Graduation Convocation

May 12, 2017
UTHealth School of Public Health

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MISSION

The mission of UTHealth School Public of Health is to improve the health of the people of Texas, the nation and the world by providing the highest quality graduate education, translational research and service to the profession and community.

To pursue this mission, the school provides higher-level graduate education in the basic disciplines and practices of public health, extends knowledge across the broad spectrum of public health and trains practitioners and professionals of public health to advance the health of populations.

*The mission emphasizes:*

**Education:** The school is committed to delivering the highest quality graduate education in the theory and practice of public health to current and future practitioners, educators and scientists. The school’s educational philosophy is based on the premise that education is a lifelong process, and that the fundamental responsibility for each student’s education resides with the individual, with guidance and support from the school’s faculty. The school teaches public health values and diverse skills in the physical, biological, behavioral and analytic sciences needed by public health practitioners and professionals.

**Research:** The school is committed to pursuing knowledge that enhances both the theory and practice of public health, and to translating that knowledge into information that can be used by practitioners, policymakers and the public. The school supports and engages in research directed toward practices including health promotion, environmental health, disease control and prevention and health care delivery.

**Service:** The school is committed to serving the profession and community. The school provides service to the profession by developing a trained population health workforce. The school also provides service to the community by developing public policy; contributing to the activities of local, state, national and international health agencies that are consistent with its educational and research commitments; and enhancing the well-being of the public.
UTHealth School of Public Health

VISION

Improved health of the population through prevention, better health outcomes and a trained population health workforce.

VALUES

Good health is among the most important conditions of life, and is needed to achieve a state of well-being and happiness. Public health is devoted to the pursuit of health with an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion, and is a central basis for health systems organization and policy. Public health recognizes individuals as the basic focus of its efforts, but strives to reach whole populations through systematic community-based initiatives and interventions.

At UTHealth School of Public Health, the following values are espoused as essential for the public health profession:

- Excellence
- Innovation
- Collaboration
- Scholarship
- Diversity
- Community Engagement
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Equity
- Leadership
UTHealth School of Public Health

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE
May 12, 2017

Public health has played a vital role in the history of the development of Texas by providing the expertise that ensures that basic sanitary conditions are maintained, children are immunized, communities are protected against the possibilities of infectious diseases and food and domestic water supplies are safe. Public health has also maintained a high profile in scientific research in order to respond to the changing mortality and morbidity patterns of the 20th century and now the 21st century. The opening of UTHealth School of Public Health in the fall of 1969 signified Texas’ commitment to local, state and national leadership in furthering the knowledge essential to preventing disease, promoting health and making appropriate health and medical resources available to entire communities. Since its opening, UTHealth School of Public Health has gained a national and international reputation as an outstanding teaching and research institution.

DELTA OMEGA HONORARY SOCIETY

Delta Omega Honorary Society, the public health honorary society of accredited schools and programs of public health, has been active in advancing public health education, practice and research since 1924. The purpose of the society is to encourage excellence in student scholarship and research and to recognize academic and professional achievement in the field of public health. The UTHealth School of Public Health Delta Omega Alpha Iota chapter was established in November 2000. Each year, Delta Omega admits students, faculty members and alumni to membership.

This year’s nominees are:

Heba Abdel-Karim    Bryn Hannon     Brittany Lawrance
Morgan Bailey       Elizabeth Haro    Sarah Macias
Sarah Bentley       Kelsey Herron     Shweta Pathak
Librada Callender   Yoshita Hosking  Kindle Pierce
Marjan Cobbaert     Rose Jennings    Anna Porter
Elisabeth Cohn      Taylor Johnson    Romero Santiago
Palvinder Dhillon   Geetanjali Kamath  Andra-Mesha Smith
Shayda Dioun        Rebekka Keillor  Brooke Whittemore
Kinsey Gray
Umair A. Shah, M.D., M.P.H., is executive director of Harris County Public Health (HCPH), which is the 2016 NACCHO Health Department of the Year. Shah earned a Master of Public Health degree (M.P.H.) from UTHealth School of Public Health with a focus on health services organization in 2001 and completed an internal medicine residency and primary care/general medicine fellowship with UT Physicians and the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth.

In 2013, Shah was appointed executive director and local health authority for Harris County, Texas, which is the third most populous county in the United States, with a population of 4.3 million spread over 1,778 square miles, which is larger than the State of Rhode Island.

Before joining HCPH, Shah provided clinical care as an emergency department physician at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and served as chief medical officer for the Galveston County Health District. He earned a B.A. in philosophy from Vanderbilt University and an M.D. from The University of Toledo Health Science Center, during which time he also completed an international health policy internship at the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Though sought nationally for his expertise, Shah remains actively engaged in both patient care and academic teaching locally. He frequently returns to his public health alma mater, UTHealth, to engage in public health discussion and events.

Shah has had a long, distinguished career in public service, serving in numerous leadership positions and responding to a variety of large-scale emergencies. These emergencies include Tropical Storm Allison; Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike; earthquakes in Kashmir and Haiti; the H1N1 flu virus, Ebola virus and Zika virus. Notably, Shah served as co-medical branch director for the 27,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees housed at the Houston Astrodome in 2005.

