MISSION
The purpose of the Center for Pediatric Population Health is to support multidisciplinary research teams to conduct studies and programs in collaboration with health care providers and community organizations to improve the health of child and adolescent populations. In addition, the Center will serve as a resource to translate scientific findings and knowledge into practical applications for public health practice, health care services, and health policies.

VISION
The Center for Pediatric Population Health, a collaboration between UTHealth School of Public Health and Children’s Health System of Texas, will improve the health for children and adolescent populations through evidence-based research to inform programs for health promotion, disease prevention, and health care, all while addressing health disparities.

VALUES
- Collaborate
- Lead
- Transform
- Diversify
Director’s Introduction
Founded in 2018, the Center for Pediatric Population Health is a unique collaboration between UTHealth School of Public Health and Children’s Health System of Texas. While the Center is physically located in Dallas, it has the capacity for regional and statewide reach through this unique collaboration between the largest pediatric health care system in North Texas and one of the largest schools of public health in the nation, with campuses not only in Dallas but also in Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Brownsville, and El Paso. It is worth noting the rapid demographic transition currently taking place in the state of Texas, which now has two of the most diverse metro areas in the entire nation; Houston is ranked first and Dallas fifth. As such, there has never been a greater time or opportunity to serve our Texas pediatric populations and aspire to health without boundaries for all.

The Center’s mission is to support multidisciplinary research teams to conduct studies and programs in collaboration with health care providers and community organizations to improve the health of child and adolescent populations. In addition, the Center will serve as a resource to translate scientific findings and knowledge into practical applications for public health practice, health care services, and health policies.

**STRATEGY**

To accomplish our mission, our overall strategy is built on a foundation of four value pillars shared with UTHealth School of Public Health:

1. **Collaborate** and foster partnerships and transdisciplinary research in clinical and community-based settings
2. **Lead** research discovery to generate evidence-based science and recommendations for clinical practice and community-based programming
3. **Transform** through education, training, and mentoring to improve pediatric population health and instill a culture of health for all families
4. **Diversify** our research portfolio with a nimble approach to meet immediate scientific challenges in the field

For the Center to meet successful milestones in the short-, mid-, and long-term, a culture of collaboration, collegiality, and synergy built on our four-value pillars is essential. Stewarding a commitment to children and family-driven population health by illustrating our mission through various channels such as Children’s Health and UTHealth web pages, the community, social media platforms, earned media, and traditional publications are a priority. These various platforms emphasize our strengths and beneficial influence in Dallas, in Texas, nationally, and internationally by highlighting successful research programs, graduate training programs, clinical offerings, and our contribution to the community by measuring our impact on pediatric health outcomes.

The Center’s inaugural year has been inspiring, with its growth largely driven by the groundswell of local interest in pediatric population health. The Center currently includes senior, mid-career, and junior faculty members, a database/IT manager, one international postdoctoral fellow, two research coordinators, two PhD student trainees, one graduate assistant, and one administrative assistant. This team’s work has been presented in international arenas (Oxford University), national conferences (American Public Health
Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, The Obesity Society, American College of Epidemiology, Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior, City Parks Alliance), and local forums (seven poster presentations at the local student forum). We have published over three dozen articles in the scientific literature with another 20 manuscripts under review, totaling over 50 original contributions to pediatric science in one year.

In terms of successful Federal research funding, the Center has three active NIH R01s, one K01, and one F31, as well as one USDA R01 and a new internal award. Additionally, we have several NIH grants under review: one Center for Clinical and Translational Award subcontract ($1.1 million), two R01s ($5 million in direct costs), two R21s ($550,000 in direct costs), one R03 ($130,000 in direct costs), one Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network award ($300,000), one Mayo Clinic Foundation award ($375,000), and two internal start-up awards ($70,000). All of these tangible outcomes are a result of successful collaborations with dozens of new clinical, community, and public health partners throughout the metroplex and beyond.

In closing and as director, my core mission is to create a Center culture in which members are supportive of everyone’s success, and compassionate, even in challenging times. The Center welcomes change because what is constant is the climate, yet we are strategic, self-reflective, and visionary. If these core values are embraced, regardless of stage of Center development, success is imminent.

Yours in Health,

Sarah E. Messiah, PhD, MPH
What is Population Health?
Population Health

Population health is the study of relationships among various health determinants and/or health outcomes in large populations. Population health is positioned at the intersection of medicine/health care and public health, and includes the basic, clinical, social, environmental, and genetic sciences, enabling integrated and transdisciplinary research. As such, the Center for Pediatric Population Health is home to experts in a number of relevant disciplines including: epidemiology, exercise physiology, nutrition, behavioral health, biostatistics, business, community health, environmental science, economics, community health, genetics, education, implementation science, preventive medicine, anthropology, sociology, and psychology.
Summary

Dallas has one of the largest patient databases and health care-focused workforces in the country, spread across Children’s Health System of Texas, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and numerous other institutions and specialty clinics. At the same time, UTHealth School of Public Health has a large number of researchers, epidemiologists, and statisticians focused on addressing complex population health issues. At present, there is no link between clinicians who are interested in doing research and researchers. The Center for Pediatric Population Health intends to address this need and help facilitate collaborations utilizing a no-cost membership model. Interested faculty may submit membership applications through the Center website and access resources:

- Eligibility for subsidized use and priority access of Center resources
- Eligibility for access to Center datasets
- Eligibility to receive free guidance from Center subject matter experts
- Eligibility to apply for Center pilot funds
- Opportunities for cross-collaboration with other members and affiliated institutions
- Facilitation in connecting graduate students seeking mentorship and real-world, hands-on experience with members needing assistance with research projects
- Information on Center events and seminar announcements
- Customized notifications of funding (federal, state and, local) opportunities based on members’ research interests
- Inclusion on Center website
- Annual report on members’ research and Center involvement

The Center aims to promote and facilitate collaborations among its members so that together, groundbreaking research may be done that can have local, national, and global impacts on pediatric population health.

Resources

The Center provides a variety of resources to support the research community in its mission of fostering a culture of data-driven, innovative, progressive strategic approaches to population-level pediatric research. These include guidance and support in the following areas:

- Grant application or study protocol development
- Study design
- Sample size and power calculations
- Analysis methods
- Randomization
- Case report form design
- Data management
- Database development and administration
• Survey development and collection
• Data analysis and interpretation
• Presentation and manuscript preparation

SUBSIDIZED/PRIORITY ACCESS

Members may be eligible for subsidized and/or priority access to Center resources, depending on personnel availability and complexity of the research.

