



AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY SOCIETY OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS

2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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 works 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.



2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Michael Mackenzie, Ph.D.

- Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral Health & Nutrition, University of Delaware
- Research interests: physical activity and mind-body practice influences on health behaviors



Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. Mackenzie was added as a co-investigator to Dr. Abatemarco's USDHHS-funded Practicing Safety Mindfulness for Mothers in Drug Treatment grant.
- This mentee-mentor team has submitted two grants and multiple abstracts for presentations at national conferences during their year in the RSMP.
- Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. Abatemarco are working on a paper investigating adverse childhood experiences, mindfulness-based parenting, and parenting outcomes in a maternal addictions setting.
- Dr. Mackenzie completed a study exploring the use of mindfulness in early childhood education settings ("I can be Mindful") and developed a collaboration with the University of Delaware Laboratory Preschool.

Mentor: Diane Abatemarco, Ph.D., MSW

- Associate Professor and Chief of Pediatric Population Health Research, Jefferson/Nemours Department of Pediatrics, Thomas Jefferson University
- Research interests: innovative interventions to enhance health care for child and maternal health systems



MICHAEL MACKENZIE:

"It really was an important formative experience for me as an early-career academic. I've not only developed a lovely collaboration with Diane, but the program introduced me to AAHB and significantly aided in the set-up a productive (and funded) research agenda."

2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Rodney Joseph, Ph.D.

- Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University
- Research interests: development, implementation, and evaluation of culturally relevant physical activity intervention for African American women; accurate assessment of physical activity among racial/ethnic minority groups

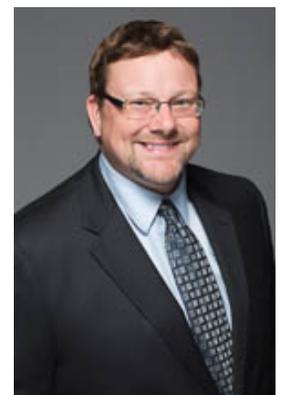


Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. Joseph completed a manuscript that included a literature review on the observational park-based physical activity studies published in peer-reviewed English journals. The manuscript is currently undergoing peer-review.
- This mentee-mentor team is currently working on a literature review and comparative analysis of observational audit measures used to assess the built environment of parks for physical activity.

Mentor: Jay Maddock, Ph.D.

- Professor & Dean, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Texas A&M University
- Research interests: system, environmental, and policy research to improve population level risk factors including physical inactivity, tobacco use, and poor nutrition in multiethnic, disparate communities



2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Annie Nguyen, Ph.D., MPH

- Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
- Research interests: issues relevant to older adults including contextual meanings of successful and healthy aging; subjective wellness and quality-of-life; resources that support chronic disease self-management and aging in place



Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. Nguyen published 2 manuscripts related to her prior diabetes research in *Diabetes and Its Complications* and in the *Journal of Health, Environment, and Education*.
- Dr. Nguyen and Dr. Rhodes collaborated on a project that resulted in a manuscript publication in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.
- This mentee-mentor team is also working on a literature review plotting HIV interventions among MSM/MSMW on the care continuum.
- Dr. Nguyen and Dr. Rhodes are developing a NIH R21 proposal.

Mentor: Scott Rhodes, Ph.D.

- Professor, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
- Research interests: the integration of community engagement, health promotion, and disease prevention in both rural and urban communities nationally and internationally



2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Christina Sun, Ph.D.

- Assistant Professor, Portland State University
- Research interests: HIV prevention, social networks, lay health advisor, and new media technology interventions to reduce health disparities among racial/ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, and transgender persons



Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. Sun submitted an administrative supplement to a R01-funded grant to conduct a randomized control trial of a technology-based ART adherence intervention after multiple rounds of review and feedback from Dr. Seal.
- Dr. Seal provided guidance on NIH research career development awards and the NIH early career reviewer program.
- Dr. Sun has also made connections with NIH staff as recommended by Dr. Seal and is drafting applications for subsequent submission.

Mentor: David Seal, Ph.D.

- Professor, Vice-Chair, and Director of Doctoral Programs in the Department of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
- Research interests: the study of social behavioral formative and intervention research within a multicultural community-based participatory framework





2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Nathan Smith Ph.D.

- Associate Professor, Department of Psychological, Health & Learning Sciences, University of Houston
- Research interests: behavioral health among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans populations, with emphasis on sexual health behavior and tobacco use



Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. Smith received in-depth mentoring on NIH funding, professional development, and strategies to expand his research program from Dr. Seal.
- Dr. Smith received guidance from Dr. Seal in developing a qualitative study of pre-exposure prophylaxis use and decision making among HIV-serodiscordant couples. Dr. Smith is currently exploring funding options and plans to move forward with participant recruitment in the near future.

Mentor: David Seal, Ph.D.

