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Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
http://publichealth.unlv.edu/dept_contacts.html#EOH

Academic Faculty:

Environmental and Occupational Health Program
Shawn Gerstenberger, PhD, Dean of School of Community Health Sciences and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Francisco S. Sy, MD, MS, DrPH, Chair and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Mark Buttner, PhD, Graduate Coordinator and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Lung-Wen Antony Chen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health,
Sheila Clark, PhD, Assistant Professor-in-Residence of Environmental and Occupational Health
Courtney Coughenour, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Patricia Cruz, PhD, Interim Associate Dean and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Max Gakh, JD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Brian Labus, PhD, MPH, Visiting Lecturer of Environmental and Occupational Health
Jennifer Pharr, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health
Linda Stetzenbach, PhD, Professor Emerita

Epidemiology and Biostatistics Program:
Sheniz Moonie, PhD, Program Coordinator and Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Tim Bungum, DrPH, Professor of Epidemiology
Lung-Chang Chien, DrPH, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics
Chad Cross, PhD, Visiting Research Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Echezona Ezeanolute, MD, MPH, Professor of Epidemiology
Ge Lin, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology
Paulo Pinheiro, PhD, MD, MSc, Associate Professor of Epidemiology
Rachelle Rodriguez, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology
Guogen Shan, PhD, Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Qing Wu, MD, ScD, Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Mary Guinan, MD, PhD, Professor Emerita

Social and Behavioral Health Program:
Melva Thompson-Robinson, DrPH, Program Coordinator and Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Carolee Dodge-Francis, EdD, Associate Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Amanda Morgan, DHS, MPH, Assistant Professor-in-Residence of Social and Behavioral Health
Charles Regin PhD, Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Mary Shegog, PhD, MPH, CHES, Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health
Michelle Chino, PhD, Professor Emerita
Warren McNab, PhD, Professor Emeritus

Part-Time Instructors
Tamara Bruno Kathleen Lauckner
Mackenzie Burns Melissa Marshall
Semiu Gbadamosi Tanviben Patel
Amanda Haboush-Deloye Raymond Rodriguez
Aaron Hunt Jennifer Shaps
M. Amaris Knight Carissa Wolff
Environmental and Occupational Health Program

Shawn Gerstenberger, PhD, Dean of School of Community Health Sciences, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger is the Dean of the School of the Community Health Sciences. His research focuses on childhood lead poisoning prevention and the impact of the built environment on human health. He is the founder of the Nevada Healthy Homes Partnership and has multiple collaborative grants with key community partners such as the Southern Nevada Health District, City of Henderson, and the Nevada State Health Division. He has received extensive grants from agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency to support his work.

**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.

**Keywords:** lead, lead poisoning, PCBs, mercury, toxicology, Healthy Homes, environmental health

**Recent Publications:**


**Contracts and Grant Awards:**

Principal Investigator. Nevada Healthy Homes Partnership (NVHHP) Asthma Program, St. Rose Dominican Hospital, Award Amount: $65,000. 01/14.


Co-Principal Investigator, Henderson Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Program, Submitted in Collaboration with the City of Henderson. Sponsor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. Award Amount: $2,293,701; PI on sub award to UNLV $540,578. 08/01/13-08/01/16.

Principal Investigator, Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention. Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Award Amount: $1,775,091. 09/11-09/14.

Weatherization and Energy Efficiencies for Healthy Homes, City of North Las Vegas, Award Amount: $19,000. 03/11.

Principal Investigator, CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Sponsor: CDC. Award Amount: $601,000 subcontract to UNLV $89,263-$124,000 per year. 06/26-06/10.

Principal Investigator, Healthy Homes Strategic Partners Grant. Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Award Amount: $208,000. 09/30/09.

Principal Investigator, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 100th Meridian Project, Award Amount: $28,750. 06/07.

Principal Investigator, UNLV President’s Research Award, Identifying and reducing lead exposure in the Hispanic community from the use of cultural and traditional items, Award Amount: $50,000. 06/07.
Francisco S. Sy, MD, MS, DrPH, Professor and Chair of Environmental and Occupational Health

Dr. Francisco Sy is a Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the School of Community Health Sciences in the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He is the President of the Delta Theta Chapter (at UNLV) of 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 (DrPH) 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.

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

Unique Resources: Knowledge of extramural grant process at NIH

Courses Taught: Transmission of Infectious Diseases

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, infectious disease, parasitology, minority health, health disparities, LGBT, community-based participatory research (CBPR), and global health.
Recent Publications:


Contract and Grant Awards:

Principal Investigator, Nevada State Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition. Total Award $33,000. 02/01/17-06/30/17
Mark Buttner, PhD, Graduate Coordinator and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Dr. Buttner is a Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, School of Community Health Sciences, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). 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.

**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

**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

**Keywords:** bioaerosol, pollen, IAQ, HAI

**Recent Publications:**


Contract and Grant Awards:


Principal Investigator, Airborne Pollen Monitoring. Sponsor: Clark County School District. Award Amount: $75,000. 9/1/14 – 8/31/15.

Co-Principal Investigator, Technical and Management Support of LVES. Sponsor: DHS. Award Amount: $120,000. 9/11/14 – 9/10/15.

Co-Principal Investigator, Las Vegas Environmental Sampling. Sponsor: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services - Health Division. Award Amount: $1,216,815. 9/1/15 – 6/30/16.

Principal Investigator, Airborne Pollen Monitoring. Sponsor: Clark County School District. Award Amount: $75,000. 9/1/15 – 8/31/16.

Co-Principal Investigator, Technical and Management Support of LVES. Sponsor: DHS. Award Amount: $20,000. 9/2/15 – 9/1/16.

Co-Principal Investigator, Las Vegas Environmental Sampling. Sponsor: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services - Health Division. Award Amount: $1,202,272. 7/1/16 – 6/30/17.

Principal Investigator, Airborne Pollen Monitoring. Sponsor: Clark County School District. Award Amount: $75,000. 9/1/16 – 8/31/17.

Co-Principal Investigator, Technical and Management Support of LVES. Sponsor: DHS. Award Amount: $62,500. 9/15/16 – 9/14/17.
Lung-Wen (Antony) Chen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Dr. Chen is an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, School of Community Health Sciences. His research focuses on atmospheric aerosol and co-pollutants from natural and anthropogenic sources, involving development of monitoring and modeling methods for assessing public exposure to the pollutants and associated health risks. Dr. Chen leads the Urban Air Quality Laboratory (UAQL) at UNLV. He is also an affiliate associate research professor at the Desert Research Institute and serves as a foreign expert/advisor for the Key Laboratory of Aerosol Chemistry and Physics, Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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.

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.

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

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

Recent Publications:


**Contract and Grant Awards:**


Principal Investigator, IEE Hybrid Environmental Receptor Model (IEE-HERM) for PM$_{2.5}$ Source Apportionment. Sponsor: Chinese Academy of Sciences. Award Amount: $94,000. 2/01/15-12/31/17.


