The UNLV School of Public Health is the first and only accredited School of Public Health in Nevada, and one of just 66 in the world with this distinction from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Offering six degree programs and two certificate programs, the mission of the school is to advance the science of public health, improve the quality of life of people in our communities and eliminate health disparities in Nevada, the nation and the world by providing leadership in quality education, research and service.

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Dr. Shawn L. Gerstenberger is currently the Dean of the School of Public Health (formerly School of Community Health Sciences) at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), and a Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health. His first faculty appointment was in 1997 as an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs at UNLV. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2003 and Professor in 2009.

In 2004, he left the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs to start a new School of Public Health, establish a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree and form the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health located in the Division of Health Sciences at UNLV.

In 2006-2007 he drafted and submitted the proposal for a PhD in Public Health degree. This proposal was then combined into a joint PhD in Public Health Program with the University of Nevada-Reno, and approved in 2008, as one of the first joint programs between the two institutions. Over a twelve period, the School of Public Health (renamed to the School of Community Health Sciences in 2009) has grown to add programs, certificates, faculty and staff that acquire approximately $7,000,000 annually from extramural sources, and publish approximately 100 peer-reviewed journal articles annually. These accomplishments are done in close collaboration with the faculty, staff, several centers and institutes within the school and support 20+ full-time staff members from extramurally funded sources. From 2008 to 2013, Dr. Gerstenberger served as both Department Chair and Associate Dean for the SPH and led the effort to pursue accreditation for the MPH program.

In July 2013, the School of Public Health received accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) for the MPH Program for a five-year term, extending to July 2018. This accreditation encompasses all of the core public health areas of emphasis including: Environmental and Occupational Health, Health Care Administration and Policy, Social and Behavioral Health, and Biostatistics and Epidemiology. In 2018, as Dean he coordinated the efforts to become the first Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) accredited school in the state of Nevada. In 2018, he also lead the efforts to become the first accredited School of Public Health in Nevada in accordance with the newly adopted (CEPH) criteria.

**Research Interests:** Environmental toxicants and their effects on human and wildlife health, specifically those related to mercury, lead, PCBs and other compounds that adversely influence children’s health and welfare.

**Current Projects:** Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program; Environmental Health Laboratory; Healthy Homes; Landlord-Tenant Hotline; and mercury contamination in wildlife.

**Unique Resources:** Analysis by GC-MS (Pesticides, etc.), UV-Vis Spectrophotometry (Water quality, etc), Mercury Analysis (cold vapor and combustion), Graphite Furnace (metals analysis), Microwave Digestion Equipment, X-Ray Fluorescence (instant metals analysis for 26 compounds), air-monitoring equipment.
Recent Publications:


Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

ACADEMIC FACULTY

Environmental and Occupational Health

Francisco S. Sy, MD, MS, DrPH - Chair and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Mark Buttner, PhD - Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Karen E. Callahan, PhD - Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Lung-Wen ‘Antony’ Chen, PhD – Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Sheila Janofsky Clark, PhD – Assoc. Professor-in-Residence of Environmental and Occupational Health
Courtney Coughenour, PhD - Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Chad Cross, PhD, MFT, PStat(R), C-MDI – Visiting Associate Professor
Patricia Cruz, PhD - Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Vincent Fenimore, PhD - Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Paula Frew, PhD, MPH - Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Max Gakh, JD, MPH - Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Erika Marquez, PhD - Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Jennifer Pharr, PhD - Graduate Coordinator and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Social and Behavioral Health Program

Melva Thompson-Robinson, DrPH - Program Coordinator and Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Jason Flatt, PhD, MPH – Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Timothy Grigsby, PhD - Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Amanda Morgan, PhD, MPH - Associate Professor-in-Residence of Social and Behavioral Health
Charles Regin, PhD - Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Manoj Sharma, MBBS, PhD, MCHES – Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Marya Shegog, PhD, MPH, CHES - Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health

Part-Time Instructors pool

Russell Argenal
MacKenzie Burns
Jocy-Anna Chevalier
Sanae El Ibrahimi
Alexandria Evans
Lucy ‘Tatiana’ Gesundheit
Saruna Ghimire
Amanda Haboush-Deloye

Aaron Hunt
Jennifer (Jenna) Heath
Justin Keane
Iwimbong Kum Ghabowen
Kathleen Lauckner
Sabina Malik
Melissa Marshall

Megan McDonough
Jose Melendrez
Tanviben Patel
Alyx Peterson
Jennifer Ritchie
Raymond Rodriguez
Jennifer Shaps

Asma Tahir
Douglas Taylor
Markie Twist
Jodi Tyson
William (Brent) Webber
Carissa Wolff
David Woodard
Dr. Francisco Sy is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the UNLV School of Public Health. He is the President of the Delta Theta Chapter of the UNLV Delta Omega Society, the Public Health Honor Society.

At the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Sy was a Senior Program Director and AIDS Coordinator in the Division of Extramural Scientific Programs at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). In his 12 years at NIH/NIMHD, he served in various leadership positions including Director, Office of Community-Based Participatory Research & Collaboration; Director, Office of Extramural Research Administration; and Director, Division of Extramural Activities & Scientific Programs. He was the President of NIH Asian Pacific American Organization (APAO).

At the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Sy was a Senior Health Scientist in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention for 4 years. In 2003, he volunteered and led the CDC SARS Community Outreach Team in Asian communities in the U.S. to mitigate the fear and stigma associated with SARS. He was the founding President of the Association of Asian Pacific Islander Employees of CDC and ATSDR (AAPIECA). He taught and conducted research in infectious disease epidemiology for 15 years at University of South Carolina (USC) School of Public Health. Dr. Sy has been the Editor of *AIDS Education and Prevention* - An Interdisciplinary Journal for 29 years.

Dr. Sy has received numerous awards including: the 2015 NIH Director’s Award for catalyzing the advancement of sexual and gender minorities research; 2012 Harvard School of Public Health Outstanding Alumnus for Leadership in Public Health Practice; 2012 NIH Director’s Award for coordinating LGBT research at NIH; 2004 HHS Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service in CDC’s SARS outbreak investigation; and the 1991 James Keith Excellence in Teaching Award from USC School of Public Health.

Dr. Sy earned his Doctor of Public Health in Immunology and Infectious Diseases from Johns Hopkins University; MS in Tropical Public Health from Harvard University; MD and BS degrees from the University of the Philippines.

**Research Interests:** HIV/AIDS prevention; infectious disease epidemiology; parasitology; emerging infectious diseases; minority health and health disparities research; LGBT health research; community-based participatory research (CBPR) and global health.

**Courses Taught:** Transmission of Infectious Diseases, Implementation Science

**Current Projects:** Assessment of Filipino American Health in Greater Las Vegas: A Pilot Study

**Unique Resources:** Knowledge of extramural grant process at NIH
Recent Publications:


Dr. Mark Buttner is a Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the UNLV School of Public Health. He is the Associate Director of the UNLV Public Health Laboratory, the Director of the Pollen Monitoring Laboratory and Co-Director of the Emerging Diseases Laboratory at UNLV. His research is focused on sampling and analysis of airborne microorganisms, with emphasis on enhanced detection methods of airborne and surface-associated microorganisms that are potential human health risks in indoor environments.

Dr. Buttner also conducts research involving detection of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and prevention of healthcare-associated infections. He served on the editorial board of the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology and as an editor of the Aerobiology section of the Manual of Environmental Microbiology. He currently serves as a member of the Standing Standard Project Committee, “Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality”, of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

Research Interests: Bioaerosol sampling and analysis; airborne pollen; indoor air quality; healthcare-associated infections; antibiotic-resistant microorganisms.

Courses Taught: Fundamentals of Environmental Health; Scientific and Technical Writing; Airborne, Pathogens and Public Health; Transmission of Infectious Disease; Children, Development, Health, and the Environment

Current Projects: Public health microbiology; Airborne pollen monitoring

Unique Resources: Emerging Diseases Laboratory (EDL); Bioaerosol Test Chamber; Airborne Pollen Laboratory; Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, UNLV Branch

Recent Publications:


Bumgarden, K., Pharr, J. R., Buttner, M. P., and E. Ezeanolue. 2016. Interventions that increase the intention to seek voluntary HIV testing in young people: a review, AIDS Care, 29:3, 365-371,
Dr. Karen E. Callahan is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at UNLV. She recently completed her PHD in Public Health at UNLV with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics; her dissertation work focused on Colorectal Cancer. She enjoys sharing her passion for Public Health in the classroom as well as collaborating with colleagues from across the globe on research projects. She presents her research at local, national, or international conferences, often sponsored by the organizations of which she is a member: the Nevada Public Health Association, the American Public Health Association, and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries.

