Annual Research Report
Calendar Year 2016
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### Research Overview

**Mission:**
The Texas A&M School of Public Health is committed to transforming health through interdisciplinary inquiry, innovative solutions, and development of leaders through the Aggie tradition of service to engage diverse communities worldwide.

**Values:**
- Accountability, Meaningful Impact
- G- Global and diverse: Our research crosses borders
- G- Generosity: Through selfless service
- I- Integrity
- E- Excellence: In teaching, research, service, and practice
- S- Social Justice
- P- Professionals: Leaders paving the way
- H- Honor Respect for all

**Purpose:** Research is an integral part of the Texas A&M School of Public Health mission and activities with the majority of the nearly 60 faculty members engaged in sponsored research and service activities. This report summarizes School of Public Health faculty projects, publications, presentations, and research interests during Calendar Year 2016.

**Highlights:** Calendar Year 2016 was a growth year marked by a number of key highlights including growth in research expenditures and number of publications; expansion of programs designed to provide pilot funding support; growth in global health research activities; and, formal establishment of new programs and centers.

**Initiatives:** In an effort to provide seed funding for innovative and promising research, the School of Public Health awarded the second round of the Delta Omega Research and Development Initiative (REDI) Program in May 2016. Awarded through a competitive application and external review process, six SPH investigators received awards of $25,000 each to support their respective research projects. The REDI grantees and projects are listed in this report.

**New Funding:** A number of large grants and contracts were secured during the year from diverse funders including HRSA, NIH, NAS, NSF, DSHS, and private foundations. A few of the many awards received by SPH investigators from across departments are noted below. A full listing of awards is included this report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Award Description</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jane Bolin and Dr. Alva Ferdinand</td>
<td>Southwest Rural Health Research Center: Rural Health Research Grant Program Cooperative Agreement, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This four year Center grant includes four subprojects also included in this report.</td>
<td>HRSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tanya Garcia</td>
<td>Innovative Statistical Models for Development of First Huntington’s Disease Progression Risk Assessment Tool (K01 award), National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NIH).</td>
<td>NIH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Griffith</td>
<td>Mitigation Planning Process Stage 3, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).</td>
<td>DSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Horney</td>
<td>Texas OneGulf Strategic Environmental, Human Health and Safety: Disaster Research Response, TAMU Corpus Christi/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).</td>
<td>TCEQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bita Kash</td>
<td>The Texas Project: Transitions Explored and Studies: Using Data to Prevention Readmissions in the Texas Medical Center, Texas Medical Foundation (TMF).</td>
<td>TMF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Marcia Ory</td>
<td>SUSTAIN for Better Health and Health Care for Older Adults, Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL).</td>
<td>ACL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. S. Camille Peres</td>
<td>NSF Eager: Humans, Teams, and Technologies: Human-Team and Team-Machine Interaction in Emergency Response, National Science Foundation (NSF).</td>
<td>NSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Barbara Quiram</td>
<td>High Consequence Infectious Disease Planning Table Top Exercises. Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).</td>
<td>DSHS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New Programs and Centers:** During 2016, a number of new programs and Centers were formally established at SPH to enable researchers with similar interests to coalesce research interests, expertise, and projects. The Program for the Environment and Sustainability was approved in Fall 2016; the Program is under the direction of Dr. Virender Sharma and Dr. Tony Rene’. Located in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, the program’s mission is to become a leader in the interaction of the environment, sustainability and population health in the state of Texas, nationally and internationally. The Center for Population Health and Aging was approved by the Texas A&M Board of Regents in Fall 2016. Under the direction of Dr. Marcia Ory, the Center evolved from the long-standing Program on Healthy Aging to Center status. The Center focuses on identification of social, behavioral, and environmental determinants of health in older populations in order to promote successful aging throughout the life course.

**Awards and Recognition.** During 2016, all SPH Principal Faculty were invited to submit their outstanding peer reviewed journal articles for recognition in the Faculty Best Paper competition sponsored by SPH. Submissions were reviewed based on significance to public research and practice and implications for improving population health. At the Assistant Professor level, the winners were Dr. Alva Ferdinand and Dr. Sam Towne; the Associate level winner was Dr. Qi Zheng, and the winner at the Professor level was Dr. Jane Bolin. The school also selected the winners of the Student Research Excellence Award. The award recognizes outstanding students who have demonstrated excellence in the design, conduct, execution, and impact of research. The 2016 winners were Ashley Shortz (masters level winner) and Dr. Chinedum Ojinnaka (doctoral level winner).
Research Enhancement & Development Initiative

The Texas A&M School of Public Health strives to support faculty in their research activities, including assistance in the development of new extramurally supported investigator-initiated research. The Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative (REDI) program provides small pilot funding awards to SPH investigators in support of innovative, novel, and interdisciplinary ideas with a high probability of leading to significant external funding.

2016 Award Grantees

Bernard Appiah, DrPH, MDC, MS, BPharm
Assistant Professor
Public Health Studies
Identifying culturally relevant interventions to increase medication adherence among adults with diabetes or hypertension

Leslie Cizmas, PhD
Assistant Professor
Environmental & Occupational Health
Impact of nanoparticles on the formation and toxicity of disinfection byproducts during water chlorination

Alva Ferdinand, DrPH
Assistant Professor
Health Policy & Management
Examining the impact of gun control laws on firearm-related morbidity and mortality

Gang Han, PhD
Associate Professor
Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Improved survival analysis in personalized cancer therapy trials

Darcy McMaughan, PhD
Assistant Professor
Health Policy & Management
Resident, site, and care coordination characteristics in unlicensed board and care homes: A pilot study in Houston, TX

Xiaohui Xu, PhD
Associate Professor
Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Interaction between genes and air pollution in relation to cardiometabolic risk in US population
**Bernard Appiah, DrPH, MDC, MS, BPPharm**  
**Identifying culturally relevant interventions to increase medication adherence among adults with diabetes or hypertension**  
This project uses secondary data analysis to quantitatively assess non-adherence to anti-diabetic and anti-hypertensive medications among patients in up to nine counties in Texas. Also, through use of interviews of patients with diabetes or hypertension, their caregivers and clinicians, we identify factors that can facilitate the design and implementation of culturally relevant evidence-based interventions for promoting medication adherence among adults with diabetes or hypertension. To the best of our knowledge, the study is the first to identify culturally relevant beliefs, knowledge and attitudes that can facilitate the design of medication adherence interventions for uninsured and insured patients from socio-ecological perspectives of the patients, their caregivers and clinicians. It identifies the extent of medication non-adherence in patients with diabetes or hypertension, generate pilot data to help guide the design of culturally relevant interventions for medication adherence, and create interdisciplinary partnerships for writing grant proposals to test the efficacy of culturally relevant interventions for promoting medication management in African American populations.

