2) the development of an ongoing faculty/student training program in research ethics at the University of Cape Coast to sustain the research infrastructure of UCC.

The faculty of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences are particularly well qualified to assist UCC with the development of IRB policies, procedures, and curricula related to research ethics. Dr. Stiles was the Chairperson of the USF Social and Behavioral IRB for approximately six years. During that time, he reviewed thousands of research protocols, provided numerous IRB workshops for the university, and was a leader in the development of the USF IRB program and policies that ultimately led to full accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs. In addition, Drs. Stiles and Boothroyd have been PI or Co-PI on two NIH grants on Ethics in Behavioral Health Services Research and on one NIMH grant related to Research Consent Disclosures. Dr. Stiles has been PI/Co-PI on two NIH funded grants examining informed consent and ethical issues with vulnerable populations. Drs. Stiles and Boothroyd have conducted training workshops on research ethics for over nine years and have made presentations on research ethics at NIH Grantee Meetings, the American Public Health Association, the American Evaluation Association, the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, the National Research and Training Conference for Children's Mental Health, the National Conference on Mental Health Statistics, the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, and the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology. Dr. Stiles and Dr. Boothroyd have already developed on-line/DVD research ethics training modules and these modules can be modified to reflect the social and cultural beliefs and practices in Ghana. Dr. Batsche has taught Ethics courses for the USF Honors College as well as the NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates Program. Drs. Stiles, Boothroyd, and Batsche were Co-PI's on the NSF project that included a research ethics component cited as "exemplary" by reviewers.

As our partnership matures, the proposed collaboration between USF and UCC will focus on developing and pursuing additional joint research infrastructure efforts. UCC representatives expressed interest in drawing on USF's extensive experience in proposal writing, proposal submission, budget preparation, project management and the development of research partnerships. In addition, we will explore the best means of developing and delivering research workshops via on-line/distance learning approaches such as podcasts, wiki, and other approaches that would be compatible with UCC and USF educational delivery systems.

**Objective Two: Youth Resilience**

The UCC/USF collaboration on research ethics will be developed within the context of the concept of youth resilience, a model that forms the basis for the research conducted by members of the International Resilience
Research Network, a worldwide network of children's researchers organized and directed by Dr. Michael Ungar at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada. The research of the International Resilience Network is founded on the theoretical framework of youth resilience. Garmezy, Masten, and Tellegen (1984) used the term resilience to describe children who manifest social and personal competence despite the extreme adversity they face. While exposure to adversity negatively affects the well-being of some children, other children thrive and mature despite exposure to risk and trauma. The success of these "resilient" children has been attributed to the presence of protective factors that enhance the ability of some youth to adapt to risk factors such as trauma, war, violence, abuse or neglect, disease/illness, family illness such as HIV, disability, dislocation, cultural disintegration, and marginalization. To date, the research on resilience has identified several processes that potentiate adaptations in adverse environments include changing trajectories, buffering the impact of exposure to risk, promoting self-esteem (and other internal assets), and augmenting access to health resources and social support (Garmezy, 1985; Luthar, Cicchetti & Becker, 2000; Rutter, 1987; Ungar, 2004; Ungar, 2005). Resilience may thus be understood as the positive end of the developmental continuum that occurs for children who experience both acute and chronic risk factors.

Several ethical issues must be considered when conducting research with children and youth, particularly those who have faced traumatic circumstances. There is a small but growing literature on the potential re-traumatization of participants in studies that ask sensitive questions about trauma, sexual behaviors, child abuse, and victimization (Boothroyd, 2000; Newman & Kaloupek, 2004). For example, Henderson & Jorm (1990) found that approximately 10% of individuals surveyed on psychologically-oriented questions became emotionally distressed following the research. Boothroyd (2000) examined the reactions of individuals with severe mental illness and found a relationship between increased mental health symptomatology and the likelihood of adverse emotional reactions from participating in the research study. He also found that perceived inadequacy of the consent disclosure procedures increased the likelihood that participants would experience adverse reactions. These examples highlight a crucial question: What is the researcher's ethical and legal obligation to address a research subject's distress caused by the research methodology itself? To what extent are children vulnerable to re-traumatization from participating in the research itself, particularly those who have been exposed to abuse, violence, and other traumatic experiences?