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth
Dr. Sheila Clark is an Assistant Professor-in-Residence in the School of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She completed her PhD in Public Health with a concentration in Social/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

**Keywords:** food systems, active transportation, safe routes to school

**Recent Publications:**


**Contract and Grant Awards:**

Co-Principal Investigator, Health Impact Assessment of proposed full day kindergarten expansion in Nevada. Award Amount: $85,000. 2014-2015
Courtney Coughenour, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Dr. Courtney Coughenour is an Assistant Professor for the Department of Environmental and Occupational 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

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

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

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

Recent Publications:


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**Contract and Grant Awards:**


Co-Principal Investigator, Intermodal bus and bike transportation in Southern Nevada. Sponsor: Mineta Transportation Institute/RTC of Southern Nevada, UNLV. $60,000. 2013-2016.


Project Manager, Imagining Livability in Southern Nevada, an Ethnographic Study. Sponsor: HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, UNLV. $48,000. 2013.


Patricia Cruz, PhD, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health and Interim Associate Dean

Dr. Cruz is a Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the School of Community Health Sciences. 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

Current Projects: Analysis of environmental samples; Public health microbiology

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

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

Keywords: QPCR, IAQ, fungi

Recent Publications:


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**Contract and Grant Awards:**


Co-Principal Investigator, Technical and Management Support of LVES. Sponsor: DHS. Award Amount: $120,000. 9/11/14 – 9/10/15.

Co-Principal Investigator, Las Vegas Environmental Sampling. Sponsor: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services - Health Division. Award Amount: $1,216,815. 9/1/15 – 6/30/16.

Co-Principal Investigator, Technical and Management Support of LVES. Sponsor: DHS. Award Amount: $20,000. 9/2/15 – 9/1/16.

Co-Principal Investigator, Las Vegas Environmental Sampling. Sponsor: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services - Health Division. Award Amount: $1,202,272. 7/1/16 – 6/30/17.

Co-Principal Investigator, Technical and Management Support of LVES. Sponsor: DHS. Award Amount: $62,500. 9/15/16 – 9/14/17
Max Gakh, JD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Max Gakh is an Assistant Professor at the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences 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.

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

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

Keywords: public health law, public health policy, health in all policies, health impact assessment, public health preparedness

Recent Publications


Gakh, M., & Rutkow, L. (In press). Learning lessons from preparedness to operationalize health in all policies. The Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics.


**Contract and Grant Awards**

Project Director, Reducing High School Drop-Out Rates to Improve Health: Legal Interventions to Address Absenteeism (UNLV Top Tier Graduate Research Assistantship Grant Program). Fall 2017-Spring 2020.


Principal Investigator, Health in All Policies in Minnesota. Sponsor: The Public Health Law Center at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Award Amount: $30,000. 08/15.
Brian Labus, PhD, MPH, Visiting Lecturer of Environmental and Occupational Health, and MPH Internship Program Coordinator

Dr. Labus is a Visiting Research Assistant Professor in the School of Community Health Sciences. 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

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

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

Keywords: infectious disease epidemiology, social media, surveillance

Recent Publications:


Contract and Grant Awards:

Principal Investigator, Use of Social Media to Identify Restaurants at Greater Risk of Causing Foodborne Illness. Sponsor: NV INBRENIH. Award Amount: $75,000. 08/15.
Jennifer Pharr, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

Dr. Pharr is an Assistant Professor in the Environmental and Occupational Health Department at the School of Community Health Sciences. 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/health 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.

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.

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

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, sexual minorities, social marketing, social cognitive theory, sport

Recent Publications:


Contract and Grant Awards:
Co-Investigator, Adolescent Coordinated Transition (ACT) to Improve Health Outcomes among Nigerian HIV Youth. 1R01HD89871. Award Amount: $1,520,127. 06/16.

Co-Principal Investigator, Distracted Driver Intervention. Sponsor: Nevada Department of Transportation. Award Amount: $42,100. 05/16.
**Kathleen Lauckner, PhD, Part-Time Instructor of Environment and Occupational Health**

Dr. Kathleen Lauckner is a Faculty Emerita member of the School of Public Policy and Leadership at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Environmental Science at Richard Stockton College, Pomona, N.J., and a Master of Education, in Secondary, Postsecondary and Vocational Education and a doctoral degree in Higher Education Leadership at UNLV. She has research expertise in the areas of environmental contamination assessment and public health concerns integrating empirical knowledge and skills necessary for contracted practitioners to sufficiently remove the contamination and assure community rehabilitation.

During her 32-year career as a professional educator, Dr. Lauckner has taught and mentored thousands of contractors, families, and government officials at the local, state, national, and international levels. Dr. Lauckner is committed to assisting non-profit agencies with meeting their organizational goals, to protect families and the environment, takes a leadership role in a variety of community and university organizations, and strives to bring about change in our political culture surrounding environmental protections.

Dr. Lauckner is an active member of the UNLV Women’s Council, served many years on the Faculty Senate as an administrative faculty representative for research, and chaired the Scholarship Committee and the Administrative Faculty Committee for several terms. She has been the coordinator of Team UNLV for the City of Las Vegas Corporate Challenge since 1986, and will begin her 33rd year in the Challenge come 2018. She is presently a C3 board member for our Nevada Conservation League, a state subsidiary for the League of Conservation Voters and is politically active within the State and County Democratic Central Committees, serving on the Special Audit Committee for 2017. In 2017, she also led the organizing for the “March for Science, “encouraging our state officials to promote education in STEM”.

Since beginning her scientific research career at UNLV in 1985, Dr. Lauckner has had a self-sustaining position at the University. Her studies in chemistry, environmental science, environmental law, public health, adult education, and public policy have allowed her the opportunity to be the principal investigator and professional instructor for a myriad of environmental training programs and scientific conferences hosted at UNLV and around the country. Having instructed thousands of professionals and traveling the country to investigate environmental concerns and coordinate clean ups has afforded her the opportunity to bring real world experiences to her repertoire of instructional practices which now benefit her present day college students investigating careers in science related fields.
Dr. Tanviben Patel is the supervisor for a joint monitoring program by the Clark County School District and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As program supervisor, she monitors and reports current pollen and mold counts around the valley. Her research focuses on the trends of bioaerosols and how they can affect people in the community. Tanviben is also the founding president of the Public Health Student Association and Secretary of the SCHS Alumni Chapter.

**Research Interests:** Pollen and Mold Allergens, Aerobiology, Microbiology, Bioaerosols

**Current Projects:** CCSD/UNLV Pollen Program Supervisor

**Courses Taught:** Personal Health Across the Lifespan

**Keywords:** pollen, mold, bioaerosols, allergens

**Recent Publications:**


Sheniz Moonie, PhD, Program Coordinator and Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Dr. Sheniz Moonie is an Associate Professor and the Program Coordinator for the Epidemiology and Biostatistics program at UNLV in the School of Community Health Sciences. 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

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

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

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

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

Recent Publications:


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**Contract and Grant Awards:**

