



Carolina Population Center

In 1966, the Carolina Population Center was founded at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. To celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2006, a project was conducted to document the history of the Center. This transcript is an excerpt from an oral history interview.

Interviewee: Amy Tsui

Interview conducted by: Grace Camblos

Interview date: December 10, 2005

Amy Tsui was a CPC Visiting Scholar 1982 – 1983, Research Associate 1983 – 1985, Deputy Director 1987 – 1991, EVALUATION Project Director 1991 – 1997, Measure Evaluation Project Director 1997 – 1999, CPC Fellow 1985 – 2002, and CPC Director 1997 – 2002.

GC: Now I understand that the biomedical core was developed while you were the director? Why was that seen as something that you wanted to develop?

AT: Well, I think we do now realize that we can't rely solely on subjective reporting of health status, because there's so much that confounds how people think about their health and report their health that you need to have different measures. And plus, this is all what NIH is about, too, is this integrating interdisciplinary, you know, integrative science across different disciplines. And because NIH is so biomedical that often times the language there relies on these kinds of objective health measures. You know, whether it's blood pressure or some saliva-based test, you know, for some infection or cortisol or, now in Add Health is collecting all kinds of biological measures that are going to be useful for later adult health.