The International Resilience Network includes representatives from over 15 countries who have joined together to enhance the understanding of how youth in different cultures effectively cope in the face of adversity. As part of the USF/UCC collaboration, UCC will be invited to become a member of the IRP thus providing a formal mechanism for connecting UCC faculty with researchers throughout the world who are studying youth resilience. In addition, UCC faculty will bring needed expertise to the Network regarding protective factors and risk factors for youth living in Ghana. Some UCC faculty are involved in research on children and youth in Ghana. For instance, Abane and Potter have published papers on methodological issues on research with young people Increasing children's participation in African transport planning: Reflections on methodological issues in a child-centered research project (Potter G. & Abane A. 2009); Awusabo-Asare and his colleagues at the Guttmacher Institute have conducted research on adolescent sexual and reproductive health funded by the NIH (see guttmacher.org); and J.V. Mensah and colleagues have conducted research on the needs of street children in Ghana (Morrison, D.A., Mensah, J.V. & Ekumah, E.K., 2007).

The authors of this proposal bring expertise in the area of research with children and the ethical conduct of research with children. For example, Drs. Boothroyd and Stiles have published a chapter on The Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Children in International Settings in the book Researching Resilience, Catherine Batsche, Ph.D. is a school psychologist who has focused on cognitive, emotional, and behavioral disorders of youth and has conducted research on youth resilience and cultural competence. She has also conducted research on
resiliency among special populations including at-risk youth, Hispanic youth, and youth participating in GEAR UP programs.

### Implementation, Timeline, and Budget

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<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Participants/Tasks</th>
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<tr>
<td>June-Aug 2010</td>
<td>Initial planning and development activities. Preparations coordinated for UCC faculty travel to Tampa in fall, 2010. USF faculty and Ghanaian colleagues will meet and consult via conference call or Skype.</td>
<td>This will have negligible cost and will be funded by the department/college.</td>
<td>Batsche to coordinate and facilitate on-line meetings, conference calls, and travel arrangements through BCS Dean’s Office. Participants: Batsche, Boothroyd, Stiles, Mensah, Adu-Opong, Awusaba-Asare</td>
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<td>Sept-Oct 2010</td>
<td>Two UCC faculty will travel to USF for 1 week for continued work with USF faculty on three projects: (1) IRB/research ethics infrastructure for UCC; (2) initiate draft for NIH R25 proposal; and youth resilience initiatives; and (3) consult with Dr. Unger, Director of the International Resilience Research Network, who will travel to USF for 1-2 days to consult with USF and UCC faculty regarding the International Resilience Project and possible research collaborations. At this meeting, Dr. Unger will deliver the formal invitation to UCC to join the International Resilience Network.</td>
<td>Travel/expenses for UCC faculty estimated at $2,500 each ($5,000 total) and travel/stipend for Dr. Unger estimated at $1,500. Total: $6,500 ($5,000 provided by the GAP grant for UCC faculty travel; $1,500 provided by MHLp for Dr. Unger’s travel from Canada).</td>
<td>Two faculty from UCC to be selected by UCC. Stiles &amp; Boothroyd to facilitate the IRB/research ethics activities; Stiles &amp; Boothroyd to facilitate the youth resilience activities; Boothroyd to coordinate the meeting with Dr. Unger.</td>
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<td>Oct-Nov 2010</td>
<td>Three USF faculty will travel to UCC for 1 week for continued work together on the joint projects, to learn about UCC and its faculty research interests related to youth resilience, and to explore appropriate mechanisms for the delivery of the research ethics training curriculum.</td>
<td>Travel/expenses for USF faculty estimated at $2,500 each. Total: $7,500 (provided by MHLp).</td>
<td>Boothroyd &amp; Stiles to focus on IRB/research ethics activities; Batsche &amp; Boothroyd to focus on youth resilience research agenda; Stiles to focus on instructional delivery capacities of UCC/USF.</td>
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<td>Dec 2010 - May 2011</td>
<td>Continue regular interactions via conference telephone and Skype with ultimate goals: (1) to finalize the NIH grant proposal on international research ethics for submission in May, 2011; (2) in area of youth resilience; (3) to facilitate the establishment of an IRB at UCC; (4) to pursue additional research initiatives related to youth resilience. The delivery mechanism for the research ethics curriculum will be included in the NIH proposal. Funding will be provided by NIH, if approved, to develop and deliver the curriculum.</td>
<td>This will have negligible cost.</td>
<td>All partners will be responsible for completion of project outcomes.</td>
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Total budget: $14,000 ($5,000 provided by GAP, $5,000 provided by MHLp Department; $4,000 provided by Stiles RIA).