

## **\$64K grant to support study on Arab and Chaldean American depression screening**



*Dr. Florence Dallo, in her office, discusses the study on Arab and Chaldean American depression screening she recently received funding for through the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation.*

Oakland University's School of Health Sciences will be studying depression screening among southeast Michigan's Arab and Chaldean population with \$64,000 in grant funding from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation (BCBSM).

Dr. Florence Dallo, associate professor and interim program director in the program in Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention in the School of Health Sciences, focuses her studies on health and wellness within the Arab and Chaldean American community. She conceptualized the idea and applied for the grant in collaboration with physicians and other researchers at Henry Ford Health System.

Dallo said the funding will go towards supporting faculty, staff and a student in analyzing patient records within the Henry Ford Health System to examine screening and treatment for depression.

Specifically, the study will look at whether Arab Americans are screened for depression at the same rate as other ethnic groups, what percentage screen positive for depression and whether Arab American patients get the same types of treatment and assessment as other racial and ethnic groups after a positive depression screen.

The grant will help answer some questions, but will also bring others up involving public policy and more, Dallo said. However, overall, "the grant will help improve health care screening and delivery in Michigan for a large minority," she added.

The funding will come over a period of one year. Dallo said she would not have the people, money and time to complete the research if it weren't for the project.

Dallo is no stranger to receiving grant funding. In 2009, she received a grant from the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research to analyze American Community Survey data to better understand disability status of Arab, Hispanic and Asian Americans 65 years of age or older.

In August 2012, Dallo used grant funding from Oakland University to explore the health of Arab and Chaldean Americans using Beaumont Health System data, as well.

The recently funded study into Arab and Chaldean American depression triage will increase the visibility of Dallo's concentration within the School of Health Sciences and potentially highlight a problem to be solved, Dallo said.

"The visibility will expose others to the important research being conducted at OU, especially among an understudied and underserved community," said Dallo. "Grants are the key to helping us, our students and our communities learn new things. Academic institutions, like OU, have the people with the expertise to conduct such research. Grants assist faculty into tapping into their knowledge and skills to answer important questions and generate new questions."

For more information about Oakland's School of Health Sciences, visit [oakland.edu/shs](http://oakland.edu/shs).