Research Interests: Her primary research interest is in population-based descriptive cancer epidemiology, using cancer registry data and mortality data to characterize population disparities. In particular, she looks at racial/ethnic disparities as well as intra-racial/ethnic heterogeneity, including examining cancer differences between US-born Mexicans and Mexican immigrants, between US-born Blacks, Afro-Caribbeans, and African immigrants, and between diverse Asian/Pacific islander groups such as Filipinos, Chinese, and South Asians. Special focus areas have included breast, colorectal and liver cancer. Her research aims to provide novel and/or updated baseline information critical to the development of targeted and culturally-specific cancer control and prevention efforts.

Additionally, Dr. Callahan has worked collaboratively with Nepali researchers and students to conduct primary research in the small Himalayan country of Nepal. Study topics have included the increasing burden of chronic diseases, health among the aging population, and the experience of teenage girls practicing menstrual exile, a traditional practice still prevalent in rural Western Nepal.

Courses Taught: PBH 165 Health Across the Lifespan, PBH 200 Multicultural Health, HCA/PBH 202 Epidemiology, PBH 205 Introduction to Public Health, EAB 705/HCA702 Epidemiology

Recent Publications:


Lung-Wen (Antony) Chen, PhD
Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

**Keywords:** air pollution, particulate matter, exposure assessment, receptor model, environmental epidemiology

**Dr. Antony Chen** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the UNLV School of Public Health.

Dr. Chen researches atmospheric aerosol and co-pollutants from natural and anthropogenic sources, focusing on development of monitoring and modeling methods for assessing public exposure and health risks. He is particularly interested in environmental health issues in developing countries and their global implications.

Dr. Chen is an affiliate Associate Research Professor at the Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute. He has been PI/co-PI for several federal or state funded research projects, a grant reviewer for NSF, NASA, JFSP, and DOE, and an editor/referee for several peer-reviewed journals in his field.

**Research Interests:** Micro-to-regional scale air pollution monitoring to improve exposure assessment; analytical methods for characterizing particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$ and PM$_{10}$ including bioaerosol), coupled with receptor modeling to quantify their sources; air pollution health effects and global environmental health issues related to energy use, urbanization, and climate change

**Courses Taught:** Pollution and Health; Environmental Health; Air Quality Measurement and Modeling

**Current Projects:** Hybrid Environmental Receptor Model for PM source apportionment; evaluation and applications of low-cost air quality sensors; primary bioaerosol particles in the urban southwest; PM exposure and asthma incidence; emissions from biomass burning – environmental and climate impacts.

**Unique Resources:** Urban Air Quality Laboratory (UAQL) including real-time and time-integrated aerosol samplers/sizers/analyzers, air sensors calibration tools; automated deposition samplers, weather stations, and fluorescence aerosol imaging system.

**Recent Publications:**


Dr. Sheila Janofsky Clark is an Associate Professor-in-Residence at the UNLV School of Public Health. She completed her PhD in Public Health with a concentration in Social and Behavioral Health at UNLV in May 2014. Her research interests include community-based physical activity and active transportation, especially in children. She has authored articles in these and related areas.

She is a member of the Nevada Public Health Association and American Public Health Association and teaches courses including Introduction to Public Health, Methods in Health Education, and Health Studies on Dangerous Drugs at UNLV.

Research Interests: Food systems; policy-based approaches to childhood obesity; Community-based physical activity; Active transportation, especially in children

Courses Taught: Introduction to Public Health; Health Studies of Dangerous Drugs; Methods in Health Education; Food Systems and Health; Active Transportation and Health

Current Projects: Analysis of the urban food environment; investigation of channel blurring using Dollar Stores as a potential mediator for healthy food access; analysis of food rescue efforts to mitigate hunger; the examination of neighborhood walkability and the influence on health behaviors and overall health; the potential influence of bias as a factor in pedestrian crash rates; and the influence of policy on youth risk behaviors and reducing inequalities

Recent Publications:


Courtney Coughenour, PhD
Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Keywords: health disparities, food access, walkability, bikeability, urban health, rural health, pedestrian safety, health policy, health impact assessment, social determinants of health

Dr. Courtney Coughenour is an Assistant Professor for the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the UNLV School of Public Health. Her research focuses on environmental, social, and policy factors that influence health disparities; she is particularly interested in how community design influences health behaviors and using the social determinants of health to improve overall health and wellbeing. She collaborates frequently with local partners in these efforts, including Three Square Food Bank, The Southern Nevada Health District, the Transportation Research Center, and planning departments within the local jurisdictions. She offers opportunities for students to gain hands on research experience.

Research Interests: The influence of environmental, social, and policy factors on health disparities; the relationship between the built environment and health behaviors

Courses Taught: Introduction to Public Health; Fundamentals of Public Health; Health Impact Assessment (experiential); Built Environment and Health; Injury Prevention and Public Health; Health Across the Lifespan; Health Studies of Dangerous Drugs

Recent Publications:


Bartshe, M., Coughenour, C., & Pharr, J. (2018). Perceived walkability, social capital, and self reported physical activity in Las Vegas college students. Sustainability, 10(9), 3023.


as a potential factor in pedestrian crashes. *Accident Analysis & Prevention, 98*, 96-100


Dr. Chad L. Cross is trained as a multidisciplinary scientist and holds advanced degrees in statistics, the life sciences, and the social sciences. He works professionally as a statistician and data scientist, and has specific interests in applied biostatistics, nonparametric methods, multivariate methods, research design and sampling methodology, analysis of messy data, complex analysis of big data, secondary data analysis, pattern recognition, data science, statistical genetics, and computer programming.

He has worked as a professional scientist, biostatistician, and consultant, as well as in academia, the federal government, and private industry. His technical education and research have resulted in recognition by the American Statistical Association as an Accredited Professional Statistician™. His research consistently involves working with multi-disciplinary research teams to bring statistical and analytical expertise to novel and interesting research questions. He applies his quantitative work broadly in medicine, healthcare, and STEM applications.

Research Interests: Biostatistics, medicine and health statistics applications, research design and sampling, analysis of nonstandard data sets, community-based research, environmental statistics applications, social science statistics applications, big data analytics and programming

Courses Taught: Personal Health Across the Lifespan, Biostatistical Methods for the Health Sciences, Nonparametric Statistics for Public Health, Linear Statistical Models, Survival Analysis for Public Health, Multivariate Methods for the Health Sciences

Current Projects: Statistical support for several ongoing medical projects, translational research in HIV/AIDS with the UNLV Global Health Initiative, sports-related injury with faculty at the University of Utah School of Medicine, rehabilitation medicine

Unique Resources: ASA Accredited Professional Statistician™; Advanced modeling and statistical analysis; Analysis in SAS, R, MINITAB, SPSS; Computer programming languages (Python, SQL, C#, VB.NET)

Recent Publications:

Young, S. M., Gryder, L. K., Cross, C. L., Zava, D., Norris, W., & Benyshek, D. C. Ingestion of steamed and dehydrated placenta capsules does not affect postpartum plasma prolactin levels or neonatal weight gain: Results from a randomized, double-bind, placebo-controlled, pilot study. *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. (In Press)


Dr. Patricia Cruz is a Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the UNLV School of Public Health. Since 1995, she has conducted research focused on enhanced molecular biology methods for the detection of microorganisms that pose a potential risk to human health. Dr. Cruz is a co-inventor of a patented method for the detection and quantification of fungi of indoor air quality concern. She has also conducted research involving antibiotic-resistant microorganisms and oral pathogens. She is the Co-Director of the Emerging Diseases Laboratory at UNLV and the Laboratory Lead Scientist of the UNLV Public Health Laboratory. Dr. Cruz received her PhD from the University of Nevada, Reno, and has been a member of the UNLV Institutional Biosafety Committee since 2007.

Research Interests: Enhanced detection of microorganisms of public health significance; Sampling and analysis of fungi of indoor air quality concern; Antibiotic-resistant microorganisms and antibiotic stewardship; Global public health

Courses Taught: Fundamentals of Environmental Health; Food Safety and Public Health; Diseases that Changed the World; Internship in Environmental Health; Doctoral Seminar

Current Projects: Analysis of environmental samples; Public health microbiology

Unique Resources: Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, UNLV Branch; Bioaerosol Test Chamber; Emerging Diseases Laboratory

Recent Publications:


Dr. Paula Frew is a Professor at the UNLV School of Public Health. Formerly she was a tenured Associate Professor of Medicine within the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory University School of Medicine and Departments of Global Health and Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at the Emory Rollins School of Public Health. From 2014-2018, she has held an appointment as a visiting Health Scientist with the US Centers for Disease Control; she also served as a scientific collaborator at the Atlanta VA Medical Center.

