



James E. Shepard, Founder

International Affairs

February 23, 2010

Dr. Gabriel Peterson  
Assistant Professor  
School of Library and Information Sciences

Dear Dr. Peterson:

Congratulations! Your proposal for the 2010 OIA Competitive Grants has been accepted for funding. We commend you on your project "A comparative E-health needs and literacy assessment for under-served populations in North Carolina and Puerto Rico" planned for fall/winter 2010.

Please note that one of your budget items "Incentives for participants: \$500" cannot be covered by State Funds, which supports the OIA Competitive Grants. You may use monies towards ordering supplies from a vendor with a tax identification number. Please contact our office as soon as possible to work out the details.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

OEJones  
Olivia E. Jones  
Assistant Director

cc. Dr. Emmanuel Oritsejafor  
Director

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Application for OIA Annual Competitive Grant

**Proposal Submission Form**

Name: \_\_ Gabriel M. Peterson, PhD

Title: \_\_ Assistant Professor

Department/School/College \_\_ School of Library and Information Sciences

Telephone: x6746 alt: 573-808-6608 \_\_ E-mail: \_\_ gpeterson@nccu.edu

Title of Project: A comparative E-health needs and literacy assessment for under-served populations in North Carolina and Puerto Rico

Amount Requested for Project: (Not to Exceed \$1,000.00) \_\_ \$1000.00

Proposed start and end dates of the project: \_\_ Fall/Winter 2010

Abstract: (Maximum of 250 words)

Increasing health information literacy is a fundamental way of improving public health and reducing the social costs of unequal access to health resources. Few validated assessment tools of health information literacy have been developed, particularly for under-served populations, including minorities and the socio-economically disadvantaged. Health information literacy assessment tools for Spanish-speaking groups are even less common. The development of useful health literacy measures can only be of benefit to the community.

This proposal outlines a pilot study to develop a validated instrument intended to measure health literacy among Spanish speaking populations in North Carolina and Puerto Rico. The project will consist of a training program for 25 community leaders in each location, including pre- and post- training assessment of information use and needs. The training will consist of an intensive, 1-day training session using both printed and web-based materials developed in part by the National Library of Medicine. The health literacy measures will be comprised of a pre-test in the form of a survey/questionnaire that assesses awareness of, use of and attitudes towards sources of health information, both traditional and online. The training session will then consist of project members presenting an introduction and tutorial regarding a number of free, high quality sources of consumer health information from the National Library of Medicine. Participants will be incentivized to complete a post-training assessment of uses, attitudes and proficiency one month after the training.