

UMassAmherst | Center for Research on Families
Annual Report 2021
Advancing Research for the Health and Well-Being of all Families



Who We Are

OUR VISION

The Center for Research on Families (CRF) is unique in that it promotes interdisciplinary family research across the social, behavioral, and natural sciences to address pressing social issues and systemic inequalities through family research and community-engaged programming. CRF recognizes our position as guests on this sacred land and acknowledges that we are on Nonotuck land, which in turn drives our commitment to the land grant mission of UMass Amherst to provide teaching, research, and public service to benefit the families of the Commonwealth and nation by supporting interdisciplinary research collaborations and contributing innovative and evidence-based solutions to address the challenges families face.

OUR MISSION

- **Promote**, conduct, and translate high quality, substantive research on issues affecting families
- **Teach, mentor, and support** family researchers throughout their careers
- **Engage** with the community to improve family outcomes and inform social policy
- **Advance** social justice by promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion through our research and programming

OUR STORY

CRF has a long history and deep roots at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. It was founded over forty years ago in the 1970s and was re-energized in the 1990's by a generous endowment given in 1996 by **Dorothy D. Gavin '43** and **Joseph G. Gavin Jr.**, ensuring a strong and sustainable future for the Center. In 2003, the original Center for the Family was transformed into today's Center for Research on Families and has continued to grow in relevancy, contributing to research, outreach and advocacy on behalf of families.

CRF is supported by the College of Natural Sciences, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, College of Education, College of Nursing, College of Engineering, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, the Edna Skinner and Tay Gavin Erickson endowments, grants, and gifts from alumni and other generous donors.

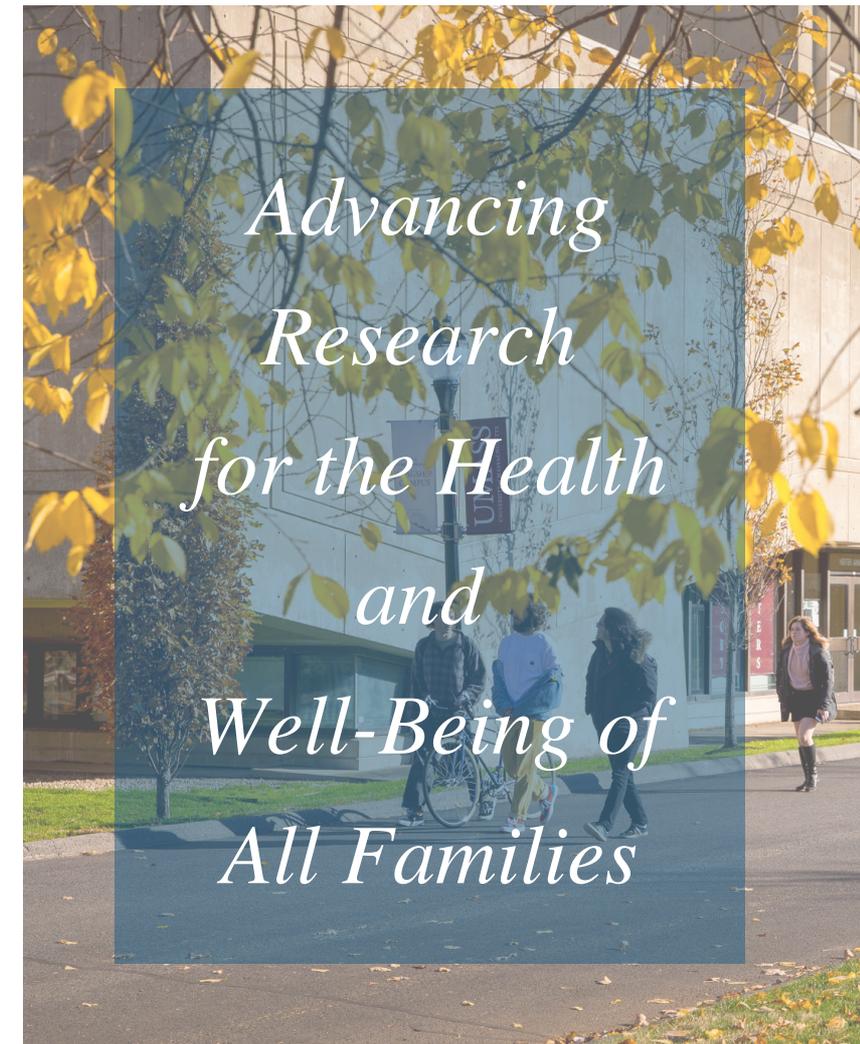


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Our Approach



RESEARCH AND METHODS

METHODOLOGY

- Consulting
- Academic-Year Seminars
- Summer Methodology Workshops
- Grant Support



TEACHING AND MENTORING

FACULTY

- Family Research Scholars Program

STUDENTS

- Graduate Student Grant Writing Program
- Assistantships
- Travel, Research, & Methodology Awards



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

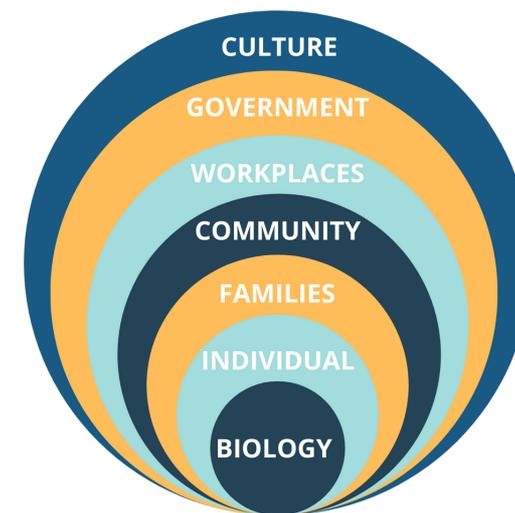
- Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series
- Community Partnerships

POLICY

- Public Engagement Project
- Local, State, and National

Some of CRFs Recent Areas of Research and Outreach

- Families Coping with Covid-19 Issues
- Addressing Inequities based on Race, Gender, Education, Age, Ability, and Economic Status and the Intersection of these Identities
- Parenting, Parent-Child Relations, and Child Development
- Environmental Toxins and Health and Well-Being
- Emerging Issues Related to Aging: Physical, Mental and Social Changes



WHAT IS FAMILY RESEARCH?

The Center for Research on Families (CRF) recognizes that families take many diverse forms.

We view research from all disciplines as relevant to our mission.

We believe that families are best understood in the context of their social settings and through a lens of intersectionality, considering factors such as class, race, nationality, sexuality, age, and gender.

Director Statement

As I step down from my role, I have taken some time to reflect on my wonderful experiences as CRF Director. I realize one of the things that makes CRF most special to me, and others, is our sense of community. People are happier, more productive, more creative, and more engaged when they feel a sense of belonging to a community -- in my view, one of the things we do best at CRF is create community. We create community one group at a time, developing sustained working relationships where student and faculty scholars feel supported and heard. It turns out our approach is supported by research. Shelley Correll, a researcher at Stanford, talks about the "small wins approach to organizational change". She found that real change involves working with people to develop interventions that produce small, measurable wins. She argues, in fact, that these small wins produce far greater outcomes than large-scale efforts, like unconscious bias trainings. Yet, a "small wins" approach is often underappreciated, precisely because of its smallness. In fact, a small wins approach cannot only produce important changes in the short run, but it can also inspire large change over time.

I think over the years I have sold CRF short. I have talked about our "excellence" based on traditional indicators of success in academia...grants, publications, student fellowships. At times, I would mention things like the "CRF magic" or "the secret sauce" making it seem like the way we created our culture, our accepting, inviting and supportive climate, was some sort of mystery... that was a mistake. It is not a mystery. Here is what it takes, in my estimation, for the many "small wins" that lead to big inclusive climates that enable us to become the best scientists, the best scholars, the best humans we can be.

- Make the time, effort, and long-term commitment to build trusting relationships. With these relationships, we build in accountability, and people commit to a group.
- Provide support, cheers for successes, hugs for failure, and food for nurturance. Always provide food.
- Give people time to really think, to process, listen and learn from others, read each other's work, not always be in hyper mode.
- Recognize hard work, recognize risks, recognize growth, share every success, and bolster up after every failure.

We have been criticized for being too "warm and fuzzy", too small, too slow, too intensive. It turns out, that is how you create a good climate. CRF is successful because of the "small wins" that over the years have culminated in a large win. I am most proud of CRF for being that safe place, that inspiring place, that place you can come for a cookie and a cup of coffee and a chat about a life-changing idea. What could be better?



Dr. Maureen Perry-Jenkins

Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences
Director of CRF 2014 -2021

CRF Welcomes a New Director

The Center for Research on Families is excited to welcome its new Director, **Dr. Lorraine Cordeiro**, Ph.D., M.P.H., associate professor in the Department of Nutrition in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences. She began her appointment on June 1, 2021.

Dr. Cordeiro is an American of Tanzanian Goan heritage who came to the U.S. in 1989 and became a first-generation graduate from Mount Holyoke College. Born and raised in Tanzania, Dr. Cordeiro is the youngest of three children of the late Henry and Louise Cordeiro of Moshi, Tanzania. Both her siblings have a love of learning and are educators. Dr. Cordeiro is married to Hai Cheng, UMass '91, '96, who came as a Cambodian unaccompanied minor from a Thai refugee camp to the U.S. in 1982 and completed graduate school at UMass Amherst. They have two teenagers in the Amherst Regional Public Schools.

Dr. Cordeiro studies the associations between food security, high risk health behaviors, and nutritional outcomes among adolescents and women in multiple social and cultural contexts. Her community-engaged research, teaching, and service promotes social justice and equity, particularly as it relates to the health and well-being of families. She applies the principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR), both to respect and leverage the wisdom of underserved communities and as a pathway to build their research capital. Her work serves to create a meaningful dialogue on health and economic disparities in underserved populations in the U.S., internationally, and in communities undergoing transition.

Prior to her appointment at UMass in 2009, Dr. Cordeiro was a National Institutes of Child and Human Development (NICHD) Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College. Dr. Cordeiro received her doctorate at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and her Master of Public Health from Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. From 2016 to 2019 she was secretary of the World Federation for Health and Migration, and since 2019 she has been a coach for the Faculty Success Program of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity. In 2013, Dr. Cordeiro was a recipient of the College Outstanding Teaching awards and in 2015, she received the Distinguished Teaching Award. Her research team also received the Distinguished Research Partnership Award from Cambodia Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell.



Dr. Lorraine Cordeiro
Associate Professor of Nutrition

Photo by Isabella Dellolio Photography

As a former CRF Scholar, (2010-11), Dr. Cordeiro brings her expertise and a new vision to CRF. She says, **“CRF represents a safe place for faculty development and research success. I am committed to advancing social and racial justice, strengthening community-engaged research, and supporting faculty research on families.”** Dr. Cordeiro has put concerted effort into strengthening support systems for Black, Indigenous, and other Faculty of Color in the Five College Consortium and UMass system. She plans to develop and implement a strategic vision based on the priorities of the center and university, as well as CRF’s legacy of family research, capacity building, and leadership. Dr. Cordeiro brings a strong, collaborative approach to advance CRF’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, community engagement, and data-informed decision making. Under her leadership, CRF will remain an inclusive and supportive environment that invites more people to the table, increases the pipeline of family researchers, and ultimately changes the face of academia.

At the Center’s recent Annual Celebration and Research Forum Dr. Cordeiro said, **“I am thrilled to lead CRF through this time of the pandemic with an experienced commitment to social and racial justice. This is my priority and the core of my research. It is why I became a professor. I honor the Goan, Tanzanian, and Cambodian communities that raised me and all the women that never had a chance for a higher education. As director, I will lead with compassion, kindness, and equity. CRF is family and I hope you will all work with me to create a safe place for everyone at UMass and for the families in our communities.”** Dean of the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, Anna Maria Siega-Riz said, **“I have no doubt that under Dr. Cordeiro’s leadership the Center will continue to grow and prosper.”**

“CRF represents a safe place for faculty development and research success. I am committed to advancing social and racial justice, strengthening community-engaged research, and supporting faculty research on families.”