In addition to emergency planning and response, Shah’s interests include population health, wellness and prevention; health innovation/use of social media (you may know him on Twitter @ushahmd); health equity; global health; and community and stakeholder engagement. He frequently presents statewide and nationally on a variety of important health-related topics, and has presented to the Texas Legislature and to U.S. Congressional staff. He stays engaged in clinical patient care, academic teaching, and remains actively involved in the local community.

On a personal level, Shah is a writer, entrepreneur, sports enthusiast, husband, and father of two children.
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

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Michelle Barton, PhD, Dean, MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Michael Blackburn, PhD, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer
Dean, MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Eric Boerwinkle, PhD, M. David Low Chair in Public Health, Kozmetsky Family Chair in Human Genetics, Dean, UTHealth School of Public Health
Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD, President, UTHealth
Kevin Dillon, MBA, CPA, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Financial Officer, UTHealth
Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA, Dean, John P. McGovern Distinguished Professorship, UTHealth School of Nursing
Barbara J. Stoll, MD, Dean, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth
John A. Valenza, DDS, Dean, Professor, UTHealth School of Dentistry
Jiajie Zhang, PhD, Glassell Family Foundation Chair in Informatics Excellence
Dean, UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics
UTHealth School of Public Health

HONORED GUESTS

**Michelle Barton, PhD**  
Dean, MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

**Michael Blackburn, PhD**  
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer  
Dean, MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

**Eric Boerwinkle, PhD**  
M. David Low Chair in Public Health  
Kozmetsky Family Chair in Human Genetics  
Dean, UTHealth School of Public Health

**Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD**  
President, UTHealth

**Kevin Dillon, MBA, CPA**  
Senior Executive Vice President  
Chief Operating and Financial Officer, UTHealth

**Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA**  
John P. McGovern Distinguished Professorship  
Dean, UTHealth School of Nursing

**Katharine W. Orton**  
Chair, UTHealth School of Public Health Advisory Council

**George M. Stancel, PhD**  
Roger J. Bulger, MD Distinguished Professor  
Executive Vice President for Academic and Research Affairs, UTHealth

**Barbara J. Stoll, MD**  
Dean, McGovern Medical School

**John A. Valenza, DDS**  
Dean, Professor, UTHealth School of Dentistry

**Jiajie Zhang, PhD**  
Glassell Family Foundation Chair in Informatics Excellence  
Dean, UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics
UTHealth School of Public Health

ORDER OF CONVOCATION
MAY 12, 2017

PRESIDING

Eric Boerwinkle, PhD
Dean, UTHealth School of Public Health
M. David Low Chair in Public Health
Kozmetsky Family Chair in Human Genetics

Processional
Ambient Arts Brass
The audience will remain seated during the processional

Linda Highfield, PhD
Assistant Professor
Faculty Marshal

Vanessa Schick, PhD
Assistant Professor
Student Marshal

WELCOMING REMARKS

Eric Boerwinkle, PhD
Dean, UTHealth School of Public Health
M. David Low Chair in Public Health
Kozmetsky Family Chair in Human Genetics

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD
Alkek-Williams Distinguished Chair
President, UTHealth
UTHealth School of Public Health

ORDER OF CONVOCATION

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
Executive Director, Harris County Public Health (HCPH)
UTHealth School of Public Health Alumnus 2001

THE JOHN P. MCGOVERN OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD PRESENTATION

Carly Specha
Executive Director, School of Public Health Student Association

MCGOVERN AWARD WINNER
Mary Ann Smith, PhD
Assistant Professor
Assistant Dean for Students

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Mary Ann Smith, PhD
Assistant Professor
Assistant Dean for Students

Eric Boerwinkle, PhD
Dean, UTHealth School of Public Health
M. David Low Chair in Public Health
Kozmetsky Family Chair in Human Genetics

AWARDING OF DEGREES

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD
Alkek-Williams Distinguished Chair
President, UTHealth

RECESSIONAL

The audience will remain seated during the recessional
Congratulations Class of 2017!

Welcome to the UTHealth School of Public Health Alumni Association. As a new graduate, you automatically become a member of the School of Public Health Alumni Association. You are joining a powerful network of more than 7,000 alumni worldwide and we are thrilled to have you join our community.
As you embark on the next steps in your journey, please be aware of the resources that are available to you. You will have access to our online alumni community, receive various publications such as the alumni newsletter and UTH ealth School of Public Health Pioneers magazine, and receive invitations to lectures, seminars and social events throughout the year.

We would like to keep in touch with you to ensure that we are offering programs beneficial to you and to keep you updated on any changes that take place at the university. Please be sure to update your contact information by visiting the School of Public Health alumni page on the School of Public Health website and click on the “Alumni Update” tab. Please also update us on your career achievements and milestones so that we can proudly report them in our publications and share with the UTH ealth School of Public Health community.

The School of Public Health Alumni Association looks forward to being a part of the next exciting stage of your life.