- Principal Investigator, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Sponsor: State of Nevada Department of Administration Purchasing Division. Award Amount: $151,000. 01/16.
- CDC Sub-Awardee, Nevada Childhood and Adult Asthma State Health Report. Sponsor: Nevada State Health Division, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Award Amount: $12,500, 10/15.
- CDC Sub-Awardee, Dignity Health; Nevada Wellness: CDC Diabetes Prevention Program State Report, Award Amount: $10,000. 06/15.
- Principal Investigator, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Sponsor: State of Nevada Department of Administration Purchasing Division. Award Amount: $127,250. 01/15.
- Principal Investigator, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Sponsor: State of Nevada Department of Administration Purchasing Division. Award Amount: $150,150. 01/14.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Asthma and Obesity Pilot Study. Sponsor: Nell J Redfield Foundation Pediatric Research Fund: Internal Donor Award for Clinical Research (UNSOM). Award Amount: $65,669. 09/13. (UNLV sub-award)
- Principal Investigator, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Sponsor: State of Nevada Department of Administration Purchasing Division. Award Amount: $277,141. 01/12.
- Co-Principal Investigator, Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Award Amount: $1,775,091. 01/11.
- Principal Investigator, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Sponsor: State of Nevada Department of Administration Purchasing Division. Award Amount: $316,950. 10/11.
Timothy J. Bungum, DrPH, Professor of Epidemiology

Dr. Bungum has been a faculty member in the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences 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

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

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

Keywords: physical activity, driver distraction, pedestrian safety

Recent Publications:


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**Contract and Grant Awards:**


Lung-Chang Chien, DrPH, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics

Dr. Lung-Chang Chien is an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, School of Community Health Sciences. 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

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

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

Keywords: spatiotemporal analysis, geographic disparity, spatial vulnerability

Recent Publications:


**Contract and Grant Awards:**

Co-Investigator. Assessing GIS to Address Pediatric Obesity in a Family Health Center. Sponsor: IIMS Community Engagement UT Health Science Center at San Antonio Regional Campus. Award Amount: $5000. 11/15-10/16.


Chad L. Cross, Ph.D., PStat®, Visiting Research Associate Professor

Dr. 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

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)

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

Keywords: Biostatistics; mathematics; data science; mathematics education; sampling; experimental design

Recent Publications


Doolen, J., Mariani, B., Atz, T., Horsley, T.L., O’Rourke, J., McAfee, K., & Cross, C.L. (2016). High-


**Contract and Grant Awards**


Co-Investigator, Adolescent Coordinated Transition (ACT) to Improve Health Outcome among Nigerian HIV Youth. Sponsor: NIH-R01 1R01HD89871-01. Award Amount: $1,125,000. 2016.


Co-Investigator, Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals. Sponsor: Health Resources and Services Administration G02HP27932-01-02. Award Amount: $1,400,000. 2014.


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth
Echezona Ezeanolue, MD, MPH, Professor of Epidemiology and Director of Global Health Initiative

Dr. Ezeanolue is a professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology. He is the director of the Global Health Initiative at the School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Ezeanolue’s research focuses on the use of implementation science and community-based participatory research approach to enhance the quality and effectiveness of population health services and reduce health outcome disparities. He directs the only comprehensive maternal-child HIV program that has been instrumental to the reduction in mother-to-child HIV transmission in Southern Nevada. Dr. Ezeanolue’s projects have been funded by private, state, and federal agencies including the NIH/PEPFAR funded Healthy Beginning Initiative, a proven effective framework for maternal-child health interventions in resource-limited settings. He was 2010 Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow in the office of the Secretary for Health and serves on numerous national committees including: member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), National Institutes of Health (NIH) international and corporate projects-1 study section, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Committee on Pediatric AIDS, Patient Centered Outcome Research Initiative (PCORI) and the strategic Committee of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP). Dr. Ezeanolue has been recognized as Nevada Public Health Leader of the Year (2007), Nevada Health Care Hero (2008), Nevada Immunization Champion (2009) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Local Hero (2010) for his contributions to Public Health.

Research Interests: Implementation Science Research; Maternal-Child Health; Community-Based Participatory Research; Health Disparity Research; Population/GLOBAL Health

Current Projects: Role of male partners in breastfeeding among HIV-infected women; Transitioning in Adolescents Living with HIV; Retention in Care among HIV-infected women; Mobile Health Technology; Maternal Child-HIV/AIDS Care in Southern Nevada; and Impact of Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) Training for Healthcare Workers in Southern Nevada Hospitals.

Unique Resources: Implementation Science, Study Designs, and Perinatal HIV Prevention Toolkit

Courses Taught: Doctoral Seminar

Keywords: implementation science, maternal and child health, HIV, global health

Recent Publications:


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth


**Contract and Grant Awards:**

Principal Investigator, Men’s Club: Impact of male partner involvement on initiation and sustainment of exclusive breastfeeding among HIV-infected postpartum women. Sponsor: NICHD - 3R01HD087994. Award Amount: $254,972. 09/02/16-03/31/18.

Principal Investigator, Adolescent Coordinated Transition (ACT) to Improve Health Outcomes among Nigerian HIV Youth. Sponsor: NICHD R01HD089871. Award Amount: $1,416,457. 07/01/16-06/30/21.


Principal Investigator, Point-of-Delivery Prenatal Test Results through mHealth to Improve Birth Outcome. Sponsor: NIH/Fogarty International Center - R21TW010252. Award Amount: $322,369. 9/01/15-8/31/17.


Principal Investigator, Comparative Effectiveness of Congregation and Clinic Based Approaches to PMTCT. Sponsor: NICHD - R01HD075050. Award Amount: $1,342,039. 9/30/12—8/31/15.
Dr. Ge Lin is a professor in spatial epidemiology and biostatistics. 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 funded 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.

**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.

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

**Keywords:** GIS, health disparity, spatial statistics, disease cluster detection

**Recent Publications:**


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth


**Contract and Grant Awards:**

Co-Principal Investigator, Acquisition of Equipment to Establish Big Data Analytics Infrastructure for Research and Education. Award Amount: $198,752. 09-01-16.


Principal Investigator, Nebraska Public Health Data Analysis Mini Grant. Award Amount: $23,500. 09/01/13-06/31/14.

Principal Investigator, Nebraska Cancer Registry Geocoding. Award Amount: $15,000. 06/01/2013-09/31/13.

Co-Principal Investigator, Understanding Life-Space Characteristics Based on Cell Phone Collected Data. 10/2013-09/15. $100,000.

Co-Principal Investigator, The effect of point-of-sale tobacco marketing on smoking cessation. R01CA166156. 03/13-02/15. $1,080,000.
Paulo S. Pinheiro, PhD, MD, MSc, Associate Professor of Epidemiology

Dr. Pinheiro trained as a resident physician in Portugal, completed his Masters of Science in Holland, and his PhD in Miami. He was also a fellow at the Descriptive Epidemiology Department in the International Agency for Research on Cancer in France. With more than 15 years of experience in cancer epidemiology, including at the International Agency for Research in Cancer, Dr. Pinheiro has participated in many national and international research projects. He has more than 40 publications, 15 of them as first author, with more than 1,700 citations to his work. He has given over 20 oral presentations and 20 posters in meetings and conferences locally, nationally, and internationally.

Research Interests: Population-based cancer epidemiology; Factors that impact cancer incidence, survival, and mortality among ethnic minority populations in the US; Revealing and characterizing health disparities in populations seldom analyzed up to now; Methodology related to cancer survival and cancer registry completeness on a population basis.

Current Projects: Immigrant studies or mortality differentials with countries of origin: Colombia and Mexico; Cancer Survival and the Impact of Missing Social Security Numbers, the SSN Bias; Prostate cancer survival disparities and the role of PSA and the Gleason score; the role of education on cancer mortality; Colorectal Cancer survival disparities in Nevada; Cancer Mortality Disparities by Birthplace among US Hispanics.