DATA REPOSITORIES

The Center has access to numerous data repositories from electronic health records (EHRs), geographic information systems, and other sources. Members are eligible to access these datasets for their research study needs. A written study protocol with Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to conduct research is required. Additional requirements may be needed depending on the data source.

CONSULTATIONS WITH SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

The Center is home to faculty and staff who are experts in a variety of different fields. These include:

• **Directors:** Senior researchers with extensive experience in conducting clinical, observational, and epidemiological research studies
• **Epidemiologists:** Skilled in protocol and grant development, study design, and data analysis
• **Biostatisticians:** Experts in statistical aspects of protocol and grant development, study design, and data analysis
• **Database developers:** Experts in database design, development, and administration, data management, and survey collection
• **Research coordinators:** Knowledgeable in IRB protocols, study management, data collection and cleaning, key informant in-depth interviewing, focus groups, and logistics

Members are eligible for free consultations for a limited amount of time. Assistance that is more extensive will require a collaborative effort and funding.

PILOT FUNDS

Great ideas require funding. To assist with getting projects off the ground, members are eligible to apply for pilot funds. A detailed study proposal is required. Center leadership determines funding selection.
CROSS-COLLABORATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS

The primary goal of developing Center membership is to promote and facilitate collaborations. Utilizing the data collected during membership enrollment, the Center will connect interested members and affiliated institutions.

GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORSHIP

UTH Health School of Public Health is home to almost 1300 graduate students spread across six campuses in Houston, Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, and San Antonio. Members interested in providing mentorship and real-world research experience can be matched with graduate students. A detailed outline of the work the graduate student will be doing is required. Authorship on publications may be required based on students’ contributions.

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Stay connected with upcoming events and seminars. The Center hosts biweekly seminars that members are invited to attend. Topics range from basic sciences to translational research and community studies. Members may also schedule to be a presenter. Seminars are a great way to meet fellow researchers, gain insight into new advances, and begin research collaborations.

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Members may opt in to receive notice of funding opportunities that match their research areas.

MEMBER PROFILE ON CENTER WEBSITE

Profiles of members and their areas of expertise will be included on the Center website.

ANNUAL REPORT

Members will receive an annual report summarizing publications, funding awards, and collaborations achieved through the Center.
Dr. Messiah is trained in advanced life course epidemiology and psychology and has broadly focused her career on the relationship between early life exposures and later life health events. As a tenured professor bridging both a pediatric hospital system (Children’s Health, Dallas, Texas) and a school of public health (Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics, and Environmental Sciences) in The University of Texas System, her primary area of research focus is on obesity prevention and treatment across the life course. She has published extensively in (1) the epidemiologic investigation of risk factors for childhood obesity and related cardiometabolic disease biomarkers with particular emphasis on ethnic group disparities; and (2) the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based tools, practices and programs into clinical and community-based settings to prevent childhood-onset obesity and its health-related consequences. She has been continuously NIH-funded her entire academic career. She serves as an expert advisor to promote healthy weight and cardiometabolic health throughout childhood with numerous national organizations, including the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children, the University of Tennessee’s Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board, the American Heart Association’s Policy Recommendations for Obesity Prevention and Health Promotion in Child Care Settings, University of California Berkeley’s Center for Weight and Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Women’s Sports Foundation, and the Florida Department of Health.

As Center director, it is equally important to Dr. Messiah that she focus on team building, supporting, and mentoring the careers of up-and-coming junior and mid-career faculty, as well as graduate students and medical fellows. The center has ambition to develop national and international reach in maternal/child health and health disparities research so that it becomes a world-renowned destination for public health and clinical/medical students, trainees, fellows, and professional scholars. Dr. Messiah is currently a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) PRIDE mentor to one junior faculty member, the primary sponsor of her current PhD student’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) F31 predoctoral award, and a mentor on a U54 (Center on Latino Health Research Opportunities) and T32 (Translational Research Training in Gastroenterology/Hepatology) at her previous institution where she is a voluntary professor of pediatrics and public health sciences.
Dr. Allicock’s research focuses on the elimination of cancer-related health disparities in minority populations. Her research has a particular emphasis on reducing risk factors (promoting healthy diets and physical activity) for cancer and chronic diseases in minority/underserved populations. Her research takes place in churches, community-based clinics, and low-income settings with marked health disparities.

Dr. Allicock’s research portfolio also includes optimizing tailored health communications to improve health behaviors. For example, a current project includes a collaboration with Dr. Sarah Barlow, Dynamo Kids/I Niños Dimánicos!, an online program about healthy behaviors to help parents of children ages 6-12 who are overweight. The team is testing the feasibility and impact of a set of web-based educational modules on strategies to improve weight status, specifically constructing this program as part of the ongoing relationship between families and a child’s primary pediatric provider.

Dr. Allicock also has recently completed an online pilot study, eWellness, which focused on improving physical activity and nutrition among breast and colorectal cancer survivors. In addition, she has also conducted physical activity, nutrition, and cancer support interventions using peer support, smartphones, and web-based tailoring to improve diet and physical activity among both general population and cancer survivors.

Dr. Atem’s primary research of interest is in developing nonparametric and semiparametric estimators with application to causal inference, censored predictors, missing data problems and mixed model theory. Also in developing statistical methodology for both observational and experimental studies that make efficient use of the data collected by investigators while limiting the assumption about the data. He has mastered many different well-developed statistical methodologies to apply them in the etiology of a disease or to use as an instrument in the understanding of different health conditions. He has developed several methodologies for censored data using single imputation with bootstrap and multiple imputation. He is currently developing an inverse probability weights approach for censored data that could be conveniently applied to survey data analysis.
Dr. Atem is the lead statistician on several studies conducted at the Center for Pediatric Population Health, the latest being the understanding of obesity in preschoolers.

