DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

FACULTY RESEARCH GUIDE

The University of Texas – Houston
School of Public Health
https://sph.uth.edu/

Revised 1/6/2014
Division of Epidemiology – Primary Faculty

Alamgir, Abul H.
Research: Workplace health and safety issues; epidemiology of injuries; program and economic evaluation; workplace surveillance system; socio-economic consequences of injury and disease
Campus: San Antonio

Agopian, A.J.
Research: Birth Defects, Genetic Epidemiology; Environmental and Occupational Exposures.
Campus: Houston

Bahl, Justin
Research: Ecology; Evolution; Emerging infectious diseases, especially influenza; Phylodynamics
Campus: Houston

Below, Jennifer
Developing and applying computational methodologies to further our understanding of the genetic basis of human disease.
Campus: Houston

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Balasubramanian, Bijal A.

Research: Doctor-patient interaction-related factors that contribute to racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in cancer screening and treatment and practice-level Factors that impact the quality of health care provided to primary care patients.

Campus: Dallas

Boerwinkle, Eric

Research: Human genetics; bioinformatics; DNA variation; coronary heart disease; hypertension

Campus: Houston

Bressler, Jan

Research: Disease control, epidemiology, molecular genetics, genetic epidemiology

Campus: Houston

Brown, Eric

Research: Immunology; infectious disease; mechanisms of immune evasion; vaccine development

Campus: Houston

Revised 1/6/2014
Caetano, Raul

Research: Epidemiology of substance abuse; violence; drinking and alcohol-related problems among US ethnic minority groups; diagnostic procedures in alcohol abuse and dependence

Campus: Dallas

Cooper, Sharon P.

Research: Occupational injury, surveillance of injury and illnesses in farm workers, working adolescents

Campus: San Antonio

Daiger, Stephen P.

Research: Human molecular genetics; human population genetics; medical genetics; human gene cloning; linkage mapping; retinitis pigmentosa; macular degeneration; inherited retinal diseases in humans; mutation detection; retinal disease genes RP1 and IMPDH1.

Campus: Houston

Darkoh, Charles

Research: Microbial pathogenesis; molecular basis of infectious diseases; molecular epidemiology; diagnostics; drug discovery; vaccine development; host-pathogen interactions; metabolomics

Campus: Houston

Revised 1/6/2014
Day, Sue
Research: Epidemiology; nutrition; dietary assessment methodology; obesity, cardiovascular disease; cancer; chronic disease; dietary interventions and health promotion; physical activity; Hispanic populations; children
Campus: Houston

Du, Xianglin L.
Research: Clinical Epidemiology of cardiovascular disease and cancer; health services and outcomes research; claims-based healthcare studies
Campus: Houston

DuPont, Herbert L.
Research: Worldwide study of the epidemiology; microbiology; genetic susceptibility, treatment and prevention of acute diarrhea
Campus: Houston

Fisher-Hoch, Susan P.
Research: Virology; Lassa and Ebola hemorrhagic fevers; tuberculosis; human Papilloma virus; biocontainment; microbiology; molecular epidemiology
Campus: Brownsville

Revised 1/6/2014
Fornage, Myriam
Research: Genetic epidemiology of brain aging; stroke; gene expression; genomics
Campus: Houston

Gabriel, Kelley
Research: Measurement of physical activity and sedentary behavior; epidemiology of physical activity and cardiovascular- and cancer-related health outcomes in women across the lifespan; physical activity and non-pharmacological lifestyle interventions for prevention or management of chronic disease
Campus: Austin

Hallman, D. Michael
Research: Genetic epidemiology of chronic disease, especially atherosclerotic disease and diabetes; genetic analysis of longitudinal data.
Campus: Houston

Hanis, Craig L.
Research: Genetic epidemiology; genetics of type 2 diabetes and its complications; genomic approaches to identifying genes for common diseases.
Campus: Houston

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Hixson, James E.
Research: Molecular genetics of common diseases including cardiovascular disease, obesity, and diabetes; SNP discovery and analysis in population-based studies of common diseases; allelic effects on gene expression and protein function related to common diseases and measured risk factors.
Campus: Houston

Hwang, Lu-Yu
Research: Pediatrics; infectious disease; perinatal transmission; viral epidemiology; cancer epidemiology; hepatitis virus/liver cancer; HIV/AIDS, HTLV/leukemia; EBV/nasopharyngeal cancer; viral oncology.
Campus: Houston

Jiang, Zhi-Dong
Research: Epidemiology of travelers' diarrhea; genetic factors for acute diarrhea; enteric pathogens
Campus: Houston

Kelder, Steven H.
Research: Epidemiology of child and adolescent health, design and evaluation of school health promotion programs, particular emphasis on obesity, diet, physical activity, and substance use
Campus: Austin

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Kohl III, Harold W.