Unique Resources: Pioneer in characterizing incidence and mortality for Hispanic and Black subgroups in the US, Leader in improving cancer survival methodology for minority populations

Courses Taught: Epidemiology for Healthcare Management; Epidemiology and Public Health; Fundamentals of Public Health; Cancer Epidemiology; Epidemiology and Research; Doctoral Seminars on Public Health and Epidemiology

Keywords: cancer, epidemiology, disparities, survival, incidence, mortality, Latinos, Hispanics, minorities, Blacks, Asians

Recent Publications:


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth


Contract and Grant Awards:

Dr. Rodriguez’ areas of interest include global health, health disparities, nutrition, inflammation, biomarkers, obesity, and type 2 diabetes. Dr. Rodriguez also has an interest in applying the most up-to-date statistical methods in her research. Currently Dr. Rodriguez is initiating three research projects within global health involving Hepatitis B, Syphilis, and HIV and nutrition. Additionally, she is developing a dietary antioxidant index to help understand the potential role a reduction in inflammation may have in type 2 diabetes prevention. Dr. Rodriguez has recently transitioned to academia, teaching undergraduate online courses in biostatistics, then teaching a variety of undergraduate and graduate public health and epidemiology courses at University of California Irvine. During her 13-year tenure in the pharmaceutical industry as a research scientist, she gained experience in a variety of disease areas. Dr. Rodriguez was a key contributor to the common technical document (CTD) for an orphan drug filing and participated in two additional Biologic Licensing Applications (BLA) drug registration filings and several international filings. Further, she developed expertise in pharmacometric modeling. She has designed and managed health economics and outcomes research, as well as consulted as an epidemiologist for the pharmaceutical industry. She began her career at the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services as an infectious disease Epidemiology Analyst. Her education includes a BS in biochemistry, MPH, and PhD in epidemiology at the University of California Los Angeles.

**Research Interests:** Global health; health disparities; nutrition; inflammation; biomarkers; obesity; and type 2 diabetes

**Current Projects:** Nutritional antioxidant index development; Review of current statistical methods used in epidemiologic research; Hepatitis B and Syphilis prevalence and risk factors among pregnant women in Nigeria from a cluster-randomized clinical trial; Hepatitis B drug resistance patterns and barriers to Hepatitis B vaccinations among pregnant women in Nigeria and their male partners; Impact of alcohol consumption, diet, HIV status on nutritional status and birth outcomes in a cohort of pregnant women in Nigeria; Barriers to Pap smear screening in HIV-infected women

**Courses Taught:** Advanced Epidemiology; Introduction to Public Health; Social Epidemiology; Introduction to Statistical Computing with SAS

**Keywords:** epidemiology, molecular epidemiology, nutrition, global health, health disparities, inflammation, biomarkers, obesity, type 2 diabetes

**Recent Publications:**


Guogen Shan, PhD, Associate Professor of Biostatistics

Dr. Shan is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics at UNLV. 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 test; 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:**


**Contract and Grant Awards:**


Biostatistician, Clinical and Translational Research Infrastructure Network IDeA-CTR. Sponsor: NIH/NIGMS 1U54 GM 104944. Award Amount: $20,000,000. 9/13-6/18.
Qing Wu, ScD, MD, Associate Professor of Biostatistics

Dr. Qing Wu is an associate professor of biostatistics in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, School of the Community Health Sciences 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

Current Projects: Developing personalized reference values of bone mineral density

Unique Resources: Genotype imputation, SAS Macro

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

Keywords: genetics-enhanced model, Meta-analysis, genotype imputation

Recent Publications:


**Contract and Grant Awards:**


Social and Behavioral Health Program

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

Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson is a Professor in the School of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. 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 Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, 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

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

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

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

Recent Publications:


Contract and Grant Awards:


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth
Carolee Dodge Francis, EdD, Associate Professor of Social and Behavioral Health, Executive Director of the American Indian Research and Education Center

Dr. Dodge Francis is the Executive Director of the American Indian Research and Education Center, and Associate Professor within the School of Community Health Sciences. She is an American Indian researcher, and nationally recognized for her research, program development and evaluation work in chronic disease and health education. She has over 25 years’ experience in community/public health, health programming and evaluation, and social behavioral research within urban and rural American Indian communities nation-wide. Her funding awards include the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Nevada State and private foundations.

Current Projects: Journey: NIH-NIDDK STEP-UP is a Short Term Research Experience for underrepresented persons, which provides high school juniors and seniors with summer research experiences in biomedical, clinical, and social sciences. The program aims to increase and strengthen the shortage of American Indian/Alaska Natives pursuing the fields of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research in the areas of diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, nutrition, and obesity.

Coordinated by Dr. Dodge Francis, the Southern Nevada INBRE Project, which is 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. Nevada INBRE also works with Nevada System of Higher Education partner institutions to promote biomedical research knowledge and educational opportunities across the state of Nevada via biomedical and science pipeline programs.

Courses Taught: Qualitative Research Methods for Public Health; Health Disparities; Multicultural Health

Keywords: American Indian/Alaska Natives, type 2 diabetes, qualitative research

Recent Publications:


**Contract and Grant Awards:**


Principal Investigator. Journey: NIDDK STEP-UP. NIH, NIDDK. To increase and strengthen the shortage of American Indian/Alaska Natives pursuing the fields of biomedical, behavioral and clinical research in the areas of diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, nutrition, and obesity. Award Amount: $850,066. 2012-2017

Principal Investigator. Angel Award. Lincy Institute. Increase research opportunities and development. Award Amount: $45,000. 2012-2014.
Amanda E. Morgan, DHS, MPH, Assistant Professor-in-Residence of Social and Behavioral Health

Dr. Amanda Morgan is an Assistant Professor-in-Residence for the Social and Behavioral Program of the Environmental and Occupational Health Department in the School of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Amanda Morgan has been teaching undergraduate and graduate-level courses for the School of Community Health Sciences 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

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

Recent Publications:


Charles Regin, PhD, Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health, Undergraduate Coordinator

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

Dr. Marya Shegog is currently the Director of Health Programs at The Lincy Institute at UNLV and an Assistant Professor within the School of Community Health Sciences, 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.

Dr. Shegog is a co-editor of The Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice. She has received an Excellence in Service Award from the School of Community Health Sciences for 2016 and the Jeffery Keith Mattison Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2004 from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Shegog is also a member of the Mu Chapter, University of South Carolina of the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society.

