

## Summary

Results from our listening circles indicate that the use of waterpipe smoking among Somali and Oromo community members in Minnesota is socially accepted by both young adults and elders, in both public and private social settings and is very common. Study participants reported that they believed that waterpipe smoking is less harmful than cigarettes and more culturally acceptable. These results suggest that the provision of culturally sensitive prevention and cessation efforts are needed to address this emerging trend in tobacco use among the Somali and Oromo new immigrant communities.

The information gleaned from these listening circles led to the development of a detailed quantitative survey. Our research group in the Department of Medicine at the University of Minnesota, in collaboration with CURA, is currently recruiting young adult college students to complete this survey to

further enhance our understanding of hookah use and nicotine dependence among Somali and Oromo young-adult college students in the Twin Cities area. The overall aim of this program of research is to inform the development of a culturally appropriate intervention to increase awareness about the health impacts of waterpipe smoking in these underrepresented communities.

**Erick Marigi** is an undergraduate senior student at St. Olaf College, where he is pursuing a double major in biology and math. He worked on this report under the mentorship of Janet Thomas while an intern in the Program in Health Disparities Research in Summer 2012. He is a member of the Minnesota Future Doctors organization and is applying to medical school. **Abdi Jibril** graduated from the University of Minnesota in May 2012 with a degree in physiology. He began work in the area of hookah smoking among the Oromo and Somali communities while a

summer research student in the Program in Health Disparities Research in 2011. He is a member of the Minnesota Future Doctors organization and is currently applying to medical school. **Janet Thomas, Ph.D.**, is associate professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. She is a behavioral scientist targeting tobacco control and a licensed psychologist specializing in the treatment of anxiety disorders. Her primary research interest is tobacco control efforts among underserved populations including African American, Native American and East African communities.

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## Project Assistance Available from CURA

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The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs supports research and technical assistance through a number of individual programs, each with their own deadlines and application procedures.

■ **The Community Assistantship Program (CAP)** matches community-based nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, and government agencies in Greater Minnesota with students who can provide research assistance. Eligible organizations define a research project, submit an application, and, if accepted, are matched with a qualified student to carry out the research. The application deadline for spring semester 2014 assistantships (January through May 2014) is October 30, 2013. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with applications, contact CAP coordinator Will Craig at 612-625-3321 or [wrcraig@umn.edu](mailto:wrcraig@umn.edu), or visit [www.cura.umn.edu/cap](http://www.cura.umn.edu/cap).

■ **The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS)** program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to

community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests can be made by phone, e-mail, or online at [z.umn.edu/cgishelp](http://z.umn.edu/cgishelp), and generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or [jmatson@umn.edu](mailto:jmatson@umn.edu), or visit [www.cura.umn.edu/cgis](http://www.cura.umn.edu/cgis).

■ **The Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program** (the Nelson Program) provides student research assistance to community and neighborhood-based organizations and suburban government agencies in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area. Priority is given to groups serving diverse communities. Projects may include any issue relevant to a neighborhood or community's needs and interests, including planning,

program development, or program evaluation. Applications from organizations collaborating on a project are encouraged. The application deadline for spring semester 2014 assistantships (January through May 2014) is October 30, 2013. For more information, contact CURA community programs assistant Jeff Corn at 612-625-0744 or [curacbr@umn.edu](mailto:curacbr@umn.edu), or visit [www.cura.umn.edu/nelson-program](http://www.cura.umn.edu/nelson-program).

■ **The Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing (MCNO)** trains people to work effectively in organizing and staffing neighborhood organizations. It trains new organizers and increases the skills of existing neighborhood staff, leaders, and volunteers through internships, workshops, and other programs. For more information about MCNO and the training opportunities available, contact Jay Clark at 612-625-2513 or [clark037@umn.edu](mailto:clark037@umn.edu), or Ned Moore at 612-625-5805 or [nedmoore@umn.edu](mailto:nedmoore@umn.edu), or visit [www.cura.umn.edu/mcno](http://www.cura.umn.edu/mcno).