**Leslie Cizmas, PhD**  
**Impact of Nanoparticles on the Formation and Toxicity of Disinfection Byproducts during Water Chlorination**  
This project systematically investigates the impact of nanoparticles (NPs) on the formation and toxicity of drinking water disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in drinking water supplies. Various types of NPs are being used in a number of consumer and industrial products, which ultimately enter into water systems and may greatly influence the formation of DBPs. Research examining the influence of NPs on DBP formation and toxicity is critically needed. Aims include chlorinating water samples containing TiO\(_2\), NPs, ZnO NPs or Ag NPs, characterizing the NPs after chlorination, chemically analyzing production of trihalomethane and haloacetic acid DBPs, and assessing the toxicity of the DBPs produced in the presence of TiO\(_2\), NPs, ZnO NPs or Ag NPs. Data showing increased DBP toxicity will provide justification for further research into the mechanisms of NP-promoted DBP formation.

**Alva Ferdinand, DrPH, JD**  
**Examining the Impact of Gun Control Laws on Firearm-Related Morbidity and Mortality**  
This project examines changes in the prevalence of firearm deaths before and after the effective dates of gun control measures relative to contemporaneous changes in firearm deaths in states without such laws. It examines changes in the prevalence of non-fatal firearm injuries before and after the effective dates of gun control measures relative to contemporaneous changes in non-fatal firearm injuries in states without such laws. This work utilizes econometric methods to analyze gun control measures and will use multiple approaches to strengthen its internal validity. The use of clinical secondary data from several states over a seven-year period will serve to provide a more robust understanding of the effect of gun control measures on firearm-related morbidity and mortality. It uses a panel study design (data from 2008–2014) and a difference-in-difference methodology to assess the relationship between the presence of various gun control laws and firearm-related fatalities and hospitalizations across seven states.

**Gang Han, PhD**  
**Improved survival analysis in personalized cancer therapy trials**  
The current discovery of new molecular information (e.g., next generation sequencing) is making the personalized cancer therapy increasingly feasible, leading to more effective treatment and diagnosis of cancer. However, the accrual of patients having a specific genomic subtype (e.g., EGFR mutation positive) can be an impeding and difficult progress. The existing statistical analysis for cancer survival is primarily based on nonparametric methods such as Kaplan-Meier estimate and log-rank test that are statistically less efficient than properly used parametric methods, where the loss of efficiency is close to throwing away a third of the patients away. This project uses a statistical framework to reasonably utilize the most mathematically tractable survival model, the exponential model, in the design and analysis of clinical trials with time-to-event endpoints. Compared with existing methods, this approach has the potential to save up to 40% of the sample size without compromising the statistical power. In addition to developing the statistical theory, researchers apply the proposed method in a randomized Phase II breast cancer trial (NCI protocol number 8457).

**Darcy McMaughan, PhD**  
**Resident, site, and care coordination characteristics in unlicensed board and care homes: A pilot study in Houston, Texas**  
This study addresses the important topic of how residents come to access care in unlicensed board-and-care facilities (UB&C), and the quality and type of care they receive, focusing on describing the UB&C facilities, UB&C residents, and HCBS coordination in Houston, Texas through a collaboration between the TAMU Department of Health Policy and Management, the TAMU Department of Educational Psychology, and the Houston Police Department Mental Health Division. This study focuses on creating evidence around four areas of interest associated with UB&C, using Houston, Texas as a pilot site: 1) UB&C facilities, 2) UB&C Residents, 3) care provided in UB&C, and 4) public and private agencies and institutions involved in placing residents in UB&C. This study builds a profile of the characteristics of UB&C, the care provided in the facilities, and the public and private organizations involved in placing people in UB&C.

**Xiaohui Xu, PhD**  
**Interaction between Genes and Air Pollution in Relation to Cardiometabolic Risk in US Population**  
This study examines the interaction between selected genes and air pollution in relation with inflammation and cardiometabolic biomarkers. The project provides a cost-effective way to investigate this important research question by utilizing existing confidential datasets and will address the knowledge gaps regarding the potential interaction between genes and air pollution. The findings will provide insights regarding the biological mechanisms underlying adverse effects of air pollution on cardiovascular diseases. This project provides valuable preliminary data for developing fine epidemiological studies and individual-based intervention studies in the future to mitigate the air pollution-associated cardiovascular risk.
Board of Regents Approved Centers

Center for Community Health Development
Established in 2001 through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Co-Directors: Kenneth McLeroy, PhD & Jim Burdine, DrPH

Center for Health Organization Transformation
NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers Program
Director, PI: Bita Kash, PhD

Center for Population Health & Aging
Funded by multiple external grants
Director: Marcia Ory, PhD, MPH

USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness
Established initially as a CDC-funded Center for Public Health Preparedness
Director: Barbara Quiram, PhD

Southwest Rural Health Research Center
Established initially as a HRSA/ORHP Rural Health Research Center
Director, PI: Jane Bolin, PhD, JD, RN

The Ergonomics Center
Funded by multiple external grants
Director: Mark Benden, PhD

SPH Recognized Programs

Program on Disability Research & Community-Based Care
Director: Darcy McMaughan, PhD