Dr. Balasubramanian is a physician, epidemiologist, and health services researcher with expertise in cancer prevention and control, primary care, and dissemination and implementation science. Her research focuses on developing rigorous mixed-methods approaches to evaluating interventions and understanding the multilevel determinants (patient, provider, health system, community) of suboptimal care quality. Dr. Balasubramanian employs a multidisciplinary team science model to guide her research program. Her goal is to enhance care quality and outcomes for patients suffering from debilitating chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, depression, and cancer. She has received funding from the National Cancer Institute (NCI); the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); and other federal, state, and not-for-profit organizations and foundations.

Currently, Dr. Balasubramanian leads the quantitative evaluation of the AHRQ-funded EvidenceNOW Initiative examining implementation strategies to improve heart heath in 1500 primary care practices spanning 12 states. She is also co-principal investigator on the NCI-funded Project CONNECT, which is implementing strategies to bridge gaps between oncology and primary care for breast and colorectal cancer patients with multiple chronic conditions.

As regional dean for UTHealth School of Public Health in Dallas, Dr. Balasubramanian leads a campus with faculty in four departments, along with administrative and research staff members, and approximately 126 students (Fall 2018). She also directs the MD/MPH dual program in partnership with UT Southwestern Medical School.
Dr. Cannell’s research is broadly focused on healthy aging and health-related quality of life. Specifically, he has published research focusing on preservation of physical and cognitive function, living/aging with disability, and understanding/preventing elder abuse. Additionally, he has a strong background and training in epidemiologic methods, and predictive analytics. He has been principal or co-investigator on multiple trials and observational studies in community and health care settings. He is currently the principal investigator on multiple data-driven federally funded projects that utilize technological solutions to public health issues in novel ways.

Dr. Cannell received his PhD in Epidemiology and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology in 2013 from the University of Florida. He received his MPH with a concentration in Epidemiology from the University of Louisville in 2009, and his BA in Political Science and Marketing from the University of North Texas in 2005. During his doctoral studies, he was a graduate research assistant for the Florida Office on Disability and Health, an affiliated scholar with the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center, and a student-inducted member of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. In 2016, Dr. Cannell received a Graduate Certificate in Predictive Analytics from the University of Maryland Global Campus, and a Certificate in Big Data and Social Analytics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He previously held professional staff positions in the Louisville Metro Health Department and the Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department. He spent three years as a project epidemiologist for the Florida Office on Disability and Health at the University of Florida. He also served as an Environmental Science Officer in the U.S. Army Reserves from 2009 to 2013. He currently serves as the chair of the Tarrant County Elder Abuse Task Force, a member of the Tarrant County Falls Prevention Task Force, and a member of the United Way Health Council.
Dr. Jetelina’s research focuses on comprehensively improving patient outcomes by understanding how to best integrate patients’ social factors, like trauma, homelessness, and food insecurity, into medical practice. She has led four health system-level interventions and evaluations that have integrated social factors into medical care.

Dr. Jetelina received her PhD in Social Epidemiology and completed postdoctoral research training in health services research. She was recently awarded an internal innovation grant to assess the effectiveness of screening for social determinants of health among medically complex pediatric families. By triangulating EHRs with structured observations and key informant interviews to advance knowledge on how patient- and clinic-level factors, such as inpatient vs. outpatient settings, impact implementation and health care/community connectedness. Dr. Jetelina has also led an evaluation at Children’s Health Medical Center to assess the multi-level effectiveness of a telehealth home visiting program for pediatric patients and their families in primary care. Through surveys, interviews, and EHR extraction, she found that the intervention significantly increased appropriate emergency department use.

She is the recipient of an American Cancer Society (ACS) grant to assess how intimate partner violence impacts breast and cervical cancer survivorship, quality of life, and health care utilization among Parkland Memorial Hospital patients. She has also been awarded a NIH training grant to assess how violence exposure among police officers impacts physical and mental health and their subsequent care utilization patterns.
Dr. Knell’s research broadly focuses on the distribution, determinants, and health outcomes associated with physical activity and other physical behaviors (sleep and sedentary behaviors). This includes understanding what factors make people more physically active, and the health implications of being physically active or inactive. Dr. Knell’s research is population-based, therefore he takes an epidemiological approach to answering these questions.

Dr. Knell holds a joint research faculty appointment at the Children’s Health Andrews Institute for Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine. There, he works with clinicians to discover better and more innovative ways to prevent and treat sports-related injuries. This involves studying risk factors for sports-related injuries and developing evidence-based clinical practices for the management and treatment of injuries. Through this work, Dr. Knell has developed predictive algorithms using vestibular and ocular motor assessment measures to estimate clinical recovery time following a sports-related concussion. This provides the clinician and patient a timeline to recovery, which can be useful in providing patient-specific treatment options. He is currently engaged in a study on the effect of physical behaviors (physical activity and sleep) occurring during recovery from a concussion among a group of adolescent athletes.

Dr. Knell will soon begin a longitudinal cohort study of adolescent athletes to understand the sports-related injury risk factors and the short- and long-term health implications of suffering sport-related injury during adolescence. This study will be the first longitudinal cohort study with this level of breadth and depth of understanding on sports-related injuries during adolescence.
Dr. Sterling is a tobacco control behavioral scientist, with expertise in youth and young adult cigarette and novel tobacco product use, tobacco-related health disparities, and smoking cessation. She has served as the principal investigator of two Food and Drug Administration (FDA)/NIH-funded tobacco control regulatory sciences research grants that assessed flavored cigar smoking and identified risk perceptions for flavored cigar use among racially/ethnically diverse young adults. Her research has informed federal tobacco control policies, specifically the FDA’s expansion of its regulatory authority to cigars. Currently she is the principal investigator of a tobacco regulatory sciences research grant that is examining the effects of implied modified risk statements on flavored cigar advertising on cigar use behaviors among young adults.

An important methodological feature of her research is the use of community-based research principles to engage with vulnerable communities to assess their health needs and develop culturally tailored, evidence-based interventions to optimize their health behavior outcomes and mitigate health disparities. She also has methodological expertise in mixed-methods (survey and qualitative research) and experimental study designs and latent variable modeling.