Congratulations and welcome to the Alumni Association!
AUGUST 2016

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Ahmed, Sarah Tufael, MBBS, MPH
George P. Delclos, MPH, PhD, MD advisor

Amoah, Martin, BS, MPH
Carol A. Galeener, BA, PhD, advisor

Asafo-Adjei, Maame N., BSc, MPH
Catherine L. Troisi, BA, MS, PhD, advisor

Bellamy, Deanna Nicole, BS, MPH
Maria E. Fernandez, BA, BS, MA, PhD, advisor

Berhanu, Elias, BA, MPH
Maria E. Fernandez, BA, BS, MA, PhD, advisor

Betts, Andrea Caryl, BA, MPH
Margaret O. Caughy, BS, MEd, ScD, advisor

Bounds, Gregory, BS, MPH
Assembling Data for Use of the Integrated Transport and Health Impact Modeling (ITHIM)
Tool for Houston, Texas
Casey Durand, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor
Kai Zhang, BS, MA, MS, PhD, thesis supervisor

Burkhalter, Lorraine Elizabeth, BS, MPH
Folefac D. Atem, BS, MS, PhD, advisor

Cartus, Abigail, BS, MPH
Holoprosencephaly in Texas, 1999-2009: A Prevalence Study
Kelley Pettie Gabriel, BS, MS, PhD, advisor
Peter Langlois, PhD, thesis supervisor

Casselberry, Ila Davidson, BA, MPH
Using the Theory of Self-Regulation to Assess the Correlation between Self-Monitoring Adherence,
Lifestyle Behaviors, and Health Outcomes among Type Two Diabetic Patients
Casey Durand, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Chapa, Carla Mercedes, BS, MPH
Andrew E. Springer, BA, MPH, DrPH, advisor

Curtis, Kaylah Nicole, BA, MPH
Linda Highfield, BS, MS, PhD, advisor

Duncan, Matthew, BS, MPH
Lawrence W. Whitehead, BA, BArch, MPH, MArch, PhD, advisor

Espinosa Da Silva, Cristina, BA, MPH
Investigating the Association between Depression and High-Risk Sexual Behavior in Gay, Bisexual,
and other Men who have Sex with Men in Houston, Texas
Cynthia L. Chappell, BS, MS, PhD, advisor
Paige Pudgett Wermuth, MPH, PhD, thesis supervisor

Fagerstrom, Kaila Anne, BSEd, MPH
Mortality Data Analysis, Cali, Colombia
Catherine L. Troisi, BA, MS, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Georgalos, Christina, BA, MPH
Carol A. Galeener, BA, PhD, advisor

Ghosh, Kankana, BPharm, MPH
A Genome-Wide Assessment of Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis Relapse
Jan Bressler, BS, MPH, PhD, advisor
Philip J. Lupo Jr., BS, MPH, PhD, thesis supervisor

Goolla, Sai Chandana, BS, MPH
Justin Bahl, BS, PhD, advisor
Hake, Trusha Chandrakant, BDS, MPH  
Stephen P. Daiger, BS, PhD, advisor

Harb, Crystel Marie, BS, MPH  
David Gimeno, BA, MS, PhD, advisor

Harris, Kristofer T., BSN, MPH  
Gastrointestinal Manifestations of Acute West Nile Virus Infection in Humans  
Lu-Yu Hwang, MD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Hoyer, Danielle Ashley, BS, MPH  
Adriana Perez, BS, MS, PhD, advisor

Ibekwe, Lauren, BS, MPH  
A Web-Based Approach to Examining Substance Abuse Prevention Policies and Programming at Institutions of Higher Education in Houston  
Christine Markham, BA, MA, PhD, advisor  
Sheryl A. McCurdy, BA, MA, PhD, thesis supervisor

Ilori, Jolayemi, BA, MPH  
Susan Tortolero Emery, BS, MS, PhD, advisor

Iqbal, Tehseen, MBBS, MPH  
Jan Bresler, BS, MPH, PhD, advisor

Jain, Apurva Ravindra, MBBS, MPH  
Eric Brown, BS, PhD, advisor

Jefferson, Imory Nicollette, BA, MPH  
Melissa Fleschler Peskin, BS, MS, PhD, advisor

Kelley, Ashley Jeanette, BS, MPH  
Marilyn Allicock, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor

Lahlou, Shadia Yesenia, BS, MPH  
Courtney Erin Byrd-Williams, PhD, advisor

Leass, Elizabeth A, BS, BA, MPH  
Characteristics of Suspected Victims of Child Sexual Abuse: A Secondary Data Analysis of the Children’s Assessment Center’s Data  
Carol A. Galeener, BA, PhD, advisor  
Melissa Fleschler Peskin, BS, MS, PhD, thesis supervisor

Lee, Christopher Y., BS, MPH  
Kelley Pettee Gabriel, BS, MS, PhD, advisor

Lee, Kierra Parnice, BS, MPH  
Ellerie Weber, BS, MBA, PhD, advisor

Mayeux, Jonathan Douglas, BA, BS, MD, MPH  
David Gimeno, BA, MS, PhD, advisor

Moran, Gisele Christine, BA, MPH  
Alanna C. Morrison, BS, PhD, advisor

Olanipekun, Titilope Oluwabusi, MBChB, MPH  
Shreela V. Sharma, BS, MA, PhD, advisor