Program on Public & International Engagement for Health
Director: Bernard Appiah, DrPH, MDC, MS, BPharm

Program for Reproductive & Child Health
Director: Brandie Taylor, PhD

Program for Health Policy Research
Director: Michael Morrisey, PhD

Program for Research & Outreach Engagement on Nutrition & Health Disparities Solutions
Director: Joseph Sharkey, PhD, MPH

Program on Public Health & Water Research
Director: Virender Sharma, PhD

Program for Asthma Research & Education
Director: Genny Carrillo, MD, ScD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alainiz, Angie</td>
<td><strong>Evaluation of the Madison Outreach and Services through Telehealth Network, Madison County Government, $112,599 (2012-2016) [CCHD]</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appiah, Bernard</td>
<td><strong>Using cellphone caller tunes to promote blood donation in Sub-Saharan Africa: A feasibility study in Ghana, Texas A&amp;M PESCA Grant Program, $10,000 (2016-2017)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appiah, Bernard</td>
<td><strong>Children Against Antimicrobial Resistance: An Engagement Project in Ghana, Wellcome Trust, $43,852 (2016-2017)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appiah, Bernard</td>
<td><strong>Identifying Culturally Relevant Interventions to Increase Medication Adherence among Adults with Diabetes or Hypertension, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2016-2017)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benden, Mark</td>
<td><strong>Small Business Innovation Research Award (SBIR) PHASE II: Development of a Stand-Biased School Desk to Reduce Childhood Obesity, subaward from Positive Motion, LLC (prime is CDC), $400,563 (2013-2016) [ERGC]</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benden, Mark</td>
<td><strong>Texas A&amp;M University Occupational Safety &amp; Health Training Program (competitive 5 year renewal), NIOSH, $516,453 (2012-2017) [ERGC]</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benden, Mark</td>
<td><strong>Can This Process Be Re-purposed to Refill Depleted Below Surface Aquifers? Texas A&amp;M University Area 41 Award, $25,000 (2015-2016) [ERGC]</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benden, Mark</td>
<td><strong>External Safety Support, Texas Transportation Institute, $70,000 (2010-2017)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolin, Jane, Co-PI</td>
<td><strong>McClellan, David, Pl.</strong> *<strong>Continuation and Expansion of Texas A&amp;M’s Colorectal Cancer Screening, Training, Education, and Prevention Program, Cancer Prevention &amp; Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), $1,500,000 (2014-2017) [SRHRC]</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolin, Jane, CPRIT</td>
<td><strong>Dissemination: Training CHWs for Cancer Education and Navigation, Texas Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), $300,000 (2015-2017) [SRHRC] [CCHD]</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolin, Jane and Alva</td>
<td><strong>Ferdinand, Alva.</strong> Southwest Rural Health Research Center, Year 1 Project 2: Examining the Legal Landscape in Rural America: Implications for the Healthcare Workforce, Access to Care, and Population Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, $130,897 (2016-2017)**.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrillo, Genny</td>
<td><strong>Community-based Pediatric Asthma Education and Intervention, Knapp Community Care Foundation, $374,042 (2015-2017)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cizmas, Leslie</td>
<td><strong>A Multi-Step Approach to Assessing the Toxicity of Drinking Water Disinfection By-Products Following Chlorination, Chloramination or a Novel Ferrate Disinfection Process, The Center for Translational Environmental Health Research (CTEHR) Pilot Project Program, $71,704 (2014-2016)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cizmas, Leslie</td>
<td><strong>Impact of Nanoparticles on the Formation and Toxicity of Disinfection Byproducts during Water Chlorination, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2016-2017)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colwell, Brian</td>
<td><strong>Youth Tobacco Education Project, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), $713,393 (2003-2017)</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Colwell, Brian</td>
<td><strong>ConDev, Texas A&amp;M University &amp; USAID/DRC Partnership: Evaluation of the Kinshasa School of Public Health, subaward from the Texas A&amp;M Center on Conflict and Development (ConDev) (prime is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), $293,789 (2015-2017)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cote, Murray</td>
<td><strong>VEMEC IPA: VA Emergency Management and Evaluation Center Interagency Personnel Agreement, U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs, $81,728 (2011-2016)</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferdinand, Alva</td>
<td><strong>Examining the Impact of Gun Control Laws on Firearm-Related Morbidity and Mortality, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2016-2017)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>García, Tanya</td>
<td><strong>Improved Definition and Prediction of Huntington’s Disease Motor-Onset Using Advanced Statistical Methods, Huntington’s Disease Society of America, $150,000 (2013-2016)</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>García, Tanya</td>
<td><strong>Innovative Statistical Models for Development of First Huntington’s Disease Progression Risk Assessment Tool (K01 award), National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, $557,406 (2016-2019)</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>García, Tanya</td>
<td><strong>Identifying High-Dimensional Neuroimaging Biomarkers Associated with Huntington’s Disease Motor-Onset, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2015-2016)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gamey, Whitney</td>
<td><strong>Texas Tobacco Quit Line [Phase II], Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, $220,000 (2015-2016) [CCHD]</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gorman, Dennis</td>
<td><strong>External Evaluation of the AFC -Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), Ambassadors for Christ, Inc., $132,000 (2012-2017)</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Griffith, Jennifer</td>
<td><strong>Infectious Disease Panel Session, Texas Department of State Health Services, $210,419 (2015-2016) [USA]</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Griffith, Jennifer</td>
<td><strong>Mitigation Planning Process Stage 3, Texas Department of State Health Services, $110,917 (2015-2016) [USA]</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Han, Gang</td>
<td><strong>Improved Survival Analysis in Personalized Cancer Therapy Trials, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2016-2017)</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong, Alicia</td>
<td><strong>Health-Related Mobile Use Among Older Adults with Chronic Conditions, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2015-2016)</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Horney, Jennifer</td>
<td><strong>Increasing Epidemiological Capacity, Waco McLennan County Public Health District, $17,520 (2016)</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horney, Jennifer</td>
<td><strong>Implementing the Disaster Recovery Tracking Tool, subaward from the University of North Carolina (prime is Department of Homeland Security), $133,337 (2016-2018)</strong>.</td>
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</table>