-Incoming CRF Director, Lorraine Cordiero



Celebrating the 2020-21 Family Research Scholars

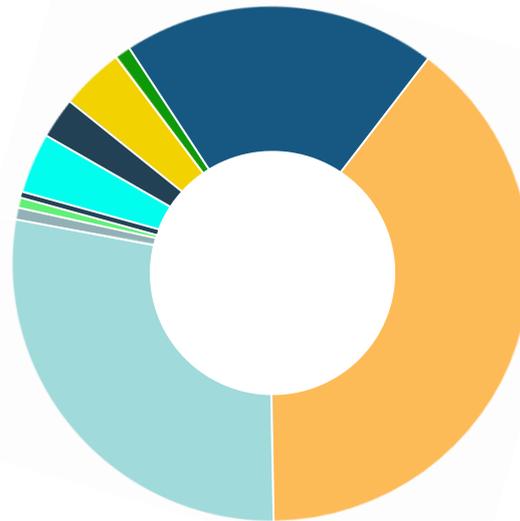
Pictured top row, left to right: Lisa Harvey, Holly Laws, Sarah Goff, Gisele Litalien
Bottom, left to right: Lorraine Cordeiro, Bruna Martins-Klein, Emily Kumpel, Alicia Timme-Laragy

Overall CRF Programming - Engagement Across Colleges FY21

Engagement Breakout	College of Education	College of Engineering	College of Natural Sciences	College of Nursing	College of Social & Behavioral Sciences	Isenberg School of Management	School of Public Health & Health Sciences
Hours of Services & Programming	28+	132+	1,400+	92+	140+	32+	710+
Number of Faculty & Students	17	16	249	34	66	11	111

Engagement Across All Groups FY21

- Administration
- Alumnus
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Nursing
- College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Community Partners
- External Institutions
- Isenberg School of Management
- School of Public Health & Health Sciences



More than **650** people received **3,643** hours of services

Family Research Scholars Grant Submissions by College FY17-FY21

College of Education	College of Engineering	College of Natural Sciences	College of Nursing	College of Social & Behavioral Sciences	School of Public Health & Health Sciences
\$1,755,672	\$4,648,924	\$18,414,375	\$1,909,613	\$10,498,280	\$56,703,941

2020-2021 CRF Highlights

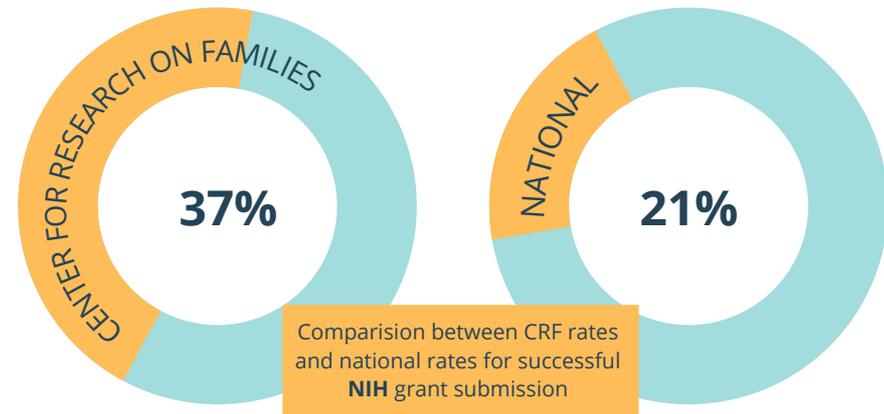
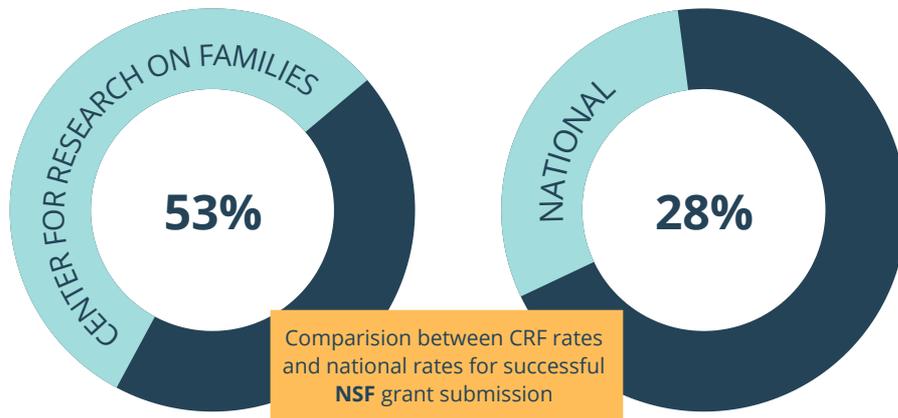
CRF ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2020-2021:

The Center conducted a thorough search to identify our next director who will expand the mission of CRF "to advance research for health and wellbeing of all families" while broadening CRF's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are excited to welcome **Dr. Lorraine Cordeiro**, associate professor of Nutrition, as our new director.

During fiscal year **2021**, more than **650** people received **3,643** hours of CRF programming through our **three-pronged approach**. A few highlights of what we have accomplished this year are listed below.

1) Promoting and conducting high-quality, substantive research on key issues affecting family life

- Six CRF Family Research Scholars (FRS) met biweekly to **develop competitive grants** through intensive faculty and peer feedback, targeted instruction on the review process, and methodology support.
- Scholars from the past four cohorts continued to meet as a group or with the CRF director to revise/submit additional grants.
- Thirteen Family Research Scholars submitted **14** grants totaling **\$17,645,831**.
- CRF has active grants totaling **\$10,196,831**.
- CRF's Graduate Student Grant Writing Program continues to develop. Six students worked under the leadership of Professor **Rebecca Spencer** to prepare NSF, NIH, and Ford Foundation fellowship applications. Seven new scholars were selected for 2021-2022. Two participants were funded; **Mélise Edwards** received a **Ford Foundation Fellowship**, 1 year grant of **\$28,000**, and **Gorana Gonzalez** received a **National Science Foundation Fellowship**, 5-year support of **\$104,000**.
- In its second year, the **Menopause Research Group** has continued to expand and form new collaborations across campus and across the five-college consortium.
- CRF Faculty Scholars continue to have success rates that are **nearly double** the national success rates.



2) Teaching, mentoring, and supporting faculty and student family researchers throughout their careers

- CRF awarded **\$2,300** in Student Family Research Grants to five graduate students and a total of **\$415,700** since inception. CRF also gave full scholarships to eight graduate students to attend the **Stress Biomarkers Summer Methodology Workshop**.
- CRF provided **nearly 500 hours** of formal **advanced statistical and methodological consultation** to UMass faculty and graduate student researchers, researchers at other universities, and community organizations.
- CRF's Methodology Program offered **a new 4-part series** of Methods Workshops led by CRF Methods alumni who have gone on to a wide range of careers both inside and outside of academia.
- CRF and the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) offered a **Pre-Scholars Workshop** to advise **68** faculty in grant preparedness and in the application process.
- CRF participated in the **Science Policy and Communication Showcase and Resource Fair**.

3) Engaging with the community to address and inform outreach and policy on issues critical to the well-being of families

- CRF researchers contributed knowledge and **evidence-based** guidance on issues facing families during the COVID-19 pandemic through their research and publications.
- CRF hosted **four prominent researchers** who presented a live, virtual public lecture through our Tay Gavin Erikson Lecture Series. The lectures were attended by over **200** participants from **25** institutions.
- CRF Scholars **Devon Grayson** and **Joya Misra** participated in the Public Engagement Fellows Program (PEP) to develop skills in translating their research to enhance families' lives.
- **CRF disseminated news articles** about current and former Family Research Scholars' research from publications including American Psychologist, Blade, CanVax, Desert News, Food Packing Forum, Inside Higher Ed, Los Angeles Times, Mass Appeal, MassLive, New am, New York Post, San Diego Union, The Conversation, The New York Times, The Rise and Decline of Patriarchal Systems, The Siasat Daily, Wall Street Window, Wired, and WWLP.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY 2020 - 21

GRANT ACTIVITY

Grants submitted FY'21: **14** grants totaling **\$17,664,831**

Active grants: **17** grants totaling **\$9,775,431**

Federal grants submitted since inception: **98**

Federal grants awarded since inception: **41**

Total grant funding since inception: **\$28,706,683**

SUBMITTED RESEARCH GRANTS

Sofiya Alhassan (Kinesiology)

National Institutes of Health - **\$3,925,087**

Preschool-age Children Physical Activity: The Impact of Aligning Activities into Early Education Learning Standards

Lorraine Cordeiro (Nutrition)

Five College Native American and Indigenous Studies/Mellon Foundation- **\$60,000**

Scholar in Residence Program

Adam Grabell (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Institutes of Health - **\$427,576**

Using Wearable Devices and Machine Learning to Forecast Preschool Tantrums and Identify Clinically Significant Variant

Sarah Goff (Health Promotion and Policy)

National Institutes of Health - **\$741,774**

Addressing Disparities in Pediatric Practice for Lower-Income Racial and Ethnic Minority Families: A Pilot Implementation Study

National Institutes of Health - **\$457,475**

Addressing Disparities in Maternal Mental Health by Improving Delivery of Postpartum Depression and Referral in Pediatric Practice

Devon Greyson (Communications)

National Institutes of Health - **\$3,742,289**

Decision Making about Cannabis use during Pregnancy and Breastfeeding: A Mixed Method Study

Linda Isbell (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - **\$343,678**

Continuation: Emotional Influences on Diagnostic Error in Emergency Medicine: An Experimental Approach to Understand Diagnostic Failure and Facilitate Improvement for Patients with and without Mental Illness

Emily Kumpel (Engineering)

National Institutes of Health - **\$3,884,352**

The impact of Water Shutoff Moratoria on Adherence to Covid-19 Mitigation Measures and the Health Impacts of Premise Plumbing Contamination

Youngbin Kwak (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Institutes of Health - **\$433,514**

Spatiotemporal Dynamics of the Brain's Motor System during Economic Decision Making

Bruna Martins Klein (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Institutes of Health - **\$422,813**

Role of Autobiographical Memory and Neural Dedifferentiation in Emotion Regulation in Later Life

Mariana Pereira (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Institutes of Health - **\$1,152,736**

Neural Mechanisms Preventing Postpartum Relapse to Cocaine Seeking in New Mothers

Stephanie Padilla (Biology)

Mass Life Sciences Center - **\$292,170**

Development of Temperature Therapeutics to Improve Sleep in Menopausal Women

Krishna Poudel (Health Promotion and Policy)

National Institutes of Health - **\$1,349,949**

Development of an App-Based Smoking Cessation Intervention for people living with HIV

Alicia Timme-Laragy (Environmental Health)

National Institutes of Health - **\$421,400**

Developmental Toxicants and Congenital Pancreas Malformations

NEWLY FUNDED

Stephanie Padilla (Biology)

Mass Life Sciences Center - **\$290,215**

Development of Temperature Therapeutics to Improve Sleep in Menopausal Women

Nicole VanKim (Biostatistics and Epidemiology)

National Institutes of Health - **\$614,645**

Physiologic Stress and Sexual Orientation Disparities in Risk for Type 2 Diabetes among Women

Jennifer Whitehill (Health Promotion and Policy)

Massachusetts Cannabis Commission - **\$53,129**

Identifying Massachusetts Communities Disproportionately Impacted by Cannabis Prohibitions

Ning Zhang (Health Promotion and Policy)

National Institutes of Health - **\$181,702**

Burdens of Multimorbidity on Hospitalization and Mortality in Nursing Home Residents with Obesity



ACTIVE RESEARCH

Nilanjana Dasgupta (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Science Foundation - **\$1,499,993** and **\$539,822** (sub-award)

Peer Influences on Adolescent's Self-Concept, Achievement, and Future Aspirations in Science and Mathematics: Does Student Gender and Race Matter?

