



# Pathways

TTUHSC Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health Newsletter, Volume 2

## Opening Remarks

Socrates said “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new”. We have had a remarkable and wonderful change as we have transitioned from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to form the 6th school of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health which is officially located at the Abilene campus. Even as we move forward with building the new, our foundation remains the same which is for our highly-talented and gifted faculty and staff to serve our students and train them to be the future of the public health profession.

## We're Officially a School!



On June 29, 2022, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and members of the Abilene community celebrated the official unveiling of the university's 6th school, the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health. The school officially opened May 24 and aims to train future health care leaders in population and public health—a sector of health care that has been elevated in public awareness and prominence by the COVID-19 pandemic. The complete story can be found [here](#).

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# Congratulations!



Congratulations to Dr. Billy Philips, who was recently presented a lifetime achievement award from the TexLa Telehealth Resource Center. He was chosen for being a pioneer and champion of telemedicine. Dr. Philips was named Acting Dean of the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health in March. He also continues to serve as Executive Vice President and director of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health.

## More Congratulations!

- Congratulations to Acting Dean of Operations Sarah Looten, who received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence this past Spring!
- Congratulations to former MPH student Victoria Johnson, who was selected as the outstanding Public Health student at commencement in May!
- Congratulations to MPH student Kaylee Schrader who received the United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health award at commencement in May!

## Congratulations to our recent Graduates!

### Spring 2022

Chinyere Achuama  
Similoluwa Adeleye  
Sarah Adkins (Certificate)  
Livia Al-Rihani  
Nkechi Amadi  
Derick Boakye  
Marcia Calderon  
Karen Castaneda (MD/MPH)  
William Derrick  
Amber Dickinson  
Kelechi Etoh  
Cecelia Farias-Ruiz  
Adithi Govindan (Certificate)  
Sidney Hoffman  
Nicole Hotchkiss  
Tiffany Hotchkiss  
Ruth Lara  
Paul Lie  
Jessica Lovelace (MD/MPH)  
Sujata Luitel  
Arun Mathew  
Amanda McKernan (Certificate)  
Qaashif Panjwani  
Yazmeane Pena  
Sarah Santillan  
Jillian Schley  
Erin Shaw (Certificate)  
Stephanie Stevenson  
Sarah Stocker  
Collin Telchik (MD/MPH)  
Caroline Thompson (MD/MPH)  
Jose Ulloa  
Abbey Weed  
Alyssa Western  
Gem Wilson  
Delaney Yarbrough  
Hao Zheng

### Summer 2022

Maria Garcia  
Saylor Hounsel  
Blaze Kinch  
Neije Mukherjee-Roy  
Rachel Reasch  
Katherine Schroeder  
Jackson Wahman  
Emma Woolard

## Faculty Honors, Presentations and Grants

- Dr. Duke Appiah was recently recognized as the Alumni Fellow of the year, School of Public Health and Information Sciences, University of Louisville, the Dean's Teaching Award. the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and Outstanding Teacher of the Year., the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.
- Dr. Rubini Pasupathy and Dr. Courtney Queen delivered two presentations at the 2022 Riga Stradins University International COVID\_19 Conference in Riga, Latvia. Those presentations are as follows: "Gender differences in psychological distress among the elderly in Latvia at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic" and "Psychological distress among the elderly in the Baltic nations during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic"
- Dr. Julie St. John presented "Human Trafficking is a Public Health Issue" at the West Texas Pharmacy Association Annual Convention in Abilene, Texas on March 5, 2022. She also presented virtually "Immigrants & Human Trafficking: Risk factors & Prevention" at the TTUHSC Human Trafficking and Social Justice Symposium: "Human Trafficking: Shining a Light on Vulnerable Populations." on January 28, 2022.
- Dr. Duke Appiah is the subcontract principal investigator for a R21 grant from the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to study the complex interplay between adipokines, sex hormones and cardiac dysfunction in postmenopausal women enrolled in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA).
- Dr Duke Appiah is the principal investigator for a DEI grant from the TTUHSC Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to assess geographical, racial and ethnic health disparities in Lubbock county and West Texas.