Horney, Jennifer. Perceptions of Community Resilience in Texas Coastal Shoreline Counties, subaward from Texas A&M University Sea Grant Program (prime is National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Sea Grant Office), $22,886 (2016-2018).*

Horney, Jennifer. Texas OneGulf Strategic Environmental, Human Health and Safety: Disaster Response Research, subaward from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi (prime is Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), $171,693 (2016-2017).*

Horney, Jennifer. Texas OneGulf Strategic Environmental, Human Health and Safety: DR2 Pilot Project in Environmental Public Health, subaward from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi (prime is Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), $75,000 (2016-2018).*

Horney, Jennifer. EAGER-Citizen Science for Infrastructure Monitoring at the Neighborhood Level, subaward from TEES (prime is National Science Foundation), $2,706 (2016-2017).*

Horney, Jennifer. NSF REU: Cyber-HealthGIS -Research Experiences at the Intersection of Cyber Infrastructure, GIS Science, Computer Science and Health, subaward from Texas A&M University (prime is National Science Foundation), $14,611 (2016-2017).*

Johnson, Natalie. Impact of In Utero Aerosol Exposure on Asthma Susceptibility, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2015-2016).


Kash, Bita. Innovative Managing Director, National Science Foundation I/UCRC, $576,815 (2014-2017) [CHOT].

Kash, Bita. Research Experiences for Undergraduates REU National Science Foundation I/UCRC, $32,000 (2014-2019) [CHOT].


Kash, Bita. A Hospital Integrated Primary Care Provider (PCP) Network Model, Texas Children's Hospital, $150,000 (2013-2016) [CHOT Member].

Kash, Bita. Translating the Healthy South Texas Vision into a Framework for Action and Research, Coastal Bend Health Education Center, $150,000 (2015-2018) (CHOT member).

Kash, Bita. Customer Service at Central Texas Veterans Health Care System’s Austin Outpatient Clinic (VA), Texas A&M Health Science Center Coastal Bend Health Education Center, $150,000 (2015-2018) (CHOT member).


Kash, Bita. Future Models of Cancer Care: Implications for Space and Design, HKS, Inc., $75,000 (2016-2019) (CHOT member).*

Kash, Bita. Evaluating Future Models of Care Delivery in Texas, Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, $150,000 (2016-2018) (CHOT member).*

Kash, Bita. Virtual Care Clinics: What Can We Learn from Early Adopters, Careena Health, $50,000 (2016-2017) (CHOT member).*

Kash, Bita. The Cost of Postoperative Delirium, American Society of Anesthesiologists, $150,000 (2016-2019) (CHOT Member).*

Kash, Bita. Evaluation of Remote Patient Monitoring in Various Settings, Texas Children's Hospital, $150,000 (2016-2019) (CHOT Member).*

Kash, Bita. Effectiveness of Population Health Programs and Technology Tools, H.E.B., Inc., $150,000 (2016-2019) (CHOT Member).*

Kash, Bita. Development of Face-To-Face Training Course Curriculum, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), $17,258 (2016-2017) [CHOT].*

Kash, Bita. The Texas Project: Transitions Explored and Studies: Using Data to Prevention Readmissions in the Texas Medical Center, Texas Medical Foundation, $48,960 (2016-2017) [CHOT].*

Kum, Hye Chung. Leveraging Motor Vehicle Crash, subaward from the Texas Transportation Institute (prime is Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), $24,880 (2016-2017).*

Kum, Hye Chung. Virtual Social Genome Data Library: A Secure Data Infrastructure for Population Informatics; Seed Grant for Interdisciplinary Research in Big Data, TEES, Texas A&M University, and Texas A&M Health Science Center, $50,000 (2016-2017).*


McKyer, E. Lisako. Southwest Rural Health Research Center, Year 1 Project 1: Are Rural Mothers and Infants Benefitting from National Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Policy? Health Resources and Services Administration, $123,866 (2016-2017).*


McKyer, E. Lisako. DFPS Program Evaluation, subaward from Texas A&M AgriLife Research (prime is DSHS), $99,933 (2016-2017).*


McAughan, Darcy. Resident, Site, and Care Coordination Characteristic in Unlicensed Board and Care Homes: A Pilot Study in Houston, Texas, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2016-2017).*

McAughan, Darcy. Southwest Rural Health Research Center, Year 1 Project 3: Provision of Skilled Nursing in Rural America: Skilled Nursing Facilities and Swing Beds, Health $119,387 (2016-2017).*

Mehta, Ranjan. Revised Force Endurance Models for the US Workforce, subaward from Research Foundation of Sate University of New York (SUNY) (Prime is CDC-NIOSH), $36,375 (2014-2016).


Mehta, Ranjan. Obesity, Stress & Mobility Outcomes in Older Adults, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2015-2016).


Millard, Ann. PODER Prevention of Diabetes & Dialysis through Education & Resources, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, $80,000 (2016).*

Miller Nimmons, Katherine. Colonia Integrated Care Program: Valley Interprofessional Development and Services (VIDAS). The University of Texas Rio Grande (prime is United Health Foundation), $29,076 (2015-2016) [CCHD].

Miller Nimmons, Katherine. Cancer Survivorship Curriculum Development and Implementation, Texas Department of State Health Services, $91,520 (2016-2017) [CCHD].

Morrisey, Michael. All Kids Proposal for Special Projects, subaward from The University of Alabama Birmingham (prime is Alabama Department of Health, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) $31,500 (2016-2017).*

Osbfeldt, Robert. Technology Directed Advanced Radiation Therapy of Lung Cancer, subaward from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (prime is Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas CPRIT), $232,440, (2011-2017).