Brigitte Holt (Anthropology)

National Science Foundation - **\$793,815**

Collaborative Research: Bone Strength and Physical Activity Over the Life Course in a Physically Active Contemporary Pre-Industrial Population

Linda Isbell (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - **\$1,712,843**

Emotional Influences on Diagnostic Error in Emergency Medicine: An Experimental Approach to Understand Diagnostic Failure and Facilitate Improvement for Patients with and without Mental Illness

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - **\$60,486**

Risk Aversion, Fear of Malpractice, and Medical Decision Making in the Emergency Department

Alexandra Jesse (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Institutes of Health - **\$152,794**

Electrophysiological Indices of Audiovisual Benefits to Speech Processing in Aging Adults

Agnès Lacreuse (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Institutes of Health - **\$1,545,557** and **\$111,892** (sub-award)

Sex Differences in Cognitive and Brain Aging: A Primate Model

National Institutes of Health - **\$443,755**

Sleep, Hot Flashes, and Cognition: A Nonhuman Primate Model for Menopausal Symptoms

Holly Laws (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Institutes of Health - **\$223,823** (Co-Investigator)

A Daily Self-Regulation Intervention for Persons with Early-Stage Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias and their Spouses. (PI: Joan Monin, Yale School of Public Health)

Richard Pilsner (Environmental Health)

National Institutes of Health - **\$2,710,962**

Paternal Preconception Phthalates and Reproductive Health - Potential Mediation through Sperm DNA Methylation

Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar (Nursing)

National Institutes of Health - **\$732,144**

Reducing Stress, Anxiety, and Depressive Symptoms via a Family-Centered Preventative Intervention for Immigrants

Jamie Rowen (Political Science)

National Science Foundation - **\$500,000**

CAREER: Thank you for Your Service: The Instrumentalization of Law through Veterans Treatment Courts

Jeffrey Starns (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

National Science Foundation - **\$300,000**

Effect of Visualization on Students' Understanding of Probability Concepts in an Innovative Learning Module

Nicole VanKim (Biostatistics and Epidemiology)

National Institutes of Health - **\$614,645**

Physiologic Stress and Sexual Orientation Disparities in Risk for Type 2 Diabetes among Women

Jennifer Whitehill (Health Promotion and Policy)

Massachusetts Cannabis Commission - **\$53,129**

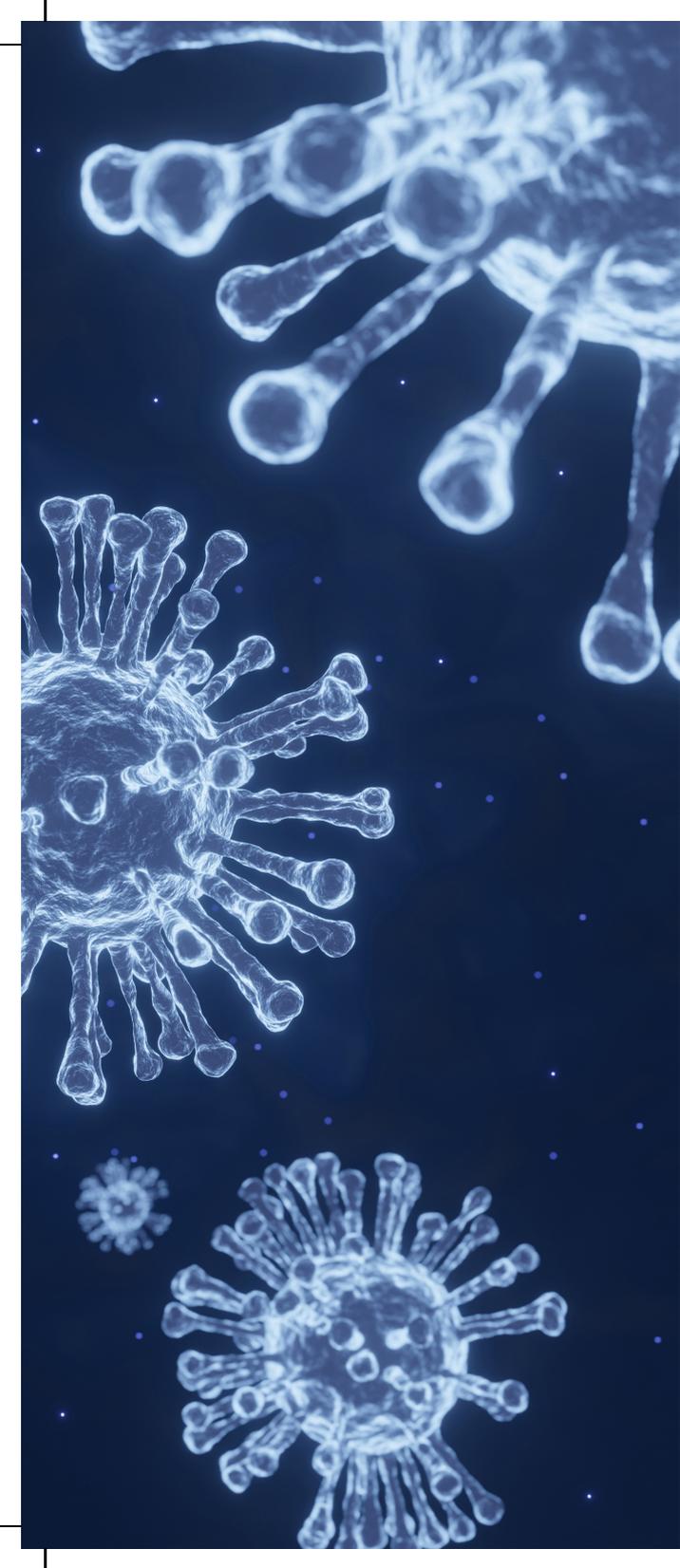
Identifying Massachusetts Communities Disproportionately Impacted by Cannabis Prohibition

Ning Zhang (Health Promotion and Policy)

National Institutes of Health - **\$181,702**

Burdens of Multimorbidity on Hospitalization and Mortality in Nursing Home Residents with Obesity





Covid-19 Related Research and Dissemination

The Center for Research on Families recognizes how challenging the past year has been for families, students, faculty, and researchers alike. Below are a few highlights of Covid-19 related work being done by our current and past researchers.

Dr. Linda Tropp (FRS 2009-10), professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, contributed to report: The Impacts of Covid-19 on Psychology Education and Training: Concerns, Disparities, and Recommendations, published by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

Dr. Maureen Perry-Jenkins, CRF director and professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, was quoted in the Deseret News about how chores were shared by couples during the pandemic and the increased stress that the pandemic has caused couples.

Dr. Lee Badgett (FRS 2004-05), professor of Economics, was quoted in a New York Post article about how women are reconsidering having kids due to the coronavirus. She states that economic challenges are also making certain parts of the queer community less likely to have kids because they cannot afford to get pregnant or raise kids.

Dr. Brenda Bushouse (FRS 2006-07), associate professor of Political Science and Public Policy, and recent alum Tamara Keshecki, received funding for a grant to study the effects of Covid-19 relief programs on nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in New York City.

Dr. Bruna Martins-Klein (FRS 2020-21), assistant professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, was interviewed by WWLP for their Mass Appeal program about how the mental health of older adults has been challenged in 2020.

In a Washington Post parenting column, **Dr. Sofiya Alhassan** (FRS 2016-2017), associate professor of Kinesiology, shared advice on how to keep kids active during the pandemic as the weather cooled last fall. She said, "Kids who are allowed to be physically active during school have better behavior in class, they learn better, they are less hyperactive. Now that we're stuck inside, there are going to be more mood swings, more arguing". She suggests, for instance, that families that lack outdoor space or cannot take their children outside frequently might turn common household chores into games.

Dr. Ning Zhang (FRS 2017-2018), assistant professor of Public Health, is studying the implications of the reverse associations between obesity prevalence and coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases and related deaths in the United States.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Related Research

The Center for Research on Families is committed to the Diversity Mission Statement of the University as demonstrated by taking meaningful action to undo the effects of systemic racism in our society, in our workplaces, in academia, in our communities, and in our country. CRF recognizes our position as guests on this sacred land and acknowledges that Amherst is on the unceded homelands of the Pocumtuc Nation on the land of the Norrwutuck community. The Pocumtuc had connections with these lands for millenia. Over 400 years of colonization, when Pocumtuc Peoples were displaced, many joined their Algonquian relatives to the east, south, west, and north. That includes Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag, Nipmuc, Massachusetts, Narragansett, Mohegan, Pequot, Mohican, and Abenaki communities. These Indigenous communities still maintain connections and relationships of care for these lands today.

In the wake of recent racial uprising, CRF has committed to developing a strategic planning process to deepen its commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity throughout its programming and activities. CRF is actively collaborating with the Office of Faculty Development, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, and across campus and the Five College Consortium to take part in workshops and trainings on dismantling racism and white privilege and holding space for members of communities who are harmed by the current structures in place. We continue to support research that addresses inequality in the lives of families that exist at the intersections of race, ethnicity, social class, religion, gender, and abilities. The faculty and student research we support will inform policy and practices that will reduce harm and make progress towards the elimination of social, economic, and health inequities.

CRF scholars are conducting research on social justice-related topics such as police discrimination, obesity in minority children, infant mortality in Black communities, barriers to social mobility, socioeconomic disparities in teen car crashes, stress experienced by immigrants, equity in water access, and stress on Latinx families related to racial discrimination. We believe that this kind of research can provide evidence-based knowledge that will improve the health and well-being of families that are disproportionately impacted by a wide range of social injustices.



The following are highlights from several current and past CRF scholars who are looking at inequality in the lives of families that exist at the intersections of many identities.

- **Airín Martínez**, Health Promotion and Policy, examines the effects of structural and interpersonal racism in relation to ethnic-racial socialization and biobehavioral health in Latinx parent-youth dyads. She hopes to identify protective factors that can be integrated into local interventions and provide evidence to support equitable social policies.
- **Tara Mandalaywala**, Psychological and Brain Sciences, studies how children's early emerging beliefs about achievement might predict relative risk or resilience to economic disadvantage. She hopes this knowledge will serve to develop low-cost interventions to improve health outcomes among at-risk populations.
- **Lindiwe Sibeko**, Nutrition, has developed a maternal and child research program that is informed primarily by community-based participatory methodologies, as well as observational and intervention studies encompassing multiple methods used to advance breastfeeding equity among Black/African American women; elucidate the role of diet in reducing breast cancer risk in lactating women, and identify mechanisms of peer influence on weight-related behaviors in multicultural youth.
- **Emily Kumpel**, Engineering, studies water access and equity. She hopes her work will enable the design of engineered systems that control risks to health and enable provision of safe, sustainable water supplies. Her study will be carried out in Nairobi, Kenya, Mysore, India, and the Pioneer Valley in Massachusetts.
- **Shannon Roberts**, Engineering, studies teenage driving behaviors to determine why differences exist in the number of accidents and crashes among adolescents of different socioeconomic status (SES). She hopes to mitigate the health disparity between high and low SES teenagers by reducing crash risks and fatalities.
- **Sarah Goff**, Public Health, seeks to address issues of quality and equity in the US health care system. One of her recent studies identified factors that matter to low-income and racial/ethnic minority mothers when choosing a pediatric practice.
- **Sofiya Alhassan**, Kinesiology, studies physical activity and policy-based interventions in preschool-age children, environmental and media influences on health behaviors in ethnic-minority populations, and after-school family-based interventions to improve physiological (obesity and diabetes risk) and psychosocial health, and academic performance of minority pre-adolescents.
- **Ezekiel Kimball**, Education, studies postsecondary success trajectories of students with disabilities. Some of his recent publications address coping and resilience in students with disabilities, navigating disability in campus housing, and queer perspectives on the experiences of students with disabilities.

Advancing Research on Families

FAMILY RESEARCH SCHOLARS

The Family Research Scholars Program (FRS) which began in 2003 represents the cornerstone of how we advance interdisciplinary research.

