



2016 Research Scholars Mentorship Program

The mission of AAHB is to serve as the “research home” for health behavior scholars and researchers whose primary commitment is to excellence in research and the application of research to practice to improve the public's health.



As such, the 12-month AAHB Research Scholars Mentorship Program (RSMP) was developed as a mechanism to facilitate high-quality mentorship interactions among junior and seasoned investigators within the Academy. Matched based on their research interests, each Mentee-Mentor Pair will work together to develop skills and gain experience in conducting research-related activities. Ultimately, this program is intended to cultivate and nurture the next generation of scholars to promote productive research-driven careers that exude excellence in health behavior research.

2016 Mentee/Mentor Pairs

Mentee	Mentor
Haijuan Gao	Xiaoming Li
Wenhua Lu	Thomas R. Kirchner
Sarah B. Maness	Lorraine R. Reitzel
Brittany L. Rosen	Gary L. Kreps
Matthew E. Rossheim	Mark B. Reed
Ledric D. Sherman	Derek M. Griffith
Samuel D. Towne, Jr.	Matthew Lee Smith
Karen H. Kim Yeary	Paul Estabrooks

Drs. GAO & LI

Haijuan Gao, MD, PhD

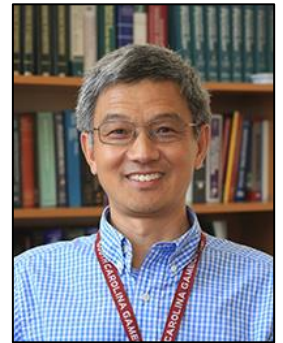
Assistant Professor
Department of Health and Exercise Science
University of Oklahoma
1401 Asp Avenue
Huston Huffman Center, Room 120
Norman, OK 73019-6081
Tel: 405.325.2455
gao@ou.edu



Haijuan Gao is a first year Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma. Haijuan received her Ph.D. in health promotion and disease prevention from Purdue University. Previously, she received a M.D. degree from Xi'an Jiaotong University, College of Medicine, China, where she also completed her medical residency in Gynecology & Obstetrics. Haijuan's current research focus on examining cultural influences on prevention of human papillomavirus (HPV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and designing and implementing culturally appropriate interventions. Her research also examines the impact of globalization on health disparities, HIV/AIDS, health care inequalities.

Xiaoming Li, PhD

Professor and Endowed Chair, Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior
Director, South Carolina SmartState Center for Healthcare Quality (CHQ)
University of South Carolina
Arnold School of Public Health
Editor-in-Chief, Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine: An Open Access Journal
Tel: 803.777.8874
XIAOMING@mailbox.sc.edu



Xiaoming Li received his Ph.D. in educational psychology from University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and is Professor of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, South Carolina SmartState Endowed Chair of Clinical Translational Research, and Director of SmartState Center for Healthcare Quality at University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health. He is also the Chief Analytic Officer for Health Science South Carolina (HSSC), the South Carolina's biomedical research collaborative. Besides his specialties in data analytics and research methodology, his research interests include health disparities, health behavior and health psychology related to disease prevention and psychological well-being among underserved or at-risk populations in both domestic and international settings. Over the last two decades, Dr. Li has been a PI or site PI on 12 research projects (including 7 NIH funded projects) and a co-investigator on 28 research projects (including 22 from NIH and other federal agencies). He has worked on issues related to HIV prevention, treatment and care in US, China, Namibia, Viet Nam, Bahamas, Zambia, and India. Dr. Li has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and special reports and is the Editor-in-Chief for Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine: An Open Access Journal (Taylor & Francis).

