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Behavioral Studies

Gloria DiFulvio
Assistant Professor of Community Health Education
Undergraduate Program Director in Public Health

Email: gloria@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Evaluation of health and human service programs within the United States. She has extensive involvement using mixed methods in community grant-funded projects in mental health promotion and suicide prevention, HIV prevention, domestic violence, drug and alcohol prevention and treatment, and K-12 prevention programs. She also has a particular interest in LGBT health. Gloria currently serves as the lead evaluator for the Massachusetts Statewide Youth Suicide Prevention Program and the Public Health Training Center.

Elaine Puleo
Associate Dean for Research
Research Associate Professor of Biostatistics

Email: epuleo@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Statistical and data analysis, evaluation design in behavioral studies. Currently she is lead coordinator of SHHARE; the Springfield-Holyoke Health Alliance for Research and Engagement. Dr. Puleo also leads the Biostatistics Consulting Center on the UMass Amherst campus, which supports all areas of research, from initial proposal development and study design through statistical analysis and reports.
Behavioral Studies (cont.)

Edward Stanek
Chair of the Department of Public Health
Professor of Biostatistics

Email: stanek@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Dr. Stanek’s research interests include inference in mixed models, sampling, analysis of longitudinal data and risk assessment with respect to soil ingestion. His main methodological interest is focused on the intersection of design-based, superpopulation model, and Bayesian inference as applied to estimating latent values for subjects (areas, clinics, physician practices). He also has a close connection with the Department of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine at Worcester.

Breast Cancer Prevention

Susan E. Hankinson
Professor of Epidemiology

Email: shankinson@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Dr. Hankinson's research primarily focuses on breast cancer etiology and prevention. She has focused on lifestyle and endogenous predictors of both breast cancer risk and survival. She also is interested in determining underlying mechanistic pathways for known breast cancer risk factors, is working to improve breast cancer risk prediction models, and would like to learn more about predictors of patient uptake of currently approved breast cancer chemoprevention options.
Community-Based Interventions

Sofiya Alhassan
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology
Director of Pediatric Physical Activity Laboratory

Email: alhassan@kin.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Physical activity in the prevention of pediatric obesity. In particular, the utilization of community family-based physical activity interventions to reduce early onset cardiovascular disease risk factors in ethnic-minority children. Her research agenda also includes examining the interrelationship between physical activity policy in preschool settings on preschool-age children physical activity levels, as well as, environmental and family influence on various health behaviors in ethnic-minority populations.

Elena Carbone
Associate Professor of Nutrition
Director of Community Research and Engagement, Commonwealth Honors College (beginning June 2012)

Email: ecarbone@nutrition.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Dr. Carbone has over 15 years of experience designing, implementing and evaluating community-based, learner-centered interventions. Her work is focused on understanding the learning and communication styles and literacy needs of low-income culturally-diverse population groups. She seeks to better understand how children and adults attend to and process health information related to such topics as obesity, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, and food safety.
Community Health/Health Education

Daniel S. Gerber  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Assistant Professor of Community Health Education

Email: gerber@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Community health planning and community development and building, both in local communities and internationally. His expertise is in: health education (child survival, HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning, maternal and child health, water and sanitation, and nutrition education), empowerment training and facilitation, evaluation of health programs, and cross-cultural training. Dr. Gerber is currently co-principal investigator for the Western Mass Public Health Training Center.

Aline Gubrium  
Assistant Professor of Community Health Education

Email: agubrium@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Women and youth sexuality and well-being. Dr. Gubrium is presently exploring this topic through an interview-based project on women’s experiences with the contraceptive Depo-Provera. She is also conducting several projects addressing public health and health inequity. In the past, Dr. Gubrium has worked on projects dealing with institutional perspectives on violence against women in Java, Indonesia, and the social construction of victim and transmitter of HIV in a South African context. Her particular interest in gender socialization stems from her previous work on several ethnographic projects dealing with rural women’s sexuality and drug use issues in the southern U.S.
Community Health/Health Education (cont.)

**Dawn Heffernan**
Director of the Western Massachusetts Public Health Training Center

Email: dheffernan@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Her areas of interests include research in chronic disease self-management, health disparities, health access, and workforce development.

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**Jacquie Kurland**
Assistant Professor of Communication Disorders

Email: jkurland@comdis.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Dr. Kurland’s research focuses on behavioral, neurobiological, and quality of life outcomes following intensive language rehabilitation in post-stroke aphasia. She seeks to discover treatment factors that maximize communicative success, functional independence, and quality of life in chronic aphasia, while gaining a better understanding of the neural mechanisms supporting language recovery. Her service work includes a number of annual events that promote stroke and aphasia awareness in the community.
Community Health/Health Education (cont.)

Judi LaBranche
Lecturer in the Department of Kinesiology
Director of the Body Shop Fitness Center

Email: jblabran@kin.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Community Health Promotion, Wellness Facility Management, Exercise Program Design for Normal and Special Populations. Her latest work with the YMCA included a partnership with LIVESTRONG in designing and implementing rehab programs for cancer survivors.