HIGHLY SELECTIVE PROGRAM PREPARES FACULTY TO
SUBMIT LARGE GRANT PROPOSALS

ADVANCES INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ACROSS
A WIDE RANGE OF DISCIPLINES

INCREASES EVIDENCE-BASED KNOWLEDGE ON THE HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES THAT ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY SOCIAL INJUSTICES

SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES FEDERAL RESEARCH
SUPPORT AT UMASS

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Anthropology, Biology, Economics, Education, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Health Policy and Management, Health Promotion and Policy, Kinesiology, Neuroscience, Nursing, Nutrition, Political Science, Psychological and Brain Sciences, Sociology

HOW CRF SUPPORTS FAMILY RESEARCH

Instruction on Grant Development

Feedback and Peer Review

Methodological Support

In-Depth Consultation with National Expert

Course Release

Supporting a Community of Scholars

One-on-one, group, and peer mentoring

FAMILY RESEARCH SCHOLARS 2020-2021

Directed by **Lisa Harvey**, Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Sarah Goff, Associate Professor, Health Promotion and Policy
Addressing Disparities in Maternal Mental Health by Improving Delivery of Postpartum Depression and Referral in Pediatric Practice

Emily Kumpel, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
The Impact of Water Shutoff Moratoria on Adherence to Covid-19 Mitigation Measures and the Health Impacts of Premise Plumbing Contamination

Tara Mandalaywala, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Reducing Income- Based Inequalities in Health by Targeting the Development of Lay Theories about Social Mobility

Bruna Martins-Klein, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Role of Autobiographical Memory and Neural Dedifferentiation in Emotion Regulation in Later Life

Stephanie Padilla, Assistant Professor, Biology
Neural Mechanisms of Postpartum Depression

Alicia Timme-Laragy, Associate Professor, Environmental Health Sciences
Developmental Toxicants and Congenital Pancreas Malformations

2021-2022 Family Research Scholars

The **2021-2022** Family Research Scholars have been selected based on their promising family related research.

Raphael Arku, Assistant Professor, Environmental Health Sciences
Laura Attanasio, Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management
Maria Galano, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Joshua Kaiser, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Evelyn Mercado, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Amanda Woerman, Assistant Professor, Biology

Sarah
Goff



Tara
Mandalaywala



Emily
Kumpel



Bruna
Martins-Klein



Alicia
Timme-Laragy



Stephanie
Padilla



Spotlight on Scholars



Addressing Mental Health in Pediatric Practice

Bringing a new child into the world is one of the most wonderful and life-changing events that families experience. Unfortunately, for many women, the experience is marked by postpartum depression (PPD), the most common complication of childbirth. PPD affects 12% of women overall and 25% or more of women in Black, Latina/x, and lower-income populations.

Families can suffer from many serious impacts from PPD, such as poor social functioning, an increased risk for maternal suicide, and difficulties with mother-child bonding. Children's lifetime risk for behavioral, cognitive, and mental health disorders can also increase. Black, Latina/x, and lower-income women are among those least likely to receive evidence based PPD care, exacerbating health disparities.

Dr. Sarah Goff, M.D., PhD, Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, Department of Health Promotion and Policy, and CRF Family Research Scholar 2019-20, is developing an intervention to improve PPD screening and referral in pediatric practices serving families at higher-risk for negative consequences of PPD. The intervention, Addressing Maternal Mental Health in Pediatric Practice (AMMPP), combines the Replicating Effective Programs (REP) framework, an implementation strategy for translating evidence-based interventions into community-based practice settings, with practice facilitation, which has been shown to enhance REP to directly address barriers to PPD screening and referral. AMMPP also includes novel integration of trauma informed care across the PPD screening and referral process to address stigma-related potential barriers identified in our preliminary study with higher-risk families.

Dr. Goff says, **"An immense amount of cognitive and social-emotional development takes place in the first year of life and is influenced by parental health and wellbeing. Supporting parents in this critical period by decreasing their risk for developing perinatal mood disorders such as PPD and increasing the likelihood of detection and treatment of these mood disorders when they do occur can improve health outcomes for parents and children."**

Dr. Sarah Goff

Associate Professor

Health Promotion and Policy

Family Research Scholar 2020-21



Dr. Bruna Martins-Klein

Assistant Professor

Psychological and Brain Sciences

Family Research Scholar 2020-21

Revisiting Memories to Enhance Resilience

Aging is a natural process that comes with many challenges as well as unique strengths. One of these strengths is the ability to learn from our experiences and discover strategies to cope with challenges we navigate across our lives. With the 65+ population projected to double by 2050 in the US, we are likely to see an increase in age-related emotional stressors and an increase in late-life mood disorders. It is crucial to have effective strategies for managing the stresses of later life, as long-term avoidance of negative emotion is linked to reduced cardiovascular health and reduced functional independence.

The good news is that emotion regulation strategies like reappraisal—the process of reinterpreting the meaning of distressing situations as less negative—can reduce late-life anxiety and depression symptoms and slows the progression of cognitive impairment into Alzheimer’s disease. Yet, unfortunately, not all older adults benefit from this effortful and challenging strategy, which in large part fails to consider how the stressors we surmounted yesterday can help us cope in the here and now.

We know that even older adults with cognitive impairment retain the ability to recall narratives past life experiences, or autobiographical memories. **Dr. Bruna Martins-Klein**, FRS 2020-21, Assistant Professor in Psychological and Brain Sciences, will investigate how forming links between current stressors and previous life experiences may facilitate coping and reappraising stressful situations more positively. Her team will explore how recalling life experiences can help regulate emotions and build resilience. This work may hold key insights about how considering past experiences may benefit reappraisal and current therapeutic interventions for late-life mood disorders. She hopes this work will guide the intelligent design of late-life therapy interventions to address emotion dysregulation, geriatric mood disorders, and promote longevity.

Dr. Martins-Klein says, **“We’ve remained engaged with seniors throughout this tough time, providing community workshops and support groups to connect seniors with our student therapists, and completed in-depth interviews with seniors about their stressors and coping experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am so grateful and honored to be a CRF scholar this year. The group provided key insights and feedback on my proposal, and the compassion and friendships gained from this group were a source of strength for me.”**

Recently Funded Scholars

A Promising Intervention for Immigrant Mental Health

Imagine the stress you might experience as a new immigrant, trying to navigate challenges such as employment, housing, transportation, cultural differences, raising children, separation from family, social isolation, and language barriers. Immigrants living in the U.S. are more vulnerable to mental health problems than the general population, and mental health disorders top the list of the costliest medical conditions.

CRF Scholar **Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar**, (FRS 2017 - 18) is developing and testing an exciting new intervention in close partnership with immigrant communities in Western Massachusetts. As an associate professor in the School of Nursing, Poudel-Tandukar was awarded a **3-year R34 Research Grant from the National Institute of Mental Health at the National Institutes of Health**. The grant is titled "*Reducing Stress, Anxiety, and Depressive Symptoms Via a Family-Centered, Preventative Intervention for Immigrants: A Randomized Controlled Feasibility Trial.*"

Most interventions for immigrants are based on treatment models to improve the access and quality of care for those with diagnosed mental health problems. Poudel-Tandukar believes that prevention through culturally tailored interventions that address psycho-socio-cultural stressors hold the most promise. The intervention's core components are culturally tailored psychoeducation, behavioral activation, problem-solving, and mind-body exercises.

Despite the hindrances of the pandemic, Dr. Poudel-Tandukar is excited to start her field activities. **"We are eagerly looking forward to training the community members as community interventionists; then they will deliver the mental health promotion program at family settings. We are quite optimistic that we will be able to implement our family-based program in person."**

"I highly valued the insights and guidance CRF has provided me to prepare the grant proposal. I am proud to be a CRF scholar and grateful to CRF for their genuine support throughout the grant writing and revising process even after my fellowship."



Dr. Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar
Associate Professor, Nursing
Family Research Scholar 2017-18



Dr. Ning Zhang

Assistant Professor

Health Promotion & Policy

Family Research Scholar 2017-18

Improving Care for Nursing Home Residents in High-Risk Groups

In the face of increasing rates of obesity and increasing numbers of elderly living in nursing homes, CRF Scholar **Dr. Ning Zhang**, (FRS 2017-18) Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management, wondered what challenges might emerge when obese nursing home residents also have other chronic conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, arthritis, and certain cancers. Dr. Zhang, has received a **\$181,702** grant from the National Institute on Aging to study the burdens of multimorbidity on hospitalization and mortality in nursing home residents with obesity.

The combination of obesity and other chronic conditions places individuals at a much higher risk of hospitalization and mortality. Obese residents also experience more pain with activity and typically have more difficulty with activities such as walking, maintaining balance, and rising from a chair, which may create great challenges for care providers who must manage multiple medications and their potential interactions, rehabilitation services, and schedules, diet, and more.

Using the national Minimum Data Set (MDS) and Medicare Provider Analysis and Review, Zhang hopes to characterize the groupings of conditions and to identify the most common concurrent conditions. Zhang will also assess the impact of these groupings of conditions on death and hospitalization among nursing home residents with obesity.

Through her work, Dr. Zhang hopes to identify who is at risk of preventable hospitalization and of mortality in order to support clinicians and allow for targeted interventions to improve care to individuals in high-risk groups. She says, **“As the population grows older and more individuals come to rely on nursing home care, it becomes more important to find ways to provide clinical interventions that will ease the burdens that multimorbidity creates for residents and caretakers.”**

Faculty Affiliate Research Highlights

In what is believed to be the first rigorous study of its kind, **Dr. Krishna Poudel** (FRS 2018-19) discussed the causal links between inflammation and smoking in HIV-positive persons. Poudel's research findings were featured on WWLP, News.am, and The Siasat Daily. His findings reveal that smoking can cause that deadly inflammation for individuals living with HIV and that even just cutting back on tobacco intake can reduce the risk of death.

Dr. Airín Martínez (FRS 2019-20) shared the findings of her research with the American Public Health Association. The paper titled "*A Call to Investigate and Prevent Further Violations of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Immigration Detention Centers*", analyzes alleged medical coercion and unnecessary gynecological procedures, including coerced sterilization performed on women in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody.

In her new book, "*The Rise and Decline of Patriarchal Systems: An Intersectional Political Economy*", **Dr. Nancy Folbre** (FRS 2007-08) examines how care work goes underappreciated in the market economy and calls attention to the non-market processes associated with work within the home. Folbre studies the economic implications that are found at intersecting points of inequities including but not limited to gender, age, race, and class, and what the effects are on the vision and strength of modern families and society.

Expanding on her work with the effects of BPA, **Dr. Laura Vandenberg** (FRS 2015-16) explores the links between exposure to the plastic-based chemical and its contribution to human diseases and the varied outcomes among datasets. Her findings were featured during the Food Packaging Forum workshop that took place in October of 2020.

Recent Family Research Scholar **Dr. Devon Greyson** (FRS 2019-20) discussed viewpoints about vaccines during the lead-up to the approval and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines. Greyson collaborated with researchers at the University of Toronto to predict effective means of communication to improve public attitudes around vaccines as public health figures raced to get out messaging. They looked at how disinformation and misinformation influence people's perspectives on health care systems and explored ways to create common ground based on factual information.

Faculty Affiliate Awards and Accolades

Dr. Nicole VanKim (FRS 2019-20) has been granted a **\$600,000** National Institutes of Health (NIH) early career development award. The grant will fund VanKim's research on the physiologic stress and sexual orientation disparities in risk for type 2 diabetes among women.

Dr. Krishna Poudel (FRS 2018-19) was named co-director of the Institute for Global Health. Poudel will work with the institute in furthering their mission "to protect and promote the health of people across the globe". Poudel states "**As a co-director, I will work to strengthen our strategic partnerships both within the campus and outside, and to provide opportunities for students to explore multidisciplinary issues in global health through education and engagement in global health activities**".

Dr. Alicia Timme-Laragy (FRS 2020-21) has been named as member of the NIH peer review section in the Cancer Etiology Study Section, part of the NIH's larger Oncology Basic Translational Integrated Review Group, which considers applications involving basic and translational investigations that encompass cancer initiation, promotion, progression, and metastasis.

Professor **Dr. Brenda K. Bushouse** (FRS 2006-07) has been awarded a two-year Learning Sciences Exchange fellowship for her work on early childhood policy.