Drs. LU & KIRCHNER

Wenhua Lu, PhD, MS, MA

Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow
Silver School of Social Work
New York University
20 Cooper Square, Room 240
New York, NY, 10003
Tel: 212.992.9733
w.lu@nyu.edu



Dr. Wenhua Lu is an assistant professor/faculty fellow at the Silver School of Social Work, New York University. She received her PhD in health education from the Department of Health & Kinesiology, Texas A&M University in 2014. Dr. Lu's research interest is in the socio-ecology of child health, with a focus on minority and underserved populations. Specifically, she is interested in understanding how factors at different levels (e.g., health beliefs and self-efficacy at the micro level, and policy, culture, and environment at the macro level) influence minority and/or underserved children's health risk behaviors (e.g., poor eating, lack of physical activity), negative physical health outcomes (e.g., obesity), and mental disorders (e.g., depression). Dr. Lu's published research has appeared in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, American Journal of Health Behavior, Journal of School Health, and others.

Thomas R. Kirchner, PhD

Clinical Associate Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Urban Science
NYU College of Global Public Health
41 E. 11th St., 7th Floor, Rm.715
New York, NY 10003
publichealth.nyu.edu
cusp.nyu.edu
tom.kirchner@nyu.edu



Thomas R. Kirchner, PhD MS, is Clinical Associate Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Urban Science at NYU, and founding director of a new NYU mobile health (mHealth) research initiative. Dr. Kirchner is a clinical-health psychologist and methodologist interested in the analysis and graphical representation of "intensive" longitudinal and geographic data, including novel methodologies that link individual behavior to the real-time context in which it occurs. Dr. Kirchner's approach targets momentary influences on the maintenance of addictive and health-related behavior utilizing both field-based (ecological momentary assessment) and laboratory-based paradigms. This includes development of novel analytical methods for the application of geographic information science (GIS) to public health and policy. Ongoing NIH funded work includes one of the first R01 grants (R01 DA040930) issued by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) on the public health ramifications of marijuana legalization, decriminalization, and medicalization (as well as the emerging "vape" device landscape). Other ongoing work funded by NIDA, the National Cancer Institute, and NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (R01 DA034734), focuses on the way tobacco-use behaviors are influenced in real-time by socio-contextual factors in real-world settings.

Drs. MANESS & REITZEL

Sarah B. Maness, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor
Dept. of Health & Exercise Science
University of Oklahoma
401 Asp Avenue
HHC 118
Norman, OK 73019
Tel: 405.325.4984
smaness@ou.edu



Sarah Maness is an Assistant Professor in Health Promotion, in the Department of Health and Exercise Science at the University of Oklahoma. Sarah received her Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of South Florida and M.P.H. from Emory University. Her research focus is on social determinants of health and health disparities in adolescent sexual and reproductive health. She worked for four years on a federally funded, longitudinal study to evaluate an adolescent pregnancy program implemented in rural Florida high schools. In addition, she has experience working on HPV-related projects including identifying barriers and facilitators of HPV vaccination uptake among African American and Latino women and adolescents. Most recently, her work has focused on identifying relationships between social determinants of health and adolescent pregnancy, as well as promoting increased measurement and best practices in programs that utilize cultural components.

Lorraine R. Reitzel, PhD, FAAHB

Associate Professor & Associate Chair
Department of Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences
College of Education
University of Houston
3657 Cullen Blvd
Stephen Power Farish Hall Room 466e
Houston, TX 77204-5029
Tel: 713.743.6679
Lrreitzel@uh.edu



Dr. Lorraine R. Reitzel is an Associate Professor and the Associate Chair of the Department of Psychological, Health, & Learning Sciences at the University of Houston. Her research program focuses on better understanding the social determinants of health and health risk behaviors - and the biopsychosocial mechanisms that account for disparities in these areas - with an emphasis on generating highly translational results that can be used to inform policy and intervention. Guided by social cognitive theory and the social ecological model of health, her research program spans the assessment of micro-level individual behavioral precipitants of, and macro-level environmental/contextual influences on, health risk behaviors. Much of her work is focused on addressing health disparities related to cigarette smoking, alone or comorbid with other cancer-related risk behaviors, among low socioeconomic status groups. Dr. Reitzel has authored over 90 peer-reviewed publications and her work has been supported by the NIH, the CDC, the FDA CTP, and the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas. Dr. Reitzel is a Tobacco Treatment Specialist and a licensed Psychologist in Texas with specific expertise in Motivational Interviewing. Her professional service includes work as an Associate Editor of *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* and a Managing Co-Editor of *Health Behavior and Policy Review*.