Dr. Sterling was trained as a cell and molecular biologist at Tulane University in New Orleans before receiving her doctorate in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at UTHealth School of Public Health in Houston. She also leads Student Affairs and Community Outreach and Engagement for the Dallas campus.
Dr. Abbe is the manager of The Safety Source – Injury Prevention Service at Children’s Health. As a medical anthropologist with over 17 years of ethnographic and qualitative experience, she examines pediatric injury with holistic and relevant research methodology and develops targeted interventions and educational programs. She is particularly interested in child passenger safety and safe transport of children with special needs, pediatric drowning, caregivers’ decision-making processes around injury risk, and how injury prevention education is provided in medical settings.

She is involved in several injury prevention projects including: an intervention to increase caregiver efficacy when using and installing car seats; how caregivers of children with special needs select and use a car seat; and developing a North Texas drowning registry. She is also an appointed member of the Injury Prevention Committee on the Governor’s Emergency and Trauma Advisory Council where she is involved in statewide drowning data collection efforts.

Dr. Abbe serves as a qualitative research consultant on other hospitalwide projects including: An Assessment of Relational Needs of Refugee Youth; Understanding Health Disparities for Solid Organ Transplant Families; and The Consumer Experience for Limited English Proficiency Patients and Families.

Dr. McLeigh’s primary research interest has been in preventive measures and interventions that seek to strengthen communities’ capacity for family support, participation, and mutual assistance. This interest includes understanding how services to families should be designed and delivered, so as to promote child safety and well-being.

Dr. McLeigh is the director of Policy, Advocacy and Research at the Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence at Children’s Health. She has adjunct appointments at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Clemson University. She currently serves as the co-editor for American Journal of Orthopsychiatry and associate editor of the International Journal on Child Maltreatment.
Dr. Rodriguez joined Children’s Health in 2015 with an accomplished background in pediatrics and community health. She is often described as a “servant leader” with a sincere commitment to caring for underserved and vulnerable populations. Her dedication to this mission has led her to seek innovative ways of moving health care upstream in a culturally effective manner with a lens on health equity in order to impact the health of these populations on a broader scale.

At Children’s Health, Dr. Rodriguez leads the charge in addressing health and health care disparities, the delivery of culturally effective care, and addressing and mitigating social determinants of health, as well as human resources efforts including diversification of the talent pipeline, equitable hiring practices and others, to help in the development of a comprehensive health care delivery model. She believes that to be successful, the voice of the family must be the focal point throughout the development and implementation of initiatives and efforts. Equally important for this success is her commitment to ensuring that innovative solutions are rooted in public health research and are evaluated with scientific rigor in order to be sustainable. This is carried out in partnership with the Center for Pediatric Population Health and through her appointment as adjunct faculty at UTHealth School of Public Health in Dallas.

With an eye toward equitable patient and family-centered care, she is committed to helping medical providers, community organizations, and other stakeholders rethink the way health care is delivered and evaluated.
Barnett manages the administrative duties at the Center for Pediatric Population Health. She recently graduated magna cum laude with a BS in Health Studies with honors from Texas Woman’s University, where she was a member of the Honors Scholar Program and on the Dean’s List and Chancellor’s List.

Booker-Nubie graduated from Christopher Newport University with her BS in Chemistry with a biochemistry concentration and Dance minor. After graduation, she took a gap year to work for a Fortune 500 company as a chemist. Currently, Booker-Nubie is earning her MPH in Epidemiology with a Global Health Certificate and is working as a graduate research assistant for the Center for Pediatric Population Health and Dr. Jetelina. During her graduate research assistantships, she will be working on several studies: including, Dr. Jetelina’s breast and cervical cancer study funded by the ACS, the Center’s bariatric study and sub-study, a collaborative social determinants of health study involving Dr. Jetelina and Dr. Messiah, plus her own study to reprove the inverse association between breastfeeding and breast cancer in South African women.

Booker-Nubie’s research interests encompass cancer epidemiology in global health disparities, particularly female cancers. Recently, she was presented with travel awards to fund her trip to South Africa to complete her data collection and practicum credit hours. The travel awards include R. Palmer Beasley Travel Award in International Research, Spring 2019 Travel Award for students enrolled in our Graduate Certificates for Degree-Seeking Students, and Student Assistance Fund Award for Travel.
Keeton is a recent graduate of UTHealth School of Public Health with an MPH in Epidemiology. She works as a research assistant on the NIH R01 bariatric surgery study as well as maintaining and providing content for all of the Center’s digital platforms. Keeton also applies her creativity to help generate graphics for various grants and Center documents. Her research interests include the spread and transmission of infectious diseases and the frequency and occurrence of chronic diseases, particularly chronic diseases that are associated with obesity.

Prior to receiving her MPH, Keeton worked as a data recon intern at the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and as a graduate intern for the Women’s Health Clinic at the Dell Medical School in Austin, Texas. Her current goals are to earn a SAS Base certification and to get more experience with conducting, presenting, and publishing research to prepare for when she applies for her PhD.

Dr. Marroquín is a passionate obesity researcher and former Fulbright Scholar. She obtained her PhD and MSc from Baylor University. Her research has focused on 1) the relation of sleep and microbiota with body composition, 2) exercise and nutrition interventions that facilitate thermogenesis, 3) the study of the cardiovascular effects of adipokines, and 4) the creation of non-invasive diabetes diagnostic and monitoring tools.

Dr. Marroquín is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow under the supervision of Dr. Messiah. She is interested in gaining new insights in our understanding of obesity in order to contribute to improving treatment.
Mathew is a database administrator and manages the Center’s data and database systems. He has over 15 years of experience in the design, development, and administration of research, clinical, and administrative databases. He has collaborated in numerous successful clinical and observational studies in community and health care settings. His primary research interests focus on pediatric obesity, nutrition, and health. Mathew received his MS specializing in computer networks and security from Florida International University.

Ofori is a graduate of Texas A&M University and received her MPH in Health Policy and Management. She is the lead coordinator on a NIH R01 research study investigating disparities in bariatric surgery utilization. In addition to this, she is also involved in numerous qualitative research projects at the Center.

Ofori has interests in adult and adolescent obesity and health disparities research. In previous roles, she worked on projects targeting obesity in food desert communities. She has also worked on an intervention project aimed at educating mothers in developing countries to improve exclusive breastfeeding rates. In the future, Ofori is looking forward to pursuing a PhD and opportunities in intervention and mitigation strategies in obesity prevention.

