



Pathways

TTUHSC Department of Public Health Newsletter, Fall 2020

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.

Summer classes
start on Tuesday,
May 25th!

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.

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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.

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](#) .

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 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

Bailey ES, Casanova LM, and Sobsey MD. Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment of North Carolina type 2 Reclaimed Water for Potable Reuse Applications. Invited Manuscript for AWWA Water Science Potable Reuse Issue. 08 October 2020, Volume 2, Issue 5. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aws2.1200>.

Fieldhouse JK, **Bailey ES**, Toh T-H, Hii K-C, Mallinson KA, Ting J, Berita A, Nguyen TT, Donlo DG, Wong S-C, Wong T-M, Lim W-H, Ha S-J, Lau C-Z, Kong S-L, Warkentein TE, Husain TS and Gray GC. Panspecies Molecular Assays Detect High Prevalence of Human Adenovirus 7 Among Hospitalized Pneumonia Patients, Sarawak, Malaysia. *Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine, and Vaccines* 2020; 6: 13. doi: 10.1186/s40794-020-00114-2

Rocha-Melogno L, Ginn O, **Bailey ES**, Soria F, Andrade M, Bergin M, Brown J, Gray GC, Deshusses M. Bioaerosols Sampling Optimization for Personal Exposure Assessment in Cities with Poor Sanitation: A One Health Cross Sectional Study. *Science of the Total Environment*. Volume 738, 10 October 2020, 139495. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.139495> .

Dennis, J. A., Zhang, Y., Zhang, F., **De La Cruz, N.**, **Hannabas, G.**, Mi, N. (2021). Sex differences in stroke incidence, 30-day mortality, and readmission in a southwestern U.S. medical center. *Southern Medical Journal*, 114:1-6. DOI: 10.14423/SMJ.0000000000001221

Rivas, A.M., Pena, C., Kopel, J., **Dennis, J. A.**, Nugent, K. (2021). Hypertension and hyperthyroidism: association and pathogenesis. *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, 361: 3-7. DOI: 10.1016/j.amjms.2020.08.012

Thavaraputta, S., **Dennis, J. A.**, Ball, S., Laoveeravat, P., & Nugent, K. (2021). The association between hematologic inflammatory markers and obesity in healthy participants in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2011-2016. *Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings*, 34: 17-21. DOI:10.1080/08998280.2020.1799482

Ali, K., Rao, S., **Dennis, J. A.**, Berdine, G., Test, V., Nugent, K. (2020). Basic demographic parameters help predict outcomes in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 during the first wave of infection in West Texas. *Journal of Primary Care and Community Health*, 11:1-5. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2150132720970717>

Dennis, J. A., **Gittner, L. S.**, Payne, J. D., Nugent, K. (2020). Characteristics of U.S. adults taking prescribed antipsychotic medications, NHANES 2013-2018. *BMC Psychiatry*. doi:10.1186/s12888-020-02895-4

Rao, S., Ali, K., **Dennis, J. A.**, Berdine, G., Test, V., Nugent, K. (2020). Analysis of glucose levels in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 during the first phase of the pandemic in west Texas. *Journal of Primary Care and Community Health*. doi.org/10.1177/2150132720958533

Dennis, J. A., Zhang, Y., **Curtis, S.**, Brismée, J. M., Sizer, P. S. (2020). Conventional and complementary healthcare approaches used by American adults reporting joint pain: Patterns from the NHIS 2012. *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*, 26:1080-1083. DOI:10.1089/acm.2020.0237

Rivas, A.M., **Dennis, J. A.**, Pena, C., Kopel, J., Nugent, K. (2020). The association of hypertension and hyperthyroidism in a subspecialty clinic and a national database. *Southern Medical Journal*, 113, 607-611. DOI:10.14423/SMJ.0000000000001186

Recent Publications Continued

Shabaneh O, Walker MS; **Byrd TL**, **Appiah D**. Investigating Trends in Foodborne Illnesses in Lubbock and other Counties in Texas. J Public Health (Berl.) 2020. doi.org/10.1007/s10389-020-01349-1

Winters SJ, Scoggins CR, **Appiah D**, Ghooray DT. The hepatic lipidome and HNF4 α and SHBG expression in human liver. Endocr Connect. 2020; 9:1009-1018.

Appiah D, Lewis CE, Carr J, Gross M, Jacobs DR, Sidney S, Shikany JM, Quesenberry CP, Gunderson EP. The Association of Lactation Duration with Visceral and Pericardial Fat Volumes in Parous Women: the CARDIA Study. J Clin Endocrinol Metab [Epub ahead of print]

Appiah D, **Farias R**, **Olokede OA**, Nwabuo CC, **Bhende KM**, Ebong IA, **Byrd TL**, Nair N. The Influence of Individual and Neighborhood-Level Characteristics on Rural-Urban Disparities in Cardiovascular Disease Mortality among U.S. Women Diagnosed with Breast and Gynecologic Cancers. Gynecologic Oncology [In press]

Hafiz Khan, **Rasmussen, Drew**, **Gittner, Lisa Ann**, Rafiq, Aamrin, **Blakely, Summre**, **Shabaneh, Obadeh**, Reddy, P. Hemachandra (2020). "Gender differences in prevalence of myocardial infarction in rural West Texans", Journal of Public Health.

Dissanayaka, Akalanka, Mengel, Susan, **Gittner, Lisa, Khan, Hafiz** (2020). Security Assurance of MongoDB in Singularity LXC: An Elastic & Convenient Testbed Using Linux Containers to Explore Vulnerabilities", Cluster Computing.

Khan, Hafiz, Chowdhury, Mohammed , Rafiq, Aamrin, Shah, Agam , Zahangir, Mohammad , Rubens, Muni August (2020). COVID-19 Epidemic Models: A Study from Georgia State in the USA", American Journal of Biomedical Science and Research, 10 (3) :295-302.

Schlosser, R. W., Shane, H. C., Allen, A., Benz, A., Cullen, J., Chiesa, L., Miori-Dineen, L., Koul, R., & **Pasupathy, R.** (2020). Coaching a school team to implement the Visual Immersion System™ in a classroom for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A mixed methods proof-of-concept study. Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders. 4, 447-4720. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41252-020-00176-5>

Byrd, T., & Pasupathy, R. (2020). Public Health in Your Practice: Sex and Gender Considerations in Intimate Partner Violence, Access to Healthcare, and Immunizations. In M. Jenkins, & C. Newman (Eds.), How sex and gender impact clinical practice. Cambridge, MA: Elsevier Science Publishing

*Public health faculty, alumni & students in **bold**

Faculty presentations

Noamesi AT, Olokede OA, De La Cruz, N, Farias R, Appiah D. *The Influence of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders on the Relation of Migraine with Self-Directed Violence among US Women.* Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Virtual meeting. October 27, 2020.

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, Wandy 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.

Pasupathy, R., & Queen, C. (2020). Healthcare Utilization among Elderly Latvians with Diminished Ability to Accomplish Activities of Daily Living. Presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Francisco, CA. 2020 Nobuo Maeda International Research Award: Honorable mention.

Pasupathy, R., Duhart, B., & Gho, J. (2020). Cultivating Alcohol Expectancies: Cultivation Theory and South Korean Dramas. Poster Presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, San Francisco, CA.

*Public health faculty, alumni & students in **bold**

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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

Newsletter Information

To submit pictures or other items for future newsletters,
submit details to:
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