Research: Epidemiology of physical activity, development of physical activity national guidelines; physical activity for chronic disease prevention

Campus: Austin

Liu, Xiaoming

Research: Population genetics, human genetics and evolutionary perspective on human diseases

Campus: Houston

Lopez, David S.

Research: Cancer-related racial/ethnic and health disparities, genetics of prostate cancer and benign prostatic hyperplasia

Campus: Houston

McCormick, Joseph B.

Research: Infectious Diseases (particularly viral such as Ebola; Lassa fever; HIV/AIDS), Health issues in international settings; vaccines; epidemiology and bioterrorism.

Campus: Brownsville

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Mirza, Shaper

Research: Molecular and cellular immunology and bacterial pathogenesis. Emphasis and expertise is with host pathogen interaction with particular emphasis on pathogenesis of Streptococcus pneumoniae in healthy individuals and individuals with co-morbidities such as diabetes mellitus

Campus: Houston

Mitchell, Laura E.

Research: Pediatric and perinatal epidemiology; genetic association studies; family-based studies (e.g. case-parent triads); environmental exposures (e.g. air pollution); gene-environment interactions

Campus: Houston

Morrison, Alanna C.

Research: Elucidation of genes involved in complex diseases such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke. Identifying single nucleotide polymorphisms influencing inter-individual disease risk, linkage analyses and association studies, and development and application of novel statistical methods to evaluate genetic data

Campus: Houston

Ness, Roberta B.

Research: Women’s health; epidemiology of ovarian cancer, preeclampsia, and pelvic inflammatory disease; adverse pregnancy and perinatal outcomes; links between

Revised 1/6/2014
reproductive history and cardiovascular disease; bacterial sexually transmitted infections.

Campus: Houston

Nyitray, Alan

Research: Epidemiology of anal human papillomavirus (HPV) infection; screening for anal HPV-associated lesions and cancer; HPV vaccination; sexually transmitted infections; HPV and HIV co-infection; sexual health

Campus: Houston

Ochoa, Theresa J.

Research: Diarrhea in children, Protective factors in human milk, with special emphasis on lactoferrin, enteric pathogens, Neonatal sepsis in developing countries, Pneumococcus

Campus: Houston

Piller, Linda B.

Research: Hypertension; ischemic heart disease; coronary heart disease; clinical trials; cardiovascular clinical trials; endpoint reporting in clinical trials; safety in clinical trials; congestive heart failure; cardiovascular pathology; cervical pathology; breast pathology.

Campus: Houston
Pompeii, Lisa

Research: Occupational epidemiology, injury epidemiology, pregnancy health and work, health disparities

Campus: Houston

Qu, HuiQi

Research: Genetics and functional genomics of human complex diseases (e.g. tuberculosis, obesity, and diabetes).

Campus: Houston

Rahbar, M. Hossein

Research: Statistical and Study Design Issues in Epidemiology; Autism Spectrum Disorders; Developmental Disabilities; Global Health; Environmental Health with a focus on Toxic and Heavy Metals; Gene-Environment Interactions in relation to Autism; Medical Informatics; Analytic Issues in Multicenter Studies; Data Mining; Sequential Procedures; Clinical Trials; Cost-Effectiveness Analysis; Survival Analysis

Campus: Houston

Reingle, Jennifer

Research: Epidemiological criminology, violence, intimate partner violence, and alcohol and drug use

Campus: Dallas

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Restrepo, Blanca

Research: Dr. Restrepo conducts research in a community along the Texas-Mexico border. This population is predominantly Hispanic, has low socio-economic status, and a high diabetes prevalence. Here, Dr. Restrepo and her colleagues are evaluating the impact of diabetes on TB control by conducting epidemiological and basic science studies. The long-term goal is to identify strategies for prevention of TB among diabetes patients.

Campus: Brownsville

Salinas, Jennifer J.

