



Pathways

TTUHSC Department of Public Health Newsletter, Volume 2, 2021

Opening Remarks

General George S. Patton once said, “Accept challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory”. The challenge of COVID-19 is still present and continues to evolve as another variant, Omicron, has made its way into our populations. The TTUHSC Department of Public Health has accepted this challenge and continue to be diligent and have the safety of our students, faculty and staff as our highest priority. The dedicated faculty and staff continue to remain focused on delivering an education of the highest quality while also maintaining safe practices. We will keep striving to not just establish a standard, but to be the standard.

**Summer classes
start on Tuesday,
May 24th!**

New Concentration Coming Soon!

The eventual Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health will begin a new concentration in the Fall of 2022. The concentration will be a Master’s Degree in Health Promotion and Communication. We are excited about offering this new program as we continue our efforts towards becoming a school. For more information, please contact John Baker at john.f.baker@ttuhsc.edu or Liesl Wyett at liesl.e.wyett@ttuhsc.edu.

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Announcements

- Pre-Registration for Summer 2022 will begin on Wednesday, April 6. Current students should contact their academic advisor for guidance on summer classes.
- 2022 IPE opportunities can be found on their website. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- Summer 2022 orientation for new students will be announced at a later date. Please be monitoring emails for more information.

Faculty Honors, Grant Awards and Professional Activities



Congratulations to Department Chair Dr. Theresa Byrd who received the University Distinguished Faculty Award in November.

Congratulations to our recent Graduates!

Fall 2021

Ruth Dcunha
Michelle Galdamez
Jesus Gonzalez-Grado
Jenifer Gregory
Rashida Holliday
Abigail Hopper
Victoria Johnson
Mark Murden
Amanda Otto
Cailon Palmer
Nicole Patterson
Anna Srivastava (Certificate)
Benjamin Thompson
Obi Udensi

Faculty Honors, Grant Awards and Professional Activities Continued

- Dr. Courtney Queen is in Latvia doing research and teaching after receiving the Fulbright U.S. Scholar award last year. We wish her safe travels and look forward to her returning home where we know she will have great stories to share of her experience.
- Dr. Queen was one of the recipients of this year's Prototype Fund Awards. More details can be found [here](#).
- Dr. Courtney Queen was selected to the National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Center project for Advancing Health Research in Humanitarian Crisis. Please click [here](#) to learn more.
- Dr. Byrd, along with Dr. Chip Shaw, Dr. Jeff Dennis and Dr. Julie St. John, were awarded the following grants:

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value Grant Program (informatics Certificate development) (McBride, **Byrd** [Co-PIs] and **Shaw**, Greenhill Decker and Schmidt) 18 month grant \$472,220

ONC Get PHIT (Gaining Equity in Training for Public Health Informatics and Technology) 4 year grant Co-I with McBride (PI) and **Shaw** \$391,691

DSHS Equity Grant for Parmer, Deaf Smith and Gray Counties PI with **St. John** and **Dennis** \$425,000 18 month contract

Recent Publications

- Khan SY, Melkus MW, Rasha F, Castro M, Chu V, Brandi L, **Khan H**, Gill HS, Pruitt K, Layeequr Rahman R. Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes (TILs) as a Biomarker of Abscopal Effect of Cryoablation in Breast Cancer: A Pilot Study. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2022 Jan 29. <https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-021-11157-w>. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35094188.
- Chinnadurai Mania, Ganesh Acharyaa, Sudhir Kshirsagarb, Murali Vijayanb, **Hafiz Khan**, P. Hemachandra Reddy and Komaraiah Palle. A Novel Role for BRIP1/FANCI in Neuronal Cells Health and in Resolving Oxidative Stress-Induced DNA Lesions. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 85 (2022) 207–221. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JAD-215305>
- Sanjay Awasthi, Ashley Hindle, Neha A. Sawant, Mathew George, Murali Vijayan, Sudhir Kshirsagar, Hallie Morton, Lloyd E. Bunquin, Philip T. Palade, J. Josh Lawrence, **Hafiz Khan**, Chhanda Bose, P. Hemachandra Reddy, and Sharda P. Singh. Role of RALBP1 in Oxidative Stress and Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Alzheimer's Disease, *bioRxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.09.20.461132>.
- Mohammad S. Zahangir, Mohammed Chowdhury, Mosammat Z. Nahar, **Hafiz Khan**, and Mohammad Masum. Trends and Determinants of Knowledge and Awareness of HIV/AIDS among Married Women in Bangladesh: An Urban–Rural Comparison. *Demografie*, 2021, 63: 158–171. https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/143550787/13005321q3_158.pdf/046310c5-f703-447a-b661-e13067a3beb1?version=1.1.
- **Hafiz Khan**, Drew Rasmussen, Kemesha Gabbidon, Komaraiah Palle, Aamrin Rafiq, Mohammad Faysel, Sharda Singh, and P. Hemachandra Reddy. Disparities in Breast Cancer Survivors in Rural West Texas. *Cancer control*. PMID: 34473004 PMCID: PMC8419545, [https://doi:10.1177/10732748211042125](https://doi.org/10.1177/10732748211042125).
- Fahad Mostafa, Easin Hasan, Morgan Williamson, and **Hafiz Khan**. Statistical Machine Learning Approaches to Liver Disease Prediction. *MDPI, Livers* 2021, 1, 294–312. <https://doi.org/10.3390/livers1040023>.
- Fahad Mostafa, Riya Ganji, **Julie St. John**, and **Hafiz Khan** (2021). Coronavirus (COVID-19) Spike in Georgia: An Epidemiologic Study of Data, Modelling, and Policy Implications to Understand the Gender-and Race-Specific Variations, Preprint version, medRxiv and bioRxiv, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.12.09.21267571> <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.12.09.21267571> <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.09.21267571v1.full>