Ortiz, Vanessa Patricia, BA, MPH  
Melissa Valerio, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor

Papasozomenos, Theognosia, MD, MPH  
Ajit Appari, PhD, advisor

Patel, Hemangi Bhavesh, BS, MPH  
George P. Delclos, MPH, PhD, MD, advisor

Popoola, Mojisola Olufunmilayo, MBBS, MPH  
Arch I. Carson, BS, MD, PhD, advisor
Pujara, Deep Kiritbhai, MBBS, MPH
Could Use of Long Term Survival in Determining Lung Allocation Score Improve Long Term Outcomes in Patients Undergoing Lung Transplant?
D. Michael Hallman, BA, MSPH, PhD, advisor
Steve K. Singh, MD, thesis supervisor

Putney, Kimberly Shryock, BS, MPH, PharmD
Outcomes Associated with Pharmacist Participation in a Heart Failure Transitional Care Clinic through Medication Reconciliation and Education
Nuria Homedes, MD, DrPH, advisor
Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, BA, MBA, PhD, thesis supervisor

Range, Camille P., BS, MPH
Outcomes Associated with Pharmacist Participation in a Heart Failure Transitional Care Clinic through Medication Reconciliation and Education
Laura Moore, BS, MEd, RD, LD, advisor
Shreela V. Sharma, BS, MA, PhD, thesis supervisor

Raut, Janhavi Raghav, BDS, MPH
Proportion of Orofacial Clefts Attributable to Recognized Risk Factors
R. Sue Day, BS, MS, Sc, PhD, advisor
A.J. Agopian, BA, MS, PhD, thesis supervisor

Robertson, Michael Christopher, BA, MPH
Urban-Rural Leisure-Time Physical Activity and Screen-Time Sedentary Behavior Differences in the General Population and in Cancer Survivors
Wendell Taylor, AB, MS, MPH, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Rodriguez, Anabel, BS, MPH
The Association of Worksite Ergonomic and Safety Risk Factors
David Gimeno, BA, MS, PhD, advisor
David Douphrate, BS, MBA, PhD, thesis supervisor

Roffidal, Christina Devasitham, BS, MPH
A Retrospective Review of Molecular-Guided Therapy and Metronomic Therapy on the Outcomes of Childhood Cancers
Luisa Franzini, BS, MS, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Sanders, Kelsey Beth, BS, MPH
Melissa Harrell, BS, MPH, PhD, advisor

Seyferth, Kimberly Grace, BA, MPH
Henry S. Brown III, BA, MAEd, PhD, advisor

Srinivasan, Sanjana, BSc, MPH
Jan Bressler, BS, MPH, PhD, advisor

Travis, Emily Ann, BS, MPH
Collegiate Athletes’ Body Composition by Sport and Position
Laura Moore, BS, MEd, RD, LD, advisor
R. Sue Day, BS, MS, Sc, PhD, thesis supervisor

Wesely, Sarah, BS, MPH
Maria E. Fernandez, BA, BS, MA, PhD, advisor

Wolf, Shannon Emily, BS, MPH
Comparing Refugees’ Access to Health Care in the United States and Germany: A Systematic Review of the Literature
Nalini Ranjit, MS, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH
Anan, Hadeel Fayez, BPharm, MS
The Association of Caffeine Intake with Components of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS) among Cancer Survivors
David S. Lopez, BS, MS, MPH, DrPH, advisor and thesis supervisor
Blanchard, Christina Theoktisto, BS, MS
Assessing whether the Number of Predictors Affect the Power of the Hosmer-Lemeshow Test in Large Data Sets
Barry R. Davis, BS, MD, ScM, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Hernandez, Ashley May, BA, BS, MS
The Association of PM2.5 and Ozone with Diabetes Mellitus Prevalence in the United States, 2002-2008
Kristina Walker Whitworth, BS, MSPH, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Balogun, Titilola Bukayo, MBBS, MPH, DrPH
Detained Youth, Health Outcomes and Knowledge of where to Access Care: A Cross Sectional Study of Residents at a Large Juvenile Detention Center
Linda E. Lloyd, BA, MBA, MSW, PhD, advisor
Rebecca Monk Beyda, BS, MS, MD, dissertation supervisor

Lawrence, Steven Kent, BS, MBA, MPH, DrPH
Evaluation of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Peer-to-Peer Educational Program: A Pilot Study to Assess the Potential to Improve Well-being and Quality of Life
Catherine L. Troisi, BA, MS, PhD, advisor
Vanessa Schick, BA, PhD, dissertation supervisor

Shumate, Charles Jack, BA, MPH, DrPH
Andrew E. Springer, BA, MPH, DrPH, advisor and dissertation supervisor