Ory, Marcia G. It Takes a Village - A Multi-Level Evaluation of the State Driven Fall Prevention Project, Special Interest Project (SIP), subaward from University of North Carolina (prime is CDC),$130,268 (2014-2016) [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia G. (Co-PI) and Carol Rice (PI). Working on Wellness (WOW), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, $2,68M, (2014-2017) [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia G. and Hong, Alicia. Center for Healthy Active Living, Texas A&M Engineering Seed Grant Program, $50,000 (2014-2016) [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia G. Brazos Valley Area Agency on Aging Evidence Based Programs for Seniors, Brazos Valley Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging, $58,200 (2013-2018) [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia. Healthy South Texas, State of Texas, $5,000,000 (2016-2017).*


Ory, Marcia G. Falls Reduction Education and Empowerment (FREE) Partnership, Subaward from United Way Tarrant County (prime is Administration on Aging), $163,083 (2015-2017) [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia G. SUSTAIN for Better Health and Health Care for Older Adults, DHHS Administration for Community Living (ACL), $895,189 (2016-2018) [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia G. Texans Working Together for a Falls Free Tomorrow, Wellmed Charitable Foundation, $20,000 (2015-2016) [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia G. Texas Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Education Program, Texas Department of State Health Services, $34,430 (2015-2016) [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia G. Texercise Select: Building the Evidence-Base, Texas Department of State Health Services, $405,895 (2015-2017), [COPHA].

Ory, Marcia. Texas Model for Dementia Capable Communities, Texas Council on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (TARCC), $399,344 (2016-2017) [COPHA].


Peres, S. Camille. Advanced Procedure Research Study Phase III, A Human Factored Approach. TEES/Wyle Laboratories, $10,000 (2016).*
Peres, S. Camille. Exploring Variables Associated with User’s Satisfaction, Performance, and Physiological Responses Based on Keyboard Attributes, Hewlett Packard, $34,998 (2015-2016).


Peres, S. Camille. Procedural Warnings, Wright State University Center for Operator Performance, $36,807 (2015-2016).

Peres-Patron, Maria. Bayesian Forecasting of Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Processes, subaward from Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (prime is Avanx), $26,901 (2016).*

Pickens, Adam. Optimization of Hardware for Optimal Data Collection Using a Mobile Hearing Screening Application (hEAR), Subaward from University of Texas Health Science Center Houston (prime is National institute for Occupational Safety and Health), $10,000 (2015-2016).

Pickens, Adam. TTI (DOT): Evaluation of Safety Practices for Short Duration Work Zones (Phase II), subaward from Texas Transportation Institute (prime is Ohio Department of Transportation), $46,925 (2016-2017).*

Quiram, Barbara. High Consequence Infectious Disease Planning Table Top Exercises. Texas Department of State Health Services, 499,988 (2015-2016) [USA].

Quiram, Barbara. Proposal to Develop Text IT Messaging. Campaign Targeting Adolescent Mothers and Breastfeeding in a Post-Conflict County (El Salvador), subaward from the Texas A&M Center on Conflict and Development (ConDev), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), $25,000 (2016-2017) [USA].

Radcliff, Tiffany. Rural Lifestyle Eating and Activity Program (Rural LEAP), subaward from the University of Florida, (prime is NIH) $73,253 (2013-2018).


Sharkey, Joseph R. Salud Para Usted y Su Familia [Health for You and Your Family]: Family-Focused Childhood Obesity Prevention through a Systems-Oriented Multilevel Approach in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas Border Area, United States Department of Agriculture USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, $4,904,638 (2015-2020).


Sharma, Virender. Mass Spectrometry and Detector, Research Equipment Grant, Texas A&M University AUF, $100,000 (2016) [ERGC].

Sharma, Virender. I-Corps: Ferrate Technology in Healthcare Surfaces Disinfection, National Science Foundation, $50,000 (2016-2017).*

Shipp, Eva. Neuromotor Function and Work Injury Risk among Hispanic Adolescent Farmworkers (a.k.a. The HIP Project). The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health Injury Prevention and Education at The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler (prime is NIOSH/ CDC), $724,345 (2011-2016).

Taylor, Brandie. Host Genetic Susceptibility to Chlamydia-Associated Reproductive Morbidity, American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association (ASTDA), $100,000 (2014-2016).


Taylor, Brandie. Short-Chain Fatty Acids in Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2015-2016).

Tekwe, Carmen. Novel Percentile-Based Statistical Methods to Model BMI Percentiles in Childhood Obesity, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2015-2016).

Xu, Xiaohui. Interaction between Genes and Air Pollution in Relation to Cardiometabolic Risk in US Population, Delta Omega Research Enhancement and Development Initiative Program (REDI), School of Public Health Pilot Funding Program, $25,000 (2016-2017).*


Projects Key:
* Denotes newly awarded in CY2015.
[ ] Denotes Center affiliated projects
[CCHD] = Center for Community Health Development
[CHOT] = Center for Health Organization Transformation
[CPHA] = Center for Population Health and Aging
[ERGC] = The Ergonomics Center
[SRRRC] = Southwest Rural Health Research Center
[USA] = USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness


(72) Kash BA. Interview with Linda J. Knodel, FACHE, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Mercy. *Journal of Healthcare Management* 2016;61(3):167.


(94) Kum H, Ohsfeldt RL. Comparison of Data to Decision Models for a Data Consortium. Value in Health 2016;3(19):A82.
(98) Leroux TC*, Kash BA, Daniels TC, Amende TA, Danielson T, MacKenzie TF. Peer Effects on Childhood Obesity from an Intervention Program. Health Behavior and Policy Review 2016-07-01T00:00:00.3(4):323-335.


(159) Schneider EC, Smith ML, Ory MG, Altpeter M, Beattie L, Scheier MA, Shubert TE. State fall prevention coalitions as systems change agents: an emphasis on policy. Health Promotion Practice 2016;17(2):244-253.