Risa Silverman
Outreach Director, Coordinator of the Office of Public Health Practice and Outreach for the School of Public Health and Health Sciences

Email: risa@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Risa Silverman has taught undergraduate community health courses, including Community Development/Organizing in Health Education, Public Health Practices, and the capstone course for seniors in the School’s new public health major. Her interests include finding internships for undergraduate and graduate students. Acting as liaison between community partners and faculty/students seeking work for mutual benefit via community-based participatory research. The intersection of food and public health, she serves on the board of CISA, Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture.
Community Health/Health Education (cont.)

Lisa Wexler
Assistant Professor of Community Health Education

Email: lwexler@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Lisa Wexler's research has focused on suicide prevention, community health worker training for rural, ethnically distinct communities, and youth substance abuse prevention. She is interested in expanding her work locally in relation to protective factors for youth substance abuse and violence and resilience/health promotion, with a particular interest in marginalized and ethnic minority youth. In a similar vein, Lisa is interested in service research focused on substance abuse recovery and psychological resilience after acute or on-going trauma.

Sarah Witkowski
Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology
Director of the Molecular and Cardiovascular Physiology Laboratory

Email: switkows@kin.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Cardiovascular disease research. Dr. Witkowski’s research interest is in conventional and novel risk factors for cardiovascular disease and how they are influenced by physical activity, physical inactivity, and exercise. Recent research involves investigations on the development of early markers of cardiovascular dysfunction. Dr. Witkowski is involved with health outcome assessment in the Men of Color Health Awareness (MOCHA) program, which is a community-based program to reduce health disparities among men of color in the city of Springfield.
Diabetes Research

Barry Braun
Associate Professor of Kinesiology
Director of the Energy Metabolism Laboratory

Email: bbraun@kin.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Diabetes research and nutrition. Barry has published more than 65 research articles in top journals and serves an associate editor for Exercise and Sport Science Reviews. Dr. Braun's lab group studies the integration of exercise, pharmacology and diet to prevent and manage metabolic disorders such as Type 2 diabetes.

Stuart Chipkin, MD
Research Professor of Kinesiology

Email: schipkin@kin.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Research focusing on health care delivery and cardiovascular risk reduction in people with diabetes. He is specialty editor for the American Journal of Medicine and has served as the medical consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Diabetes Preventions and Control Program. Dr. Chipkin is currently co-principal investigator for the UMass Public Health Training Center.
Dietary Practices/Nutrition**

Jerusha Nelson Peterman
Assistant Professor of Nutrition

Email: j peterman@nutrition.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Dr. Peterman is interested in documenting past food experiences and current dietary practices and nutrition knowledge, and in developing nutrition education programs suited to the experiences and practices of immigrants and refugees.

**See also Elena Carbone

Environmental Health

Richard Peltier
Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences

Email: rpeltier@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Dr. Peltier focuses his research on identifying the chemical components of particular matter most closely linked to health effects. He has other interests in exposure science, toxicology, and ambient air quality. His research is funding through, among others, the Health Effects Institute and the National Institute of Health, and he is the Associate Editor of the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology.
Environmental Health (cont.)

Ezra Wood  
Research Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences

Email: ezrawood@schoolph.umass.edu


Infectious Diseases

Nicholas Reich  
Research Assistant Professor of Biostatistics

Email: nick@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Dr. Reich’s interests include prevention of hospital-associated infections, understanding infectious disease outbreak dynamics, digital disease surveillance and the evaluation of outbreak containment and prevention measures. He also works on the design, implementation and analysis of cluster-randomized studies. His infectious disease research has spanned a wide range of diseases and outcomes, from influenza, Lyme disease and dengue fever to catheter-associated infections and bacteremia.
Tameka Gillum  
Assistant Professor of Community Health Education

Email: tgillum@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Dr. Gillum’s research interests are in exploring and addressing intimate partner violence (IPV)/dating violence (DV) within racial/ethnic minority and sexual minority populations, development and evaluation of culturally specific prevention and intervention efforts, health clinic based intimate partner violence interventions and the health effects of IPV/DV victimization. Dr. Gillum is a community psychologist who conducts community based research and utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods in her research endeavors.

Glendene Lemard  
Research Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management

Email: glemard@schoolph.umass.edu

Special Areas of Interest: Violence as a global issue. Currently she is a member of the Violence Prevention Task Force for the city of Springfield and a board member of Partners for a Healthier Community, also in Springfield. Her research interests include violence prevention in vulnerable populations especially immigrant communities and undeserved populations. She focuses on the protective factors and an interdisciplinary approach to violence prevention. Dr. Lemard works to bridge the gap between community residents, stakeholders and policy makers in developing violence protection programs. She teaches interdisciplinary courses on international health and development.