Her research interests focus on addressing health disparities and developing interventions with community-based organizations, clinics, jails and detention centers, state/territorial, and federal, global/international entities to promote immunization acceptance and uptake strategies. She is the Principal Investigator on projects on behalf of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and foundations that address an array of HIV/AIDS issues across the prevention and care continuum. She currently has 5 research projects funded by CDC that examine HIV behavioral issues including PrEP refusal and unsuccessful initiation among MSM, MSM prevention behavior across the lifespan, treatment typologies, and care and syringe access program experiences among those living with addiction. She previously conducted HIV testing in jails and detention centers in Atlanta. Dr. Frew is a behavioral scientist and clinical researcher with many years of leading efforts within the NIH clinical trial networks to promote community involvement in biomedical research.

Recent Publications:


Max Gakh is an Assistant Professor at the UNLV School of Public Health and the Associate Director of the UNLV Health Law Program. His research centers on the intersection of law, policy, and public health, and investigates how legal mechanisms and policies can improve (or hinder) the health of communities. It includes exploring the government’s legal authority to promote public health; laws relevant to public health emergencies; and laws and policies outside the health sector that impact health.

He is especially interested in interdisciplinary research and education. Prior to joining the faculty, he worked with public health professionals to address real-world public health issues through law and policy and worked as a non-partisan legislative attorney. He received his AB from Washington University in St. Louis, JD from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, and MPH from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is an admitted member of the State of Ohio Bar, certified in Public Health, and has held leadership roles in the Law Section of the American Public Health Association.

**Research Interests:** How law and policy impact health mediators and outcomes, with an emphasis on the exercise of governmental authority across public health areas, including healthy public policy and public health preparedness.

**Courses Taught:** Public Health Law; Public Health Policy; Health Impact Assessment; Healthcare Law

**Current Projects:** The intersection of education and health policy; physician mandatory reporting laws; executive orders and public health; prevention in health reform

**Unique Resources:** Legal research and analysis skills, policy experience, community engagement

**Recent Publications:**


Erika Marquez, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Keywords: children’s health, health disparities, housing, program evaluation, public health policy

Dr. Erika Marquez is an Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from San Francisco State University and completed her Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and her PhD in Public Health with a focus in Social and Behavioral Health at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has devoted the last decade of her career to working on local issues focused on housing quality, housing-related health concerns, and housing equity. In September 2016, Dr. Marquez was appointed to the U.S. Office of Minority Health’s Pacific and Southwest Regional Health Equity Council. In May 2016, Governor Brian Sandoval appointed Dr. Marquez to the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists. She also sits on the Clark County Department of Social Services Citizens Advisory Committee and is an active member of the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition. She also serves as a part-time instructor for the UNLV School of Public Health. Dr. Marquez is passionate and committed to improving the lives and health of the residents of Nevada.

Research Interests: The built environment; the impacts of substandard housing, poverty, social determinants of health as they impact vulnerable populations; health care infrastructure; health care access; and ways to approach public health policy and programs utilizing systematic approaches, including Health Impact Assessments.

Courses Taught: Introduction to Public Health; Health Studies on Dangerous Drugs

Current Projects: Assessing the impacts of living in poverty and upward mobility; annual assessment of health of children entering kindergarten; translation of research to policy; and advocating for children and families in Nevada.

Recent Publications:


Dr. Jennifer Pharr is an Associate Professor in the Environmental and Occupational Health Department at the UNLV School of Public Health. Her research focuses on barriers that impede healthy behaviors such as preventive care and disease prevention; interventions to reduce barriers to healthy behaviors; disparities in healthcare/service utilization of vulnerable populations; the intersection of sport, physical activity, and health; and the use of social marketing to promote health.

Dr. Pharr worked in healthcare for 15 years prior to becoming a professor of public health. Now she uses her research and teaching to improve population health rather than individual health.

**Research Interests:** Use of the social cognitive theory to identify facilitators and barriers to healthcare and healthy behaviors, health disparities and implementation science with a special focus on HIV risk, barriers to prevention, and effective interventions for prevention, adolescent risk behaviors, barriers to testing and role of health locus of control on risky behavior.

**Courses Taught:** Introduction to Public Health; Global Health; Mixed Methods Research; Research Ethics; Technical Writing; Health Across the Lifespan.

**Current Projects:** Developing an effective intervention to transition HIV positive adolescents from pediatric to adult care; developing an effective intervention to increase HIV testing among young sexual minority populations.

**Recent Publications:**


Melva Thompson-Robinson, DrPH
Program Coordinator; Professor of Social and Behavioral Health

Keywords: health disparities, health of African Americans, sexual health, HIV/AIDS prevention, teen pregnancy prevention

Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson is a Professor of Social and Behavioral Health at the UNLV School of Public Health. She teaches courses and mentors students in social and behavioral health and health disparities. Dr. Thompson-Robinson serves as the Executive Director of the Center for Health Disparities Research in the School of Public Health, where she provides community leadership to address health disparities that exist in Southern Nevada, as well as statewide, regionally, and nationally.

She is Co-Editor of the *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice*, a nationally known peer reviewed publication.

Research Interests: Health Disparities; Health of African Americans; Sexual Health; HIV/AIDS Prevention; Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Courses Taught: Multicultural Health; Program Planning and Evaluation; Program Planning and Grant Writing in Health Promotion; Health Program Evaluation

Unique Resources: Center for Health Disparities Research, Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice

Recent Publications:


Dr. Jason D. Flatt (He/Him/His) is an Assistant Professor in the Social and Behavioral Health Program at the UNLV School of Public Health. Jason's current research works to better understand the risk and protective factors for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias among LGBTQ seniors. He also is exploring the role of affordable and inclusive housing for LGBTQ seniors (Building Healthy Outcomes Using a Supportive Environment or Building H.O.U.S.E).

His research interests focus on improving health among vulnerable aging populations, including sexual and gender minorities, racial/ethnic minorities, and other disadvantaged groups.

Research Interests: Aging, Dementia, Cognition, Health Disparities, Sexual and Gender Minorities (LGBTQ), Community-Based Participatory Research

Courses Taught: Community-Based Participatory Research


Exploring the associations between risk and protective factors and the health of older sexual and gender minority Asian Americans (Funded by Rutgers Asian Resource Center for Minority Aging Research/NIA; P30AG059304; 2019 – 2020)

Generational change in the effects of gender on cognition in a nationally representative cohort study (Funded by the American Federation for Aging Research; 2020 – 2021)

Building Healthy Outcomes Using a Supportive Environment (H.O.U.S.E) for sexual and gender minority older adults (Funded by the California Health Care Foundation and private donations; 2019 – 2022)

Unique Resources: Mixed-methods research, neuroimaging training, and Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES)

Recent Publications:


Johnson JK, Stewart AL, Acree M, Nápoles AM, Flatt JD, Max WB, Gregorich SE. A Community Choir Intervention to Promote Well-being among Diverse Older Adults: Results from the Community of Voices Trial. J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci. 2018 Nov 09


Timothy Grigsby, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health

* Bio and additional details coming soon *

Recent Publications:


Keywords: sex education, sexuality education, body-safe materials in adult sexuality products, environmental justice, environmental and reproductive health issues, and sexuality education

Dr. Amanda Morgan is an Associate Professor-in-Residence for the Social and Behavioral Health Program of the Environmental and Occupational Health Department at the UNLV School of Public Health. Amanda Morgan has been teaching undergraduate and graduate-level courses for the School of Public Health since 2011, after completing graduate school at UNLV.

Dr. Morgan is actively involved in community-based education and advocacy around issues of sexuality education and health. Her research interests include human sexual behavior, body-safe materials in adult sexuality products, environmental and reproductive health issues, environmental justice, reproductive justice, and sexuality education.

Research Interests: Sexuality education; human sexual behavior and body-safe materials in adult sexuality products; environmental justice; environmental and reproductive health issues; and the intersections of environmental and reproductive justice.