Weerakoon is currently a first year PhD student in Epidemiology. Her research interests are in maternal and child health, specifically social and environmental determinants of health. She also focuses on data analysis, statistical methods, and geospatial analysis. Her master’s thesis combined the use of structural equation modeling and geographic information system mapping software. She has contributed to papers on obesity prevention in children and she is working with a longitudinal study that followed children of mothers who had used drugs during pregnancy. Prior to starting her PhD, Weerakoon received her MPH in Epidemiology from UTHealth School of Public Health and BA in Public Health from Austin College. She is a member of Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health.
Xie is a first year PhD student in Epidemiology. She received her PharmD in 2017 from University of Nebraska Medical Center. Her research interest is finding etiologies behind diseases and conducting epidemiologic research, particularly, in maternal and child health.

Entering the graduate program at UTH School of Public Health and her work at the Center has started her journey toward becoming an epidemiologist. Her ongoing research mainly focuses on the health outcome of children with asthma and developmental disabilities. Xie is also collaborating with research teams at the Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation to help predict spontaneous preterm birth among socioeconomically disadvantaged women. She has two manuscripts under review and one abstract accepted as a poster presentation at 2019 American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting. Xie also has three manuscripts under preparation.
Databases and Data Repositories
Center Database and Web Servers

With assistance from UTHealth and School of Public Health IT departments, the Center’s servers have been set up and are actively managing databases

- Composed of two database servers and two web servers, part of School of Public Health’s IT Services secure data environment
- Manages research and administrative databases and a data repository for numerous large datasets

Databases

DETECTION OF ELDER ABUSE THROUGH EMERGENCY CARE TECHNICIANS (DETECT) DATABASE

- Research database for Dr. Cannell’s study “A Health and Safety Interview for Adults Aged 65 and Older Who Recently Used Emergency Medical Services”
- Allows for the real-time capture of data in the field by EMTs
- System streamlines data importing from external data source and participant randomization
- Integrates with Qualtrics for capture of study consent and management of participant incentives and RStudio via ODBC for real-time data analysis

CENTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (in development)

- Web-based system managing Center’s administrative tasks
- Streamlines project tracking, invoicing, and asset management

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES DATABASE (planned)

- This program matches funding opportunities with appropriate investigators
- Automated e-mails to faculty that opt in to service, listing grant opportunities based on each faculty’s specific research interests
Data Repositories

FITNESSGRAM

- Data repository of the physical and aerobic fitness records of students grades 3-12 across 6400 schools within the state of Texas between 2010 and 2017
- FitnessGram data has been merged with geographic information system and school-level demographic data

NATIONAL TRAUMA DATA BANK

- Data repository of the 2016 National Trauma Data Bank, one of the largest aggregations of U.S. trauma registry data
- Contains descriptive information about trauma patients, including demographics, injury information, and outcomes
Scientific Collaborations
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<tr>
<th>SCIENTIFIC FOCUS</th>
<th>CENTER LEAD</th>
<th>CHILDREN’S LEAD</th>
<th>TANGIBLE OUTCOMES</th>
<th>FUTURE GOALS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot project to implement SDOH tool in 3 sites (Phase 1)</td>
<td>Dr. Katelyn Jetelina</td>
<td>Dr. Patricia Rodriguez</td>
<td>Manuscripts; Jetelina internal award submission</td>
<td>Federal funding; manuscripts; Phase 2 implementation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
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<td><strong>Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics</strong></td>
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<td>Increase in HPV vaccine rates</td>
<td>Dr. Katelyn Jetelina</td>
<td>Dr. Jenny Francis (Resident)</td>
<td>Manuscripts; pilot data for intervention</td>
<td>American Cancer Society (ACS) funding; NIH funding</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
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<td>Foster care health and wellness (nutrition education)</td>
<td>Dr. Katelyn Jetelina</td>
<td>Dr. Jill McLeigh</td>
<td>National/local data analysis; partner with The Bassuk Center</td>
<td>Kellogg funding; NIH funding; dissemination and implementation research focus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Gonzalez</td>
<td>Dr. Kim Stone</td>
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<td>Dr. Michelle Lombardo</td>
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<td>Healthy weight-DD/DD/CSHCN</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Sari Bar</td>
<td>Abstract/manuscript from US Department of Agriculture (USDA) project</td>
<td>Meeting with United Way in late June</td>
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<td>Down syndrome</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Richard Adams</td>
<td>Community collaboration</td>
<td>Evidence-based program delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sports Medicine/Andrews Institute</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Concussion Database (Rank One)</td>
<td>Dr. Gregory Knell</td>
<td>Dr. John Polousky</td>
<td>Database analysis/manuscript</td>
<td>Knell K01 submission Fall 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Scott Burkhart</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Julie Hall-Barrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports-related concussion</td>
<td>Dr. Gregory Knell</td>
<td>Chad Gilliland</td>
<td>Pilot of clinic intervention; internal grant</td>