(160) Schuller KA, Kash BA, Gamm LD. Enhanced Transitions of Care: Centralizing Discharge Phone Calls Improves Ability to Reach Patients and Reduces Hospital Readmissions. Journal of Healthcare Quality 2017 Jan 31.


(6) Benden M. Call Center Productivity Study. Office Ergonomics Research Committee, Houston, TX. May 11, 2016.


(29) Han G. Improved Survival Analysis in Two Personalized Breast Cancer Studies. Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL. May 13, 2016.

(30) Han G. Improved Survival Analysis in Two Personalized Breast Cancer Studies. Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT. July 28, 2016.


(32) Horney J. Enhancing interaction among faculty and young student researchers. Texas A&M Graduate and Professional Student Council Student Research Week, College Station, TX. February 5, 2016.


(66) Quiram B. Examining the Effectiveness of Implicit Bias Training in Medical School. Southern Group on Educational Affairs of AAMC, Austin, TX. April 14, 2016.


(71) Schmit C. Transitioning from Paper to Digital: State Statutory and Regulatory Frameworks to Address Health Information Technology. Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law Symposium, Fort Lauderdale, FL. October 14, 2016.

(72) Schmit C. Law, Technology, and Health Information. APHA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. November 1, 2016.


(82) Sharma VK. Advances Made in Ferrate Technology to Treat Water and Wastewater. Nanjing University, Nanjing, China. 2016.


(87) Sharma VK. Advances Made in Ferrate Technology to Treat Water and Wastewater. Chinese Academy of Science, Urumqi, China. 2016.


(95) Sharma VK. Pulse Radiolysis Studies of Ferrates. Tongji University, Shanghai, China. 2016.

(96) Sharma VK. Advances Made in Ferrate Technology to Treat Water and Wastewater. Nanjing University, Nanjing, China. 2016.


(98) Sharma VK. Advances Made in Ferrate Technology to Treat Water and Wastewater. Huaqiao University, Xian, China. 2016.


(101) Simon M, Decosimo K and Horney J. Collect SMART: An Easy to Use Mobile App and Project Management Dashboard to Facilitate Field Data Collection. NACCHO Public Health Preparedness Summit, Dallas, TX, April 2016.


(107) Stasi S, Sharkey J, Umstattt Meyer M, Gomez Montelongo L, McClendon M and Bridges C. ¡Nosotros corremos, nosotros jugamos! [We run, we play!]: Children’s Perceptions of Physical Activity in Mexican-heritage border Communities, 16th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Health Behavior, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. February 2016.

(108) Taylor B. Host genetics and sexually transmitted infection related infertility. Friday Infectious Disease Conference, University of North Carolina, School of Medicine. March 2016.


(112) Towne S, Ory M, Yoshikawa A and Smith M. Public Health Practice and Research at the Texas A&M School of Public Health- Cost and Geospatial Distribution of Falls Among Older Adults. Texas Public Health Association’s 92nd Annual Education Conference. Galveston, TX. April 11-13, 2016.


(119) Zhao H. Analysis of health costs with censored data. Department of Statistics and Quantitative Methods, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy. 2016.

(120) Zhao H. Analysis of health costs with censored data. College of Statistics, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China. 2016.

(121) Zheng Q. The mutation frequency may mislead. 2016 Texas Branch Fall Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, Richardson, TX. November 10--12, 2016.


Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences

Burdine, James. Professor. Measurement of Factors Influencing Community Capacity for Population Health Improvement; Community Health Development Strategies; Community Health Needs Assessment

Colwell, Brian. Professor. Adolescent Smoking Cessation; School Health Education; Youth Smoking Prevention; Adolescent Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Dowdy, Diane. Assistant Professor. Childhood Obesity Aimed at Prevention or Reduction; Physical Activity Programs to Community Settings; Physical Activity and Aging

Hong, Y. Alicia. Associate Professor. HIV/AIDS and STI Prevention Intervention; Mental Health of Women and Children Affected by AIDS; Mobile Technologies to Behavioral Interventions

McKyer, Lisako. Associate Professor, Associate Dean for Climate and Diversity. Maternal Child Health Disparities; Health Equity and Social Justice; Child Health Promotion; Diversity and Cultural Competence

McLeroy, Kenneth. Regents Professor and Distinguished Professor. Community Capacity; Community-based Approaches to Health Promotion/ Disease Prevention; Social Ecology and History of Public Health; Program Evaluation

Millard, Ann. Associate Professor. Border Health; Maternal Child Health; International Health; Occupational Health and Farm Workers; Primary Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes; Food Safety; Community-based Participatory Intervention Research

Ory, Marcia. Regents Professor and Distinguished Professor. Associate Dean for Research. Health and Wellness.; Aging and Health Promotion; Healthy South Texas; Maternal and Child Health; Health Technology; Community Engagement; Translational Research

Sharkey, Joe. Professor. Food Access and Food Choice in Underserved Areas; Food Insecurity and Hunger; Childhood Obesity and Effects of Structural and Individual Characteristics on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Health Outcomes; Promotora Empowerment; Community-engaged Approach to Population Health

Spengler, John. Professor, Department Head. Active Living Policy and Obesity Prevention; Legal and Policy Issues around Injury Prevention; Physical Activity and the Built Environment; Risk Management Policy and Implementation in Sport and Recreation

Tai-Seale, Tom. Associate Professor. Local Health Systems Development; Community Empowerment of Chronic Disease Prevention; Program Planning; Evaluation for the Prevention and Control of Chronic Disease; Health Behavior Coaching

Towne, Samuel. Assistant Professor. The Intersection of Health and Place; Health-related Disparities; Health Outcomes; Access to Health Services among Aging, Minority, and Rural Populations

Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Garcia, Tanya. Assistant Professor. Genetic Mixture Models; High-dimensional Inference; Measurement Error; Mixed Models; Neurodegenerative Diseases; Nonparametric Models; Semiparametric Models; Survival Analysis

Gorman, Dennis. Professor, Department Head. Alcohol and Drug Availability and Violence; Alcohol and Drug Prevention Policies; System Methodologies; Science and Pseudoscience in Public Health Research