## Faculty Committees and Service

- TTUHSC received official recognition in 2022 as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about the HSI, please visit: [here](#). Two DPH faculty—Dr. Theresa Byrd and Dr. Julie St. John—serve on the HSI committee, which is charged with carrying out its mission stated in its charter adopted in July 2022: “To be instrumental in strengthening the sense of community among all identity populations through the creation and enhancement of initiatives aimed towards serving and intentionally uplifting the Hispanic community and historically marginalized populations across the institution. As a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), TTUHSC will provide culturally humble and responsive resources, programs, and opportunities for learners (at both the graduate and undergraduate levels), team members, community partners, and alumni with emphases on marginalized populations such as Hispanic/Latina/Latino/Latinx team members, who make our campuses representative of the communities we serve.” In addition to serving on the HSI committee, Byrd and St. John are also part of the planning community for Hispanic Heritage Month which will be in September and October 2022 and include a variety of activities and events. TTUHSC this year will observe National Heritage Month from September 15-October 15 with events, webinars and celebrations. For more details and to view the complete list of Hispanic Heritage Month events, visit [here](#) or contact the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at [diversity@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:diversity@ttuhsc.edu).
- Dr. St. John volunteered with Olive Branch Ministries International on a service and mission trip to Piura, Peru July 6-28, 2022. During the trip, St. John lead a pilot project where they worked with local community members to build a composting latrine in a small rural community—La Campina—outside of Piura. In addition, the team conducted a community survey while other volunteers hosted a medical clinic. This rural area lacks basic infrastructure such as sewage and routine water service and has a number of water-borne diseases. The hope is this pilot project will successfully reduce contaminated water and stomach illnesses related to unsafe sanitation and water-borne pathogens. St. John received a TTUHSC Office of Global Health grant—along with Co-investigator Dr. Kendra Thornton (TTUHSC School of Nursing, Lubbock) in 2020 to build composting latrines, which the team hopes to travel to Peru in 2023 to construct additional latrines in these rural communities.

## Faculty In The News

- Dr. Duke Appiah—KCBD NewsChannel 11 “Northeast Lubbock residents have a 25% higher risk of asthma hospitalization, TTHSC study finds” (Jan. 26, 2022), Lubbock, Texas. The interview can be found [here](#) .
- Dr. Duke Appiah— KLBK TV “Study: North East Lubbock has highest rate of asthma hospitalizations”, Lubbock, Texas. The interview can be found [here](#) .
- Dr. Duke Appiah—KTTZ FM “New study shows higher rates of asthma hospitalizations in Northeast Lubbock” (February 23, 2022). The interview can be found [here](#) .
- Dr. Duke Appiah— Latino Lubbock Magazine “Study finds NE Lubbock residents higher risk of asthma hospitalizations” (February 2022) Volume 16, Issue 2. The article can be found [here](#) .

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## Recent Publications

- **Appiah D, Luitel S**, Fuentes N, Nwabuo CC. Perceived neighborhood social cohesion and 10-year risk of cardiovascular disease in low- and middle-income countries: The WHO Study on Global Aging and Adult Health. *Health Place*. 2022 (Peer Review) [In press]
- **Appiah D, Noamesi AT, Osaji J, Bolton C**, Nwabuo CC, Ebong IA. The Association of Mental Health Disorders with Takotsubo Syndrome (Broken Heart Syndrome) Among Older Women in The United States. *J Womens Health* 2022 (Peer Review) [In press]
- **Appiah D**, Schreiner PJ, Pankow JS, Brock G, Tang W, Norby FL, Michos ED, Ballantyne CM, Folsom AR. Long-term changes in plasma proteomic profiles in pre- and postmenopausal Black and White women: The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study. *Menopause*. 2022 (Peer Review) [In press]
- Appiah L, **John D**, Owoade DR, **Mendenhall J, Appiah D**. Factors influencing racial and ethnic differences in prescription opioid misuse among young adolescents in the United States, 2009-2019. *J Racial Ethn Health Disparities* 2022 (Peer Review) [In press].
- **Appiah D**, Ashworth G, Boles A, Nair N. The association of heart/vascular aging with mild cognitive impairment in a rural multiethnic cohort: The Project FRONTIER study. *J Prev Alzheimers Dis*. 2022; 9, 315–322 (Peer Review)
- Ebong IA, Wilson MD, **Appiah D**, Michos ED, Racette SB, Villablanca A, Breathett K, Lutsey PL, Wellons MF, Watson KE, Chang P, Bertoni AG. The Relationship Between Age at Menopause, Obesity and Incident Heart Failure: The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study. *J Am Heart Assoc*. 2022;11: e024461. (Peer Review)
- **Appiah D**, Nwabuo CC, Ebong IA, Vasconcellos HD, Wellons MF, Lewis CE, Lima JA, Schreiner PJ. The Association of Age at Natural Menopause with Pre- to Postmenopausal Changes in Left Ventricular Structure and Function: The Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) Study. *Menopause*. 2022. 29:564-572 (Peer Review)
- Ebong IA, Wilson MD, Chang C, **Appiah D**, Polonsky T, Ballantyne C, Bertoni AG, NT-pro B-type natriuretic peptide, early menopause and incident heart failure in postmenopausal women of the ARIC Study. *Menopause*. 2022; 29:309-316. (Peer Review)
- **Shabaneh O**, Walker MS; **Byrd TL, Appiah D**. Investigating trends in foodborne illnesses in Lubbock and other counties in Texas. *J Public Health (Berl.)* 2022. 30, 695–699 (Peer Review)
- **Pasupathy R**, Gho J, **Duhart B, Queen C**. Alcohol consumption messages in Korean dramas: the globalization of South Korean drinking norms. *Glob Health Promot*. 2022 Mar 31: 17579759221080746. doi: 10.1177/17579759221080746. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35360998.

