

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Recent research initiatives at the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS are building upon the agency's long, successful HIV/AIDS clinical trial program. Moreover, we have begun to engage in select university and scholarly research projects that advance the mission of leading the fight against HIV/AIDS. Such research partnerships will enable the agency to contribute to a body of knowledge in areas of HIV/AIDS behavioral health, nutrition sciences, complementary alternative medicine (CAM) and genomic-related research.

Our agency continues to develop various partnerships to enhance research and development and other agency programs. *Collaborations include:*

- Research partnerships
- Universities
- Research institutes
- Health care providers
- Community alliances
- Joint programs with community-based organizations
- Thought leadership through The Edge – a recurring, educational lecture and luncheon offered to health care professionals working in the field of HIV/AIDS
- Conferences
- Community workshops

Community alliance initiatives at the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS are focused on increasing participation in prevention programs by underserved populations, including those from Hispanic, Black/African American and Native American communities. As testing expands to more communities, creative program delivery channels will expand our ability to reach a growing number of clients separated from the agency's offices by either distance or social stigma.

One of our central activities is our renowned, community-based clinical trials program. We conduct a large number of research studies, which are pharmaceutically sponsored and patient oriented. Our studies investigate groundbreaking, antiretroviral HIV therapies and address related complications of both the treatment and the virus itself. Studies at the agency have contributed to Food and Drug Administration approval of many leading-edge drugs that, today, help individuals worldwide who are infected with HIV.

The clinical trials program continues to strengthen and expand the agency's focused research to continue contributing to the body of knowledge needed by pharmaceutical companies, the medical community and patients. And as previously mentioned, our agency has established alliances with other Valley agencies and medical centers to enhance its ability to serve Arizona's diverse population through the clinical trials program. These efforts will ensure that research studies include a diverse population of participants through their identification and our efforts to eliminate barriers.

For more information about research and development at the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS, call **602-307-5330** or log on to **[www.swhiv.org](http://www.swhiv.org)**.

*Child watch is available on site for all clients utilizing services at the agency.*