<td>NIH/DOD funding based on pilot</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Jeff Baggett</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCIENTIFIC FOCUS</td>
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<td>TANGIBLE OUTCOMES</td>
<td>FUTURE GOALS</td>
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<td>data from startup/pilot</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pediatric Gastroenterology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COACH clinic/Get Up and Go</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Barlow</td>
<td>Get Up and Go dissemination and implementation manuscript</td>
<td>Local/federal funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Olga Gupta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fellow training</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Brad Barth</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Various</td>
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<td><strong>Neonatology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prenatal opioid exposure</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Lorraine Bautista</td>
<td>EHR analysis</td>
<td>Manuscript</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pediatric Radiology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proper radiation Rx for weight; appendicitis</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Cory Pfeifer</td>
<td>EHR data extraction and analysis</td>
<td>Multiple manuscripts</td>
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<td><strong>Pediatric Surgery</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bariatric surgery program</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Faisal Qureshi</td>
<td>1 American Public Health Association (APHA) abstract; 2 manuscripts (1 revise and resubmit; 1 reviewing)</td>
<td>R21 submission completed June 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pediatric traumatic brain injury</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Faisal Qureshi</td>
<td>Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS) data pull in progress</td>
<td>Multiple manuscripts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jared Wiegand</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pediatric trauma/injury</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Dr. Cory Gill</td>
<td>National trauma dataset; local EHR</td>
<td>Multiple manuscripts</td>
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<td>SCIENTIFIC FOCUS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Pediatric Pulmonology/Asthma/Smoking Cessation/Vaping | Asthma epi-national dataset analysis | Dr. Sarah Messiah  
Dr. Amber Xie | Dr. Andrew Gelfand | American Public Health Association (APHA) abstract accepted | Full manuscript to be submitted July |
| School health-vaping | Dr. Kym Sterling | School health team | Pilot project | Funding |
| Pediatric Emergency Medicine | Pediatric emergency medicine faculty retirement survey | Dr. Sarah Messiah  
Sunil Mathew | Dr. Beatrix Bansal  
Dr. Vincent Wang | Survey development | Manuscript |
| Healthy Aging | Detection of Elder Abuse Through Emergency Care Technicians (DETECT) study | Dr. Brad Cannell  
Sunil Mathew | N/A | Database development; longitudinal research study | Manuscripts |
| CTSA/UTSW | Community engagement core | Dr. Bijal Bala  
Dr. Sarah Messiah | Dr. Simon Lee  
Others | Various | Future life course projects |
| Miscellaneous/Community Partnerships | National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) cohort study | Dr. Sarah Messiah  
Sunil Mathew | Brenda Paulsen  
Dr. Sarah Barlow | RO submission in October | Resubmission of Kelder/Kohl cohort grant, June 2020 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCIENTIFIC FOCUS</th>
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<th>CHILDREN’S LEAD</th>
<th>TANGIBLE OUTCOMES</th>
<th>FUTURE GOALS</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Dallas Independent School District (DISD)** | Dr. Sarah Messiah  
Kelsey Craker  
Megin Parayil | DISD Food and Nutrition Department | Evaluation of breakfast program | Manuscripts |
| **Dallas Independent School District (DISD)** | Dr. Sarah Messiah | School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Physical Activity Subcommittee | Elected co-chair of Physical Activity Committee | New policies; possible research collaboration |
| **Cooper Institute** | Dr. Sarah Messiah  
Dr. Bill Kohl | Brenda Paulsen  
Danielle Wesley  
Karen Kaighan | GoNoodle and FitnessGram evaluation | Manuscript; possible funding |
| **Cooper Institute** | Dr. Sarah Messiah | Brenda Paulsen | School Physical Activity Measurement Committee | New protocol development, ongoing |
| **Dallas Park and Recreation** | Dr. Sarah Messiah | Afterschool program | Evaluation; multiple meetings | Manuscripts for publication |
| **Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation** | Dr. Sarah Messiah  
Sunil Mathew | Merge of Parkland Hospital OB/birth data and Children’s Health specialty care data | IRB approval; pending data use agreement (DUA) | Preliminary data for October R01 submission (Kelder, Kohl) |
| **Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation** | Dr. Sarah Messiah  
Dr. Amber Xie | Dr. Donna Persaud  
Dr. Yolande Pengetnze | Preterm birth outcomes manuscript | Local funding of pilot project |
| **OrganWise Guys® Dallas-Fort Worth expansion** | Dr. Sarah Messiah  
Jodi Nerren, A&M USDA Cooperative Extension | Dr. Jill McLeigh  
Dr. Shreela Sharma  
Dr. Courtney Bird-Williams | Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) letter of intent (LOI) due July 31 | Pending RWJF LOI outcome; submit to W. K. Kellogg Foundation |
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<tr>
<th>SCIENTIFIC FOCUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>United Way of Dallas</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Local funding for preschool healthy weight</td>
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<tr>
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<td>interventions</td>
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<td>American Heart Association</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Messiah</td>
<td>Chris Shay</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</table>
Sarah E. Messiah, PhD, MPH

