

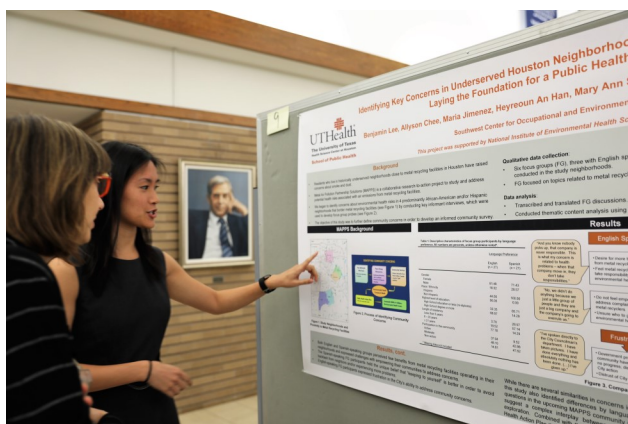
SWCOEH NIOSH Trainees and Students Showcase Research Posters at the UTHealth School of Public Health Research Day

Houston Medical Center, TX—Thursday, April 6, 2017

The Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH) congratulates our [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\) trainees](#) and students who presented research posters at the annual [UTHealth School of Public Health Research Day 2017](#) on April 6, 2017!



Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health



MPH student **Allyson Chee** (pictured left), a SWCOEH graduate research assistant, DrPH student **Benjamin Lee** and NIOSH Occupational Epidemiology trainee **Amanda Marshall** were recognized with honorable mentions.

Research Day is an opportunity for UTHealth School of Public Health students to showcase their ongoing research projects in their respective degree programs. It was followed by the 25th annual James H. Steele Lecture: [“Antibiotic resistance: superbugs, genes and public health”](#) by Cesar A. Arias, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D., F.I.D.S.A.

This year’s posters were a solid representation of the work being done by SWCOEH and the Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH) community as a whole. Great job, everyone:

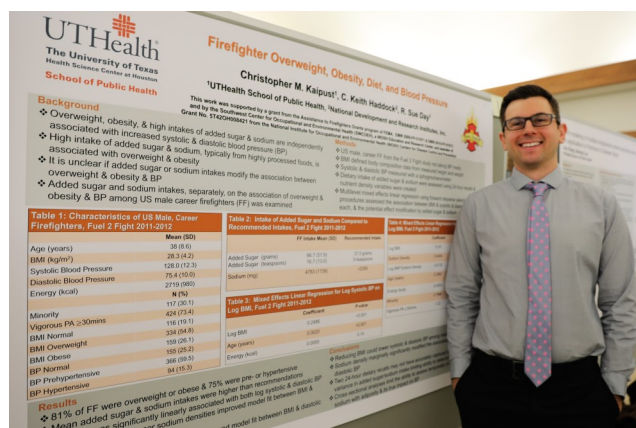


Amal Rammah (pictured left), Ph.D. Student in Environmental Sciences and former NIOSH industrial Hygiene Trainee, with [Hypertension in Mexican-Americans: assessing disparities in air pollutant risks](#) (Advisor: Elaine Symanski)

Xueying Zhang, Ph.D. Student in Environmental Sciences, with [Estimating Daily Ambient PM2.5 Concentrations in Texas Using NASA Satellite Products](#) (Advisor: Kai Zhang)

Christopher Kaipust (pictured right), Ph.D. Student in Epidemiology and NIOSH Occupational Epidemiology Trainee, with [Firefighter Overweight, Obesity, Diet, and Blood Pressure](#) (Advisor: Susan Day)

Benjamin Lee, DrPH Student in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, and **Allyson Chee**, MPH Student in Epidemiology, with [Identifying Key Concerns in Underserved Houston Neighborhoods Near Metal Recycling Facilities: Laying the Foundation for a Public Health Action Plan](#) (Advisor: Elaine Symanski)