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

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

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

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

Recent Publications:


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth


**Contract and Grant Awards:**

Program Evaluator. Double Your Greens Healthy Food Incentive Project (FINI Project), USDA. Total Award $500,000. 06/2017 – 05/2019

Focus Group Consultant. Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition State of Nevada Health Division. Total Award $33,000. 02/01/17-06/30/17
Department of Healthcare Administration and Policy
http://hca.unlv.edu

Academic Faculty
Jay Shen, PhD, Associate Dean of School of Community Health Sciences and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy
Christopher R. Cochran, PhD, Chair and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy
Neeraj Bhandari, PhD, MD, Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy
Jennifer Bonilla, MHI, MBA, FACHE, Graduate Coordinator and Healthcare Graduate Programs Director
Betty Burston, PhD, Professor-in-Residence, Healthcare Administration and Policy
Josué Patien Epané, PhD, Graduate Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy
Kurt J. Houser, MBA, MS, FACHE, Visiting Lecturer of Healthcare Administration and Policy
Michelle Sotero, PhD, Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy
Soumya Upadhyay, PhD, Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy
Charles B. Moseley, PhD, Emeritus Professor

Part-Time Instructors
Paul Brezinski
Sarah Bussmann
Barbara Fraser
Bonnie Hillegass
Larry Hurst

Chris Papesh
Maggie Ozan Rafferty
Maire Simington
Glen Stevens
Cae Swanger
Jay Shen, PhD, Associate Dean of the School of Community Health Sciences, Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Dr. Shen is the Associate Dean of the School of Community Health Sciences and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy. His research covers health services research including healthcare disparities, access to care, comparative effectiveness research, effects of Electronic Health Record (EHR) on healthcare 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 Healthcare 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: Healthcare disparities; outcome research and quality of care/patient safety; health economics; EHR implementation; healthcare workforce; and global health.

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

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

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

Keywords: health disparity, outcome research, patient safety, medication error, EHR, health services research

Recent Publications:


**Contract and Grant Awards:**

Principal Investigator, Engaging Terminally Ill Patients with Palliative Care. Sponsor: Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI): Pipeline Tier II. $25,000. 05/16 – 04/17.

Principal Investigator, Engaging Terminally Ill Patients with Palliative Care. Sponsor: Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI): Pipeline Tier I. $15,000. 03/15 – 02/16.

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

Dr. Cochran 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 Healthcare Information and Management System Society, Nevada American College of Healthcare 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.

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


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

Recent Publications:


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

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 healthcare 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 healthcare reform on patients’ access to healthcare 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 healthcare providers and consumers; consumers use of Internet to access health information; impact of healthcare reform on patients’ access to healthcare; empirical evaluation of policies designed to align consumer behavior with emerging scientific evidence on health promoting lifestyles

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

Courses Taught: The U.S. Healthcare System; Programs, Politics and Policy; Healthcare Economics

Recent publications:


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth
Jennifer Bonilla, MHI, MBA, FACHE, Graduate Coordinator and Healthcare Graduate Programs Director

Jennifer is the Graduate Programs Director for the Healthcare Administration & Policy Department within the School of Community Health Sciences. Her primary responsibilities have been to launch and lead Nevada’s first executive master of healthcare administration program, the EMHA, and to support the program oversight and accreditation process for the Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) Program.

As a Fellow (FACHE) with the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Jennifer holds Master’s degrees in Business Administration and Healthcare Innovation. In addition, she is an alum of the William H. Harrah Hotel College at UNLV, with a BS in Hotel Administration. Jennifer is currently pursuing a PhD at Iowa State University of Science & Technology. Prior to joining UNLV, Jennifer’s academic background included teaching Healthcare Finance and Systems Thinking & Complexity Science in the graduate Healthcare Innovation Program at Arizona State University (ASU).

Previous to her higher education career, Jennifer spent 25 years in several executive leadership roles representing four global service companies: ARAMARK Corporation, Pitney Bowes, Sodexo, and ISS. Growing $1 billion plus portfolios, and leading teams of more than 22,000 in CEO, Division President and President of the Americas roles, Jennifer has extensive operating experience in non-clinical support services, including engineering, clinical technology management, dietary, patient transport, call center, and environmental services in the hospital environment. She supported compliance and cost savings initiatives at major pharmaceutical companies and at more than 400 U.S. hospitals, consulting with the C-suite and GPO’s on process improvement, labor relations issues, strategic asset management, Joint Commission accreditation, and quality initiatives. Jennifer also worked extensively in the commercial and K-12 education markets, serving Fortune 500 companies and the nation’s school districts after working in restaurant and resort management roles prior to her healthcare career.

Jennifer has developed curriculum for the EMHA program including courses on: healthcare policy, healthcare finance, healthcare economics, operations and quality, healthcare strategy, and a capstone course.

**Research Interests:** Evaluating psychological contract fulfillment and breach within a multi-generational workforce in a large healthcare system

**Current Projects:** Currently collaborating with Harrah College of Hotel Administration faculty on a longitudinal research project incorporating an intervention workshop at University Medical Center (UMC), studying clinicians’ behavior and attitudes towards co-workers and patients.
Betty Burston, PhD, Professor-in-Residence of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Whether skipping high school graduation and entering college two weeks after her 16th birthday; simultaneously attending two undergraduate schools full-time; simultaneously attending two graduate schools full-time; being selected as a Woodrow Wilson Scholar (1967); being jailed with now Congressman John Lewis for civil rights activities, or engaging in other actions, Betty Rush Collier Arrington Watson Burston is a multi-faceted individual who has always been excited by knowledge. Even more importantly, her life journey has always been one that seeks to apply the knowledge learned to transform not merely her own life, but the lives of others.

Accordingly, it is less than surprising that her return to higher education after a sabbatical of 24 years has brought to teaching at UNLV a different framework for knowledge delivery, and an unwavering commitment to training students that knowledge is a tool, a force, and a power for the achievement of their self-defined life missions.

A trans-disciplinary researcher; published novelist, poet, playwright, songwriter, and scriptwriter; Dr. Burston brings her interdisciplinary background and her experience in the world of independent entertainment to the field of healthcare administration. Dr. Burston received her graduate training at Cornell University, Howard University, and American University. Because education is a critical intermediary of healthcare access and outcome, her most recently published research seeks to define pathways for greater higher education inclusion as a strategy that can ultimately lower healthcare costs. Married to Sid Burston, an independent film, stage, music, and television producer, Dr. Burston and a former UNLV colleague served as Healthcare Consultants on Mr. Burston’s most recent film, Grim Weaver, a horror film that contains embedded messages regarding the current opioid healthcare crisis, and the less often discussed emerging health crisis - treatment resistant STDs. Again, the use of edutainment has implications for healthcare administration and policy.

Thus, it is less than surprising that students in her classes are developing highly instructive edutainment products. These products will soon be publicly available to not merely the Las Vegas community, but to communities nationwide.

**Research Interests:** Using edutainment 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.

**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.

**Unique Resources:** Board of Directors at Punch T.V. Studios; Past linkages to National Medical Association; linkages to independent community-based healthcare organizations nationwide

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

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


Book Chapters

Josué Patien Epané, PhD, Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Dr. Josué Patien Epané is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Healthcare Administration and Policy in the School of Community Health Sciences as well as the Graduate Coordinator for the MHA Program. 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

**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:** Healthcare Financial Management Expert

**Courses Taught:** Healthcare Accounting and Finance; Advanced Healthcare Finance; Healthcare Finance; Strategic Management

**Keywords:** healthcare organizational performance, profitability, quality, processes of care, patient experience of care, strategic planning

**Recent Publications:**


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth


Kurt J. Houser, MBA, MS, FACHE, Visiting Lecturer of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Kurt has 25 years’ experience in healthcare leadership. He has worked in six hospitals and healthcare systems, ranging from small, rural hospitals to serving as the Chief Operating Officer at University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, a 541-bed teaching hospital, and the state’s only level 1 trauma center.

