



# Pathways

TTUHSC Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health Newsletter, Volume 1

## Opening Remarks

C. Everett Koop said, "Health care is vital to all of us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time." That is how we feel at the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health. Public health is all around us, is all-encompassing and is ever-changing. We are training and educating our students to adapt and adjust to this highly important field they have chosen. When they complete our program, we are confident that they will be equipped, they will be focused and they will be ready.

## TTUHSC Names New Dean for the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health!



Gerard E. Carrino, Ph.D., MPH has been named dean of the TTUHSC Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health, the university announced November 18. Carrino, who currently serves as head of the

Department of Health Policy and Management at Texas A&M School of Public Health, has more than 20 years of executive experience at world renowned public health organizations and vital experience in academia. The full story can be found [here](#).

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Billy Philips, Jr., Ph.D., MPH, Executive Vice President and Director of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health, for his dedication and excellent leadership in standing up our sixth school. He led with grace and wisdom, provided vision to the team and to our university while also working through the challenges of starting a new school. Dr. Philips will remain acting Dean through January 31, 2023, at which time Dr. Carrino will begin his duties February 1. Thank you, Dr. Philips!

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# Our School is One of the Nation's Best!

Our school has been ranked 6th in the nation for Best Online MPH programs by EduMed! The list of complete rankings can be found [here](#) .

Also, our school was ranked 15th in the category of Most Affordable Online MPH Programs! The complete rankings can be found [here](#) . Our sincere congratulations, appreciation and gratitude to all for their hard work!

## Congratulations to our recent Graduates!

### Fall 2022

**Xiomara Ardon**  
**Brianna Bellamy**  
**Arti Bhakta**  
**Samantha Brown**  
**Selma Carvalho**  
**Ehino Ehigiator**  
**Ana Hemani**  
**Anna Matherne**  
**Nusrat Meharun**  
**Frances Paez**  
**Nishma Patel**  
**Brendan Paul**  
**Sadia Siddiqui (Certificate)**  
**Emily Tamiosso**  
**Brittany Warren**

## More Congratulations!

- Congratulations to Dr.. Courtney Queen who was part of a team who received a President's Innovative Startup Award of \$5,000. The award was one of 8 given which recognize early-stage companies that are exemplifying innovation and commercialization. The company is called Advanced Codex Solutions, LLC. The entire article can be found [here](#) .
- Congratulation to Dr. Duke Appiah who was recently recognized as the 2022 Alumnus of the Year by the School of Public Health and Information Sciences at the University of Louisville. In our last newsletter, it was mentioned that he also received the 2022 Alumni Fellow of the year award also by the School of Public Health and Information Sciences at the University of Louisville.

## Mark Your Calendars!

On Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 4pm, the inaugural commencement of the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health will be held at the historic Paramount Theater in Abilene. Hope to see you there as we celebrate our graduates!

# Faculty Presentations and Service

## Presentations

- Robert Levine, **Lisa Gittner, PhD**, Maria Mejia, MD, MPH, Brittany Tu, BSc, Roger Zoorob, MD, MPH, Dennis Patterson, PhD. ***Deaths from causes amenable and not amenable to health care: Natural experiments in local politics***
- Robert Levine, MD, **Lisa Gittner, PhD**, Maria Mejia, MD, MPH, Roger Zoorob, MD, MPH, Dennis Patterson, PhD. ***Firearm and non-firearm fatality: Natural experiments in local politics.***
- **Chelsea Gerlicki, BS**, Katherine Holder, BBA, Bernardo Galvan, BS, Lila Carden, PhD, MBA, PMP, M. Haris Nazim, MD, George Zouridakis, PhD, **Courtney Queen, PhD**. ***Acceptability and feasibility of end-user digital tools for the management of dermatologic issues secondary to chronic conditions in hard-to-reach communities***
- Reagan Collins, Jad Zeitouni, Amanda Veasart, Jessica Chacon, **Cynthia Jumper, Theresa Byrd**. ***Establishment of a Hybrid, Intradisciplinary Vaccine Administration Training Program for First and Second Year Medical Students***
- Jad Zeitouni, BBA, Reagan Collins, BA, **Cynthia Jumper, MD**, Aliza Wong, PhD, **Theresa Byrd, DrPH**. ***The Inception and Establishment of a Student-Led Health Policy and Public Health Think Tank Serving Greater West Texas***
- **Julie St John, DrPH, MA, MPH**. ***Qualitative findings from a human trafficking community needs assessment conducted within a health sciences center***
- Jessyca Cripps, MPH, **Julie St. John, DrPH, MPH, MA, CHWI**, Jeff Dennis, PhD, Chwan Li-Shen, PhD. ***Applying Diffusion of Innovation to the Texas Mother Friendly Worksite Program: Does early adoption lead to lower rates of infant mortality***
- Ashley Rodriguez, CCHW, CCHWI, **Julie St. John, DrPH, MPH, MA, CHWI**. ***How CHW Associations Strengthen and Support the CHW Workforce: Examples from the Texas Association of Promotores and CHWs***
- *The C3 Project's next steps to an engaged national review of CHW roles and competencies.* Lee Rosenthal, Paige Menking, **Julie St. John**, Lily Lee, & Durrell Fox. Annual American Public Health Association Meeting, November 6, 2022, Boston, Massachusetts.