Methodology Program

Dear CRF Community,

The Methodology Program at CRF has had an eventful year, with several new directions and changes to our practice that I wanted to highlight. With the Covid-19 pandemic constraining us to remote work, we learned that this format presented some pleasant surprises that enhanced our consultation. For example, one-on-one consultation meetings allowed for direct teaching via screen sharing, and these meetings could be recorded for future reference. Our UMass graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty consultees provided feedback that these recordings really helped them to increase their understanding of complex statistical models as compared with in-person meetings since such dense material often requires multiple repetitions to sink in. Another surprise was the increase in reach for the free seminars offered by our graduate consultants, Dongwei Wang, Nicole Fields, and Joel Ginn, during the academic year. In the prior in-person format, participants were constrained by location, and enrollments were often small and limited to the UMass community because of these constraints. By offering our seminars in a remote format, we were able to expand the reach of these seminars to graduate students and researchers from across the country, and attendance increased three- to four-fold. This broader reach gave our graduate student methods consultants broader exposure to a national audience: on the strength of his excellent teaching for his mediation and moderation seminar, Joel Ginn was invited to conduct a similar workshop for a social science department at a Midwestern university. The virtual format increased our ability to teach effectively and increased our reach to new scholars we might not have connected with in our former in-person format.

Finally, CRF Methodology expanded its individual consultation and teaching with UMass and external researchers from academic institutions across the country, with projects requiring multilevel analysis for repeated measures and dyadic data spanning rich topics including the effects of interpersonal stressors on mental health, interventions to support the mental health and coping strategies for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's and dementia, and internalized stigma and classroom experiences of underrepresented minority students and female middle school students' performance in math and science and aspirations in STEM fields. We are excited by these enhancements and expansions of our CRF Methodology Program, and are set to have a larger-than-ever team of graduate consultants in the coming academic year.



Dr. Holly Laws

Director, CRF Methodology Program

Holly Laws, CRF Methodology Program - Director Activities

- Methodological co-investigator in dyadic study of individuals with early-stage Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias and their partners, funded by the National Institute on Aging
- Methodological collaborator on an intervention study utilizing indigenous pedagogy and prevention science to increase Alaskan village members' and service providers to find culturally responsive ways to reduce suicide risk, funded by National Institute of Mental Health
- Conducted external workshop on multilevel modeling for longitudinal, intensive longitudinal, and dyadic applications for the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan
- Numerous publications using dyadic and longitudinal methodological applications

Methodology Training and Consultation

CRF’s Methodology Program is expanding in exciting new ways. We are serving larger numbers of faculty and more external institutions have requested our expertise. CRF has long served as a training ground for methodologists and this year four of our graduates returned to tell us about their success in a wide range of careers.

OVERVIEW

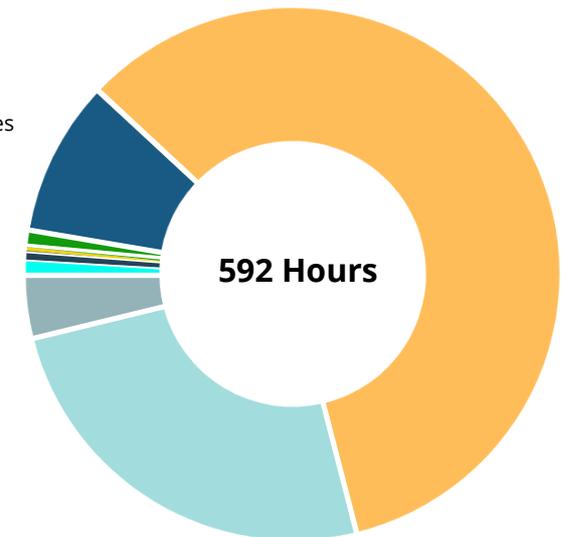
CRF’s Methodology Program provides consultation for study design and statistical analysis. The program has a particular expertise in methods for analyzing non-experimental data that arise in studies of families, developmental transitions, and intervention effects, using multilevel modeling structural equation modeling for the analysis of nested and longitudinal data. The CRF Methodology Program also offers a series of methodology workshops, seminars, and other training opportunities throughout the academic year and during the summer months.

CONSULTATION

In **2020-21**, CRF’s Methodology Consultation Services provided **592** hours of individual research and data consultation to faculty and staff from within and outside of the UMass community. Expert consultation on the following topics was provided:

- stress and health outcomes in relationships
- community-based suicide prevention intervention in native Alaskan communities
- family-based wellness interventions for immigrant communities
- physical activity treatment interventions for preschoolers and toddlers
- emotion regulation intervention for caregiver-care recipient dyads coping with early stage dementia

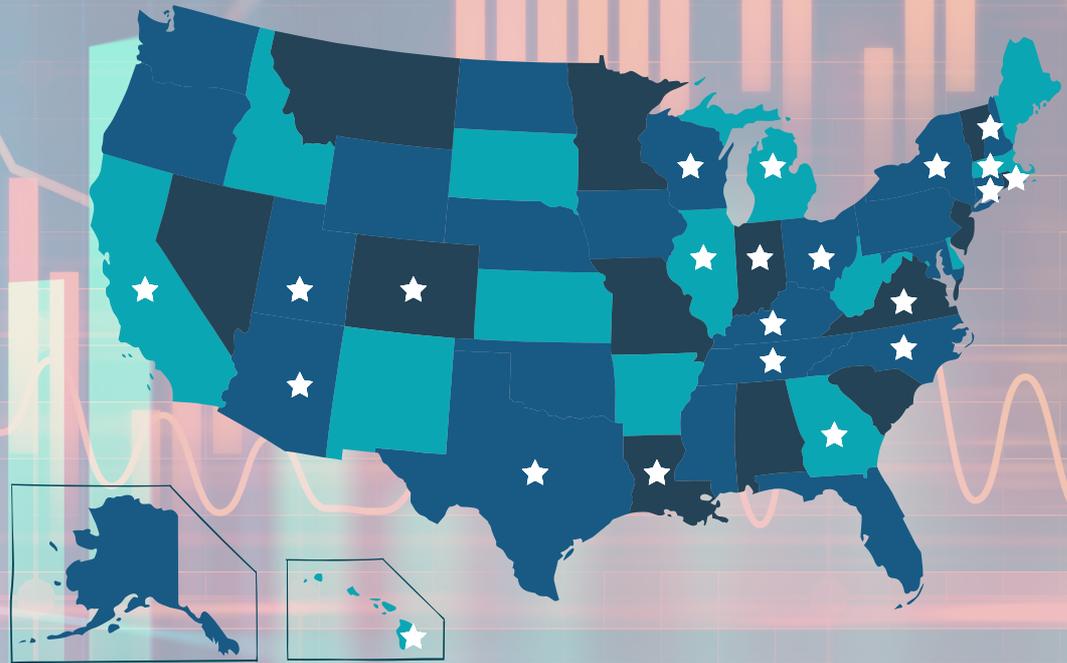
- College of Engineering
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Nursing
- College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Community Partners
- External Institutions
- Isenberg School of Management
- School of Public Health & Health Sciences



ACADEMIC YEAR SEMINARS 2020-21

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all academic year seminars were offered virtually in 2020-2021, each taking the form of a two-part series offering both didactic and hands-on practice with advanced statistical modeling techniques. One of the benefits of the virtual format is increased accessibility, with participants from UMass as well as external universities. Seminar participation included over **160** participants from **40** institutions.

- **Introduction to Latent Class Analysis**
 - Instructor: Dongwei Wang
- **Mediation and Moderation Using the PROCESS Macro**
 - Instructor: Joel Ginn
- **Cross-Lagged Panel Modeling**
 - Instructor: Nicole Fields



SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, summer workshops were again offered virtually in 2021. One of the benefits of the virtual format is increased accessibility, with the largest ever enrollments in our summer methodology institute. Workshops included over **85** workshop participants from **33** institutions across the country and international locations including **Hong Kong, Italy, Lebanon, and Sweden**. New offerings included a new series of half-day workshops by former CRF Methodology graduate and staff consultants, as well as a new 3-day workshop in dyadic data analysis. Workshop topics and instructors are listed below:

- **Data Visualization in R**
 - Instructor: Lisa Fiorenzo
- **Introduction to Dyadic Data Analysis** (3-day workshop intensive)
 - Instructors: Niall Bolger and J-P Laurenceau
- **Introduction to Program Evaluation**
 - Instructor: Lindsay Demers
- **Longitudinal Multilevel Modeling in R**
 - Instructor: Mark Manning
- **Stress Biomarkers Workshop** (3-day workshop intensive)
 - **Instructors:** Jerrold Meyer, Katie Dixon-Gordon, Lisa Troy, and Richard Hunter



Methods Programs National & International Engagement

46 Institutions Received Over 553 Hours of Services

- Acadia University
- Adelphi University
- All Saints' College
- Arizona State University
- Bastyr University
- Bellarmine University
- Berkeley University
- Boston College
- Brown University
- Case Western Reserve
- Colorado University
- Columbia University
- CUNY Graduate Center
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Dutka-Gianelli
- Eastern Carolina University
- Emerson College
- Emory University
- Georgia State University
- Harvard Medical School
- Indiana University
- Institute for Basic Research
- Kennesaw State University
- Louisiana State University
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Michigan State University
- Mount Holyoke College
- North Carolina A & T State University
- Northwestern University
- Ohio State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Queen Mary University of London
- Queens College
- Ramapo College of New Jersey
- Rothwell College
- Smith College
- Szabist Karachi
- Texas A&M University
- The Education University of Hong Kong
- UC Davis School of Nursing
- UCLA
- UCONN
- University of Utah
- Yale University

Our Director of Methodology, **Holly Laws**, and former CRF methodology director **Aline Sayer**, co-taught an online workshop for **ICPSR** on Multilevel Modeling with HLM and SPSS. Multilevel models, also known as hierarchical linear models and mixed-effects models, are widely used across a range of disciplines including sociology, psychology, political science, education, economics, and public health.

The logo for the ICPSR Summer Program, featuring the text "ICPSR" in a large, bold, blue font, with "SUMMER PROGRAM" in a smaller, bold, blue font below it.

CRF is a local evaluator for the **Young Women's Advisory Council (YWAC)** administered by the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts. CRF is providing evaluation of the impact of the program on young women's self-efficacy, self-esteem, and community engagement. This is the fourth year of the partnership.

Alternative Career Pathways from Grad School: Showcasing the Flexibilities and Possibilities Beyond the Tenure Track

CRF hosted a forum of three former graduate students from the Psychological and Brain Sciences department whose current careers showcase the flexibility and opportunities training in PBS can offer. While students often begin graduate training with a traditional career path to a tenure track job in mind, many change their goals along the way and discover unique pathways to success in a research career. Panelists spoke about the choices that shaped their career trajectory, shared personal stories of how they crafted success in various industries, and answered questions from current UMass graduate students.

Spotlight on Methods Consultant

Marielena Barbieri

Social Psychology, Methodology Consultant, Student Award Winner 2020-21

Our methodology program provides consultation in study design and statistical analysis to faculty across campus, within the five-college consortium, other institutions of higher education and private and non-profit organizations. With particular expertise in methods for analyzing nested data that arise in studies of families or students within classrooms, CRF staff has been working alongside **Dr. Nilanjana Dasgupta** (FRS 2006-07, 2012-13), providing analysis on a grant successfully submitted during her second year as a Family Research Scholar. The grant, *"The Impact of Same-Sex Peers on Adolescent Girls' Interest in Science and Math,"* investigates classroom dynamics, peer relationships, and school dynamics through the lens of the "Stereotype Inoculation Model" to test whether contact with same-sex peers in science and math classrooms function as "social vaccines" as mean to inoculate girls' academic self-concept against stereotype threat and increase their confidence and interest in STEM.

CRF Methodology Consultant **Marielena Barbieri** has spent much of her academic career working intimately with the data she helped to gather during the early part of the study. As her role evolved from research assistant to project coordinator and now, a dedicated CRF methodology consultant conducting analyses for the project, her knowledge and passion for statistics grew. Marielena's work with the CRF methodology program has provided her with the opportunity to work within large datasets running multi-level models to predict outcomes, a skill acquired in a class she took with **Dr. Holly Laws** during her first years as a graduate student at UMass. This work has served her research goals by establishing a strong network of researchers for her to collaborate with and providing a framework for the way she builds her career trajectory.



Teaching and Mentoring

Training the Next Generation of Family Research Scholars

STUDENT GRANT ACTIVITY THROUGH FY21

Number of grants submitted since program inception (2018): **17**

Success rate of submissions since inception: **25%**

Total funding since program inception: **\$247,696**

Graduate Student Grant Writing Program

The CRF **Graduate Student Grant Writing Program**, directed by **Dr. Rebecca Spencer**, professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, is modeled after the Family Research Scholars Program for faculty. The program is designed to support graduate students in the development of NIH, NSF, Ford Foundation, and similar pre-doctoral fellowship proposals. Our goal is to increase the number of successful student fellowship applications and develop the next generation of family scholars.