JOURNALS


10. Kling H, D’Agostino E, Hansen E, Mathew MS, Messiah SE. The Effects of a Park-Based Physical Activity Program on Strength, Mobility and Blood Pressure Among Ethnically Diverse Older Adults. Preventing Chronic Disease. 2018 Dec 27;15:E166. PMID:30589639.


BOOK CHAPTERS


EDITORIALS


Gregory Knell, PhD, MS

JOURNALS


Katelyn K. Jetelina, PhD, MPH

JOURNALS


3. Cannell, M.B., Reingle Gonzalez, J.M., Bishopp, S.A., Jetelina, K.K., & Gabriel, K.P. (invited...


<table>
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<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Study Title</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sarah Messiah, PhD, MPH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Messiah (PI)</td>
<td>National Institute of Health (NIMHD 1R01DK108644-01)</td>
<td>1/17/2019</td>
<td>8/30/2024</td>
<td>Socioecological Factors Associated with the Decision to Have Bariatric Surgery and Post-Operative Weight Loss</td>
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<td>Sarah Messiah (MPI)</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health (NIMHD 1R01MD007724-05)</td>
<td>7/5/2013</td>
<td>3/31/2020</td>
<td>Families Preventing and Reducing Obesity Health Disparities in Hispanic Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Messiah (MPI)</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health (NIMHD – Supplement I)</td>
<td>1/1/2015</td>
<td>3/31/2020</td>
<td>Families Preventing and Reducing Obesity Health Disparities in Hispanic Youth (Supplement I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Messiah (MPI)</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health (NIMHD – Supplement II)</td>
<td>1/1/2015</td>
<td>3/31/2020</td>
<td>Families Preventing and Reducing Obesity Health Disparities in Hispanic Youth (Supplement II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Messiah (MPI)</td>
<td>US Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>4/1/2015</td>
<td>7/31/2019</td>
<td>Healthy Caregivers Healthy Children Phase II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Messiah (PI)</td>
<td>Micah Batchelor Award for Excellence in Children’s Health Research</td>
<td>1/1/2012</td>
<td>12/31/2019</td>
<td>Relationship Between Addiction and Gut Hormones in Young Bariatric Surgery Patients</td>
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<td>Sarah Messiah (Primary Sponsor)</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health (5F31DK116533)</td>
<td>7/31/2018</td>
<td>7/30/2020</td>
<td>A Machine Learning Approach for Predicting Early Childhood Obesity Among Multiethnic Families</td>
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<td><strong>Gregory Knell, PhD, MS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Knell (PI)</td>
<td>UTHHealth School of Public Health start-up funds</td>
<td>9/1/2019</td>
<td>5/31/2022</td>
<td>Pilot study on the Behavioral Factors Affecting Concussion Recovery Time Among Adolescents</td>
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<td>AWARDEE</td>
<td>SOURCE</td>
<td>START DATE</td>
<td>END DATE</td>
<td>STUDY TITLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katelyn Jetelina (PI)</td>
<td>Office of Women’s Health, Department of Health and Human Services</td>
<td>9/1/2019</td>
<td>8/31/2021</td>
<td>Preventing HIV Infection in Women through Expanded Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Prevention, Screening, and Response Services (Project Safe Connect)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katelyn Jetelina (PI)</td>
<td>UTH ealth School of Public Health PRIME Award</td>
<td>9/1/2019</td>
<td>8/31/2020</td>
<td>Implementing Social Determinants of Health into Medical Practice at an Integrated, Pediatric Health System</td>
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<td>Katelyn Jetelina (PI)</td>
<td>UTH ealth School of Public Health start-up funds</td>
<td>9/1/2019</td>
<td>8/31/2022</td>
<td>The Preliminary Effectiveness of an Abuse, Neglect, and Human Trafficking Screener Across Three Clinics at Parkland Health and Hospital: A Pilot Study</td>
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<td>Katelyn Jetelina (Co-I)</td>
<td>R01CA203856: NIH/NCI</td>
<td>4/1/2016</td>
<td>3/31/2021</td>
<td>Team-Based Care Coordination for Complex Cancer Survivors in a Safety Net System</td>
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<td>Katelyn Jetelina (PI)</td>
<td>American Cancer Society institutional research grant</td>
<td>1/1/2018</td>
<td>6/30/2019</td>
<td>Identifying Competing Demands that Influence Health Outcomes Among Breast and Cervical Cancer Survivors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katelyn Jetelina (Interim PE)</td>
<td>Arnold Ventures</td>
<td>1/17/2019</td>
<td>6/1/2019</td>
<td>Dallas County Smart Justice Fidelity Evaluation</td>
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Additional Activities
Sept 2018 – Sept 2019
EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Editorial Board Member**: World Journal of Diabetes (2010-present)
- **Editorial Board Member**: Cardiology Research (2010-present)
- **Reviewer**: Lancet (2013-present)
- **Reviewer**: Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA, certification of participation, equal to CMES for quality and timeliness of reviews) (2009-present)
- **Reviewer**: Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine (JAMA) (2009-present)
- **Reviewer**: Pediatrics (CME recipient due to quality of reviews) (2008-present)
- **Reviewer**: Journal of the American College of Cardiology (2006-present)
- **Reviewer**: Journal of General Internal Medicine (2005-present)
- **Reviewer**: Medical Care (2004-present)
- **Reviewer**: Childhood Obesity (2011-present)
- **Reviewer**: European Journal of Pediatrics (2012-present)
- **Reviewer**: Circulation (2011-present)
- **Reviewer**: American Journal of Epidemiology (2011-present)
- **Reviewer**: International Journal of Pediatric Obesity (2009-present)
- **Reviewer**: Ethnicity and Disease (2009-present)
- **Reviewer**: Journal of Adolescent Health (2009-present)
- **Reviewer**: Journal of Urban Health (2003-present)
- **Reviewer**: American Journal of Kidney Diseases (2014-present)
- **Reviewer**: Research in Developmental Disabilities (2014-present)
- **Reviewer**: Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health (2012-present)
- **Reviewer**: Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases (2013-present)
- **Reviewer**: Pediatric Obesity (2016-present)

TEACHING

**Spring 2019**: Newly developed Center for Pediatric Population Health Student Lab course, Current Issues in Pediatric Population Health (PH 2998). The purpose of the Center for Pediatric Population Health is to support multidisciplinary research teams to conduct studies and programs in collaboration with health care providers and community organizations to address the health of child and adolescent populations. In addition, the Center will serve as a resource to translate scientific findings and knowledge into practical applications for public health practice, health care services and health policies. The center’s student lab supports a dynamic learning environment for students interested in the areas of maternal and child health and global health in particular. Weekly lab meetings/classes consist of dynamic discussions of (1) current topics in pediatric population health from the local to international level; (2) current student project progress and future directions; and (3) future projects.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT</th>
<th>DEGREE</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Craker</td>
<td>MSPH</td>
<td>DISD “Breakfast before the Bell” evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megin Parayil</td>
<td>MPH</td>
<td>DISD “Breakfast before the Bell” evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luyu Xie, PharmD</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>National Survey of Children’s Health (Health Resources and Services Administration) analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chenchita Malolan</td>
<td>MSPH</td>
<td>National Survey of Children’s Health (Health Resources and Services Administration) analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Yudkin</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Obesity and chronic disease in youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiera Booker</td>
<td>MPH</td>
<td>Global/maternal and child health/health disparities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jared Wiegand</td>
<td>MPH</td>
<td>Traumatic brain injuries and concussions in youth sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cory Pfeifer, MD</td>
<td>MPH</td>
<td>Body mass index effect on radiation dosage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micheala Shulte</td>
<td>MPH</td>
<td>Parent perception of child weight (US Department of Agriculture) analysis</td>
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</table>

**THESIS AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

1. Doctoral Dissertation Committee member, Mary Kate Clennan, Department of Psychology, University of Miami, Defense successfully completed, 8/24/2019 titled “The Psychological and Environmental Determinants of Healthy Weight Behaviors in Ethnically Diverse Middle School Age Girls: A Multi-Level Analysis”
2. Doctoral Dissertation Qualifying Paper Committee member, Marissa Kobayashi, PhD candidate in Prevention Science, Spring 2019
3. Master’s Thesis Chair, Chenchita Malolan, MPH candidate, Spring 2019
4. MPH Faculty Field Experience Supervisor, Dr. Cory Pfeifer (Pediatric Radiologist), Spring, 2019
5. Neonatology Fellow, Dr. Lorraine Bautista, Research Supervisor, Fall 2018
6. Faculty supervisor, Dr. Luyu Xie, PhD candidate in Epidemiology student, Summer, 2019
7. Faculty supervisor, Sitara Weerakoon, PhD candidate in Epidemiology student, Summer 2019
8. Faculty advisor, Joshua Yudkin, PhD candidate in Epidemiology student, Fall, 2019
9. Faculty independent study supervisor, Jared Weigand, MPH candidate, Summer 2019
10. Faculty independent study supervisor, Quiera Booker, MPH candidate, Summer 2019; and thesis chair, Spring 2020
11. Faculty independent study supervisor, Megin Parayil, MPH candidate, Summer 2019
12. Faculty independent study supervisor, Kelsey Craker, MSPH candidate, Fall 2019
13. Faculty mentor, postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Elisa Morales Marroquín, Fall 2019