- Professor, Vice-Chair, and Director of Doctoral Programs in the Department of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
- Research interests: the study of social behavioral formative and intervention research within a multicultural community-based participatory framework



NATHAN SMITH:

“Working with Dr. Seal was instrumental in improving my grantsmanship skills and making me a more competitive applicant for funding. Serving as a co-mentee with Dr. Sun allowed for multi-level mentoring and dynamic discussions of professional development.”

2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Paul Branscum, Ph.D., RD

- Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Exercise Science, University of Oklahoma
- Research interests: predicting and changing obesogenic health behaviors among children, parents and young adults; survey design



Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. Branscum and Dr. Wallace conducted a systematic review of research documenting how individuals actively search for health information on the Internet and the implications it has for health literacy. This manuscript is currently under review.
- Dr. Branscum submitted an internal grant at the University of Oklahoma to fund a study evaluating how children search for obesity-related health information on the Internet.
- Dr. Branscum has started writing a NIH grant related to health literacy, and plans to submit it for review by the end of the year.

Mentor: Lorraine Wallace, Ph.D.

- Associate Professor and Director of the Area Health Education Center's Clear Health Communication Program at The Ohio State College of Medicine
- Research interests: health literacy; clear health communication; health disparities; access to medical care



2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Ashley Merianos, Ph.D.

- Assistant Professor, Health Promotion and Education Program, University of Cincinnati
- Research interests: child and adolescent substance abuse prevention, program evaluation, and epidemiology



Team Accomplishments:

Dr. Merianos collaborated on seven projects with Dr. Barry during the RSMP, resulting in:

- Three manuscripts in press/published at *Current Addiction Reports*, *American Journal of Health Promotion*, and *Journal of Drug Issues*
- Two national presentations at the American School Health Association conference and the AAHB meeting
- Two additional manuscripts under review and two manuscripts in progress

Mentor: Adam Barry, Ph.D.

- Associate Professor, Department of Health and Physiology, Texas A&M University
- Research interests: alcohol-related behaviors (e.g., impaired driving, protective behavioral strategies) and alcohol-related assessment and measurement issues (e.g., determining intoxication, single-item scales to determine drinking behaviors)





2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Daphne C. Hernandez, Ph.D., MSED

- Assistant Professor, Department of Health & Human Performance, University of Houston
- Research interests: food insecurity/food assistance programs and obesity among socioeconomically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups



Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. McKyer has assisted Dr. Hernandez in seeking alternative sources of funding.
- Dr. McKyer assisted with setting up an international collaboration with the University of Costa Rica. Dr. Hernandez submitted a grant application that would provide study abroad experiences for undergraduate students, in addition to research opportunities to conduct cross-cultural food assistance policy comparisons.
- Dr. McKyer has helped Dr. Hernandez to understand how to coordinate a large multi-site, multi-disciplinary project. Dr. Hernandez is working on a collaborative project that includes several academic institutions and community partnerships.

Mentor: E. Lisako J. McKyer, Ph.D., MPH

- Associate Professor, Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences, Texas A&M University
- Research interests: social behavioral formative and intervention research within a multicultural community-based participatory framework



DAPHNE HERNANDEZ:

“Networking and opportunities for collaboration through the RSMP are invaluable.”



2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Abigail Gamble, Ph.D.

- Assistant Professor, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Kent State University
- Research interests: intervention research to prevention pediatric obesity



Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. Kittleson and Dr. Gamble have developed a theory-based survey to explore the use of mobile health apps to change and monitor health behaviors among college students in the United States. With the help of colleagues from institutions across the country, they are working to recruit student participants that will represent a multi-racial and ethnic sample from different regions of the country.
- This mentee-mentor team is also conducting a systematic literature review on mobile health apps.

Mentor: Mark Kittleson, Ph.D.

- Dean, School of Health & Human Performances at SUNY The College at Brockport
- Research interests: use of technology within health education/ health promotion and public health



2015 RESEARCH SCHOLARS MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentee: Katie Crosslin, Ph.D.

- Assistant Professor, Texas Woman's University
- Research interests: cyberbullying; the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV); home safety in immigrant Mexican populations



Team Accomplishments:

- Dr. Crosslin submitted a grant proposal to the APF with the assistance of Dr. Will.
- Dr. Crosslin and Dr. Will also collaborated on a grant proposal focused on HPV education targeted to physicians to increase motivational interviewing and persuasive techniques to encourage vaccination.
- Dr. Crosslin and Dr. Will kept in frequent contact to discuss Dr. Crosslin's questions regarding working in academia, identifying research partners and potential grant funding sources, managing workload, and related topics.

Mentor: Kelli England Will, Ph.D.

- Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Research interests: design and evaluation of large-scale behavior change programs that benefit the health and safety of children, teens, and young adults



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 MENTEES AND MENTORS!

