

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

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Dr. Marian L. Fitzgibbon is a professor in the Department of Medicine and School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is also the Associate Director for the Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. Dr. Fitzgibbon's work has focused predominantly on health risk reduction interventions in minority populations. She has received grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her research group developed Hip-Hop to Health, Jr. Hip-Hop to Health is an obesity prevention intervention developed for African-American and Latino preschool children. Published results from the first efficacy trial indicated significant differences between treatment and control African-American children measured by body mass index (BMI) at two years post intervention. Additional Hip-Hop programs are now testing whether classroom teachers can be trained to deliver the intervention rather than specially trained early childhood educators with similar results and an intervention testing the inclusion of the family.