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

## Recent Publications Continued

- 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).
- Chen, J., **Dennis, J. A., St. John, J.A.**, Shen, C.L. (2022, February 24). Self-reported Patient Compliance with Physician Advised Lifestyle Behavior Changes Among Adults with Musculoskeletal Conditions. *Frontiers in Public Health, Public Health Education and Promotion*. 10: 821150. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.821150>
- **St. John, J. A.**, Fox, D. J., Rosenthal, E. L., Lee, L. K. (2022). Editorial: Community Health Workers Practice from Recruitment to Integration. *Frontiers in Public Health, Public Health Education and Promotion*, 10: 841081. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.841081>
- **St. John J.A.**, Hernández-Gordon, W., Martínez, S., Hernández, I. (2022, January/March). Community health workers connecting communities during Covid-19: A case study from Chicago, USA. *Journal of Ambulatory Care*, 45(1): 2-12. DOI: 10.1097/JAC.000000000000401 <https://journals.lww.com/ambulatorycaremanagement/pages/default.aspx>
- **Khan Hafiz, St. John J.A.**, Ganji Riya, Mostafa, Fahad Bin (2022, May 6). Coronavirus (COVID-19) Spike in Georgia: An Epidemiologic Study of Data, Modeling and Policy Implications to Understand the Gender and Race-Specific Variations. <https://biomedgrid.com/pdf/AJBSR.MS.IDS.002209.pdf>
- **Khan Hafiz**, Jensen, Brooke, Rahman Rakhshanda Layeequr (2022, July 28). Sociodemographic Determinants in Breast Cancer Screening among Uninsured Women of West Texas. <https://www.mdpi.com/1648-9144/58/8/1010>
- Palle, Komaraiah, Mani, Chinnadurai, Acharya, Ganesh, Kshirsagar, Sudhir, Vijayan, Murali, **Khan, Hafiz**, and Reddy, Hemachandra. "A Novel Role for BRIP1/FANCD1 in Neuronal Cells Health and in Resolving Oxidative Stress-induced DNA Lesions, *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 2022;85(1):207-221. doi: 10.3233/JAD-215305.
- Sonia Y Khan, Michael W Melkus, Fahmida Rasha, Maribel Castro, Victoria Chu, Luis Brandi, **Hafiz Khan**, Harvinder Singh Gill, **Kevin Pruitt**, Rakhshanda Layeequr Rahman. "Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes (TILs) as a Biomarker of Abscopal Effect of Cryoablation in Breast Cancer: A Pilot Study", *Ann Surg Oncol.*, 2022 May;29(5):2914-2925. doi: 10.1245/s10434-021-11157-w.
- Jaffry M, Mostafa F, Mandava K, Rosario S, Jagarlamudi Y, Jaffry K, Kornitzer J, Jedidi K, **Khan H**, Souayah N. "No Significant Increase in Guillain-Barré Syndrome after COVID-19 Vaccination in Adults: A Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) Study". *Vaccine* (in press, Elsevier Publication, IF: 4.169), 2022.

## A Note from the Acting Dean

“The Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health is a beacon for our future. For in it, will come new programs, new graduates, new discoveries and a stalwart commitment from everyone that leaves its doors to apply their craft, skill and vigor to the people and communities they serve. We do not know what challenges we will face in the future. What is certain is that Julia Jones Matthews would be so proud of this School and its faculty, staff and students and our partners. For each of you have answered the call and dedicated yourselves to a belief in the idea that together we are more, we are better and we are ready.”

-Dr. Billy Philips, Acting Dean of the TTUHSC Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health

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