Han, Daikwon. Associate Professor. Spatial Epidemiology; GIS & Spatial Analysis Methods.; Environmental Health/Exposure Science; Environmental Justice and Health Disparities; Healthcare Access; Population Studies/Spatial Demography

Han, Gang. Associate Professor. Statistical Methods in the Development of Personalized Medicine; Design and Analysis of Phase III Clinical Trials and Translational Studies; Survival Analysis Methods in Cancer Research; HIV Viral Load Modeling; Bayesian Analysis; Statistical Computing

Horney, Jennifer. Associate Professor. Disaster Epidemiology Methods; Public Health Preparedness; Population-based Sampling; Public Health Systems and Services Research; Public Health Surveillance; Outbreak Investigation; Disaster Recovery; Community Resilience

Lillibridge, Scott. Professor. Biosecurity; Public Health Preparedness.; Infectious Disease; Healthy South Texas

Maria Perez-Parton. Assistant Professor. Demographic Methods; Reproductive Health; Migration and Family Formation; Immigrant Health; Minority Aging

Nicholas, Taylor. Assistant Professor. Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer - Melanoma and Breast Cancer; Study Design and Conduct

Shipp, Eva. Associate Professor. Injury Prevention; Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology; Farmworkers & Other Vulnerable Populations; Motor Vehicle Safety and Record Linkage; Electronic Health Records and Other Large Data Sets

Taylor, Brandie. Assistant Professor. Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology Methods; Identifying Genetic Markers and Biomarkers to Predict Risk of Reproductive/Pregnancy Complications; Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Tekwe, Carmen. Assistant Professor. Cancer Research; Nutritional Epidemiology; Radiation Epidemiology; Gerontology; Health Disparities; Bioinformatics; Proteomics; Measurement Error Models; Longitudinal Data Analysis; Survival Analysis; Applications of Generalized Linear Models; Neurostatistics; Functional Data Analysis; Mixed Effects Models

Xu, Xiaohui. Associate Professor. Air Pollution Epidemiological Studies; Maternal and Child Health; Environmental Exposure Assessment; Spatial Epidemiology

Zanwar, Preeti. Instructional Assistant Professor. Viral Infections in Cancer; Cancer Screening and Survivorship; Health Disparities and Disability; Epidemiology, Economics, Demography and Biology of Aging; Modelling Healthcare Costs and Counts; Health Technology and Health Outcomes

Zhao, Hongwei. Professor. Survival Analysis; Longitudinal Data Analysis; Quality-adjusted Life Time Estimation; Cost-effectiveness Analysis Conducted with Censored Data; Problems Arising from Correlated Data from Longitudinal Studies; Multilevel Epidemiological Studies : Causal Inference

Zheng, Qi. Associate Professor. Mathematical Modeling of Biological Processes; Applied Stochastic Processes; Application of Computer Algebra
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Faculty Research Interests by Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoh, Roger</td>
<td>Assistant Professor. Biostatistics; Bayesian Inference, Reliability Modeling and Factor Analysis; Analysis of Genomic Data; Engineering Statistics; Bioinformatics; Functional Longitudinal Data Analysis; Machine Learning; Statistical Monitoring; Nutrition and Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, James</td>
<td>Associate Professor.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Community and Health Networks; Small Rural Hospital Leadership; Effectiveness of Critical Access Hospitals; Nursing Shortages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolin, Jane</td>
<td>Professor. Health Law and Ethics;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulatory Compliance; Cancer Screening and Prevention; Diabetes Self-Management; Chronic Disease Management; Interdisciplinary and Translational Research; Rural Health Research; Rural Healthy People 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Callaghan, Timothy</td>
<td>Assistant Professor. Health Politics;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicaid Coverage and Expansion; Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment and Regulation; Lobbying in the Health Sector; State Politics; Public Opinion; Executive Politics; Survey Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cote, Murray</td>
<td>Associate Professor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Operations; Patient Flow, Capacity Planning and Management; Demand Forecasting; Nurse Staffing and Scheduling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairchild, Amy</td>
<td>Professor. Immigrant Health Inspection;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disease Control; Disease Surveillance and Privacy; Public Health Issues; Tobacco Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferdinand, Alva</td>
<td>Assistant Professor.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of Laws and Other Policies Relative to Public Health Outcomes: Roadway Safety, Obesity, and Access to Care; State and Federal Regulation of Health Care and Community Health Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hatala, Jeffrey</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, MPH Program Director.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Systems and Service Research; Rural Health, Health Policy, and Vulnerable Populations; Nutrition, Physical Activity, Obesity and Related Conditions; Educational Pedagogy, Particularly Around Writing Skills in Health Professions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kash, Bita</td>
<td>Associate Professor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Capacity for Change and Transformation; Change Implementation in Healthcare; Healthcare Strategic Planning and Marketing; Evaluation of Integrated Primary Care Networks; Quality and Cost of Care; Strategic Management in Nursing Homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kum, Hye-Chung</td>
<td>Associate Professor. Data Science for Health Care; Population Informatics; Health Informatics; Health Policy Research; Program Evaluation Using Big Data; Decision Support Systems for Health Policy and Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLaughan, Darcy</td>
<td>Assistant Professor. Access to Care for Children and Youth with Special health Care Needs; Community Participation, Independent Living and Social Integration for People with Disabilities; Quality of Care in Long Term Supports and Services; Assessment of Functional Ability and Care Need</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrissey, Michael</td>
<td>Department Head, Professor. Employer-sponsored Health Insurance; Affordable Care Act; Medicare &amp; Medicaid; Effects of Legislation on Health and Health Care; Hospital Economics; Price Transparency in Health Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohsfeldt, Robert</td>
<td>Professor. Cost-Effectiveness and Cost Models; Economics of Health Behavior; Impact of Health Sector Regulation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiram, Barbara</td>
<td>Professor. Public Health Infrastructure;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health System Service Quality; Public Health Workforce Development; Rural Community Health System Planning and Development; Rural Community Disaster Planning</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radcliff, Tiffany</td>
<td>Professor. Health Economics; Health Policy; Health Services Research; Improving Quality of Care in Long-term Care; Access to Care for Rural and Other Underserved Populations; Improving Care Processes and Outcomes; Economic Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Schmidt, Cason</td>
<td>Research Assistant Professor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law as a Social Determinant of Health; Health Information Technology; Health Information Exchanges; Privacy, Confidentiality, and Security of Health Information; Public Health Reporting and Surveillance; Pharmacists' Vaccination Authorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washburn, David</td>
<td>Assistant Professor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Health; Health Policy; Health Systems Analysis; Strategic and Capital Planning; The Diffusion of Innovations; Decision-Making Behavior; Access to Care.</td>
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**Environmental & Occupational Health**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Faculty Research Interests by Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benden, Mark</td>
<td>Associate Professor. Office Worker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity, Classroom Ergonomics and Childhood Obesity; Medical Device Development and Testing; Rehabilitation Engineering</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bokelmann, AnnaMaria</td>
<td>Assistant Professor. Environmental Health; Site Assessment; Regulatory Compliance, Health and Safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrillo, Genny</td>
<td>Associate Professor. Public Health and US-Mexico Border Health Issues; Interactions of Human Health and the Environment; Asthma in School Children; Home Safety and Healthy Homes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cizmas, Leslie</td>
<td>Assistant Professor. Environmental Health and Xenobiotic Exposures; Assessment of Pesticide Exposure in Children; Development of Effective Methods for Exposure Reduction; Community Health Education; Environmental Justice and Health Disparities; Global Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Natalie</td>
<td>Assistant Professor. Environmental Carcinogens; Environmental Health Disparities; Exposure to Foodborne (aflatoxins) and Environmental Carcinogens (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons); Chemoprevention; Development of Biomarkers of Exposure to Traffic-related Air Pollution; Prenatal Exposure to Air Pollution and Associated Epigenetic Changes; Dietary Interventions to Prevent Environmentally-induced Asthma; Population-based Animal Models of Allergic airway Disease; K-12 Educational Education; Undergraduate Research Mentoring; Environmental Sustainability; Healthy Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maddock, Jay</td>
<td>Dean, Professor. Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecological Approaches to Increasing Physical Activity; Nutrition, Tobacco Use, and Global Health</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonald, Thomas</td>
<td>Professor. Environmental Chemistry; Petroleum Geochemistry; General Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Research Interests by Department