After completing his bachelor’s degree and MBA, Kurt began his healthcare career in the United States Navy, where he served for 23 years as an officer in the Medical Service Corps, earning the rank of Captain before retiring in May 2015. While in the Navy, Kurt served in a variety of hospital and headquarters positions. He began his career in human resources and eventually became the Department Head of Human Resources at Navy Medicine’s largest hospital, Naval Medical Center San Diego. He served as Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, the final assignment of his Navy career.

Kurt served on multiple senior leadership teams while in Navy Medicine. He served as the senior leader of Navy’s Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Personnel Staff, developing budget requirements, and leading recruiting, retention, and education planning for Navy Medicine’s 10,000 Medical Department Officer Health Staff. Kurt also worked on Defense Medical Budgeting and as the Senior Human Resources Officer for Navy’s Medical Officer Community, often presented issues to the Senate and House Armed Services Committee and their staffs.

Kurt has been an active member in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), and a Fellow since 1996. He was elected by his peers to be the Navy Regent from 2010 until 2013 and has served as the Chair of the Medical Service Corps’ annual career symposium. He earned the ACHE District 6 Governor’s Award for Leadership Excellence in 2015. Dual masters prepared and dedicated to lifelong learning, Kurt graduated with distinction, earning a Master of Science degree in Manpower Systems Analysis from the Naval Post Graduate School in 1995, while earning the Systems Management Faculty Award for Excellence in Management and the Chief of Naval Operations Award for Academic Excellence in Manpower Systems Analysis.

Research Interests: Leadership; Organizational Alignment; and Execution Strategies

Courses Taught: Pre-Practicum in Healthcare; Healthcare Adminstration Practicum; Internship in Healthcare Administration

https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth
Michelle Sotero, PhD, Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Dr. Sotero is a new investigator, completing her PhD in May of 2015. 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 healthcare system. She has served as a faculty member in various capacities since 2005. She has 20 years of experience in healthcare 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. She is a 2010 Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute Scholar. She is also a recipient of the 2009-2010 UNLV CSUN Faculty Excellence Award. Prior to joining UNLV in the fall of 2015 in her current role, Dr. Sotero was the program coordinator for a multimillion-dollar teen pregnancy prevention grant through the Office of Adolescent Health at the Southern Nevada Health District.

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

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.

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

Keywords: historical trauma; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), teen pregnancy prevention

Recent Publications:


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

Dr. Soumya 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. Her research encompasses three broad areas: 1) patient safety and quality improvement in the hospital industry, 2) healthcare finance, and 3) health promotion. Specifically, she explores how health information technology can be used to enhance patient safety, and safety culture’s influence on hospital performance. She also examines the effect of health information seeking behavior on intention to quit smoking. Among healthcare finance topics, she has examined the effect of cash conversion cycle and working capital management on hospital profitability.

Dr. Upadhyay is a reviewer for many journals and national conferences, such as, the Journal for Healthcare Management, Academy of Management, European Academy of Management, and Academy of Marketing Sciences. She regularly disseminates her research by presenting at national and international conferences.

**Research Interests:** Healthcare quality and patient safety, healthcare finance, health promotion

**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)

**Courses Taught:** Statistics for Healthcare Managers, Healthcare Finance

**Keywords:** healthcare quality; patient safety; safety culture; hospital performance; EHR

**Recent Publications:**


Barbara Fraser, RN, BSN, MHA, Part-Time Instructor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Barbara is a part-time instructor at UNLV in the Department of Healthcare Administration and Policy. She was active in the Las Vegas nursing community from 1974 until her retirement in August 2014. She brings a unique perspective and many years of healthcare experience to the Department of Healthcare Administration and Policy, to her students and to our community.

She has volunteered extensively with the Desert Sage Auxiliary of the Nevada Assistance, and is a member of the Nevada Alliance of Nursing Excellence (NAN) and Nevada State Board of Nursing Education Committee as well as the Nevada System of Higher Education, “Fresh Look at Nevada’s Community College Task Force” (2010-2011). She was a part of the Nevada Department of Education Health Occupations Grant Review team in 2007 and from 1999 to 2014, was the Nevada State Board of Nursing continuing education provider coordinator for Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center and Sunrise Children’s Hospital. From 1999 to 2010, she was member of the Southern Nevada Staff Health Education and Training, serving as president-elect in 2007 and president in 2008. From 2012 to 2013, she collaborated with Nevada State College School of Nursing to establish a UHC/ANCC New Grad RN residency program at Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center and Sunrise Children’s Hospital. In 2013, she received an HCA Cares Grant award to support the development and implementation of a Clinical Simulation Center and Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center and Sunrise Children’s Hospital.

Barbara has won numerous awards including: Far West Nursing Excellence for Advancing the profession in 2003, Nevada March of Dimes Distinguished Nurse of the year in 2004, and a HealthStream national award in 2009 for the number of staff utilizing online programs for staff education at Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center and Sunrise Children’s Hospital.

Courses Taught: Developing Leaders in the Changing Healthcare Environment; Healthcare Administration Practicum
Bonnie Essex Hillegass, RN, MHA, Part-Time Instructor of Healthcare Administration and Policy

Ms. Hillegass retired after 25 years in senior leadership at Sierra Health Services including group medical practice, home health, hospice, medical management, quality, and utilization management. Her education includes: Advanced Leadership in Healthcare, Harvard University, Boston, MA; MHA, College of St. Francis; Joliet, IL; BA in Psychology with a minor in Sociology, UNLV; AA in Nursing with a Nevada and Texas license as an RN and ongoing continuing education to maintain RN licensure. Ms. Hillegass was an advisory board member for the department of Healthcare Administration and Policy from 2012 to 2016. She was also the keynote speaker at the 2015 UNLV School of Nursing Graduation and earned a leadership in nursing recognition the same year. Within the School of Community Health Sciences, she has received Excellence in Teaching and other Excellence awards annually (2011-2016). She has also received community recognition awards from Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Governor’s task force on aging, National Aging Commission, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Ms. Hillegass also was recently acknowledged in Las Vegas community healthcare leadership: History of Hospice Care and the development of AIDS healthcare management in Nevada (PBS Newspaper, November 2015).

Research interests: Gerontology and geriatric medicine; healthcare systems and policy; healthcare leadership; community based preventative healthcare

Courses taught: Healthcare pre-internship skills; Internship and Practicum program instruction and project instructor; Leadership and Management; Managed Care; Continuum of Care
Emeritus 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 Community Health Sciences. 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 healthcare 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, Laboratories, and Programs
https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth/centers-labs

Centers:
- Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP)
- Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA)
- Center for Health Disparities Research (CHDR)
- American Indian Research and Education Center (AIREC)

Laboratories:
- Environmental Health Laboratory (EHL)
- Emerging Diseases Laboratory (EDL)
- CCSD/UNLV Pollen Monitoring Program
- The Urban Air Quality Laboratory

Programs and Initiatives
- Global Health Initiative (GHI)
- Office of Community Partnerships
- UNLV INBRE
- Health Law Program
Centers:

Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP)

http://nic.unlv.edu/

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 Community Health Sciences 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.