Courses Taught: Education for Sexuality; Seminar in Environmental Justice; Introduction to Public Health

Recent Publications:


Dr. Charles Regin is the undergraduate coordinator and Assistant Professor of Social and Behavior Health at the UNLV School of Public Health. Dr. Regin has served as a keynote/motivational speaker to over 250 organizations throughout the country. He has authored articles on wellness and fitness, stress management, humor, and program planning. He is the recipient of eight excellence in teaching awards including CSUN’s Faculty Excellence Award for the University, the College of Education’s Lily Fong Distinguished Professor of the Year Award, and was recognized by the Nevada Board of Regents for Excellence in Service activities for UNLV.

He has also initiated the transition of numerous school and department classes from lecture format to online offerings. His service career has included work with the Nevada state legislature, three fire departments in Southern Nevada and providing input and leadership to numerous school-wide committees. Dr. Regin has also served as graduate coordinator, undergraduate public health program coordinator, and department chair.

**Research Interests:**

Presentation methodology; curriculum design; and stress management

**Courses Taught:**

Personal Health Across the Lifespan; An Introduction to Public Health; Stress Management; and Public Health Capstone
Manoj Sharma, MBBS, PhD, MCHES
Professor of Social and Behavioral Health

Dr. Manoj Sharma, MBBS, Ph.D., MCHES ® is a Professor of Social and Behavioral Health in the Department of Environmental & Occupational Health in the School of Public Health. He is a public health physician with a medical degree from the University of Delhi and a doctorate in Preventive Medicine (Public Health) from The Ohio State University. He is also a master certified health education specialist certified from the National Commission on Health Education Credentialing. In his career, spanning over 30 years, he has trained/taught over 6,000 health professionals at 13 national and international universities working full time or part-time.

Dr. Sharma is a prolific researcher and as of August 2020 had published 10 books, over 280 peer-reviewed research articles, and over 450 other publications and secured funding for over $4 million (h-index 36, i-10 index 147, and over 7,000 citations). He has been awarded several prestigious honors including American Public Health Association’s Mentoring Award, ICTHP Impact Award, William R. Gemma Distinguished Alumnus Award from the College of Public Health Alumni Society at the Ohio State University and others.

Research Interests: Developing and evaluating evidence-based health behavior change interventions, obesity prevention, stress-coping, community-based participatory research, integrative mind-body-spirit interventions

Recent Publications:


Marya Shegog, PhD, MPH, CHES
Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health

Keywords: health disparities, health equity, HIV/AIDS, sex, sexual health, women’s health, stress and coping, CBPR, organizational management

Dr. Marya Shegog is an Assistant Professor within the School of Public Health, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Social and Behavioral Health Program. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health where she attained her Masters and PhD in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior and a graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies. She is also certified as a Community Health Educator Specialist (CHES). Dr. Shegog’s career spans across two decades and includes public and private sectors, community based participatory research (CBPR), HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, corporate research and organizational planning, evaluation, and implementation. In Las Vegas, her work includes working to create and expand the health infrastructure in southern Nevada, one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Dr. Shegog focuses on identifying and addressing health disparities to achieve health equity for everyone. She is a community leader and a dynamic board member for select community based and non-profit organizations that align with creating health equity. Dr. Shegog is one of the editors of the Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice, and actively participates in creating unique research and community development partnerships that support knowledge, education and improved health outcomes in southern Nevada. She has presented her research and expertise locally, nationally and internationally. She has received countless awards, commendations and recognitions for her efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention, health equity and community development. Fundamentally, Dr. Shegog believes that by addressing people, not disease, health equity will be achieved.

Research Interests: Stress and coping among women of color; sexual and reproductive health across the lifecycle; health equity/health disparities; community based participatory research (CBPR); capacity building; and cultural competency

Courses Taught: Special Topics in Public Health: Women’s Health Across the Lifespan; Theory-Based Behavioral Change in Health Promotion; Community Based Participatory Research; Health Promotion and Wellness; Multicultural Health; Introduction to Public Health; Gender, Race and Class

Current Projects: Access and availability of over the counter emergency contraceptives; Evaluation of “You Got the Power” behavioral health intervention

Recent Publications:


ACADEMIC FACULTY

Sheniz Moonie, PhD – Department Chair and Professor of Biostatistics

Tim Bungum, DrPH - Professor of Epidemiology

Lung-Chang ‘JoJo’ Chien, DrPH - Assistant Professor of Biostatistics

Ge Lin Kan, PhD - Professor of Epidemiology

Brian Labus, PhD, MPH - Assistant Professor of Epidemiology

Guogen Shan, PhD - Associate Professor of Biostatistics

Ann Vuong, DrPH, MPH - Assistant Professor of Epidemiology

Qing Wu, MD, ScD - Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Sheniz Moonie, PhD
Chair and Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Keywords: asthma data, chronic disease data, epidemiology, biostatistics, complex survey data

Dr. Sheniz Moonie is a Professor and Chair for the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the UNLV School of Public Health. Her primary research focus is asthma surveillance with a focus on the clinical management, risk factors, and disparities. She has acquired extramural grant funding and published approximately 50 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. Currently, Dr. Moonie is conducting active research investigating the relationship between asthma and obesity among underserved minority children. She is the Southern Nevada director for the CDC funded Nevada Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, which provides data regarding the health status of adult Nevadans.

Research Interests: Pediatric and adult asthma (surveillance and tracking, clinical management, and environmental triggers); chronic disease health disparities and trends; and complex weighted health survey data

Courses Taught: Applied Linear Statistical Models; Chronic Disease Epidemiology; Biostatistical Methods for the Health Sciences; Survey Sampling; Epidemiology and Public Health

Current Projects: Nevada Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey administration and management; Identifying and understanding the association between Asthma, Allergy, and Obesity; UNLV SPH – UNLV School of Medicine Chronic Disease Health Liaison

Unique Resources: Asthma Data; Longitudinal Chronic Disease Data; Nevada BRFSS Data; coding for complex survey data

Recent Publications:


Goertz A., Moonie S. The Impact of Economic Recession on the Health of Adult Nevadans (Under Review 2018 – Global Health Governance)

Wells K, Moonie S, Pharr J. Association Between Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention During Routine Check-Ups and Alcohol Consumption among Adults Living in California (Accepted 2018 – Archives of Psychiatric Nursing)


Moonie S, Hogan MB. Challenges for the Clinician: Physical Activity among Severe Asthmatic Patients with Co-morbid Obesity. (JACI in Practice, Volume 6 Issue 3; 823-824. (Note *Impact Factor 5.317)


Keywords: physical activity, driver distraction, pedestrian safety

Dr. Timothy J. Bungum has been a faculty member in the UNLV School of Public Health since 2001. His research is focused on physical activity behavior, pedestrian safety, distracted driving, and smallpox. His research has produced over 50 peer-reviewed publications.

He currently has funding to reduce distracted driving among college students. Dr. Bungum has collaborated on projects with the Clark County School District, Southern Nevada Health District, the City of Las Vegas and community organizations.

Research Interests: Physical activity behavior; road safety; infectious diseases

Courses Taught: Health Theories; History of Public Health; Introduction to Public Health; Research Methods

Current Projects: The effects of a distracted driving intervention on college undergraduates with an emphasis on pedestrians

Recent Publications:


Dr. Lung-Chang ‘JoJo’ Chien is an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the UNLV School of Public Health. His research focuses on investigating spatial vulnerability and geographic disparities on human health. His research topics cover socioeconomic deprivation in cancer incidence and mortality, modifying effects of location in geo-survival analysis, the impact of Asian dust storms on children’s health, geographic disparities of asthma and diabetes, spatiotemporal impacts of meteorological factors on dengue fever, and high risk areas in elderly mortality due to heat waves. Dr. Chien has also collaborated on publications in Nursing research and global health.

**Research Interests:** Spatial and spatiotemporal analysis; environmental epidemiology; nonlinear lag analysis

**Courses Taught:** Biostatistical methods for public health; Nonparametric methods for public health

**Current Projects:** Outbreak prediction of Zika virus infection by meteorological factors and locations; Integration of small area estimate approach; Influence of air pollution on asthma in Las Vegas

**Recent Publications:**


Dr. Ge Lin Kan is a Professor in spatial epidemiology and biostatistics at the UNLV School of Public Health. His research focuses on spatial statistics, and GIS applications in public health. He and his colleagues have developed six spatial statistical methods, resulting in more than 20 publications in statistical journals. He led the development of the Nebraska Public Health Data Center and its experience was summarized in his coauthored book titled *Smart Use of State Public Health Data for Healthy Disparity Assessment*. His most recent publications are mostly in applications of data analytics to monitor and to solve public health problems. His research has been founded by NSF, NIH, NIJ, CDC, and state public health agencies.