"The combined expertise of Bekki and the peer review and feedback kept me accountable and improved my writing significantly."

Mélise Edwards, member of the 2020-21 cohort



Pictured: Dr. Rebecca Spencer (second from left) and members of the 2019 - 20 cohort, Sanna Lokhandwala, Shannon Gair, and Melanna Cox

Graduate Student Grant Writing Program

Graduate student fellowships provide students the opportunity to pursue their graduate research goals without the burden of teaching assistantships. Students also learn to defend their research design and communicate their research to a broader audience, while developing critical grant writing skills. The five following PhD candidates were selected in a competitive application process and will receive mentoring and support from faculty, staff, and peers throughout the grant development process, including refinement and communication of their research ideas, their approach, methodology, and submission process.

2021 Student Cohort

Marielena Barbieri, Social Psychology

The Impact of Vicarious and Interpersonal Discrimination on Latinx Youth's Biobehavioral Health

Mentor: **Dr. Evelyn Mercado**

Erika Correll, Biology

Examining Midbrain Inhibitory Signaling Involved in Sensorimotor Gating

Mentor: **Dr. Karine Felon**

Sarah Dickinson, Neuroscience and Behavior

Vasopressin's Control of Social, Sensory Stimuli Integration

Mentor: **Dr. Joseph Bergan**

Katie Gonzalez, Clinical Psychology

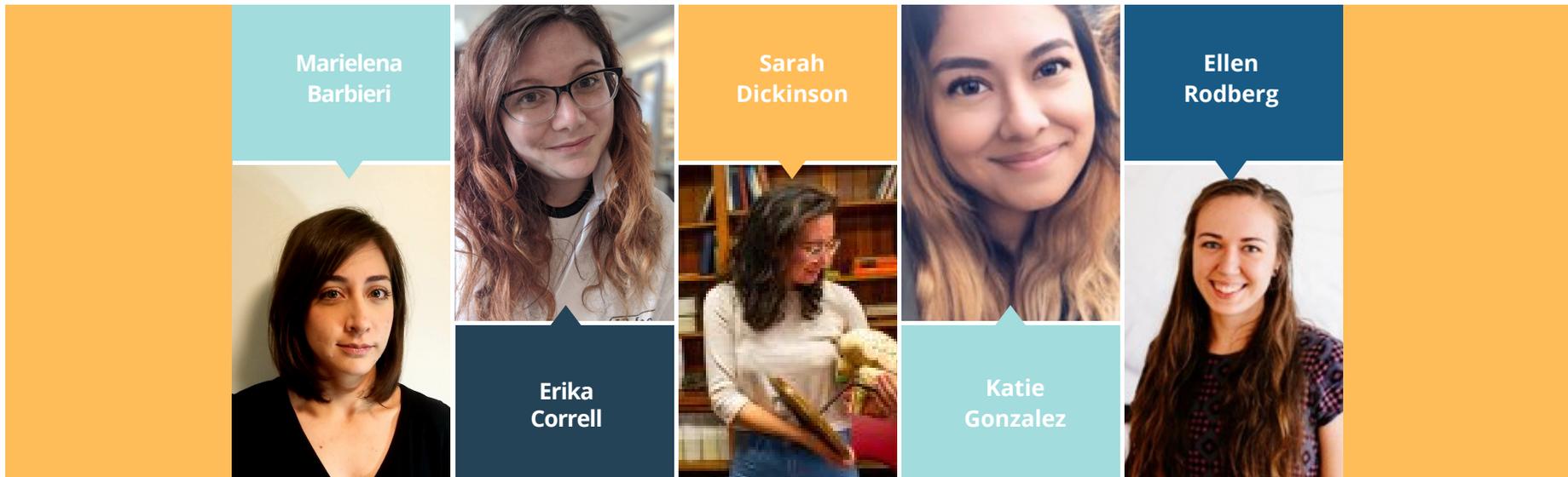
Emotion Socialization in Families of Color

Mentor: **Dr. Adam Grabel**

Ellen Rodberg, Neuroscience and Behavior

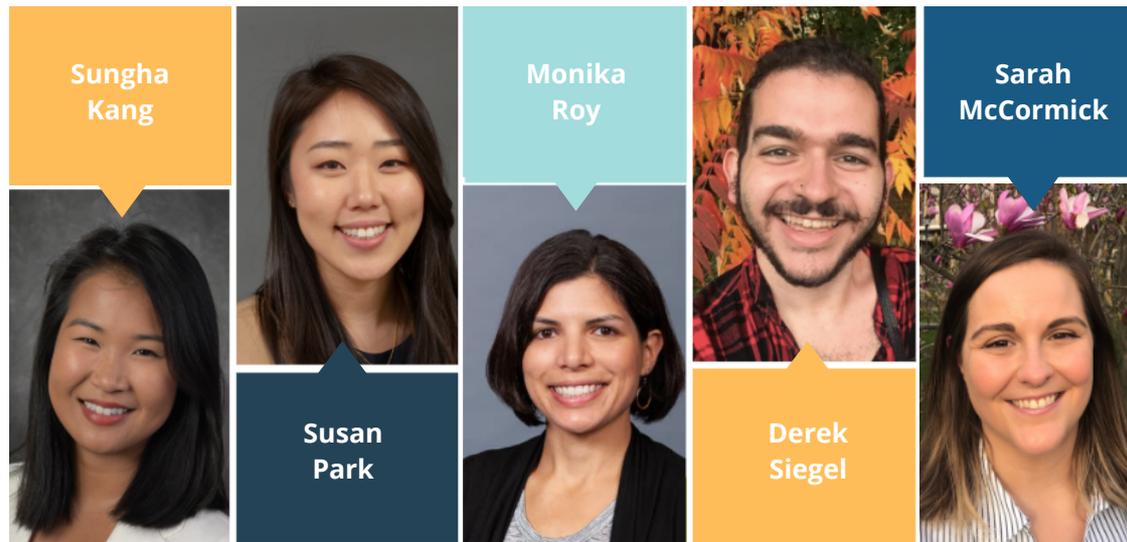
Locus Coeruleus Circuits Underlying Reinforcement Behavior

Mentor: **Dr. Elena Vazey**



Student Research Awards

The Center for Research on Families is committed to supporting family researchers at all stages of their careers and is proud to support student research. Our competitive awards program recognizes outstanding student research on issues related to families. The talented group of PhD candidates represent a broad range of disciplines and were selected to receive funding that will serve to progress their research goals and bolster their analytical skillset. Since 2010 when the Student Family Research Awards Program began, CRF has distributed over **\$415,700** to **143** students in support of their research endeavors and to present their findings at professional meetings.



Travel Award Recipient

Sarah McCormick, Developmental Psychology
Understanding the Neural Mechanisms and Family Processes Supporting Social-cognitive Development in Early Childhood
 Mentor: **Dr. Kirby Deater-Deckard**



Dissertation Award Recipients

Sungha Kang, Clinical Psychology
Ethnic and Racial disparities in ADHD Assessment and Diagnosis
 Mentor: **Dr. Lisa Harvey**

Susan Park, Epidemiology
Adverse Birth Outcomes among At-risk Hispanic Women
 Mentor: **Dr. Lisa Chasan-Taber**

Monika Roy, Environmental Health Sciences
Adverse Impacts of Exposures to Environmental Pollutants on Development of Internal Organs
 Mentor: **Dr. Alicia Timme-Laragy**

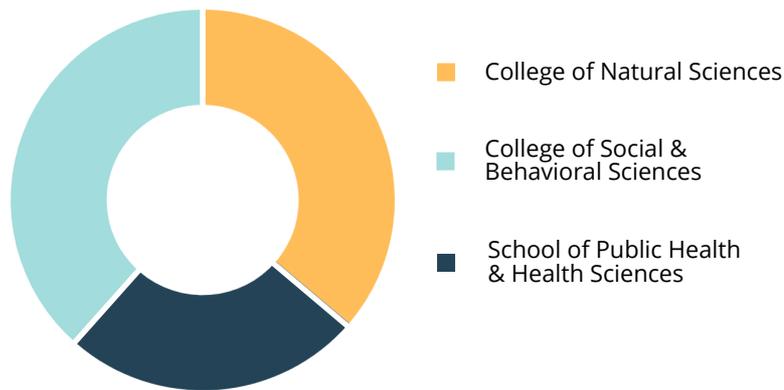
Derek Siegel, Sociology
How Race, Class, and Gender shape Trans Women's Experiences of Family Formation and Parenthood
 Mentor: **Dr. Joya Misra**

Methodology Workshop Scholarship Recipients

UMass Amherst Recipients			City University of New York, Queens College			Ohio University	
Roselyn Abassah-Manu		Jennifer Carroll		Christine Ginalis		Patricia Pehme	
	Marielena Barbieri		Gabrielle DeCastro		Johnny Lopez		Shantal Taveras

Student Awards by College FY18-FY21

Since inception, CRF has given out over \$415,000 to 143 students



Student Highlights

Olivia Laramie '20 (Travel Award winner 2020) focused her capstone project on discrimination faced by women in the realm of politics. Her paper, "*The Impact of Discriminatory Harassment on Gender Representation in Elected Office in the United States*" was published in the RAIS Journal for Social Science.

Two former CRF Graduate Student Grant Writing Program participants and current student awardees, **Mélise Edwards** and **Jasmine Dixon**, received the Wendy Helmer Graduate Student Award, which recognizes passionate individuals who challenge the status quo and actively contribute to an environment that embraces inclusion, community, collaboration, mentorship, and social justice.

Spotlight on Recently Funded Students



Mélise Edwards

Graduate Grant Writing Program 2020
Behavioral Neuroscience

The Role of Estrogen in Age-Related Cognitive Decline

Women are disproportionately susceptible to Alzheimer's disease and not surprisingly, age-related cognitive decline has an enormous impact on families. Could it be that menopausal depletion of estrogens might be a risk factor for Alzheimer's and contribute to cognitive impairment?

Mélise Edwards, a CRF 2020-21 Graduate Student Grant Writing Program participant and PhD candidate in the Neuroscience and Behavior program, will explore this question through her newly awarded **Ford Foundation Fellowship, a 1-year grant of \$28,000**. This competitive award, which is funded through the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, supports individuals with superior academic excellence and show promise of future achievement as scholars. Her research will explore gene expression in specific brain regions in marmosets treated with an aromatase inhibitor compared to marmosets treated with a placebo. Aromatase inhibitors are commonly administered to women with estrogen-responsive breast cancers because they suppress estrogen synthesis. Mélise hopes that by understanding the relationship between estrogens, sex, age, and cognition, we may be able to design pharmacological interventions which improve the quality of life for those affected.

Mélise says **"The CRF Graduate Student Grant Writing Program provided the community and expertise that I needed to really take my grant proposal writing to the next level."**

Mélise has also started a non-profit, Mentorship for Underrepresented STEM Enthusiasts (MUSE), that was recently incorporated and is dedicated to being a positive role model and promoting STEM fields for people of diverse backgrounds. MUSE has already seen great success in mentoring students who have received offers to top-tier graduate programs and received their first research positions.



Gorana Gonzalez
Graduate Grant Writing Program 2020
Developmental Science

Interacting with Police -- How is it Learned Across Race?

Children in the United States continue to develop in a racially divided world in which racial minorities suffer the most. How are children learning and thinking about race and applying that knowledge in their daily lives? How does race influence what children think of others, how they expect others to behave, and the spaces they can navigate? Gorana Gonzalez, a PH. D candidate in the Cognition Across Development Lab led by **Dr. Tara Mandalaywala** in the Developmental Science Program, is interested in how children view themselves as they form a racial identity.

Gonzalez, a participant in CRF's 2020 cohort of graduate student grant writers, was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program which recognizes and supports individuals early in their graduate training in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The fellowship will provide a **\$34,000** stipend each year for three years to support her research in addition to other benefits.

