NCCOR & GLOBAL HEALTH

March 9, 2014 | C. Tracy Orleans| Active Living Research

About the National Collaborative for Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR)

Goal: Improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and application of childhood obesity research, and to halt -- and reverse -- childhood obesity through enhanced coordination and collaboration.

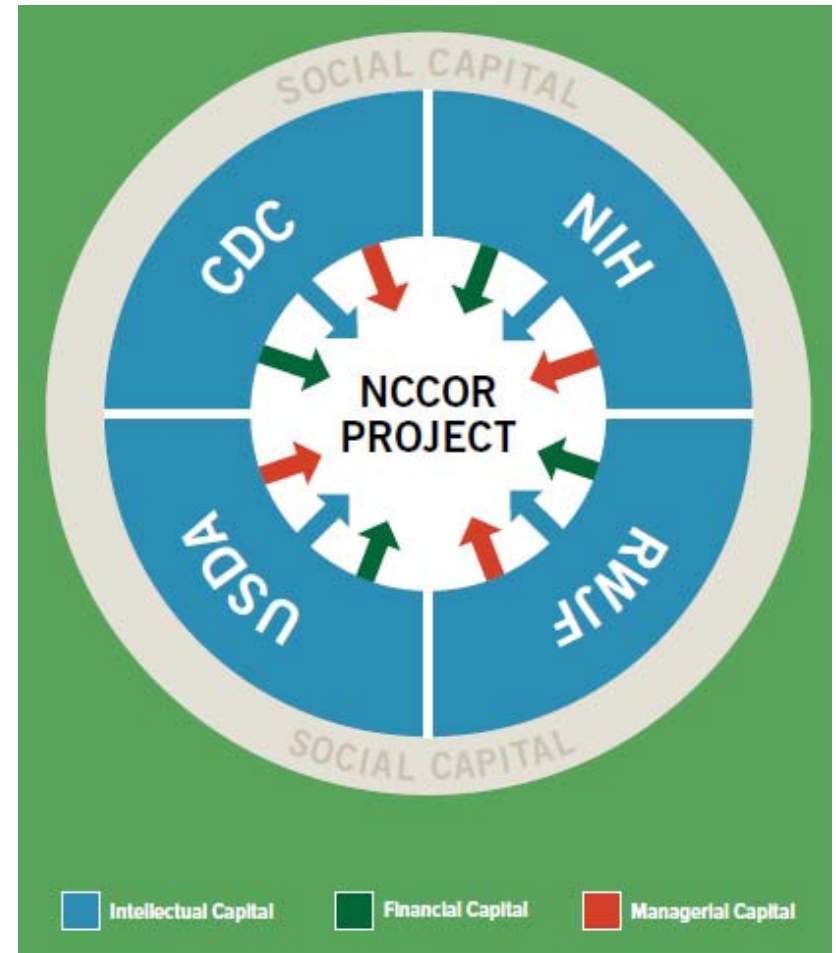From its inception in 2008, NCCOR has focused on global work through the Envision network.

As part of NCCOR's effort to build capacity for multi-level, integrated research, members examine the effects of individual, socio-cultural, economic, environmental, and policy forces on children's diet, physical activity, energy balance, and body weight.
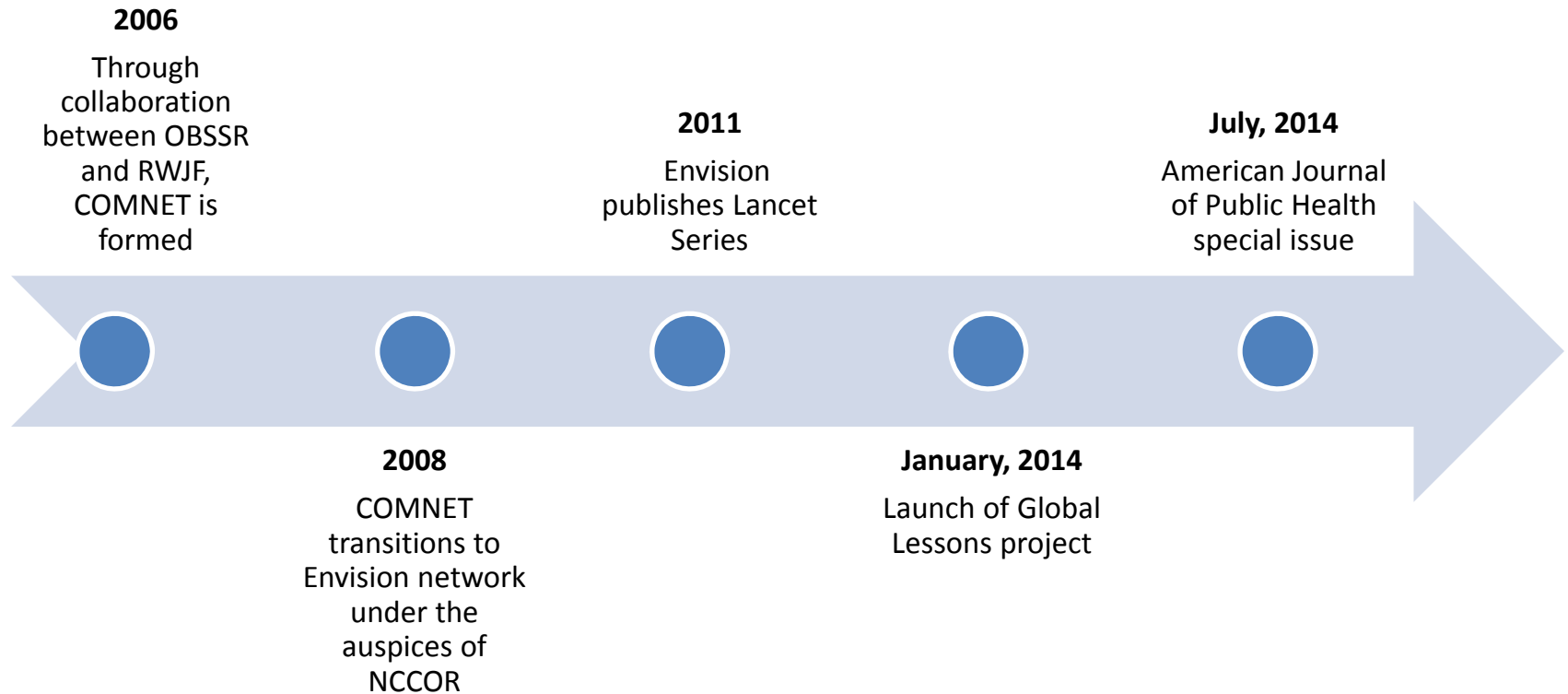
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About NCCOR