**Research Interests:** Spatial statistics; GIS applications in Public Health; Addressing health disparity; and health equity through public health integration and analytics.

**Courses Taught:** Epidemiology; Research Methods; Biostatistics Methods; GIS Applications In Public Health.

**Current Projects:** Using Hospital Discharge data to assess maternal and new born health; Small area estimates for behavioral risk factors; Spatial distribution of syndemics in the US; and cell-phone based GIS applications

**Unique Resources:** Spatial analysis capacity that includes high precision GPS verification, mobile phone travel pattern recognition, and spatial cluster and clustering detections.

**Recent Publications:**


Kaeli Sampson, Ashvita Garg, Corrine Hanson, Ann Anderson Berry, Ge Lin, Ming Qu, Dejun Su. 2018 Birth History as a Predictor of Adverse Birth Outcomes: Evidence from State Vital Statistics Data *Preventive Medicine Reports* (Forthcoming)


Nayar, Preethy, Fang Yu, Aastha Chandak, Ge Lin Kan, Brian Lowes and Bettye A. Apenteng 2017, Risk Factors for In-Hospital Mortality in Heart Failure Patients: Does Rurality, Payer or Admission Source Matter? *THE JOURNAL OF RURAL HEALTH.*


Wan, Neng; Lin, Ge; Wilson, Gaines, 2017. Addressing Spatial Uncertainties in GPS-based Activity Monitoring: a Methodological Framework Transactions in GIS. forthcoming

Wan, Neng; Lin, Ge, 2016 Classifying Human Activity Patterns from Smartphone Collected GPS data: a Fuzzy Classification and Aggregation Approach Transactions in GIS. 20: 869–886

Wan, Neng Wan, and Ge Lin 2016; Parkinson’s Disease and Pesticides Exposure: New Findings From a Comprehensive Study in Nebraska, USA The Journal of Rural Health 32:303-313
Dr. Brian Labus is an Assistant Professor at the UNLV School of Public Health. His research focuses on communicable disease surveillance and he is currently studying the use of social media to identify restaurants associated with increased risk of causing foodborne illness. Dr. Labus is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist through the National Environmental Health Association, and teaches courses in general public health, infectious disease epidemiology, outbreak investigation, and data management. Prior to joining the faculty at UNLV, Dr. Labus worked as a senior infectious disease epidemiologist for the Southern Nevada Health District, conducting outbreak investigations, disease surveillance, and implementing public health informatics systems.

**Research Interests:** The use of social media in disease surveillance; the communicable disease reporting and surveillance process; outbreak investigation; and foodborne illness

**Courses Taught:** Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Disease Surveillance; Outbreak Investigation; Data Management

**Current Projects:** The use of social media in the identification of restaurants at risk of causing foodborne illness

**Recent Publications:**


Dr. Guogen Shan is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the UNLV School of Public Health. He collaborates with researchers from the university and other institutes on designing clinical trials, applying existing methods to the data, and developing new statistical methods for data analysis. His research areas of interest include efficient clinical trial designs, exact statistical methods, and more powerful parametric and nonparametric tests.

**Research Interests:** Clinical trials; Two-stage designs; Categorical data analysis; Exact confidence interval; Empirical likelihood; Nonparametric; Survival analysis

**Current Projects:** Develop an R package for the exact confidence interval for the difference of two proportions; propose more powerful nonparametric tests based on ranks for the trends; develop efficient two-stage designs for clinical trials with binary and continuous endpoints.

**Recent Publications:**


Hua Zhang, Guogen Shan*, and Daniel Young (2017). Comparison of unweighted and weighted rank based tests for an ordered alternative in randomized complete block designs. *Communications in Statistics-Simulation and Computation*. 46(6), 4452-4464.


Dr. Ann Vuong is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the School of Public Health.

She received her MPH degree in epidemiology and her doctoral degree in epidemiology and environmental health at Texas A&M University's School of Public Health.

She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Cincinnati, Department of Environmental Health.

Research Interests: Dr. Vuong has studied environmental contaminants, including nitrates, nitrites, and nitrosatable drugs and their associations with adverse pregnancy outcomes, including preterm delivery, small-for-gestational age births, and birth defects. Her current work focuses on endocrine disrupting chemicals and children's health outcomes, particularly neurodevelopment, behavior, adiposity, and thyroid hormone disruption. She is interested in applying advanced biostatistical techniques in order to examine health effects of chemical mixtures.

Courses Taught: Introduction to epidemiology; perinatal and pediatric epidemiology; infectious disease epidemiology; environmental public health

Current Projects: Dr. Vuong uses the prospective pregnancy and birth cohort, the Health Outcomes and Measures of the Environment (HOME) Study, to improve children's health by investigating exposures to endocrine disrupting chemicals, including polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), during gestational development as well as childhood and their associations with neurodevelopment, behavior, and adiposity. This study has been following children from early gestation and continues to do so as they become adolescents.

Recent Publications:


Dr. Qing Wu is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of the Public Health and a founding member of the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine, UNLV. Dr. Wu’s research interests include meta-analyses, genome-wide meta-analysis, big data analysis, and study design and statistical methodology development.

His currently funded research focuses on development and validation of personalized clinical normative values using modern statistical methodology and existing big data. Dr. Wu has extensive experience in multidisciplinary collaborative research and statistical consulting in biomedical research. His collaborative works have led to 47 research grants funded by federal agencies, major industries and research foundations. Dr. Wu is also an academic editor of PLOS ONE and Medicine.

Research Interests: Statistical modeling and model validation; genomics-enhanced modeling; research design; meta-analysis; statistical consulting for grant proposals

Courses Taught: Sample size and power analysis; meta-analysis

Current Projects: Developing personalized reference values of bone mineral density

Unique Resources: Genotype imputation, SAS Macro

Recent Publications:

Wu, Q. (2018). Depression and antidepressant medications: Both are linked to increased fracture risk. *Osteoporos Int.*


Department of Healthcare Administration and Policy

ACADEMIC FACULTY

Jay Shen, PhD – Associate Dean of the School of Public Health and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Christopher R. Cochran, PhD – Chair and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Neeraj Bhandari, MD, PhD – Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Betty Burston, PhD – Associate Professor-in-Residence of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Charles B. Moseley, PhD – Professor Emeritus

Chris Papesh, MBA – Visiting Lecturer of Healthcare Administration and Policy; Undergraduate Coordinator

Josué Patien Epané, PhD – Associate Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Maire Simington, PhD – Assistant Professor-in-Residence Healthcare Administration and Policy

Michelle Sotero, PhD, MPH – Visiting Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy; Graduate Coordinator

Soumya Upadhyay, PhD – Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Elmer Washington, PhD – Professor Emeritus

Part-Time Instructors pool

Paul Brezinski  Larry Hurst
Sarah Bussmann  Margaret Ozan Rafferty
Cora Case  David (Dave) Schweer
James Conway  Lisa Segler
Matthew Cova  Kristin Steffen
Sheila Evans  Glen Stevens
Barbara Fraser  Cae Swanger
Donna Gellatly  Christine Zack Gunderson
Kurt Houser
Dr. Jay Shen is the Associate Dean of the School of Public Health and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy. His research covers health services research including health care disparities, access to care, comparative effectiveness research, effects of Electronic Health Record (EHR) on health care organizations, quality of care and patient safety; outcomes research related to AMI, CHF, stroke, diabetic complications, maternal outcomes, pneumonia, and patients with advanced illnesses; and global health.

He has received grants awarded by the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute, and National Council of State Boards of Nursing. He’s been a grant reviewer for AHRQ and NIH. He serves as Associate Editor of BMC Health Services Research and in the Editorial Board of Ethnicity & Disease. He is Adjunct Professor at Peking University in Beijing and Visiting Professor at Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

**Research Interests:** Health care disparities; outcome research and quality of care/patient safety; health economics; EHR implementation; health care workforce; and global health.

**Courses Taught:** Health Economics; Health Information System Management; US Health Care Delivery System and Policy; Research Methods; Epidemiology; Health Care Planning and Strategic Management; and Health Care Administration Capstone

**Current Projects:** Community engagement in palliative care; impact of Medicaid expansion on access to care and health care disparities; effects of EHR implementation on hospital performance; medication errors at hospital settings; and socioeconomic status and health care in China

**Unique Resources:** risk-adjustment for clinical outcomes, quantitative methods, comparative effectiveness research, cost-effectiveness analysis, large dataset analysis, and SAS and STATA programing

**Recent Publications:**


Christopher R. Cochran, PhD
Chair and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

**Keywords:** health policy and politics, patient safety, quality improvement, health disparities

**Dr. Chris Cochran** is the Chair and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy at the UNLV School of Public Health. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles on access to care for underserved populations and safety net resources including management issues and patient safety and quality improvement public and private healthcare organizations. Other research has focused on using information technology to improve bio-surveillance of infectious outbreaks in high volume resort communities.