Her research will look specifically at children's expectations with peers of different races and their encounters with police officers and other authorities. **"When I see Black boys being manhandled by the police or men being shot in the back or women in their beds, I see my brother, my uncles, my mother, and one day my children. I hope that my research will support policies that make institutional systems safer for Black and biracial Black/White children,"** says Gonzalez.

To understand children's beliefs about how others, who vary in race, should interact with the police, her team will use a storybook paradigm. Participants will be told a story of a target child who got lost on their way to school, found themselves in an unfamiliar neighborhood and had the option of asking a police officer for help finding their way. To assess whether children have different expectations for how children of different races might act in this situation, they will vary the race of the target child, White, Black, and biracial Black/White, and the race of the police officer, White or Black male. They will then ask a series of questions about their contact with police, racial socialization, and the neighborhood environment to assess the role of individual differences. **"It is important to understand how children are developing their racial thinking so that we, as a society and adults, can do work to nurture the next generation and foster an equitable and just society,"** Gonzalez says.

Gonzalez credits the Center for Research on Families' Graduate Student Grant Writing Program as one of the things that kept her going during the pandemic. Although in-person sessions with the full group were not possible, Gonzalez worked closely with program director, Rebecca Spencer. **"It felt more like private writing lessons with Dr. Spencer, and I think that really enhanced my writing and argument making,"** she says.

Cognitive and Emotional Resilience in Older Adults

Might revisiting personal memories of strength and resilience increase emotional well-being in older adults during times of distress? Aging usually gets a bad rap - we mostly hear about the losses and limitations that come with physical and mental decline. Despite the natural losses that people experience as they age, older adults tend to report better well-being in comparison to their younger counterparts, and the reason for this is still unclear.

Orlovsky's project, *"Exploring the Role of Autobiographical Memory in Emotion Regulation Among Younger and Older Adults,"* seeks to clarify the role of autobiographical memory, or the recall of personally experienced life events, in supporting emotion regulation strategies that are particularly effortful and challenging in older adulthood. Identifying a mechanism by which older adults maintain emotional well-being could lead to targeted and enhanced cognitive-behavioral interventions that may improve the emotional health and functional independence of older adults. Irina worked on her grant under the guidance of the CRF Student Grant Writing Program run by Dr. Rebecca Spencer, and in celebrating her achievement was the first to say, **"I couldn't have done it without the help of CRF!"**



Irina Orlovsky
Graduate Student Grant Writing Program 2019

In her research she attempts to understand what drives late-life emotional resilience. **"My research aims to improve the functional independence and mood of older adults by investigating interventions that align with and build upon late-life cognitive and socio-emotional strengths."** says Orlovsky. **"Current interventions implemented in clinical settings are cognitively optimized for younger and mid-life adults. I'm hoping that my research may begin to uncover a methodology and framework that promotes clinical care informed by the emotional and cognitive strengths of older adults."**

Beyond the science, Orlovsky understands there are real people behind these studies. **"I want older adults and their caregivers to feel seen and heard. We don't make enough room for underserved populations in research, and the goal is to always be striving towards ethical inclusivity and consideration."** She cites her own upbringing as one of the roots of her interest in aging. **"I was raised in a culture that profoundly values relationships with the older individuals in their family, and it feels as though older adults are often not taken seriously by medical professionals and society, at large."**

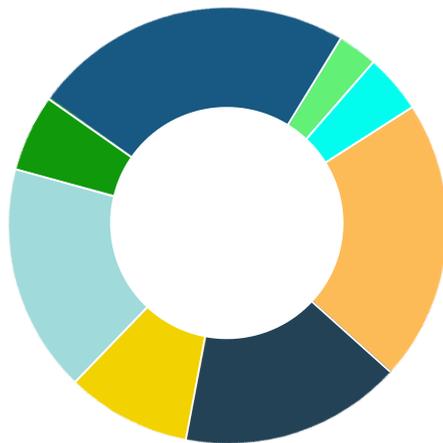
In preparation for a recent talk she gave with her advisor at a local older adult community center Orlovsky learned that only about 4% of psychologists specialize in geriatrics. **"Exposure is critical - learning from, talking to, and being around underserved populations is the key to building empathy, compassion, and change,"** she explains.

Dr. Bruna Martins, (FRS 2020-21) her mentor and collaborator, says **"Irina's efforts and passion are echoed by this momentous achievement, I have no doubt that the NRSA award will be the first of many to come. I envision Irina becoming a rising star in emotional aging neuroscience, committed to asking and addressing complex but key questions in the field. It is such an honor to support her and collaboratively begin addressing her research aims together in the coming years."**

Community Engagement

The Center for Research on Families disseminates family research and engages with the public through the **Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series**. Established in 1999 by **Dorothy D. & Joseph G. Gavin** through an endowment in memory of **Tay Gavin Erickson**, the lecture series brings internationally recognized speakers with expertise in family research to campus each year. The speakers are selected by Family Research Scholars to visit campus, provide a public lecture that highlights the importance of research on family and its implications for public policy, and provide intensive consultation to the respective Family Research Scholar.

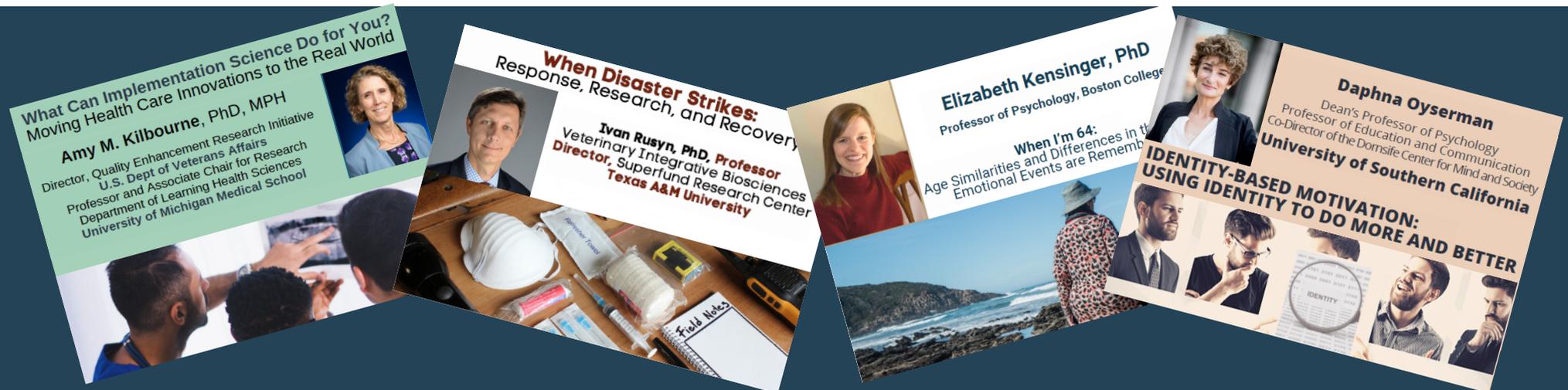
In **2020-2021**, CRF hosted four prominent researchers who presented a live, virtual, public lecture. The lectures were attended by over **200** participants from **25** institutions.



Attended by nearly **200**
members of the community

- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Nursing
- College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
- External Institutions
- Isenberg School of Management
- School of Public Health & Health Sciences

Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series 2020-21



What Can Implementation Science Do for You? Moving Health Care Innovations to the Real World - October 16, 2020

Dr. Amy Kilbourne, Director of the VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative and Professor of Learning Health Sciences, University of Michigan
 Consulted with **Dr. Sarah Goff**, Associate Professor, Public Health and Health Sciences

When I'm 64: Age Similarities and Differences in the Ways Emotional Events are Remembered - November 6, 2020

Dr. Elizabeth Kensinger, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College
 Consulted with **Dr. Bruna Martins-Klein**, Assistant Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences

When Disaster Strikes: Response, Research, and Recovery - December 7, 2020

Dr. Ivan Rusyn, University Professor, The KC Donnelly Professor of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences Chair, Interdisciplinary Faculty of Toxicology, Director, Superfund Research Center, Texas A&M University
 Consulted with **Dr. Alicia Timme-Laragy**, Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Health Sciences

Identity-Based Motivation: Using Identity to Do More and Better - February 25, 2021

Dr. Daphna Oyserman, Dean's Professor, University of Southern California
 Consulted with **Dr. Tara Mandalaywala**, Assistant Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Interdisciplinary Collaborations

CRF is committed to creating opportunities for collaboration that bring students and researchers together across disciplinary boundaries to form intellectual communities that carry out our mission. Through our affiliates, CRF collaborates with other centers, departments, institutes, and colleges to develop multidisciplinary projects. Faculty from the Five Colleges and other UMass campuses engage in joint ventures with CRF, which has led to innovative projects and an extended network of opportunities with the goal of carrying out our mission to advance research for the health and well-being of all families.

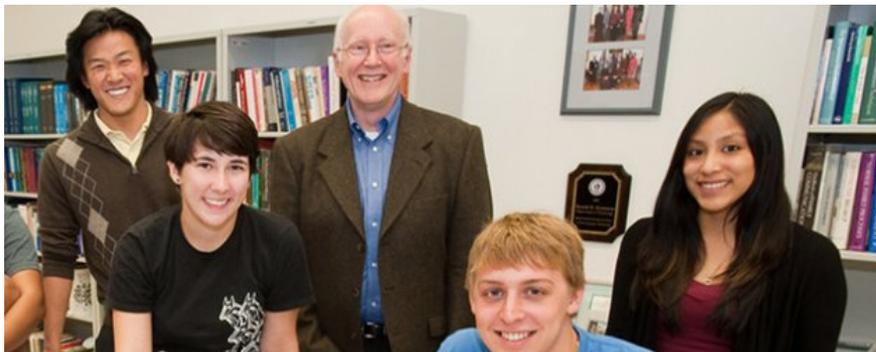
Supporting Faculty “Think Tanks”

Bringing together interdisciplinary teams of faculty with shared interests in issues and topics of importance to families such as stress, work and family, early child development, and adolescence.

Rudd Adoption Research Program

The Rudd Adoption Research Program and CRF are closely linked through their overlapping missions and strategies. CRF provides administrative support to the Rudd program, and their close proximity and shared research strengths benefit both programs. The Rudd Adoption Research Program is a leader in producing and disseminating leading edge research on the psychology of adoption through conferences, workshops, graduate, and postdoctoral training opportunities, and fostering research activities. **Dr. Harold Grotevant**, the Rudd Family Foundation Endowed Chair in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, leads the Rudd Adoption Research Program.

This year the Rudd Program faculty and staff worked together with its network of expert speakers to develop a re-imagined virtual version of the bi-annual Rudd Adoption Research Program conference. The conference, **“Adopted Adults: Connections Across Generations”**, spanned the 2020-21 academic year and featured both personal and professional insights that are shaping the future of adoption research, drawing heavily on the insights and work of adult adoptees themselves.



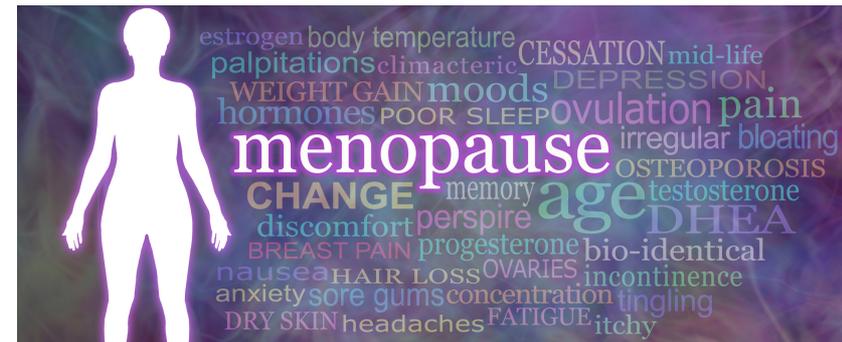
The Rudd Adoption Research Program has created two organizations for UMass students who are adopted - the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, in which students serve as mentors for adopted children in the Amherst community, and the Adopted Student Advisory Panel, a registered student organization that involves camaraderie, education, and advocacy, led by capable, energetic students. CRF is proud to partner with the Rudd Program in supporting these organizations which carry out our mission to advance social justice by promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion through our research and programming. Dr. Grotevant says, **“We continue to work toward the goal of creating an adoption-friendly campus. UMass is already becoming a ‘destination of choice’ for people with personal connections to adoption, and we hope that will continue to grow.”**

Menopause Research Group

CRF's Menopause Research Group continues to grow. This group of researchers comes together each month to share their interests in older women's health. This year (2020-21) the group was coordinated by **Sarah Witkowski** of Smith College. The members of the group study menopause, midlife, and aging in humans and non-human animal models using a variety of methods, including secondary data analyses, questionnaires, fMRI, muscle biopsies, movement monitors, hormone levels, ambulatory hot flash monitors, and more. Four post-doctoral researchers were active members of the group this year. The group uses their time together to present research proposals and recent findings to each other. The members find that having so much expertise and different points of view in the same room makes for a supportive and enjoyable environment that nurtures ongoing and future research.