Faculty Presentations

- COVID-19's impact on the CHW workforce: A multi-state comparison. Paige Menking, Courtney Byrd-Williams, **Julie St John**, Jessica Simpson, Kerstin M. Reinschmidt, E. Lee Rosenthal, Floribella Redondo, and Stephanie Sieswerda. Annual American Public Health Association Meeting, October 23-27, 2021, Denver, Colorado.
- Social Determinants of Health: Place Matters. Denise Martinez, **Julie St. John**, **Annette Lerma**. Texas Association of Promotores/Community Health Workers. 2021 Annual Conference, September 27, 2021, virtual
- Supporting the CHW Workforce as an Ally. (speaker & panelist). **Julie St. John**, Erin Turner, Takisha Lovelace, Oklahoma CHWs. Oklahoma Community Health Worker Forum Series, Oklahoma Public Health Training Center, The University Of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Webinar, October 14, 2021. <https://ophtc.ouhsc.edu/webinars>
- **Courtney Queen, PhD**, Youngmin Kim, MA and **Rubini Pasupathy, PhD**. Identifying successful coping activities to reduce poor health outcomes for an aging population in post-conflict Latvia, APHA 2021
- **Rubini Pasupathy, PhD**, Youngmin Kim, MA and **Courtney Queen, PhD**. Anxiety and associated health behaviors among elderly Europeans during the COVID-19 pandemic, APHA 2021
- **Lisa Gittner, PhD**, **Jeff Dennis, PhD**, **Mario Pitalua, PhD**, Kevin Gittner, PhDc, MBA and Lauren Matheny, PhD. Longitudinal description of justice-involved veterans mental health status, APHA 2021
- **Rubini Pasupathy, PhD**, **Courtney Queen, PhD** and Youngmin Kim, MA. Satisfaction with healthcare facilities for elderly Europeans during the COVID-19 pandemic, APHA 2021
- **Rubini Pasupathy, PhD**, Youngmin Kim, MA and **Courtney Queen, PhD**. Applying a psychosocial model to explore daily stressors of living as a pathway of disease in a post-conflict aging population, APHA 2021
- Paige Menking, MPA, Courtney Byrd-Williams, PhD, **Julie St John, DrPH, MA, CHWI**, Jessica Simpson, Kerstin M Reinschmidt, PhD, MPH, Lee Rosenthal, PhD, MS, MPH, Floribella Redondo, CHW, BS and Stephanie Sieswerda, MA. COVID-19's impact on the CHW workforce: A multi-state comparison, APHA 2021

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

Faculty presentations Continued

- **Julie St John, DrPH, MA, CHWI**, Leslie Shen, PhD, Grace Sun, NP and Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, PhD. *Nurse practitioners' attitudes and use of complementary and alternative medicine practices for pain management*
- **Courtney Queen, PhD, Rubini Pasupathy, PhD** and **Anormeh Noamesi, MBChB**. *Correlates of life-course experiences with poor health outcomes among an aging population experiencing social, political, and economic transition: Latvia.*
- **Duke Appiah, PhD MPH**, Nayeli Fuentes, BS, MD(c), Chike Nwabuo, MD MPH and Benjamin Capistrant, ScD. *Neighborhood social cohesion and 10-year risk of cardiovascular disease in low- and middle-income countries: The World Health Organization SAGE study*
- **Duke Appiah, PhD MPH, Olugbenga Olokede, MBBS**, Gabriela Ashworth, PhD, Annette Boles, MS and Nandini Nair, MD PhD. *The relation between heart/vascular aging and mild cognitive impairment in rural communities: The Project Frontier study*
- **Julie St John, DrPH, MA, CHWI** and Michelle Parrish. Comparison of a community assessment survey pre and after the covid-19 pandemic: Translating findings into practice, APHA 2021

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

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Staff and Student Recognition

- View past students' Applied Practice Experiences on the MPH Web site [here](#).

Newsletter Information

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