Drs. ROSEN & KREPS

Brittany L. Rosen, PhD, CHES

Assistant Professor
Health Promotion & Education
CECH School of Human Services
University of Cincinnati
6315B Campus Recreation Center Hall
2840 Bearcat Way
PO Box 210068
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221
Tel: 513.556.3872
brittany.rosen@uc.edu



Brittany L. Rosen, PhD, CHES, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati in the Health Promotion and Education Program. In 2013, she received her PhD from Texas A&M University in Health Education. Her dissertation focused on school nurses' role in the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination uptake and received funding from the American School Health Association. Dr. Rosen's research agenda focuses on sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention behaviors, specifically HPV vaccination uptake. Her long-term research goal is to decrease HPV-related disease by conducting innovative, interdisciplinary behavioral and social science research, generating cutting-edge strategies to deliver HPV vaccines in alternative settings, and engaging in advocacy activities to increase adolescents' and young adults' HPV vaccination rates. Additionally, she is interested in theory development, and applying theory in program development, implementation and evaluation. She has authored 16 publications and numerous national and international presentations addressing STI prevention and HPV vaccination uptake. She is a member of the Early Career Reviewer Program at the National Institutes of Health's Center for Scientific Review. She is also a current member of the American Academy of Health Behavior, American Public Health Association, Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine, International Papillomavirus Society, and American School Health Association.

Gary L. Kreps, PhD, FAAHB

University Distinguished Professor, Department of Communication
Director, Center for Health and Risk Communication
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS 3D6
Fairfax, VA 22030
Tel: 703.993.1094
gkreps@gmu.edu



Gary L. Kreps (Ph.D., U of Southern California, 1979) is a University Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Health and Risk Communication at George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia, USA). He studies health and risk communication, with a major focus on reducing health inequities. He publishes widely (more than 400 articles, books, and chapters). He has been funded by numerous federal agencies, foundations, health systems, foreign governments, and corporations. He coordinates the Fairfax County Health Literacy Initiative community collaborative that develops culturally-sensitive health information programs for at-risk populations, and co-directs the Global Advocacy Leadership Academy (GALA) for promoting effective consumer health advocacy. He served as the founding Chief of the Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch at the National Cancer Institute (NIH), where he planned national research programs for promoting cancer prevention and control. He also served as the founding Dean of the School of Communication at Hofstra University, Executive Director of the Greenspun School of Communication at UNLV, and a professor at Northern Illinois, Rutgers, Indiana, and Purdue Universities. Gary is the recipient of many honors for his research including the 2015 Research Laureate Award from the American Academy for Health Behavior.

Drs. ROSSHEIM & REED

Matthew E. Rossheim, PhD, MPH, CPH

Assistant Professor
Department of Global and Community Health
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS5B7
Robinson Hall B
Fairfax, VA 22030
mrosshei@gmu.edu



Dr. Matthew Rossheim holds a Bachelors' of Arts degree in economics from the University of Florida (2009), a Master of Public Health in social and behavioral sciences from the University of Florida (2011), and a Doctor of Philosophy in public health sciences from the University of North Texas Health Science Center (2014). From 2014-2015, he served as the director of the MPH community health program at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. In 2015, he joined the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Rossheim's research focuses on substance use and related health outcomes. His research has drawn attention to harmful alcohol product features and analyzed the strength of scientific evidence on this topic. In addition, he has conducted research on associations between the build and political environment and alcohol availability and alcohol-related health outcomes. In general, his research has supported the need for stronger public health policies and better enforcement of these policies. Dr. Rossheim has also been involved with various community coalitions, to help evaluate community-based public health interventions and to advocate for stronger tobacco-free policies.