Research: Social context of chronic disease; social epidemiology and health disparities; Mexican American health; Mexico to US immigration and health; demography; aging

Campus: Brownsville

Selwyn, Beatrice J.

Research: Perinatal and pediatric epidemiology; international health; health survey methodology; rapid epidemiologic assessment methods; studies of the future of public health

Campus: Houston

Sharma, Shreela V.

Research: Behavioral epidemiology with a focus on nutrition and physical activity; obesity prevention with an emphasis on early childhood especially in low-income, minority populations; obesity prevention in India.

Campus: Houston

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Stigler, Melissa H.

Research: Child and adolescent health, global/international health, with special emphasis on India; tobacco prevention and cessation; obesity prevention; behavioral epidemiology

Campus: Austin

Symanski, Elaine

Research: Development of quantitative methods for modeling occupational and environmental exposures; retrospective exposure assessment for workplace contaminants; investigation of health effects related to occupational and environmental exposures

Campus: Houston

Waller, Kim

Research: Preventable risk factors for birth defects; low birth weight; fetal death; birth defects; screening programs; association of serum biomarkers (measured early in pregnancy) and pregnancy outcome.

Campus: Houston

Wilkinson, Anna

Research: Primary prevention of smoking and obesity; promotion of physical activity; relative role that social factors (acculturation, psychosocial resources, and built environment) and genetic factors play in shaping the behaviors; gene-environment interactions.

Campus: Austin

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Wood, Alexis

Research: Gene methylation, cognition, nutritional epidemiology, adherence to interventions, genetics

Campus: Houston
Division of Epidemiology – Secondary Faculty

Chappell, Cynthia L.
Research: Parasitology; gastrointestinal parasites; immune response to parasites
Division: Epidemiology, Human Genetics & Environmental Sciences
Campus: Houston

Fu, Yunxin
Research: Biostatistics; bioinformatics; molecular evolution; population genetics and computational biology
Division: Biostatistics
Campus: Houston

Hardy, Robert J.
Research: Biometrical methods; statistical epidemiology; clinical trials
Division: Biostatistics
Campus: Houston

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Hoelscher, Deanna M.

Research: Design, implementation and evaluation of nutrition and physical activity programs for children, school foodservice personnel, and minority populations, prevention of chronic diseases; evaluation of legislative policies; development and evaluation of dietary and physical activity assessment methods; epidemiologic studies of child nutrition, physical activity and behavioral risk factors; diet-gene interactions

Division: Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences
Campus: Austin

Peskin, Melissa F.

Research: Child and adolescent health, specifically in HIV, STD, and pregnancy prevention, violence, bullying, cyberbullying; intervention development and program evaluation

Division: Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences
Campus: Houston
Ranjit, Nalini

Research: Faculty Associate, School of Public Health, University of Texas, Austin Regional Campus (part-time)

Division: Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences

Campus: Austin

Ross, Michael W.

Research: STDs; HIV/AIDS; drug abuse; community level and correctional STD/HIV prevention cross-cultural aspects of public health; internet sexuality

Division: Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences

Campus: Houston

Tortolero, Susan

Research: Adolescence; children; sexual risk taking, STDs, pregnancy, substance use, violence mental health; depression; Hispanics; prevention research

Division: Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences

Campus: Houston

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Troisi, Catherine

Research: Infectious disease epidemiology, particularly viral diseases: viral hepatitis, HIV, influenza, public health practice

Division: Management, Policy & Community Health

Campus: Houston

Vernon, Sally W.

Research: Cancer prevention and control for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers; informed decision making for prostate cancer testing; psychosocial issues in cancer genetic testing; measurement of psychosocial constructs; reliability and validity of self-report cancer screening behaviors

Division: Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences

Campus: Houston

Wei, Peng

Research: Statistical genomics and genetics; Bayesian statistics; Graphical Models; Mixture Models; Statistical learning methodology and applications

Division: Biostatistics

Campus: Houston

Revised 1/6/2014
Whitworth, Kristina

Research: Health Effects Related to Environmental Exposures; Reproductive Health; Pregnancy Outcomes; Biomarkers of Environmental Exposure

Campus: Dallas

Xiong, Momiao

Research: Computational systems biology; functional genomics; bioinformatics; genetic epidemiology; statistical genetics; pharmacogenetics; population genetics

Division: Biostatistics

Campus: Houston

Revised 1/6/2014