He is a current member of the Public Employees Benefits Program Board, and a current member of the Nevada Health Care Information and Management System Society, Nevada American College of Health Care Executives and ACHE.

**Research Interests:** Improving patient safety in the hospital environment; understanding the relationship of secondary diagnoses of mental health conditions on preventable primary diagnoses; medical conditions in hospital emergency rooms; reducing waste in healthcare delivery; smoking ban policy.

**Courses Taught:** U.S. Healthcare System: Programs, Politics and Policy; Health Politics and Policy; Epidemiology for Health Care Management; Health Care Administration Capstone

**Current Projects:** Understanding the political implications overhauling the Affordable Care Act; identifying secondary diagnoses of mental illness as the cause for primary diagnoses in hospital admissions; utilizing information technology to improve identification of drug seeking behavior in hospital emergency rooms.

**Unique Resources:** Health policy and politics

**Recent Publications:**


Prior to his arrival at UNLV, Dr. Neeraj Bhandari completed his PhD at Pennsylvania State University and a postgraduate degree in Internal Medicine at Government Medical College Amritsar, India. Dr. Bhandari’s research interests span three broad areas.

The main focus of his work is the effect of information disclosure aimed at bridging information asymmetries between health care providers and consumers, with an overall goal of steering patients towards providers that offer higher quality services at lower cost. Dr. Bhandari’s dissertation focused on quantifying variation in efforts to disseminate such information to consumers and the potential impact of such variation on consumer awareness and use. His other areas of work include the impact of health care reform on patients’ access to health care and empirical evaluation of policies designed to align consumer behavior with emerging scientific evidence on health promoting lifestyles (healthy diet, exercise, sleep etc.).

**Research Interests:** Effect of information disclosure aimed at bridging information asymmetries between health care providers and consumers; consumers use of Internet to access health information; impact of health care reform on patients’ access to health care; empirical evaluation of policies designed to align consumer behavior with emerging scientific evidence on health promoting lifestyles.

**Courses Taught:** The U.S. Health Care System; Programs, Politics and Policy; Health Care Economics

**Current Projects:** Coverage Expansion; Provider Payment; and Patient Experience of Access to Care in Medicaid

**Recent Publications:**


Betty Burston, PhD
Associate Professor-In-Residence of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Keywords: multi-disciplinary researcher; edu-tainment; Betty Collier Watson; Betty Collier Arrington; Betty Burston; Grim Weaver; Joshua’s Harvest; Miles Away; Get Thee Behind Me

A trans-disciplinary researcher; published novelist, poet, playwright, songwriter, and scriptwriter; Dr. Betty Burston brings her interdisciplinary background and her experience in the world of independent entertainment to the field of health care administration. Dr. Burston received her graduate training at Cornell University, Howard University, and American University.

Because education is a critical intermediator of health care access and outcome, her most recently published research seeks to define pathways for greater higher education inclusion as a strategy that can ultimately lower health care costs. Married to Sid Burston, an independent film, stage, music, and television producer, Dr. Burston and a former UNLV colleague served as Health Care Consultants on Mr. Burston’s most recent film, Grim Weaver, a horror film that contains embedded messages regarding the current opioid health care crisis, and the less often discussed emerging health crisis - treatment resistant STDs. Again, the use of edu-tainment has implications for healthcare administration and policy.

Research Interests: Using edu-tainment as a tool to support prevention and/or illness/disease self-management; Improving public health outcomes per dollar spent through better healthcare prevention and intervention program administration; Improving the coordination between employment and wealth improvement policies, education, and family relations as strategies to support improved long-run health outcomes and health cost containment.

Courses Taught: U.S. Health Care System; Long-Term Care Management; Health Economics; Multicultural Health; Health Care Management; Health Care Finance

Current Projects: Harnessing the knowledge and experience of “non-traditional” undergraduate students and using their expertise to support UNLV’s younger students; integrating more active learning opportunities into her courses and retraining students to engage in active rather than passive learning; and continuing to serve as a thought leader rather than a thought follower in every aspect of life and inspiring students to do the same.

Recent Publications:


Partnerships Across the K-12 Pipeline and Beyond. IGI, Hershey, PA.


Chris Papesh is a Visiting Lecturer in Department of Healthcare Administration and Policy at the UNLV School of Public Health.

Papesh has over 20 years of experience in Consulting, Public Health, Industry Management, Project Management and Higher Education, developing, implementing and managing programs, managing research grants and implementing enterprise administrative systems, teaching, and providing service on the global (United Nations, international corporations and nonprofits), national, local, state and regional level.

He has led teams implementing administrative applications, data warehousing and portal and reporting projects at more than 100 leading research universities, colleges and hospitals, including Kaiser Permanente Hospitals, NYU Langone Medical Center/ School of Medicine, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (LA), Princeton, Stanford, Cornell and Cambridge (UK) universities.

Furthermore, Papesh has led project teams implementing systems for national governments-agencies for the United States, Canada and Singapore and the United Nations and International Monetary Fund.

Recent Publications:

**Dr. Josué Patien Epané** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Healthcare Administration and Policy at the UNLV School of Public Health. His professional experience includes hospital Chief Financial Officer, National Executive Director of a healthcare system, National Center for Healthcare Leadership consultant, and Faculty.

Dr. Epané is also a reviewer for many healthcare journals, a board member for educational programs and other nonprofit organizations, and a member of many professional organizations including Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Academy of Management, Academy Health, and the Association of University Programs in Health Administration. His research focuses on exploring strategies that can help enhance organizational performance (clinical and financial) in the healthcare field, such as hospitals’ use of hospitalists and community orientation. Some projects he is currently working on include but are not limited to exploring the impact of hospitalists on hospitals’ financial performance, efficiency (length of stay, cost, and RN staffing), quality, processes of care, and patient experience of care. Other projects include exploring the impact of hospitalists on minority health, the impact of hospitals’ cultural competency on performance, predicting factors of hospitals and nursing home closure, and validating in the nursing home industry the Altman’s Z-score model a predictive financial distress model frequently used in other industries.

**Research Interests:** Clinical and financial organizational performance

**Courses Taught:** Health Care Accounting and Finance; Advanced Health Care Finance; Health Care Finance; Strategic Management

**Current Projects:** Exploring the impact of hospitalists; hospital cultural competency on performance; predicting factors of hospitals and nursing homes closure; and validation of the Altman’s Z-score model

**Unique Resources:** Health Care Financial Management Expert

**Recent Publications:**


Dr. Michelle Sotero is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy at the UNLV School of Public Health, as well as the Graduate Coordinator for the department.

Her research focuses on the historical dependencies of social determinants of health, such as historical trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their effects over the life course on health behaviors, health disparities, and associated effects on the health care system. She has served as a faculty member in various capacities since 2005.

She has 20 years of experience in health care and public health human resources and program development. Her work in the development of hospital interpreter services and cultural competency programs have been nationally recognized by the National Association of Public Hospitals and the Joint Commission.

Research Interests: Adolescent health; Racial and ethnic health disparities; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); Historical trauma; Workforce cultural competency

Courses Taught: Human Resources Management in Health Care Administration; Operations and Quality in Health Care Administration; Strategic Planning in Health Care Administration; Delivering Health Care in America: A Systems Approach; Cultural Competency and Diversity in the U.S. Health Care System; Health Care Marketing and Strategic Planning

Current Projects: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – Accountable Health Communities grant proposal CMS-1P1-17-001 Track 3: Advocates Linking Patients and Community Assets (ALPACA) (Funding announcement in Spring 2017); Oceti Sakowin: A Case Study in Native American Resilience to Environmental Injustice and Historical Trauma.

Recent Publications:

Soumya Upadhyay, PhD
Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Keywords: health care quality; patient safety; safety culture; hospital performance; EHR

Dr. Soumya Upadhyay is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Healthcare Administration and Policy at the UNLV School of Public Health. Dr. Upadhyay's professional background includes Strategic Management Consultant at Kaiser Permanente, Performance Improvement Specialist at MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Clinical Data Analyst at Sutter Health.