\*Faculty, students and alumni in **bold**

## Service

- Dr. Rubini Pasupathy recently led a group of MPH students on an overseas trip to the Phillipines. The students were Janee Zavala, Brittany Escobar and Karina Escobar. The students were able to use the trip as their Applied Practice Experience and presented on their work this past fall.

## Recent Publications

- **Dr. Hafiz Khan** participated in a Rutgers-led study which showed there is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccination increases the incidence of Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare neurological disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the nerves. The study was published in the journal *Vaccine*. The entire article can be found [here](#) .
- **St. John, J.** (2022, Fall). Public Health, Populations, Purpose, Priorities, and Passion. *Rural Health Quarterly*. 3: 20-23. <https://ruralhealthquarterly.com/home/2022/10/03/rural-health-quarterly-fall-2022/>
- Brooks T, **St. John J**, Gilbert K, & Guindon J (2022). Establishing a faculty development academy at a health sciences center: A needs assessment [Special Issue 15]. *Chronicle of Mentoring and Coaching*. 6(1).
- **Appiah D**, Kim C, Fuquay T, de Riese C, Ebong IA, Nwabuo CC. Maternal age at birth of last child and cardiovascular disease mortality later in life among a national cohort of women from the United States. *Menopause [In press]*
- **Noamesi AT, Olokede OA, De La Cruz N, Appiah D.** The role of mental health and substance use disorders on the relation of migraine with self-directed violence among women in the United States. *J Psychosom Res [In press]*.
- Kim C, Catov J, Schreiner PJ, **Appiah D**, Wellons MF, Siscovick D, Calderon-Margalit R, Huddleston H, Ebong IA, Lewis CE, Women's reproductive milestones and cardiovascular disease risk: a review of reports and opportunities from the Coronary Artery Disease Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) study. *JAHA [In press]*
- Gadgil MD, Ingram KH, Rudd J, **Appiah D**, Whitaker KM, Bennett WL, Shikany JM, Jacobs DR, Lewis CE, Gunderson EP. Prepregnancy Protein Source, not Diet Quality, is Associated with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in the CARDIA Study. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2022; 19:14142.
- Phrashiah G, Dawson J, **Appiah D**, Moustaid-Moussa N, Rethorst C, Murimi M. A Culturally Sensitive and Theory-Based Intervention on Prevention and Management of Diabetes: A Cluster Randomized Control Trial. *Nutrients* 2022, 14, 5126
- **Appiah D, Luitel S**, Nwabuo CC, Ebong I, Winters SJ. Low endogenous estradiol levels and cardiovascular disease mortality in young and middle-aged United States men. *Atherosclerosis*. 2022; 361:34-40
- **Appiah, D**, Mai M, Parmar K. A Prospective Population-Based Study of Cardiovascular Disease Mortality following Treatment for Breast Cancer among Men in the United States, 2000–2019. *Curr. Oncol*. 2023, 30, 284-297. <https://doi.org/10.3390/currenocol30010023>

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

## A Note from the Acting Dean

“The Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health is a remarkable place with great faculty, staff and students. We are excited that a Founding Dean, Dr. Gerard Carrino has been hired and will start on February 1, 2023. No doubt this will see new programs in Population Health and new faculty hires to support them. Moreover, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the historic Paramount Theater in downtown Abilene will host the inaugural graduation ceremony for the new School. I am so honored to have served as the Acting Dean along with Sarah Looten and with you we have made a smooth transition from the GSBS and laid a solid foundation for the new school. The Newsletter is an ideal medium for telling the stories behind the school, its people, and their accomplishments. Thanks goes out to Patrick Lloyd for being the editor and all around “get it done” helper.”

Cheers!

Billy Philips, Ph.D., MPH

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