NCCOR Funders:
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

NCCOR uses flexible combinations of members' social, financial, managerial, and intellectual capital to make strategic project investments.

NCCOR Global Work Timeline

2006

Through collaboration between OBSSR and RWJF, COMNET is formed

2011

Envision publishes Lancet Series

July, 2014

American Journal of Public Health special issue

2008

COMNET transitions to Envision network under the auspices of NCCOR

January, 2014

Launch of Global Lessons project

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Collaborative Obesity Modeling Network (COMNet)

- COMNet, a collaborative project, supported a network connecting a consortium of leading childhood obesity modelers from several countries (the U.S., U.K., Australia and Canada).

- Pioneered the use of collaborative statistical and computational modeling approaches to **gain insights** into the most effective ways to prevent childhood obesity.

- Used Systems Science methodology including:
  - Systems dynamics modeling
  - Agent based modeling
  - Discrete event simulation
  - Network analysis
  - Dynamic micro simulation modeling
  - Markov modeling

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Envision

GOAL: Use Statistical Simulation Models to Assess Public Health Policies and Interventions for Childhood Obesity Prevention and Control

Envision links three modeling networks—COMNet, CompMod (Comparative Modeling), and the Statistical Network—**to forecast** the impact of public health policies and interventions on childhood obesity through innovative modeling approaches.
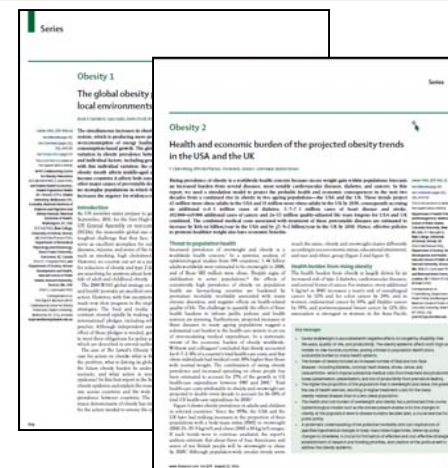
Envision products

Lancet Series

A 2011 Obesity Series in The Lancet featured four articles and three commentaries by Envision research teams highlighting global obesity trends and the need for government intervention received worldwide media attention.

The series received worldwide attention and news outlets published 630 stories by the end of 2012.

A second set of Lancet papers is now in press

American Journal of Public Health

Researchers have been working on a special issue scheduled for publication in July 2014. It will focus on applications of statistical and systems-science modeling to childhood obesity.

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Global Perspectives on Childhood Obesity

In January, RWJF and NCCOR launched a new project titled "Lessons from Global Efforts to Reduce Childhood Obesity".

Goal: Convene a group of international researchers to provide timely findings and recommendations to guide ongoing U.S. and global efforts to reduce levels of childhood obesity and disparities in its prevalence and health tolls.

Researchers will convene for one week, spending two days at the RWJF and two days at NIH's Fogarty International Center (tentative dates July 14-18, 2014).

Week will consist of brief presentations, small group sessions and a final synthesis of conversations.

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Global Perspectives on Childhood Obesity

Topic areas will include:

- policy/environmental, normative and industry changes that are emerging as most and least promising;

- drivers of disparities in childhood obesity prevalence and disparities across developed countries, and strategies that might address them;

- lessons learned about the interventions needed to build public demand for effective policies and strategies, and

- recommendations for future research in these areas to inform U.S. strategies and activities.

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Leadership & Expertise

Issue	Leadership
Project Management	Regina Bures (US) Patty Mabry (US) Tracy Orleans (US)
Disparities	Martin Brown (UK) Steve Gortmaker (US) Tim Lobstein (UK) Tim Marsh (UK) Klim McPherson (UK) Harry Rutter (UK) Clare Wang (US)
Promising environmental strategies	Kevin Hall (US) Susan Jebb (UK) Vivica Kraak (US/NZ) Marj Moodie (AU) Barry Popkin (US)
Building demand for policies	Rob Carter (AU) Terry Huang (US) Boyd Swinburn (NZ) Juan Rivera (Mexico) Simon Barquera (Mexico)

For More Information

- Learn more about the Collaborative at www.nccor.org

- Follow on twitter: @NCCOR