Dr. Upadhyay's research interests include patient safety and quality improvement, hospital quality and financial performance, Electronic Health Records, cultural competency at hospitals, and health education and promotion. Dr. Upadhyay engages in multidisciplinary collaborative research to explore how health information technology can be used to enhance health care quality, patient safety, and safety culture. She also examines if hospital cultural competency including diversity programs can influence quality, safety and financial performance. Some of her health care finance research has assessed cash conversion cycle in hospitals and the influence of working capital management on hospital performance. Her collaborative work has led to research grants funded by UNLV Office of Research and Economic Development, and private agencies.

Research Interests: Health care quality and patient safety, health care finance, health promotion

Courses Taught: Statistics for Health Care Managers, Health Care Finance

Current Projects: Examining the impact of Electronic Health Records (EHR) on patient safety; exploring the influence of hospital physician financial integration on patient safety outcomes; assessing the impact of staffing on safety culture

Unique Resources: Certified Quality Improvement Associate (American Society for Quality)

Recent Publications:


EMERITI FACULTY
Emeriti Faculty:

Michelle Chino, PhD - Professor Emerita of Environmental and Occupational Health
Dr. Chino is an internationally recognized American Indian researcher and educator with expertise in the social determinants of disease and injury and the impact of health disparities among diverse populations. Dr. Chino founded and directed two UNLV research centers: the Center for Health Disparities Research and the American Indian Research and Education Center, and has brought in numerous prestigious research grants including the first university-level NIH grant. She founded a nationally recognized, peer-reviewed journal entitled The Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice.

Mary Guinan, MD, PhD - Professor Emerita of Epidemiology
Dr. Guinan is the founding Dean of the School of Public Health. She is known for being the first female physician and epidemiologist to work on smallpox eradication with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the AIDS epidemic. In her memoir, Adventures of a Female Medical Detective: In Pursuit of Smallpox and AIDS, Dr. Guinan highlights her experiences in epidemiology and research, as well as how she broke barriers for females in the medical field.

Charles Moseley, PhD - Professor Emeritus of Healthcare Administration Policy
Dr. Moseley was previously an Assistant Professor and Chair of the Healthcare Administration and Policy Department at UNLV. He taught the graduate course on health services management and the capstone course. He has published peer-reviewed journal articles on the quality of nursing home care, quality improvement in the public health care sector, gambling behavior among the elderly, the uninsured in Nevada and various aspects of U.S. hospital behavior.

Linda D. Stetzenbach, PhD - Professor Emerita of Environmental and Occupational Health
Since 1987, Dr. Stetzenbach has conducted research in environmental microbiology with a focus on bioaerosols and measurement methods for environmental microorganisms that can impact the environment and human health. Her research has involved the development of enhanced methods for the detection, identification, and enumeration of airborne and surface-associated microorganisms.

Warren McNab, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Health Promotion
Dr. McNab began his career at UNLV in 1979 and earned numerous teaching and service awards during his tenure. His accolades include the 1996 UNLV Distinguished Teacher Award and the Distinguished Service Award presented by Eta Sigma Gamma National Health Service Honorary. Dr. McNab authored more than fifty scholarly articles on such topics as health education, human sexuality, and teenage pregnancy, and has served on a number of editorial boards of such scholarly journals as The Health Educator and The Journal of Health Education.
CENTERS

UNLV
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
The Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP) looks out for Nevada’s children. Their mission is to conduct academic and community-based research that will guide the development of policies, programs, and services, which will enhance the health and well-being of Nevada’s children.

The Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy, located within the School of Public Health at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the lives of children through research, advocacy and other specialized services. NICRP started in 1998 based on a vision of First Lady Sandy Miller. She wanted an organization that could bring credible research and rigorous policy analysis to problems that confront Nevada’s children. She wanted to transform that research into meaningful legislation that would make a real difference in the lives of our children and NICRP has been continuing to do just that for nearly 20 years.

In addition to these activities, NICRP also became a fully chartered chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America – Prevent Child Abuse Nevada (PCANV) in 2012. PCANV conducts training and community outreach to ensure that children have the Essentials for Childhood and have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

Team

- **Amanda Haboush-Deloye, PhD** – Interim Executive Director
- **Dawn L. Davidson, PhD** – Interim Associate Director
- **M. Amaris Knight, MEd** – Research Analyst
- **Erick Lopez** – Assistant Research Analyst
- **Mayra Pacheco** – Program Coordinator

Website

nic.unlv.edu
Keywords: children’s health, health disparities, mental health, program evaluation, injury prevention, advocacy, child welfare, juvenile justice, policy, public health policy

Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye is the Interim Executive Director at the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy and Director of Programs for Prevent Child Abuse Nevada. She earned her PhD in Experimental Psychology and her Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her research focuses on adolescent and adult mental health, health disparities, and working with families and conducting research in culturally component ways. Being a Las Vegas native, Amanda aims to use research and policy to help create a healthy community where families and children are a priority. Amanda is also a part-time instructor for the School of Public Health.

Research Interests: Access to health care, mental and behavioral health, child maltreatment, child safety, early childhood education, juvenile justice, children and families.

Courses Taught: Introduction to Public Health; Research Methods

Current Projects: Preventing child abuse and neglect; increasing access to quality early childhood education; evaluation of community health improvement programs; annual assessment of health of children entering kindergarten; assessing access to health for children and families; translation of research to policy; advocating for children and families in Nevada.

Recent Publications:


Dr. Dawn L. Davidson is the Interim Associate Director at the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) within the School Public Health.

She has worked for NICRP since 2012 and has lead the evaluation for a variety of different programs in the community, including the Southern Nevada Health District's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, the Clark County Department of Family Service’s Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project, and the Nevada Silver State Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System.

Dawn earned her PhD in Experimental Psychology with a concentration in Social Psychology from the University of Memphis.

Research Interests:
Implementation and effectiveness of restorative justice programs, juvenile justice reform efforts, the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment programs, and the evaluation of community-based programs designed to improve the lives of children and families.

Current Projects:
Evaluation of local teen pregnancy prevention initiative; effectiveness of in home safety service model for preventing entrance into foster care; outcomes associated with participation in the state quality rating and improvement system; evaluation of Healthy Start program for improving birth outcomes for low income African American women.
M. Amaris Knight, MEd
Research Analyst at Nevada Institute for Children’s Research & Policy (NICRP)

M. Amaris Knight is currently a Research Analyst at the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy within the UNLV School of Public Health.

Her research background is on suicide prevention and educational programs for mental health among adolescents and continues her own research on universal suicide prevention strategies for youth, adolescents, and young adults from both public health and medical anthropological perspectives.

She hopes to explore further research on stigma reduction regarding mental health and eliminating mental health care disparities for underrepresented groups.

Research Interests:
Suicide prevention; upstream and universal prevention strategies; and mental and behavioral health resources and policies to address the unmet needs of youth and young adults.

Courses Taught:
Public Health Across the Lifespan

Current Projects:
Evaluation of community health improvement initiatives including those related to reducing tobacco use and improving nutrition and physical activity; Outcome assessment for social emotional learning program in middle and high school students.

Unique Resources:
The Center for Health Information Analysis (CHIA) is contracted by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP). CHIA collects certain billing record fields from all hospital inpatient, outpatient, and ambulatory surgical centers. The center serves the community by making specific Nevada health-care-related data and reports available to both the private and public sectors.

- Nevada's Source for Transparency in Health Care
- Center for Health Information Analysis

Team

**Joseph Greenway, MPH** – Director and Principal Investigator  
**Deysi Baca** – Administrative Assistant III  
**Danny Chan** – Systems Programmer  
**Robert Herrington** – Software Developer  
**William Porter** – Web Developer

Website

chia.unlv.edu
Keywords: CHIA collects and securely maintains all patient level hospital and ambulatory surgical center health claims records

Joseph Greenway, in partnership with Donald Carns (retired), co-founded the Center for Health Information Analysis (CHIA) in 1986. The original purpose of the center was hospital cost containment. He was the original computer programmer for the center and worked with Medicaid, Charge Master, and hospital inpatient data.

He has overseen the expansion of center operations as hospital and ambulatory surgical center data sets were added and the Nevada Compare Care transparency website was developed. He has created reports on AHRQ Quality Indicators, as well as Provider Preventable Readmissions and Provider Preventable Conditions.