Tara Phebus, MA
Executive Director

Amanda Haboush-Deloye, PhD
Associate Director

Dawn L. Davidson, PhD
Chief Research Associate

M. Amaris Knight, MEd
Assistant Research Analyst

Erika Marquez, PhD
Research Associate

Valeria Gurr, MA
Program Manager

Mirzah Trejo, BA
Research Assistant
Tara Phebus, MA, Executive Director

Tara Phebus is the Executive Director of the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy as well as Prevent Child Abuse Nevada. She has worked for the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy conducting applied research and program evaluation since 2004. Her research and evaluation experience cover a variety of children’s issues including: health and safety, injury prevention, child welfare, juvenile justice, early childhood education, and social marketing evaluation. Tara received her Bachelor of Arts Degrees in both Sociology and Business Administration from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, and then completed her Master of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Public Health.

**Research Interests:** Maternal and child health and wellbeing; including access to healthcare, child injury prevention, child welfare, and early childhood education.

**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, state and local fatality reviews for injury prevention (child, homicide, domestic violence), improving programs for preventing children from entering foster care, providing support for pregnant and parenting women to improve health outcomes for women and infants.

**Unique Resources:** Community engagement through participation in state and local coalitions, workgroups and advisory boards related to improving outcomes for children and families including the statewide Maternal and Child Health Coalition, Southern Nevada Opioid Task Force, Executive Committee for Child Death Review, Child Drowning Prevention Coalition, Statewide Safe Sleep Coalition, and Safe Haven Workgroup.

**Keywords:** maternal and child health, injury prevention, program evaluation, advocacy, child welfare, policy

**Recent Publications:**


Amanda Haboush-Deloye, PhD, Associate Director

Amanda Haboush-Deloye is the Associate 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.

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

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.

Courses Taught: Introduction to Public Health; Research Methods

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

Recent Publications:


Dawn L. Davidson, PhD, Chief Research Associate

Dawn L. Davidson is the Chief Research Associate at the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP) within the School of Community Health Sciences. 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.
Erika Marquez, PhD, Research Associate

Erika Marquez is the Research Analyst at the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy. 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 Adjunct Faculty for the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences. 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; healthcare infrastructure; healthcare access; and ways to approach public health policy and programs utilizing systematic approaches, including Health Impact Assessments.

**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.

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

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

**Recent Publications**


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth
M. Amaris Knight, MEd, Assistant Research Analyst

Amaris is currently an Assistant Research Analyst at the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research & Policy within the School of Community Health Sciences. 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 healthcare 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.

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.

Courses Taught: Public Health Across the Lifespan

Valeria Gurr, MA, Program Manager

Valeria Gurr earned her Master's degree in Journalism and Media Studies at UNLV in 2013 and a Bachelor's degree in Public Relations with a minor in Marketing at Duoc UC of The Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. Valeria's research focused on social discrepancies in Chile and how the media was used to influence public opinion and to praise the government. She examined one of the most well-known Chilean newspapers, “El Mercurio,” over the course of 33 years and presented her research at the Far West Popular Culture Association in 2013. She also presented her findings at the Fourth Annual Greenspun College of Urban Affairs Graduate Research Symposium in 2013. She has always been interested in the field of communications studies related to education barriers and later became interested in poverty barriers and child abuse prevention.

After graduating from the program in 2013, Valeria went to work for the Clark County Education Association. While there, she had the incredible opportunity to work in support of Nevada educators and to help improve the current system. She worked as a communications professional and social media liaison. Valeria is a passionate advocate for public education and children’s safety. She joined the NICRP team as Program Coordinator last year in 2015, and has been successful at providing child maltreatment prevention trainings, to help empower both parents and the general community, to protect children’s lives. Valeria has also used her background and experience to reach out to the community using social media strategies to help the mission of NICRP, which is to watch out for Nevada’s children and provide the community with relevant information to support the well-being of those children. During her time at NICRP, Valeria became interested in public policy and prevention of child maltreatment. At this time, she has been admitted to the Public Policy Department at UNLV to begin her PhD studies in 2018. She looks forward to continued success at NICRP and helping to educate the community in child maltreatment prevention.

Research Interests: Public policy and child maltreatment prevention; public policy in early childhood education; the relationship between neighborhood poverty and child maltreatment; Framing abuse: media influence, public policy and public understanding of sexual violence against children.

Current Projects: Coordinator and trainer of several child maltreatment prevention classes for Prevent Child Abuse Nevada at NICRP.
Mirzah Trejo, BA, Research Assistant

Mirzah Trejo earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, minoring in Marriage and Family Therapy from University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) in May 2014. She joined the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP) located at the School of Community Health Sciences (SCHS) at UNLV in September 2014, as a research assistant. She works on projects focused on improving children’s lives through research and advocacy, entering and cleaning data, conducting English and Spanish phone surveys, translating, and event planning.

In 2015, she became coordinator of the 8th Annual Step Up for Kids event hosted by NICRP, the Children’s Advocacy Alliance, and the Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (SNECAC), a yearly event held on Children’s Day in Nevada to show widespread support for investments in children and families. She took initiative to secure three Radio Stations, EXA 94.5FM, La TriColor 105.1 FM, and Super Estrella 92.7FM to air promotional spots, establishing a link with the Latino community and NICRP services. In 2016, she coordinated the 9th Annual Step Up for Kids Event.

**Research Interests:** Early childhood education; multidisciplinary research on children’s issues including mental, physical, and behavioral health, due to history of abuse and trauma, human/sex trafficking, involuntary domestic servitude, child abuse prevention and neglect; child welfare; psychosexual evaluation; psychological assessment including risk factors and assessment, relevant clinical, diagnostic, and appropriate management and treatment.

**Current Projects:** Providing family and community outreach for the Strong Start for Children Campaign through coordinating and providing parent trainings and advocacy trainings through NICRP.

https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth
Center for Health Information Analysis
http://chia.unlv.edu

The Center for Health Information Analysis (CHIA) is contracted by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Healthcare 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 Healthcare
- Center for Health Information Analysis

Joseph Greenway, MPH
Director and Principal Investigator

Deysi Baca
Administrative Assistant III

Danny Chan, BS
Systems Programmer

Robert Herrington
Software Developer

Nora Langendorf, EdD
Administrative Assistant III

William Porter, BS
Web Developer
Joseph Greenway, MPH, Director and Principal Investigator

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/

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

Recent Publications:


Contract and Grant Awards:

The mission of the 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 (http://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.

**Melva Thompson-Robinson**, DrPH  
Director, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health (see EOH academic faculty)

**Marya Shegog**, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Health (see EOH academic faculty)

**Robbi Hill-Corley**  
Journal Assistant
American Indian Research and Education Center  
http://www.unlv.edu/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.

Carolee Dodge-Francis, EdD  
Executive Director and Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupation Health  
(See EOH Academic Faculty)

Nohealani Antolin, MPH  
NIH/NIDDK STEP UP Program Coordinator
Noehealani Antolin, MPH, NIH/NIDDK STEP UP Program Coordinator

Ms. Antolin earned her Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2011 and her Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree with a focus on social and behavioral health at UNLV in 2017. She was an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified Lead Risk Assessor and Healthy Homes Specialist, and has worked on a Housing and Urban Development Grant providing free lead-based paint and healthy homes inspections to low-income residents in Henderson, Nevada. Additionally, Ms. Antolin has conducted assessment and accreditation work as a Graduate Assistant for the Dean of the SCHS. She also serves as a committee member on the SCHS MPH Advisory Board, and an active member of the Public Health Student Association. She is currently the Program Coordinator for the UNLV STEP UP program, which aims to provide research opportunities for Native American/Alaska Native and Puerto Rican 11th and 12th grade students. Furthermore, Ms. Antolin has been accepted into the Public Health PhD program at UNLV.
Environmental Health Laboratory (EHL)
https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth/centers-labs

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.