SERVICE

- **Co-Chair**: School Health Advisory Committee, Physical Activity sub-committee, Dallas Independent School District, (2018-present)
- **Member**: School Health Advisory Committee, Dallas Independent School District (2018-present)
- **Member**: Collin County Health and Wellness Alliance for Children Steering Committee (2018-present)
- **Member**: Dallas County Health and Wellness Alliance for Children Steering Committee (2018-present)
- **Member**: UTHealth School of Public Health in Dallas Campus Leadership Team

Gregory Knell, PhD, MS

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ad hoc reviewer: Journal of Medical Internet Research (2019)
- Ad hoc reviewer: Journal of Sport and Health Science (2018)

AWARDS

- Inaugural Dean’s award for Excellence in Research, UTHealth School of Public Health (Institutional Award)

TEACHING

- Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences Research Seminar (UTHealth School of Public Health – Doctoral and Master’s) (2019)
- Epidemiology (University of North Texas – Undergraduate) (2019)
- Introduction to Public Health (University of North Texas – Undergraduate) (2019)
• Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences Research Seminar (UTHealth School of Public Health – Doctoral and Master’s) (2018)
• Introduction to Public Health (University of North Texas – Undergraduate) (2018)

Katelyn K. Jetelina, PhD, MPH

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

• **Reviewer:** Journal of General Internal Medicine
• **Reviewer:** Annals of Family Medicine
• **Reviewer:** Preventive Medicine
• **Reviewer:** Applied Clinical Informatics
• **Reviewer:** Pediatrics
• **Reviewer:** Violence and Victims
• **Reviewer:** Journal of Criminal Justice
• **Reviewer:** Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management
• **Reviewer:** Journal of Adolescent Health
• **Reviewer:** Drug and Alcohol Dependence
• **Reviewer:** BMC Public Health
• **Reviewer:** Children
• **Reviewer:** Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
• **Reviewer:** Journal of American College Health
• **Reviewer:** Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
• **Reviewer:** Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment
• **Reviewer:** Prevention Science
• **Reviewer:** Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse

AWARDS

• UTHealth School of Public Health PRIME Award (2019)
• Nomination - John P McGovern Award for Outstanding Teaching (2019)
• UTHealth School of Public Health Research Mentoring Award (2018)

TEACHING

• Epidemiology Seminar (Spring 2019)
• Applied Data Analysis (Spring 2019)
THESIS AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Thesis Committee Member:

- Sitara Weerakoon; Thesis chair; “Evaluating the Multivariate Relationship Between Breastfeeding, Early Childhood Obesity, Asthma, and Mental Illness in Dallas, TX”. Passed May 2019
- Stephani Curry, Thesis member; “A Descriptive Study of Hospitalization Due to Assaults at Dell Seton Medical Center, from 2015-2018”. Passed May 2019

Dissertation Committee Member:

- Udoka Obinwa, PhD candidate; Dissertation Chair: Melissa Harrell; “What Impact Will the Ban of Sales of Tobacco Products Within 1000 Ft. of Schools and 500 Ft. of Other Retail Outlets have on the Number of Tobacco Advertisements in Major Metropolitan Areas in Texas?”
- Kevin Rix, PhD candidate; “Unintentional Injury Sustained Among Adults Using E-scooters in Austin, Texas”

SERVICE

- **Board of Directors**: Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (2019-present)
- **Chair**: Parental Leave Working Group (2018-present)
- **Member**: Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (2016-present)
- **Member**: Academy of Violence and Abuse (2017-present)
- **Member**: Epidemiology Preliminary Exam Committee (2018-present)
- **Member**: UTHealth Center for Pediatric Health Faculty Search Committee (2018-present)
- **Member**: Early Career Reviewer Program at the Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health (2019-present)
- **Member**: American Public Health Association (Sections: Injury Control and Emergency Health Services; Epidemiology) (2015-2019)
- **Interim Chair**: Dallas Epidemiology Admissions Committee (2018-2019)
- **Member**: Faculty Council (2017-2018)
Plans for Growth and Future Goals
Existing mechanisms will be tapped to build the Center for Pediatric Population Health’s reputation and eventually elevate it to a national and international Center of Excellence. The Association of Population Centers (APC) is an independent group of universities and research groups that foster collaborative demographic research and data sharing, translate basic population research for public policy decision-makers, and provide educational and training opportunities in population studies. The APC currently has over 40 Centers, including The University of Texas at Austin, located in 18 states across the nation. While some Centers do have themes of maternal and child health and family health, there is not one that (1) is hosted equally by a children’s hospital and a university; and (2) focuses exclusively on pediatric health outcomes. Therefore, seeking APC membership would be a priority of this center. Many of these Centers collaborate on national and international projects and this Center would become the APC go-to for all pediatric-related outcome resources including shared data and other resources.

Second, the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) and NIH-sponsored pediatric networks/consortia have substantially increased the efficiency and speed of clinical and translational research. These initiatives offer new platforms for multidisciplinary collaboration and will be investigated as a resource for the Center. The committee believes that the CTSA could encourage pediatric research by developing common research agendas, joint protocols, normative data, biobanks, and extend existing pediatric research networks and establish new ones across CTSA sites. These great and often unique needs have stimulated considerable efforts to preserve independent funding and infrastructure support for pediatric research. At a time when the national CTSA trend is to fund larger universitywide research initiatives, this new independence initiative was signed into law on Jan 15, 2007, as PL 109-687, supporting the need to address child health research issues in specialized ways, and thus will be sought out as infrastructure support for the Center. The UT Southwestern Medical Center CTSA application is currently under review and Drs. Messiah and Bala are co-investigators and Dr. Messiah is a lead mentor on the KL portion of the application.

Third, we will continue to build on the excellent collaborations and community partnership momentum the Center started in its inaugural year.