Mehta, Ranjana. Assistant Professor. Neuroergonomics; Operator Stress and Fatigue; Obesity and the Aging Brain; Falls Prevention

Mendoza-Sanchez, Itza. Research Assistant Professor. Mathematical and Experimental Models for Assessing Transport; Organics Trapped and Sorbed in Soils as a Source Zone of Groundwater Contamination; Water Balance Modeling.

Peres, S. Camille. Assistant Professor. Biomechanics of Human Computer Interactions; Design Guidelines for Auditory Displays; Usability of Home Health Care Technology

Pickens, Adam. Assistant Professor. Ergonomic Tool Development; Occupational Safety Screening/Tool Development; Upper Extremity Modeling; Manual Materials Handling; Occupational Biomechanics

Sharma, Virender. Department Head, Professor. Iron-Based Oxidants (Ferrates and Ferrites); Kinetics and Mechanism of High-Valent Transition Metals; Advanced Oxidation Methods; Solar-Based Photocatalytic Materials in Water Treatments; Green Synthesis of Nanoparticles; Formation, Fate and Toxicity of Nanoparticles in Aquatic Environment

Public Health Studies

Appiah, Bernard. Assistant Professor. Public Engagement; Communication; mHealth and Mass Media Interventions for Behavior Change; Global Health; Knowledge Dissemination; Design, Implementation and Evaluation of Socio-behavioral Interventions; Social Network Analysis; Mixed Methods

Campos-Bowers, Monica. Instructional Assistant Professor. Nutrition and Agriculture; Global Health in Developing Communities


Clendenin, Angela. Instructor. Risk Communication; Decision Analysis; Emergency Management and Emergency Communications; Cultural/Social Influences on Communication/Decision-Making; Communications Measurement and Assessment; Public Health Preparedness and Response for Refugee Populations; Teaching as Research


Kodatt, Stephanie. Assistant Professor. Leadership; Spirituality; Management; Mental Health

Lin, Sherry. Instructional Assistant Professor. Preventive Care Services; Disabilities Research; Vulnerable Populations

Mier, Nelda. Associate Professor. Chronic Disease Prevention; Quality of Life through Behavioral Change in Hispanics living in Border Region; Intervention Research to Enhance Physical Activity Using a Culturally Sensitive Paradigm; Diabetes Prevention Among Children and Adults in the Border Region; Promotoras Model in Border Region

Millard, Ann. Associate Professor. Obesity Across the Life Course and Its Economic Implications; Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes; Reproductive Health and Birth Outcomes; Breastfeeding and Health; Tuberculosis and Health Policy in the US and Abroad; Occupational Health and Farm Workers; Communication of Complex Health Information to Community Members

Ramirez, Gilbert. Department Head, Professor. Systematic Review and Meta-Analytic Methodology; Decision Making Sciences; Evidence-Based Practice

Ross, Jennifer. Instructional Assistant Professor. Environmental Contaminants and Exposures; Occupational Injury and Diseases; Health Disparities in Undeserved Populations
2016 Graduate Student Research Winners
L-R: Dr. Marcia Ory, Bhagath Chirra-3rd place, Taylor Neher-2nd place, Amber Trueblood-1st place, Dean Jay Maddock

The report is prepared by the School of Public Health Office of Research with contributions from faculty and staff.
For more information regarding this report or research at SPH, please contact Linnae Hutchison, Director, at the contact number or website listed below.

Office of Research ● sph.tamhsc.edu/research ● 979.436.9418