Shawn Gerstenberger, PhD
Director, Dean of School of Community Health Sciences and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health (See EOH Academic Faculty)
Emerging Diseases Laboratory (EDL)

https://www.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.

**Mark P. Buttner, PhD**
Co-Director, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health (See EOH Academic Faculty)

**Patricia Cruz, PhD**
Co-Director, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health (See EOH Academic Faculty)

**David Woodard, MSc, FSHEA**
Laboratory Manager
David R. Woodard, MSc, Part-Time Instructor, Associate Graduate Faculty

Mr. Woodard is the Manager of the Emerging Diseases Laboratory in the School of Community Health Sciences. His research focuses on the environmental ecology of hospitals.

He is the program director of the Certificate in Infection Prevention provided through the School of Community Health Sciences.

Research Interests: Antimicrobial Stewardship; Healthcare environmental microbiology

Current Projects: Assessment of the microbial contamination in healthcare settings

Unique Resources: Medical Technologist, Fellow of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology in America (FSHEA)

Courses Taught: Special Topics in Environmental Health; Measurement Techniques in Infection Prevention; Infection Prevention in Hospital Departments

Keywords: infection prevention, environmental health, microbiology

Recent Publications:


https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth
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.

Mark Buttner, PhD
Director, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health (see EOH Academic Faculty)

Tanviben Y. Patel, PhD, MPH
CCSD/UNLV Pollen Monitoring Program Supervisor (see EOH Academic Faculty)
The Urban Air Quality Laboratory
https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth/uaq-lab

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.

Lung-Wen Antony Chen, PhD
Director, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health (See EOH Academic Faculty)
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.

Echezona Ezeanolue, MD, MPH  
Director and Professor of Epidemiology (See EOH Academic Faculty)

Tamara Bruno, MPH  
Program Manager

Semiu Gbadamosi, MD, MPH  
Research Coordinator

Dina Patel, MSN, AC-PNP  
Nurse Practitioner
Tamara Bruno, MPH, Program Manager

Tami is the Program Manager for the Global Health Initiative at the School of Community Health Sciences. Her current research is focused on the use of implementation science to improve health outcomes in resource-limited settings. She earned her BA in American Studies, with an emphasis in Multicultural Competency in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley and her MPH in Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Ms. Bruno currently assists Dr. Ezeanolue, Director of the Global Health Initiative, in overseeing coordination of four National Institute of Health funded grant projects and the development and expansion of academic, research and service opportunities in global health at UNLV.


Current Projects: Coordinated healthcare transition to improve outcomes and psychosocial wellbeing among HIV-infected adolescents transitioning from pediatric to adult care; Role of male partners in breastfeeding practice among HIV-infected women; Network interventions to retention in care among HIV-infected pregnant women; Mobile health interventions; Maternal and infant mortality

Unique Resources: Implementation Science, Program Implementation

Courses Taught: Multicultural Health; Personal Health Across the Lifespan

Keywords: global health, implementation science, maternal and child health, HIV, PMTCT

Recent Publications:


Contract and Grant Awards:


Coordinator, Men’s Club: Impact of male partner involvement on initiation and sustainment of exclusive breastfeeding among HIV-infected postpartum women. Sponsor: NICHD - 3R01HD087994. Award Amount: $254,972. 09/02/16-03/31/18.


Coordinator, Point-of-Delivery Prenatal Test Results through mHealth to Improve Birth Outcome. Sponsor: NIH/Fogarty International Center. Award Amount: $322,369. 09/01/15-08/31/17.
Semiu Gbadamosi, MD, MPH, Research Coordinator, Global Health Initiative

Dr. Gbadamosi is the Research Coordinator of the Global Health Initiative at the School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His research is focused on the use of implementation science to improve maternal and child health outcomes in resource-constrained settings. For his meritorious achievements and contribution to the public health discourse, he was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi and Delta Omega – Alpha Tau chapter honorary societies in 2015. He earned his M.D. and MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Lagos, Nigeria and Texas A&M University, College Station, respectively. Dr. Gbadamosi is currently the study coordinator on three National Institute of Health-funded awards.

Research Interests: Implementation Science, Maternal and Child Health, Population/Global Health

Current Projects: Role of male partners in breastfeeding among HIV-infected women; Retention in care among HIV-infected women; Use of mobile health technology to improve birth outcomes.

Unique Resources: Implementation Science, Program Implementation

Courses Taught: Multicultural Health

Keywords: Implementation Science, Maternal and Child Health, HIV, Global Health

Recent Publications:


Contract and Grant Awards:

Study Coordinator, Men’s Club: Impact of male partner involvement on initiation and sustainment of exclusive breastfeeding among HIV-infected postpartum women. Sponsor: NICHD. Award Amount: $254,972. 09/02/16 – 03/31/18.


Study Coordinator, Point-of-Delivery Prenatal Test Results through mHealth to Improve Birth Outcome. Sponsor: NIH/Fogarty International Center. Award Amount: $322, 269. 9/01/15 – 8/31/17.
Dina Patel, MSN, AC-PNP, Nurse Practitioner

Dina Patel is an Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the Global Health Initiative, School of Community Health Sciences. She received her Master of Science in Nursing from Wayne State University with a major in advanced practice nursing with, women, neonates and children. She leads the Nevada Care Program the only comprehensive maternal-child HIV program that has been instrumental in the reduction of mother-to-child HIV transmission in Southern Nevada. Ms. Patel has been an active member of the GHI team in the development and implementation of five NIH awarded grants. She also leads the expansion of international collaboration at GHI. Her focus is developing evidence-based maternal-child programs globally.

Research Interests: Preventing perinatal HIV transmission; Disclosure for adolescents perinatally infected with HIV; Maternal-Child Health; Community-Based Participatory Research; Population/Global Health


Keywords: maternal-child health, HIV, global health, implementation science

Recent Publications:


**Contract and Grant Awards:**

Program Coordinator. HRSA Ryan White Title IV Women, Infants, Children, and Youth and Affected Family Members AIDS Healthcare. Sponsor: H12HA24832 Award Amount: $1,114,066, 8/01/12 – 7/31/17.

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The Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) works in support of faculty and staff directly identifying community partners to work with the SCHS 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 SCHS. 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.

José Luis Meléndrez, MSW
Executive Director
José Luis Meléndrez, MSW
Executive Director Office of Community Partnerships

José L. Meléndrez currently serves as the Executive Director for Community Partnerships in the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences. 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 Community Health Sciences, and is the liaison for Title III and Title V initiatives on behalf of the School of Community Health Sciences. 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.
UNLV INBRE
https://www.unlv.edu/publichealth/unlv-inbre

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.

Carolee Dodge Francis, EdD
Associate Professor of Social and Behavioral Health (See SBH Academic Faculty)
Health Law Program
https://law.unlv.edu/health-law

The UNLV Health Law Program is a partnership between the William S. Boyd School of Law and the School of Community Health Sciences. 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.

Max Gakh, JD, MPH
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