Research Interests:

Quality of care issues at health facilities; especially provider preventable conditions

Current Projects:

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics: [http://dpbh.nv.gov/Reg/CCBHC/CCBHC-Main/](http://dpbh.nv.gov/Reg/CCBHC/CCBHC-Main/)

Recent Publications:


The mission of the Center for Health Disparities Research (CHDR) is to create health equities from health disparities through leadership, advocacy, education, research, capacity building, collaboration, community engagement, evaluation, communication, cultural competence, and partnership. CHDR is very interested in engaging community partners in order to address issues related to health disparities in Nevada and throughout the United States.

The CHDR publishes the *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice*, which is a refereed online journal that explores the dimensions of health disparities globally (digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/jhdrp/). The journal invites submission of original manuscripts from researchers, public health, behavioral health, clinical and social science experts and practitioners that seek to continue the discussion of health disparities in order to eradicate them.

**Team**

- **Melva Thompson-Robinson, DrPH** – Director (see Social & Behavioral Health Academic Faculty)
- **Marya Shegog, PhD, MPH, CHES** – (see Social & Behavioral Health Academic Faculty)
- **Robbi Hill-Corley** – Journal Assistant

**Website**

unlv.edu/units/center-health-disparities-research
American Indian Research and Education Center (AIREC)

The American Indian Research and Education Center (AIREC) promotes, encourages, and collaborates with research linked to the health priorities of tribes or tribally-based organizations and institutions in addressing the reduction of health disparities associated within the population. AIREC also provides opportunities for conducting research, research training, and faculty development to meet the needs of students, campus community, tribal populations, and the general public. AIREC is active in building and sustaining a biomedical, clinical, social and behavioral sciences research pipeline for Native American students spanning high school through graduate school.

Website

unlv.edu/aire
LABORATORIES

UNLV
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
The EHL was established in 2005 to contribute to our ability to analyze toxic contaminants in food, water, soil, and other media that directly impact human health. Some of the laboratory instrumentation available to students includes graphite furnace atomic absorption, cold vapor mercury analysis, x-ray fluorescence, combustion-based mercury analyzers, UV/VIS spectroscopy, and gas chromatography with mass spectral analysis. Several focal areas of the laboratory include the analysis of lead and mercury compounds in paint, soil, candy, fish, and other food items.

Team

Shawn Gerstenberger, PhD – Director (see EOH Academic Faculty)

Website

unlv.edu/publichealth/centers-labs
The Emerging Diseases Laboratory, located in MPE 231-232, provides Environmental and Occupational Health track students the opportunity to conduct hands-on public health microbiology research. In addition to traditional microbiology laboratory equipment, sophisticated instrumentation includes an Applied Biosystems real-time polymerase chain reaction system for amplification and detection of target genes, a Vitek 2 compact for identification and antimicrobial susceptibility profiling, and the DiversiLab for bacterial strain typing. Recent research includes surveillance of antibiotic resistant bacteria, such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile*, in healthcare facilities, and sampling and analysis of environmental microorganisms of public health concern.

**Team**

- **Mark P. Buttner, PhD** – Co-Director (see EOH Academic Faculty)
- **Patricia Cruz, PhD** – Co-Director (see EOH Academic Faculty)

**Website**

unlv.edu/publichealth/centers-labs
Airborne pollen is a health concern for many residents in Clark County. In 2013, the Clark County School District (CCSD) and the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) established the Pollen Monitoring Program to provide local pollen and mold spore counts in Las Vegas. Regular monitoring and reporting of airborne pollen concentrations can help sensitive individuals prepare for or avoid exposure.

**Team**

- **Mark P. Buttner, PhD** – Director (see EOH Academic Faculty)
- **Asma Tahir, MPH** – CCSD/UNLV Pollen Monitoring Program Supervisor

**Website**

unlv.edu/publichealth/pollen
Asma Tahir, MPH  
CCSD/UNLV Pollen Monitoring Program Supervisor; Part-Time Instructor

Keywords: pollen, mold, allergens, health lifestyles

Asma Tahir is the current supervisor for the Pollen Monitoring program here at UNLV in collaboration with the CCSD. As a certified National Allergy Bureaus’ pollen and mold counter she monitors, collect, count, and identify pollen and mold around the valley. Her research focuses on pollen and mold allergens and the effect of changing environment and weather patterns. She earned her B.S in Botany and Zoology, BA in Psychology and her MPH in Healthcare Administration & Policy from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In May 2013, Governor Brian Sandoval appointed Asma Tahir to serve on the Governor’s Commission on Behavioral Health. Asma is also a part-time instructor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the School of Public Health.

Research Interests:
Pollen and Mold Allergens

Current Projects:
CCSD/UNLV Pollen Program Supervisor

Courses Taught:
Personal Health Across the Lifespan

Recent Presentations:
Tahir, A., Patel, T., Jean, J., Buttnner, M., Bazylnski, D., & Seggev, J. S. Annual Variation Among Tree Pollen In Las Vegas From 2015-2018, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Volume 143, Issue 2, Supplement, 2019, Page AB22, ISSN 0091-6749, Presented at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology Annual Meeting February 2019


Dedicated to protecting clean air resources for local and global communities, the Urban Air Quality Laboratory uses two Beta Ray Attenuation (BAM) monitors to measure the ambient air quality of UNLV and the area near the Las Vegas Strip. The two monitoring systems measure real-time community exposure levels and long-term air quality trends. It also allows advanced notice to the surrounding community of unhealthy air quality.

Team

**Lung-Wen ‘Antony’ Chen, PhD** – Director (see EOH Academic Faculty)

Website

unlv.edu/publichealth/uaq-lab
PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES
The Global Health Initiative focuses on the use of implementation science to improve the quality and effectiveness of health services. This is accomplished through the design, implementation and testing of interventions and approaches targeted at reducing disparities. GHI’s overall goal is to place UNLV footprints around the world by building the capacity of UNLV students in global health research, cultivating UNLV faculty research collaborations with global partners and creating opportunities for UNLV graduates to work on projects aimed at improving human health in global settings.

Website

unlv.edu/publichealth/centers-labs
The Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) works in support of faculty and staff directly identifying community partners to work with the UNLV School of Public Health internship program. OCP supports the Center for Health Disparities and the American Indian Research and Education Center through collaboration and outreach on behalf of their current projects and research initiatives. OCP also works to support the recruitment of diverse student populations into the SPH. OCP is a partner with other community-based groups and federal, state and local agencies to support the development and engagement of the Minority Health Coalition to increase Equity in Health across the State of Nevada.

Team

José L. Meléndrez, MSW – Executive Director

Website

unlv.edu/publichealth/centers-labs
José L. Meléndrez currently serves as the Executive Director for Community Partnerships in the UNLV School of Public Health. He is responsible for coordinating and building partnerships that promote internships for student experiential learning and success. José works with the Center for Health Disparities and the American Indian Research and Education Center doing research and development. José supports the development of new recruitment strategies to increase the diversity of students enrolling in the School of Public Health, and is the liaison for Title III and Title V initiatives on behalf of the School of Public Health. This includes service within UNLV and the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Hispanic Serving Institutional initiatives.

José received his Master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor where his studies concentrated in Community Organizing with a focus on Communities and Social Systems, and completed his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Previously, José has provided leadership for new initiatives at UNLV that include the Vice Presidential Diversity Commission, the Institute on Diversity and Social Justice, and opening and operating the UNLV Multicultural Center. José served as the first Director for the office of Student Diversity Programs and Services (SDPS) where he provided leadership for the development of this new office at UNLV. José has also served as Field Instructor, Field Liaison, and Instructor for the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan. José specializes in diversity and multicultural training, social justice education, and advocacy as it pertains to diverse populations in Nevada. He is also a part-time instructor for the School of Public Health.
Nevada INBRE, part of the IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) program designed to help traditionally underfunded states build biomedical infrastructure. University of Nevada, Las Vegas is a partner institution of Nevada INBRE. The scope of UNLV INBRE focuses on: attracting more researchers to engage in biomedical research at UNLV, mentoring junior faculty to conduct biomedical and translational research, and enhancing programs to train the next generation of biomedical researchers.

Team

Guogen Shan – Admin Core (See EAB Academic Faculty)

Website

unlv.edu/publichealth/unlv-inbre
The UNLV Health Law Program is a partnership between the William S. Boyd School of Law and the School of Public Health. The Program aims to create opportunities for faculty and students across UNLV’s campus and in our community to learn about the multiple connections between health and law.

Team

**Max Gakh, JD, MPH** – Associate Director (see EOH Academic Faculty)

Website

law.unlv.edu/health-law
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