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Chen, Yue-Ming, MS, PhD
Statistical Methods for Genetic Phenotype Prediction and DNA Sequence Sample Contamination Detection
Peng Wei, BS, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Kim, Jihye, MPH, PhD
Integrating Evidence on the Genetic Architecture of Diabetic Retinopathy among Mexican Americans with Type 2 Diabetes in Starr County, Texas
Craig L. Hanis, BS, MS, MA, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Li, Dennis Henyee, BA, MPH, PhD
An Exploration of Digital Media Use, Community Connectedness, and Sexual Orientation Identity Development among Young Men Who Have Sex with Men
Susan Tortolero Emery, BS, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Liu, Suyang, MS, PhD
Investigating Short-Term Effects of PM2.5 Components on Mortality and Morbidity in Greater Houston, Texas
Kai Zhang, BS, MA, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Peng, Ho-Lan, BS, MS, PhD
Some Statistical Issues on Progression of Alzheimer’s Disease
Wenyaw Chan, BS, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Sagiraju, Hari Krishna Raju, MBBS, MPH, PhD, MD
Female Invasive Breast Cancer Mortality Trends among Hispanic Population in the United States from 1990 to 2012
David Gimeno, BA, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Sewda, Anshuman, BDS, MPH, PhD
Analysis of Rare and Common Variants to Identify Inherited and Maternal Genes Associated with Conotruncal Heart Defects
Laura Mitchell, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor
Shenoy, Amrita Gopinath, MHA, MBA, MSc, PhD
The Impact of the Texas DSRIP Program on Preventable Hospitalizations in Southeast Texas
Charles E. Begley, BS, MA, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Shu, Xiang, MS, PhD
Identifying Potential Genetic and MicroRNA Biomarkers for Renal Cell Carcinoma Risk and Prognosis
Xifeng Wu, MD, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Staudt, Amanda Marie, MPH, PhD
Effects of Exposure to Organic Solvents and Occupational Noise on Hearing Loss and Tinnitus in US Adults from 1999 to 2004
David Gimeno, BA, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

Walker, Timothy James, BA, MS, PhD
An Evaluation of the Relationship between Physical Activity and Presenteeism among Employees from a Public University System
Pamela M. Diamond, BA, MA, PhD, advisor
Jessica Morey Tullar, PhD, MPH, dissertation supervisor

Wang, Jue, MS, PhD
Dynamic Prediction for Multiple Repeated Measures and Event Time Data
Sheng Luo, BS, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor
DECEMBER 2016

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Abada, Sharon Rose, BS, MPH
Characterization of Medication Regimens in Older Adult Self-Neglect: Polypharmacy, Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use, and Potential Drug-Drug Interactions
Lara Staub Savas, BA, MS, PhD, advisor
Jason Burnett, PhD, thesis supervisor

Abrego, Dina Marie, BS, MPH
Belinda M. Reininger, BS, MPH, PhD, advisor

Albalawi, Awatif Ali, MD, MPH
Perceived Transition Self-Efficacy and Transition Readiness among Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN) Preparing to Transition to Adult Healthcare from Texas Children’s Hospital
Jan Bressler, BS, MPH, PhD, advisor
Constance Wiemann, PhD, thesis supervisor

Ali, Yousif, BC, DDS, MPH
Charles E. Begley, BS, MA, PhD, advisor

Amadi, Tochi Chiemeke, BS, MPH
A Descriptive Study of Hospital Uncompensated Care in 20 Texas 1115 Waiver Regional Healthcare Partnerships
Frances Revere, BIE, MS, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Anoma, Georgette, BSN, MSN, MPH
Factors Associated with Non-Adherence to Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) in Perinatally Infected HIV Adolescents a Systematic Review
Linda B. Piller, BS, MPH, MD, advisor
Deanna Grimes, RN, DrPH, thesis supervisor

Banerjee, Upasana, MBBS, MPH
Alanna C. Morrison, BS, PhD, advisor

Bhalani, Nizar Noor Ali, MBBS, MPH
Ability of Individual Patient Health Parameters to Predict Malnutrition among Elderly Stem Cell Transplant Patients
Robert Morgan, BA, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Blair, Brandon Scott, BS, MPH
Inkyu Han, BS, MPH, PhD, advisor

Blanco, Robert John, BS, MPH, MD
George P. Delclou, MPH, PhD, MD advisor

Bondre, Ioana Lelia, BS, MPH
Linda B. Piller, BS, MPH, MD, advisor

Burton, Taylor Moore, BS, MPH
Frank Bandiera, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor

Cernovich, Amanda Lee, BS, MPH
Identifying Barriers and Facilitating Factors for Secondary School for Girls in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Exploratory Descriptive Review
Nalini Ranjit, MS, PhD, advisor
Andrew E. Springer, BA, MPH, DrPH, thesis supervisor

Chaudhary, Pooja, MBBS, MPH
Sexting and Mental Health: A School-Based Longitudinal Study among Youth in Southeast Texas
Melissa Fleschler Peskin, BS, MS, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Chueng, Teresa Ann, BA, MPH
Melissa Valerio, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor

Corbett, Kaitlyn Elizabeth, BS, MPH
Frank Bandiera, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor
Craig, Kathryn Elizabeth, BA, MPH
Melissa Valerio, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor

Dahm, Denise Renea, MD, MPH
David Gimeno, BA, MS, PhD, advisor

Danziger, Catherine Ann, BA, MPH
Wendell Taylor, AB, MS, MPH, PhD, advisor

de la Garza, Amanda Renee, BS, MPH
Jennifer M. Gonzalez, BA, MS, PhD, advisor

Deeba, Rita Elias, BS, BA, MPH
Linda Highfield, BS, MS, PhD, advisor

Delphia, Michelle, BS, MPH
Courtney Erin Byrd-Williams, PhD, advisor

Dill, Corbin Frank, BA, MPH
Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, BA, MBA, PhD, advisor

Don-Pedro, Data Belema, MBBS, MPH
Arch I. Carson, BS, MD, PhD, advisor

Driver, Diana Kaitlin, BS, MPH
Associations of Injection Drug Use and Intention to Change Drug Use and Alcohol Consumption among Methamphetamine Using Men Who Have Sex with Men
Alfred L. McAlister, BA, PhD, advisor
J. Michael Wilkerson, BBA, MS, MPH, PhD, thesis supervisor

Dunn, Ashley M., BA, MPH
Courtney Erin Byrd-Williams, PhD, advisor

Ellis, Randall Keith, BA, MPH
Charles E. Begley, BS, MA, PhD, advisor

Fanty, Lauren Faye, BS, MPH
Melissa Valerio, BA, MPH, PhD, advisor

Gerardo, Mary, MNPL, MPH
Louis Brown, BA, MA, PhD, advisor

Gillingham, Trent Daniel, BS, MPH
Anna Wilkinson, BSc, PhD, advisor

Guo, Zhenglin, BSN, MPH
David S. Lopez, BS, MS, MPH, DrPH, advisor

Igbinomwanhia, Efekhi, MBBS, MPH
Mohammad Hossein Rabbar, MS, PhD, advisor

Jimenez, Alessandra, BS, MPH
Ken Sexton, MBA, ScD, advisor

Klimko, John Alexander, BA, MPH
Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, BA, MBA, PhD, advisor

Kothari, Shefali, BA, MPH
Gretchen L. Gemeinhardt, BA, MBA, PhD, advisor

Landgren, Rachel Marie, BS, BA, MPH
Linda B. Piller, BS, MPH, MD, advisor

Lee, Andrew Dong-gun, BS, MPH
Soeun Kim, BA, MA, MS, PhD, advisor

Leland, Margaret Frazier, BA, MPH
Bijal Balasubramanian, MPH, PhD, advisor

Loper, Natalie Landry, BS, MPH
Anna Wilkinson, BSc, PhD, advisor
López, Diana Marcela, BA, MPH  
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Cost-Effectiveness of Program to Improve Nutrition in Pregnant Women from Low-Income Groups  
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Prot, Emilie Yvonne, MPH, DO  
Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Community Health Worker Interventions: A Systematic Review in the United States  
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Oral Contraceptive Use as a Determinant of Serum Concentrations of Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Among Women in the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort (MoBa) Study  
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Associations between Social Network, Social Support, and One-Year Health Outcomes among Older Cancer Patients
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Barrett’s Esophagus Recurrence after Radiofrequency Ablation in U.S. Veterans: A Retrospective Cohort Study
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Trends in Mortality in Patients Hospitalized With Cirrhosis from 2004-2013
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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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The Association between Prior Anon-Digital Health Behavior and Self or Partner Anal Exams among MSM
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Incorporating Variant Prioritization in Test of De Novo Association
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Investigating Type I Error Rate of Clinical Trials After Using Stratified Permutated Block Randomization and the Permutation Test
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Sedory, Abigail Christine, BS, MS
Let’s Talk About Sex: A Dyadic Analysis Using Baseline Data from “The Secret of Seven Stones” Program on Communication between Parent and Adolescent Youth about Initiation of Sex
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DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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A Study of Dietary Patterns and their Association with Insulin Resistance in Obese and Overweight Children in Bronx, New York
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Calderón-Mora, Jessica Ann, BA, MPH, DrPH
Group Versus Individual Culturally Tailored and Theory Based Education to Promote Cervical Cancer Screening among the Underserved: A Randomized Controlled Trial
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An Assessment of Long-Term Services and Supports Policies for Residents of Skilled Nursing Facilities: Where We Have Been, Where Are We Now, and Where We Are Going
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Karanth, Siddharth, MBBS, MPH, DrPH
Determining the Racial Disparities in Utilization and Cost of Care at the End-Of-Life and Survival for the Elderly with Lung Cancer
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Agreement between Patient Safety Culture and Employee Safety Culture in a Healthcare Environment
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Discrimination and Modifiable Health Risk Factors: A Focus on Tobacco, Alcohol, and Obesity Related Risk Behaviors
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Decision Making Styles and Agency in Childbirth: A Mixed Methods Study Comparing Women’s Expectations to Actual Experiences during Childbirth
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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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Tuberculosis as a Re-Emerging Disease and the Risk in Diabetics on the Texas Mexico Border
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Re-Analytical and Analytical Variability Associated with the Interferon Gamma Release Assays
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Composite Likelihood Based Test with Applications in Pharmacovigilance and Clustered Data
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Treatment Patterns, Clinical Outcomes, and Cost-Effectiveness of Cancer Care For Advanced Multiple Myeloma Patients: Findings from a Large Nationwide, Population-Based Cohort
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The Impact of Chronic Hepatitis B Infection, Antiviral Treatment and HIV Coinfection on the Occurrence of Cancer Outcomes among U.S. Veterans: A Retrospective Cohort Study
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The Association between Episodes of Mental Disorders and Workplace Injuries among Employees in Public University Settings
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Bullying Victimization and Perpetration: The Longitudinal Relationship between Bullying, Reported Injuries, And School Absence among a Cohort of Children
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Payment Reductions for Hospital Readmission: Impact on Texas Hospitals
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Patterns of Adjuvant Hormonal Therapy Adherence and Persistence among Insured Women with Early Breast Cancer in Texas and the Associated Financial Burden
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Deterministic Bayesian Variable Selection for Logistic Regression Models with Related Covariates
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Human Papillomavirus Infection among Male Virgins and the Potential for Non-Sexual Transmission
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Fractures Following Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation: Risk Prediction and Evaluation of Prevention and Treatment Strategies
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Examination of Infant Early-Life Risk Factors for Pediatric Obesity
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The Gut Microbiome as a Modifiable Risk Factor in Recurring Communicable and Chronic Non-Communicable Gastrointestinal Diseases
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Role of Risk Attitude in Decisions to Enroll In Micro Health Insurance Plans in a Low Income Country
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Bayesian Quantile Regression Joint Models: Inference and Dynamic Predictions
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Statins, Testosterone, and Urological Diseases in Men
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MAY 2017