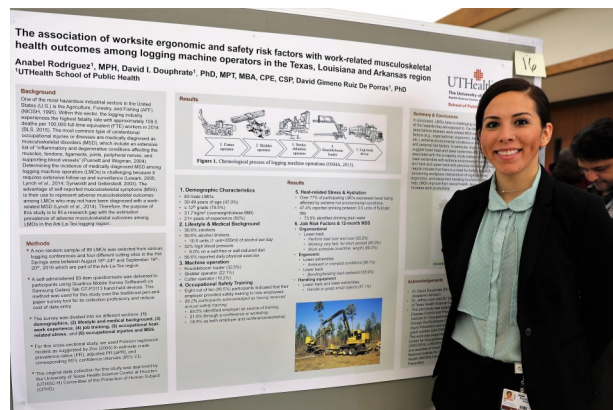




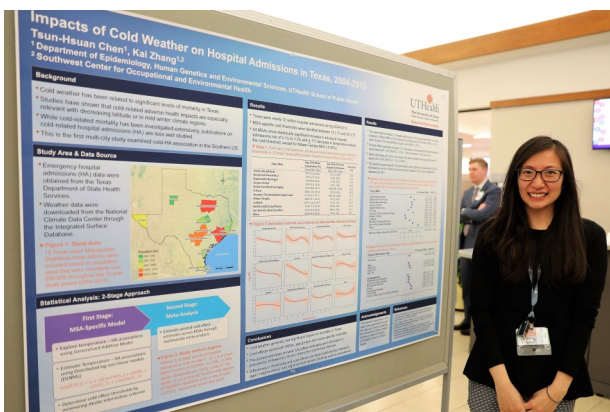
Jenil Patel (pictured left), Ph.D. Student in Epidemiology, with Constructing and Updating a Job-Exposure Matrix (JEM) for use with a Statewide Survey of Asthma in Texas Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) (Advisor: Laura Mitchell; PI: George Delclos)

Amanda Marshall, DrPH Student in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences and NIOSH Occupational Epidemiology Trainee, with Maternal residential proximity to unconventional gas development in early pregnancy and preterm birth (Advisor: David Gimeno)

Anabel Rodriguez (pictured right), DrPH Student in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences and NIOSH Occupational Epidemiology Trainee, with The association of worksite ergonomic and safety risk factors with work-related musculoskeletal health outcomes among logging machine operators in the Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas region (Advisor: David Gimeno; PI: David Douphrate)



Erika Figueroa, DrPH Student in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, with Working Conditions and Health in Central America (Advisor: Laurence Whitehead)



Tsun-Hsuan Chen (pictured left), Ph.D. Student in Environmental Sciences, with Impacts of Cold Weather on Hospital Admissions in Texas, 2004-2013 (Advisor: Kai Zhang)

Heather Garza, MPH Student in Epidemiology, with A comparison of risk factors associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus among those living in Starr County, Texas and the general U.S. population (Advisor: James Hixson; PI: Brett Perkison)

During the event, students received valuable feedback from the judges. The students with the three best posters win a cash prize. This year's Research Day winners from the entire School of Public Health were:

First Place: **Arup Sinha**, Ph.D. Student in Biostatistics, with Mammographic breast density associated with the development of contralateral breast cancer (Advisor: Barry Davis; PI: Carlos Barcenas)

Second Place: **Kathryn Gallardo**, Ph.D. Student in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, with Predicting Latino laborers' job injury risks: a structural equation model (Advisor and PI: Maria Fernandez-Esquer)

Third Place: **Jaejoon Song**, Ph.D. Student in Biostatistics, with Scalable metrics for extracting activity intensity features from three-dimensional wearable sensor data (Advisor: Michael Swartz; PI: Jaejoon Song)

Honorable Mentions: **Amanda Marshall, Allyson Chee and Benjamin Lee**

By: Alexandra Shishkova, SWCOEH Graduate Research Assistant
Alexandra.E.Shishkova@uth.tmc.edu

Photos By: Shannon Neufeld, Communications Manager
Shannon.Neufeld@uth.tmc.edu

The Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH) is a [NIOSH Education and Research Center](#).