Dean's Best Faculty Paper Award
In the spirit of recognizing and promoting faculty excellence in education, research, and scholarship, we are pleased to announce this year's winners of the inaugural Dean’s Faculty Best Paper Award. SPH faculty at all ranks were invited to submit outstanding first-authored peer reviewed articles for consideration by a review panel. The articles were scored based on scientific rigor, quality of writing, creativity, significance and contribution to public health, impact factor, and the implications for improving population health.

**Full Professor Level**

Dr. Marcia Ory  
*Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences*

Dr. Y. Alicia Hong  
*Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences*

**Associate Professor Level**

**Assistant Professor Level**

Dr. Brandie Taylor  
*Epidemiology and Biostatistics*

Dr. Natalie Johnson  
*Environmental and Occupational Health*

Dr. Alva Ferdinand  
*Health Policy and Management*

Research Enhancement & Development Initiatives (REDI)
The Texas A&M Health Science Center 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 Inaugural SPH Dean’s Research Enhancement and Development Initiative (REDI) program is designed to provide 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.

Tanya Garcia, Ph.D  
*Epidemiology & Biostatistics*

Y. Alicia Hong, Ph.D  
*Health Promotion & Community Health Sciences*

Natalie Johnson, Ph.D  
*Environmental & Occupational Health*

Ranjana Mehta, Ph.D  
*Environmental & Occupational Health*

Brandie Taylor, Ph.D  
*Epidemiology & Biostatistics*

Carmen Tekwe, Ph.D  
*Epidemiology & Biostatistics*
2015 Award for Research Excellence

Each year, the SPH selects one masters level and one doctoral level student to receive the Award for Research Excellence. These awards recognize students who have demonstrated excellence in the design, conduct, execution, and impact of research stemming from thesis, dissertation, or a portfolio of research projects in which they have been involved during their research experience at the School.

Masters Level Awardee: Rachel Coughlin, MPH
Doctoral Level Awardee: Andrea Lorden, PhD

10th Annual Student Research Poster Contest

Congratulations to the Spring 2015 Student Research Poster Contest winners! This award, now renamed the Dr. Jean Brender Poster Award, recognizes outstanding student posters judged on significance, scientific rigor, relevance to public health, and policy implications. The top 3 students, as determined by our panel of judges, received monetary awards. The top 2 students, Shinduk Lee and Gregory Garrett, have been accepted to present their posters at the Delta Omega sponsored Student Poster Contest at the APHA Meeting in Chicago, IL this fall. This is a prestigious honor for the students and SPH as Delta Omega only accepts 19 posters total from across the U.S. for presentation. This honor speaks to the quality of the student research and their advisors, instructors, and mentors.

1st Place: Shinduk Lee
2nd Place: Gregory Garrett
3rd Place: Nola Eugene

Research Interest Matrix

In an effort to respond to requests for specific faculty experience and expertise, our Office of Research is in the process of developing a school-wide skills matrix based on indicated research interests from our website. It is presented by Department. Please review your expertise. To update your information please use the following link:
sph.tamhsc.edu/research/skills-matrix.html

New Office of Research Staff

The SPH Office of Research would like to welcome Kelly Jo Eblen to our team. As our Promotions & Outreach Coordinator, Kelly Jo will help us highlight the groundbreaking research at the SPH. She joins our team from the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, with a background in marketing and outreach.

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