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Association between Type of Vascular Access Used in Hemodialysis Patients and Subsequent Kidney Transplant Outcomes
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Examining the Association between HIV Testing and Related Risk Factors among High School Students in the U.S. According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey
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Association between BRAF V600E Mutations and Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) in Melanoma Patients
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Exploring Associations between the Use of Psychoactive Drugs and E-cigarettes in a Nationally Representative Sample of Young Adults
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*Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Healthcare Utilization: Examining the Impact of Race and Insurance  
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*The Effect of Ankle Monitors during Treatment on Drug Court Completion, Substance Use and Recidivism in Women in Dallas, Texas  
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*Condom Promotion among Young Adult Gay Men: Formative Research to Guide a Health Communication Campaign  
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*Poverty Alleviation Legislation: Comprehensive Solutions  
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Substance Use among High School Students: A Snapshot of Punjabi-American Students in California
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Multispectral Digital Colposcope for the Detection of Cervical Neoplasia
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Effect of Breastfeeding Education on Breastfeeding Intention, Duration and Knowledge among Low-Income African American Mothers
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Parent Psychosocial Outcomes from a Fruit and Vegetable Co-op for Low-Income Families
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Physical Activity in the Workplace: A Systematic Review
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Genomic Innovation, Intellectual Property, and Public Health: A Qualitative Study
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The Creation of a Tool to Document and Describe Tobacco Power Walls
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Frequent Users of the Emergency Department on the U.S.- Mexico Border: Determining Risk Factors to Inform Interventions
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Improving Quality of Food Access: An Analysis of the Healthy Food Initiative Project
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HPV Vaccination and the Role of the Pediatric Dentist: Survey of Graduate Program Directors
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Knowledge of Network Members’ HIV Status among Young Men Who Have Sex with Men
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Combined Effects of Restaurant Eating, Television Viewing, and Moderate-to-Vigorous Physical Activity on Obesity among Low-Income Texas 5th Grade School Children
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Dizziness, Difficulty with Balance, and Falls among Older Adults: A Descriptive Analysis Using Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2001-2004
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Perceptions of Neighborhood and Physical Activity: Findings from the Houston Train Study  
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The Impact of CTNNB1 (Beta-catenin) Mutation in Endometrial Cancer  
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Medicaid Extension Impact on AIDS Diagnosis Rates in Texas, Arkansas, and New Jersey  
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Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER): A Systematic Review of the Literature
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The Influence of Social Network Characteristics on Health Service Utilization in Latino Immigrants
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Implementation Constructs Associated with Parent Engagement Outcomes for the Brighter Bites Program
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Percent Change in Heart Rate for Child Participants of an Obesity Program and Its Association with Improvement in Parents Physical Activity
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A Systematic Review of Interferon-free Treatment Regimes for Hepatitis C Virus Genotype 1
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Mapping of Reviews on Breastfeeding and Obesity Risk in Children
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Implementation of Coordinated School Health and Local Wellness Policy in Schools in Texas
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Sexual Identity, Social Support, and Mental Health: A Comparison across the LGBT Spectrum in Texas
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A Descriptive Analysis of Casualty Evacuation Provided by the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment in Operation Enduring Freedom from 2008 to 2015
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Intuitive Tourniquet Placement by Laypersons: Comparison of Strap and Windlass vs. Elastic Band Tourniquets
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Rigoberto Delgado, PhD, advisor