Mark B. Reed, PhD

Associate Professor
School of Social Work
San Diego State University
Co-Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research
6386 Alvarado Ct., Suite 224
San Diego, CA 92120
Tel: 619.594.6664
mreed@mail.sdsu.edu



Dr. Mark B. Reed, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at SDSU, School of Social Work where he has been a member of the faculty since 2008. He received his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Reed's research focuses on alcohol and other drug use etiology and prevention with an emphasis on social ecological models of substance use behaviors. He is well published in top substance use/public health journals and has served as Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, or Co-Investigator on grants and contracts funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIAAA), the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, the Flight Attendants Medical Research Institute, and The Ohio State University. Dr. Reed is also currently an ad-hoc reviewer for over 20 journals and serves as the Co-Editor-in-Chief for the International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research. Dr. Reed has been a full member of AAHB since 2011 and has served as an abstract reviewer (2012-2014), poster judge (2012-2015), Research Review Chair (2014), ad-hoc journal committee member (2014), a member of the Awards Council (2013-present), and Marketing and Communications Committee (2015-present).

Drs. SHERMAN & GRIFFITH

Ledric D. Sherman, PhD, MA

Assistant Professor
Department of Health & Kinesiology
Texas A&M University
TAMU 4243
College Station, TX 77843
Tel: 979.845.1266
lsherman@hlkn.tamu.edu



Dr. Ledric D. Sherman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health & Kinesiology at Texas A&M University. His aim is to pursue a line of research that would contribute to the knowledge base regarding chronic disease management among populations adversely impacted by health disparities. Specifically, Dr. Sherman seeks to understand contributing, mediating and moderating factors (e.g., environment, lifestyle behaviors, social support) related to successful management of multiple chronic conditions and their prevalent precursors. Dr. Sherman's research interests include self-management of type 2 diabetes, men's health, quality and quantity of life among individuals living with diabetes, and health education & wellness promotion. Dr. Sherman received his PhD in Health Education from Texas A&M University, and his MA and BS in health from Sam Houston State University.

Derek M. Griffith, PhD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Health, and Society
Associate Professor of General Internal Medicine & Public Health, Health Policy, and Sociology
Director, Institute for Research on Men's Health
College of Arts and Science
Vanderbilt University
300 Calhoun Hall
Tel: 615.322.0648
Derek.griffith@vanderbilt.edu



Derek M. Griffith is a leading social scientist focused on social influences on men's health and racial and ethnic health disparities. He primarily focuses on identifying and addressing psychosocial, cultural and environmental determinants of African American men's health and well-being. Funded by several institutes within the National Institutes of Health and foundations such as the American Cancer Society and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Dr. Griffith specializes in informing, developing and testing interventions to improve African American men's lifestyle behaviors and chronic disease risk, morbidity and mortality, including reducing obesity and increasing healthy eating, physical activity and screening, often using a community-based participatory research approach. His research has been featured in such news outlets as MSN, NPR, Time Magazine, US News & World Report and USA Today.

Drs. TOWNE & SMITH

Samuel D. Towne Jr., PhD, MPH, CPH

Research Assistant Professor
Department of Health Promotion & Community Health Sciences,
School of Public Health
Texas A&M Health Science Center
1266 TAMU | Administration Building
College Station, TX 77843-1266
Tel: 979.436.9338
towne@sph.tamhsc.edu



Samuel D. Towne Jr., PhD, MPH, CPH is a Research Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at the Texas A&M Health Science Center (College Station, Texas). He earned his PhD in Health Services, Policy, and Management at the University of South Carolina where he also served as a Research Associate at the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center. He completed his postdoc in the Program on Healthy Aging at Texas A&M with a focus on Health Disparities and Aging Research. He is also Co-Investigator on projects funded through the NIH and other funding agencies. His major research focus is the intersection of health and place focusing on aging, minority, and rural populations emphasizing health disparities. In addition, he has a growing interest in global health.

