Opening Remarks
As COVID-19 remains the predominant discussion in public health, the Department of Public Health continues to be at the forefront of education, contact tracing and gathering information and data while continuing to offer a quality Master of Public Health program. We continue to lead our university and others across the country by providing necessary assistance to those in our community and offering our fall courses for on-campus students through a mixture of Zoom and online. By doing so, we were able to start our Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters without delay.

New Additions

- Alex Wann works as the Program Director of the COVID Contact Tracing program at the Lubbock campus. He is originally from the state of Wyoming. He graduated from Abilene Christian University with a B.S. in Environmental Science and from the University of Wyoming with a M.S. in Watershed Management. Prior to TTUHSC, he worked internationally in global public health and disaster response in 9 countries. Alex is happily married to Carola and they have one daughter.

- Marina Curcic is a Research Associate at the Abilene campus. She was born in Belgrade, Serbia where she earned a Master’s degree in Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology at the University of Technology and Metallurgy. After graduation, she moved to the UK where she worked for the past 15 years. She was working as a research scientist with mammalian monoclonal antibodies in Lonza Biologics. In 2020, she moved away from the UK and accepted the position in Dr. Emily Bailey’s research group. She is a mother and has a 6 year old.

- Laura Rauwald works as the Program Coordinator of the COVID Contact Tracing program. She is originally from Minnesota and graduated with a B.S. in Healthcare Administration from the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Prior to TTUHSC, she worked as an admissions coordinator at a skilled nursing facility, a home health care agency, and a mental health office. Laura lives with her husband and their two year old daughter, and they enjoy traveling, hiking and mountain biking as a family in their spare time.

Summer classes start on Tuesday, May 25th!
Announcements

• Pre-Registration for Summer 2021 will begin on Tuesday, April 6. Current students should contact their faculty advisor for guidance on fall classes.

• Summer 2021 orientation for new students will be announced at a later date. Please be monitoring emails for more information.

Congratulations to our recent Graduates!

**Summer 2020**
Gillian Blackwell
Samantha Casey
Chandler Freeman
Eutimio Gonzalez
Maddison Stone
Kirsten Gereaux
Hridoy Haq
Rachel Winnenberg
Coralis Vega-Marrero
Steven Lara
Ben Willingham

**Fall 2020**
Cherissa Abdul-Hamid
Melissa Baez
Amelia Carnagey
CJ Hurtado
Varsha Misra
Jacqueline Nguyen
Zain Rahimi
Amanda Shotts
Allie Smith
Bradley Thomas

Faculty In The News

• Dr. Emily Bailey helped lead a pilot study involving slurry samples from pig farms which were proven capable of being tested for viruses. The entire article can be found [here](#).

• Dr. Theresa Byrd and Dr. Jeff Dennis developed a survey to learn how many people intend to either get the COVID-19 vaccine or skip it and the reason behind their decision. The entire article can be found [here](#).
Faculty Honors and Grant Awards

Honors

• Dr. Duke Appiah and Dr. Jeff Dennis were granted promotion to Associate Professor. Dr. Dennis was also granted tenure.
• Dr. Julie St. John, Associate Professor and Associate Dean at the Abilene campus, was recognized for five years of service to the department and to the university.
• Dr. Hafiz Khan, Professor and Director for Outcome Measures at the Lubbock campus, was recognized for five years of service to the department and to the university.

Grant Awards

• TTUHSC Global Health Capacity Building Seed Grant 1/1/2021-12/31/2023 TTUHSC Train-the-Trainer Health Courses Dr. Emily Bailey-Interprofessional Collaborator Total Funding-$10,000
• World Health Organization 10/1/2020-9/30/2021 Survival of Coronavirus Surrogates on Meats and Fish Products Dr. Emily Bailey-Principal Investigator Total Funding--$100,000
• Laura Bush Women’s Health Seed Grant 9/30/2020-8/31/2021 Environmental and Biological Factors Contributing to COVID-19 Disease Transmission and Severity Dr. Emily Bailey-Co-Principal Investigator Total Funding-$25,000
• Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine 8/20/2020-7/31/2021 An Examination of Virus Viability on Food Surfaces Dr. Emily Bailey-Principal Investigator Total Funding-$50,000
• Access to Breast and Cervical Care 24 West Texas Expansion. CP ABC24WT. Dr. Hafiz Khan-Co-Investigator Total Funding: $2,430,998
• TTUHSC, under the direction of Dr. Theresa Byrd and assisted by Liesl Wyett, has been selected to become a Community of Practice and awarded a grant from the American Cancer Society to help support, provide guidance and find innovative approaches to increasing Colorectal Cancer screening through community partnerships. TTUHSC was selected to be one of only 21 projects awarded nationally.
• TTUHSC Office of Global Health, Piloting a Composting Latrine Project in Pedregal Grande, Piura, Peru. Dr. Julie St. John-Principal Investigator. Total Funding: $10,000
• TTUHSC Office of Global Health, Cross-Cultural Sustainable Training Development: Empowering Health Workers in Dumaguete City. Dr. Theresa Byrd and Dr. Rubini Pasupathy—Co-Principal Investigators. Total Funding: $10,000.
Recent Publications


Recent Publications Continued


*Public health faculty, alumni & students in bold
Staff and Student Recognition

- **Aaron Brooks**, IT Support Senior Specialist at the Abilene campus, received the Quality Staff Award during the virtual awards ceremony that was held in September 24, 2020.

- **Liesl Wyett**, Director of Departmental Research and Administration at the Lubbock campus, was recognized for 5 years of service and is continuing her role as a Leadership Fellow with the One Team Fellows Leadership Program.

- 4th-year MD/MPH student **Bella Kalayilparampil** has been selected to receive a 2021 Excellence in Public Health award from the U.S. Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee.

Contact Us

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Newsletter Information

To submit pictures or other items for future newsletters, submit details to:
Patrick.Lloyd@ttuhsc.edu

Faculty presentations


**Bailey ES.** *SARS-CoV-2 in Student Athletes: The Conflict of Asymptomatic Cases.* (Distinguished Speaker) Abilene Research Symposium. October 2020

**Julie St. John,** Susan Mayfield-Johnson, Wendy Hernandez-Gordon. *CHWs' stories of how they utilize their roles to promote the health of their communities.* Annual American Public Health Association Meeting, October 24-28, 2020, virtual.


*Public health faculty, alumni & students in bold*