Here are a few highlights about the work of the post-doc members:

Post-doc **Christine Langton** examined risk of early menopause in relation to parity, breastfeeding, use of oral contraceptives, history of tubal ligation, and in-utero exposures. Group members **Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson**, (School of Public Health), **Brian Whitcomb**, (School of Public Health), and **Lynnette Sievert**, (Anthropology) were on the dissertation committee. Langton continues to work with Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson on the topic of early menopause. She will be moving on to conduct research with the Women's Health Research Group at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) at the NIH and will be working on the SELF study (Study of the Environment, Lifestyle, and Fibroids).



Post-doc **Jacqueline Rickson**, (Exercise and Sports Studies, Smith College) is collaborating with **Sarah Witkowski**, (Exercise and Sports Studies, Smith College) on an NIH-funded study of cardiovascular disease risk in relation to physical activity, fitness, and hot flashes in perimenopausal women.

Post-doc **Emily Rothwell**, (Psychological and Brain Sciences) studies cognitive changes, sleep, estrogen, and thermoregulation in aging marmosets with **Agnès Lacreuse**, (Psychological and Brain Sciences).

Post-doc **Corinna Serviente**, (Kinesiology) works in the lab of **Gwenaél Layec**, (Kinesiology). She is interested in evaluating mechanisms underlying vascular dysfunction related to menopause and identifying treatment or prevention. Serviente completed her Ph.D. in 2018 with **Sarah Witkowski**, (Exercise and Sports Studies, Smith College) and **Lisa Troy**, (Nutrition) before completing her first post-doc at Penn State. For her dissertation, she evaluated vascular dysfunction and exercise in women during and after the menopausal transition.

Other presenters this year included: **Stephanie Padilla** (Biology) who uses a rodent model to understand how kisspeptin neurons are involved in the trigger of hot flashes, and **Michael Busa** (Department of Kinesiology and the Center for Human Health and Performance) and **Katie Colfer** (CHHP) who are working to develop better hot flash monitors that eventually integrate a device-based cooling intervention.

Menopause Research Group Members

Michael Busa, Kinesiology
Stuart Chipkin, Kinesiology
Katie Colfer, Kinesiology
Jane Kent, Kinesiology
Agnès Lacreuse, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Christine Langton, Epidemiology – Post Doc
Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Anthropology
Mark Miller, Kinesiology
Stephanie Padilla, Biology
Jacqueline Rickson, Smith College – Post Doc
Emily Rothwell, Psychological and Brain Sciences – Post Doc
Corinna Serviente, Kinesiology – Post Doc
Nicole VanKim, Epidemiology
Sarah Witkowski, Smith College

Public Engagement Project

The Public Engagement Project (PEP) supports and trains faculty members from all disciplines to use their research to contribute to social change, inform public policy, and enrich public debate. CRF, in collaboration with Institute for Social Science Research, the School for Public Policy, and the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program, helped spearhead this program, which has resulted in national exposure for faculty in public media outlets such as PBS, the New York Times, the Boston Globe, and the Huffington Post, to name a few. Two former CRF Family Research Scholars, **Devon Greyson**, and **Joya Misra**, were selected as PEP fellows this past year.

Faculty and Post Doctorate Network

Sofiya Alhassan, Kinesiology
Luiz Amaral, Spanish and Portuguese Studies
Daniel Anderson, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Kathleen Arcaro, Veterinary and Animal Sciences
Raphael Arku, Environmental Health Sciences
Meghan Armstrong-Abrami, Spanish and Portuguese Studies
David Arnold, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Laura Attanasio, Health Promotion and Policy
Ysaaca Axelrod, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Lee Badgett, Economics and Public Policy
Ian George Barron, International Education
Annaliese Beery, Psychology, Smith College
Joseph Bergan, Neuroendocrine Studies
Angelica M. Bernal, Political Science
Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson, Epidemiology
Jeffrey D. Blaustein, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Sylvia Brandt, Resource Economics and Public Policy
Michelle Budig, Sociology
Michael Busa, Center for Human Health and Performance
Brenda Bushouse, Political Science and Public Policy
Erik Cheries, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Stuart Chipkin, Kinesiology
Yu-Kyong Choe, Communication Disorders
Leda Cooks, Communication
Lorraine Cordeiro, Nutrition
Nilanjana Dasgupta, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Matt Davidson, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Kristina Deligiannadis, UMass Memorial Medical Center
Katherine Dixon-Gordon, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Gerald Downes, Biology
Andrew Farrar, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Sarah Fefer, Student Development
Nancy Folbre, Professor Emeritus, Economics
Maria Galano, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Naomi Gerstel, Professor Emeritus, Sociology
Sarah Goff, Health Promotion and Policy
Adam Grabell, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Devon Greyson, Communication
Hal Grotevant, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Aline Gubrium, Community Health Education
Sanjiv Gupta, Sociology and Public Policy
Claire Hamilton, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Susan Hankinson, Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Krista Harper, Anthropology and Public Policy
Mary Harrington, Psychology, Smith College
Elizabeth Harvey, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Katherine (KC) Haydon, Mount Holyoke College
Julia Hemment, Anthropology
Brigitte Holt, Anthropology
Linda Isbell, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Alexandra Jesse, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Joshua Kaiser, Sociology
Karen Kalmakis, Nursing
Milann Kang, Women's Studies
Jane Kent, Kinesiology
David Kittredge, Natural Resources and Environment
Marsha Kline Pruett, Smith College
Elizabeth Krause, Anthropology
Emily Kumpel, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Jacquie Kurland, Communication Disorders
Youngbin Kwak, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Agnès Lacreuse, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Christine Langton, Epidemiology
Laura Lovett, History
Jennifer Lundquist, Sociology
Tara Mandalaywala, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Ailín Martínez, Health Promotion and Policy
Jennifer Martin McDermott, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Bruna Martins-Klein, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Evelyn Mercado, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Jerrold Meyer, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Mark Miller, Kinesiology
Joya Misra, Sociology and Public Policy
David Moorman, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Jacqueline Mosselson, Educational Policy Research and Administration
Melinda Novak, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Tatishe Nteta, Political Science

Mark Pachucki, Sociology
Stephanie Padilla, Biology
Joonkoo Park, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Fareen Parvez, Sociology
Mariana Pereira, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Paula Pietromonaco, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
J. Richard Pilsner, Environmental Health Sciences
Krishna Poudel, Community Health Education
Kalpana Poudel-Tandukar, Nursing
Corinna Serviente, Post Doctorate, Kinesiology
Sally Powers, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Marsha Kline Pruett, Social Work, Smith College
Rebecca Ready, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Katherine Reeves, Epidemiology
Luke Remage-Healey, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Heather Richardson, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Jacqueline Rickson, Smith College
Shannon Roberts, Engineering
Dean Robinson, Political Science
Gwyneth Rost, Communication Disorders
Jamie Rowen, Legal Studies
Lisa Sanders, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Amy Schalet, Sociology
Erica Scharrer, Communications
Lynette Sievert, Anthropology
Rebecca Spencer, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Jeffrey Starns, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Richard Tessler, Professor Emeritus, Sociology
Alicia Timme-Laragy, Environmental Health Sciences
Linda Tropp, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Lisa Troy, Nutrition
Laura Vandenburg, Environmental Sciences
Nicole VanKim, Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Ryan Wells, Educational Policy, Research, and Administration
Lisa Marin Wexler, Community Health Education
Brian Whitcomb, Epidemiology
Jennifer Whitehill, Health Promotion and Policy
Sarah Witkowski, Smith College
Amanda Woerman, Biology
Seon Yeong Yu, Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Ning Zhang, Public Health

Steering Committee

Nilanjana Dasgupta, Institute of Diversity Sciences
Kirby Deater-Deckard, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Steven Goodwin, Chancellor's Office
Harold Grotevant, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Linda Isbell, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Karen Kalmakis, Nursing
Ezekiel Kimball, Education
Lynnette Leidy Sievert, Anthropology
Aírín Martínez, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Martina Nieswandt, Research and Engagement
Shannon Roberts, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Susan Shaw, Center for Community Health Equity Research
Lindiwe Sibeko, Nutrition
Laura Vandenberg, Environmental Health Sciences
Wendy Varner, Faculty Development



Pictured: Amanda Moore, Steph Covelli, Wendy Varner, Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Lorraine Cordeiro, Sally Powers, Gisele Litalien, Holly Laws

Goodbye and Thank You to Our Director

Dr. Maureen Perry-Jenkins, *Director*

2014-2021

Dr. Maureen Perry-Jenkins has made a mark on the lives and work of so many faculty, students, and staff. Since 2014, she has deepened the impact of the center by providing a real home for family researchers. Faculty repeatedly cite their time at CRF as some of the most momentous times in their development. The power of true interdisciplinary work that has been fostered by Maureen is evident in the success of the scholars' grants, in the impact the center has made in the community through its partnerships, and in the deep and long-term mentoring relationships she has established with both students and faculty. Maureen really walks the walk in the community. **She has gone the extra mile to foster deep trust and truly partner with community, in ways that respect the needs and approaches that work best for them.**

Maureen has been an extraordinary advocate for the center and its affiliates. She has tirelessly championed the unique way that family researchers make an impact, and she has brought great vision to how scholars from vastly different disciplines can work together to solve important problems. Our staff and faculty will miss her warmth, humor, kindness, generosity, and the courage and conviction she brought to her role as director. We wish you all the best Maureen!

Here are just a few of the qualities and associations that faculty, staff, students, and community partners shared in a tribute to Maureen that was held on April 21, 2021.



Donor Highlight, Dorothy D. and Joseph G. Gavin, Jr.

Dorothy D. Gavin, '43, a longtime friend and supporter of the Center, was drawn to the UMass Home Economics program and the work of the Extension programs because of her own positive childhood experience with 4H growing up in Vermont. She was inspired by the home demonstration agents and wanted to prepare for a career in the field. Edna Skinner fostered one of the first Home Economics programs in the country at UMass. Home Economics was the first discipline to put the study of families at the center of inquiry. Edna Skinner became a mentor and inspiration to Dorothy, who lived with Skinner's family in Dorothy's final years at UMass. Because of these experiences, Dorothy and her husband, **Joseph G. Gavin, Jr.** chose to honor Edna Skinner with a gift that originally funded the Center for the Family. The Center eventually became the current Center for Research on Families. The Gavins subsequently gave an additional gift in honor of their daughter, **Tay Gavin Erikson**, to create an endowment that continues to fund the Center's lecture series. CRF is deeply appreciative of the great vision, support, and ongoing generosity of the Gavin family. We continue to be humbled by our visits with Dorothy, who demonstrates her characteristic integrity, determination, warmth, positivity, and deep care for the mission of CRF.



Dorothy D. Gavin with CRF's new director, Lorraine Cordeiro

Faculty and Staff

Faculty

Maureen Perry-Jenkins '81, *Director (Outgoing)*

Elizabeth Harvey, *Interim Director Family Research Scholars Program*

Holly Laws, *Methodology Program Director*

Staff

Gisele Litalien, *Associate Director*

Stephanie Covelli '01, *Financial Manager*

Amanda Moore '00, *Communications, Events, and Office Manager*

Marielena Barbieri, *Methodology Consultant*

Nicole Fields, *Methodology Consultant*

Joel Ginn, *Methodology Consultant*

Dongwei Wang, *Methodology Consultant*

Student Staff

Maxwell Schwartz, *Marketing and Communications Intern*

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