Matthew Lee Smith, PhD, MPH, CHES, FAAHB

Department of Health Promotion and Behavior
College of Public Health
The University of Georgia
Health Sciences Campus
#345E Wright Hall
Athens, GA 30602
Tel: 706.542.0483
health@uga.edu



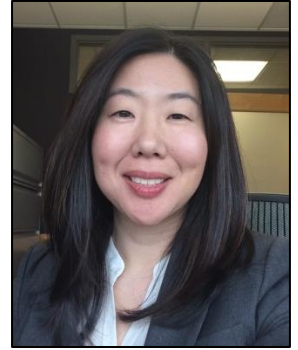
Recognizing health status is influenced by a vast and interconnected set of determinants, Dr. Matthew Lee Smith has devoted his career to create synergistic partnerships and initiatives to encourage positive lifestyles and reduce rates of preventable morbidity and mortality. He has earned a national reputation as a falls expert and evaluator of evidence-based programs for older adults. His involvement in local, state, and national evaluation initiatives have been integral to foster understanding about the reach, adoption, implementation, effectiveness, and maintenance of different evidence-based programs targeting key populations in a variety of community, school, workplace, and healthcare sectors. Dr. Smith's evaluation efforts have been funded by organizations including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Administration on Aging (AoA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). He is currently an assistant professor at The University of Georgia College of Public Health and adjunct assistant professor at the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health.

With a passion for sharing his research and evaluation efforts in a variety of formats, Matthew has over 170 peer-reviewed publications and 230 conference presentations. He currently serves as the AAHB Awards Council Chair and Director of the AAHB Research Scholars Mentorship Program (RSMP).

Drs. YEARY & ESTABROOKS

Karen H. Kim Yeary, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Health Behavior and Health Education
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health
4301 West Markham #820
Little Rock, AR 72205
Tel: 501.526.6720
khk@uams.edu



Karen Hye-cheon Kim Yeary, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education in the College of Public Health at UAMS. She received her B.S. and Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University, and completed a nationally-competitive post-doctorate fellowship in Community-Based Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Yeary's expertise is in the use of community-based participatory approaches to translate evidence-based behavioral interventions for underserved populations. Her work has included the development of community-relevant and culturally appropriate obesity control, cancer prevention, and depression interventions for rural African American adults. The overall purpose of her work is to eliminate health inequities through the creation of sustainable and easily disseminable behavioral interventions for underserved groups.

Paul Estabrooks, PhD

Harold M. Maurer Distinguished Chair
College of Public Health
Department of Health Promotion, Social & Behavioral Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center
984365 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-4365
Tel: 402.559.4325
Paul.estabrooks@unmc.edu



Dr. Paul Estabrooks is a practical, behavioral scientist who works from the proposition that the integration of research and practice at the systems level results in interventions that benefit from tacit practice-based evidence. His integrated research-practice work also benefits from a strong understanding of evidence-based interventions and system values, resources, and structure in order to develop a fit between an evidence-based program and sustained delivery within an organizational context. Dr. Estabrooks' team has demonstrated, using integrated research-practice partnerships that (1) there is a need to describe underlying functioning principles of evidence-based interventions to allow for adaptation that will not result in attenuated effects, (2) interventions developed through the partnerships have a higher probability of being sustained beyond the life of a research program, and (3) interventions developed using this approach tend to be less resource intensive than traditional evidence-based interventions. Dr. Estabrooks focuses on testing innovative physical activity, nutrition, and weight control programs, policies, and practice interventions that can be adopted in schools, workplaces, and healthcare clinics. Dr. Estabrooks also studies health promotion initiatives that can be sustained in typical community and clinical settings, at a reasonable cost, and benefit groups that experience health disparities. He is currently the Harold M. Maurer Distinguished Chair of the Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.