Shiao, Jay C, BS, MPH  
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Effect of Physical Activity on Depression among Hispanic Adults in South Texas  
Susan P. Fisher-Hoch, MBBS, MS, MD, advisor  
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Nasal and Intestinal Carriage Patterns of Staphylococcus aureus in a Population of Mexican Americans in Starr County, Texas  
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Predictors of Health Service Utilization in Pediatric Mental Health Populations: A Cost Analysis Study  
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Pasadena-PAHC Study of Social Determinants of Health: Phase One  
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Exploring Food Insecurity Policy through Multidimensional Poverty Measures  
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Sports Team Participation and Dating Violence Victimization among High School Students: Is There an Association?  
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Development of a Novel Curriculum for Pediatric Resident Promotion of Early Childhood Literacy  
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Maternal Exposures Associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Jamaica  
Mohammad Hossein Rabbar, MS, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor

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Removing Batch Effects in mRNA Data with Empirical Bayesian Method and Replicates  
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Rashak, Hiba Abdulrahman, MS, MD  
The Association between Tuberculosis and Diabetes among Adults in Chiapas, Mexico  
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Using Bayesian Network to Integrate CT Image and Epigenomic Data for Tumor Classification and Drug Response Prediction  
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Phylogenetic Analysis to Characterize the Regional HIV Transmission among Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases in Houston  
Lu-Yu Hwang, MD, advisor and thesis supervisor

Yan, Fangfang, BM, MS  
Integrate Impact with Advanced Brain Imaging to Evaluate the Effects of Sports-Related Concussion (SRC) on High School Athletes: A Longitudinal Study  
Ruosha Li, MS, PhD, advisor and thesis supervisor
DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Understanding What Really Matters between Families and Providers Caring for Young Children Diagnosed with Asthma
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Jennings, Rose, MPhil, BA, DrPH
A Sustainability Assessment of U.S. Dietary Patterns
Alexandra Evans, BS, MPH, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

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Teen Dating Violence: A Cross-sectional Study Measuring the Association between Inhibitory Control and Psychological Dating Violence Perpetration and Victimization Outcomes among Southeast Texas Adolescent Youth
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Melissa Fleschler Peskin, BS, MS, PhD, dissertation supervisor

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Human Trafficking: Responses by the Public Health and Health Care Sectors
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Tsennov, Boris Grigoriev, MA, DrPH
The Prevalence of the Methodologies used to Counteract Insider Threat Security Risks Associated with the Use of Radioactive Materials in Research and Clinical Settings
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Maternal Exposure to Different Types of Hormonal Compounds from Oral Contraceptives in the First Trimester of Pregnancy
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National Trends in the Use and Cost of Hospital Care in the U.S. for Sickle Cell
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Cyberbullying and Social Location: Do Intersections of Identity Relate to Cyberbullying Involvement?
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Use of Quasi-Least Squares (QLS) to Adjust for Multiple Correlations in Clustered Binary Longitudinal Data: HIT Study
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Social Determinants to Psychological Distress and All-Cause Mortality in Older Adults
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Depression Screening via Smartphone Technologies: A Data-Driven Approach
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Cost of a Cough: Identifying Services for the Top Ten Reasons for a Physician Office Visit
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Off-label Use of Monoclonal Antibodies for Cancer and the Impact on Patient Out-Of-Pocket Costs
Osama I. Mikhail, BSc, MBA, MS, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

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Ghantoji, Shashank S., MPH, MBBS, PhD
Clinical and Economic Burden of Respiratory Viral Infections in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Recipients
Osama I. Mikhail, BSc, MBA, MS, PhD, advisor
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Exploring the Role of the Oral and Gut Microbiomes in Cancer
Rehan Akhani, PhD, dissertation supervisor

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Treatment Patterns and Cost-Effectiveness of Chemotherapy Sequences among Metastatic Adenocarcinoma Patients: A Retrospective Analysis of Medicare Claims Data
David R. Lairson, BBA, MA, PhD, advisor and dissertation supervisor

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Evaluating Physical Activity Associations with BMI, Weight Status and Related Psychosocial Factors among Hospital Workers: A Cross-sectional Study
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Changing Hepatitis-B Protective and Risk Behaviors among a Drug Using Population: Findings from a Randomized Controlled Trial
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Examining the Associations and Cost-Effectiveness of Policy Level Changes to the Built and Transportation Environments Intended to Increase Physical Activity
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Dynamic Prediction by Landmarking in Recurrent Neurological Stroke Using Box-Cox Transformed Longitudinal Risk Factors
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Factors Associated with Radiographic Severity in Ankylosing Spondylitis Patients with a Particular Focus on Environmental Factors and Genes Using Data from a Multi-country Longitudinal Cohort
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Economic Evaluation of Cervical Cancer and HPV Vaccination Programs in the United States
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The Combined Effect of Ambient Ozone Exposure and Toxic Air Releases on Hospitalization for Asthma and Respiratory Illnesses in Harris County, Texas
Mary Ann Smith, BS, PhD, advisor
Stephen H. Linder, BA, MA, PhD, dissertation supervisor

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Evaluating Costs, 30-day Readmissions and Post-Discharge Care for Primary Total Knee Replacements (TKR) and Total Hip Replacements (THR) using an Episode of Care Bundled Payment Perspective
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Correlates of Bicycling for Recreation and Transportation: An Ecological Approach
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Catheter-Related Complications and Potential Risk Factors among Catheterized Cancer Patients Receiving TPN at UTMDACC
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