



2022 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.

Read more about the RSMP: <https://newprairiepress.org/hbr/vol2/iss4/7/>

2022 Mentee/Mentor Pairs

Mentee	Mentor
Nolan Kline	Scott Rhodes
Benjamin Montemayor	Ashley Merianos
Alyssa Robillard	David Seal

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Drs. KLINE & RHODES

Nolan Kline, PhD, MPH, CPH

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Dr. Nolan Kline is an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. He received a PhD in Applied Anthropology and an MPH from the University of South Florida. His research broadly focuses on how social and political factors shape health inequality among minoritized populations with particular attention to Latinx immigrants and sexual and gender minorities. He is currently the PI of a study funded by the National Science Foundation that examines how activist movements that emerged after the Pulse shooting in Orlando, Florida, inform social justice and health equity efforts for LGBTQ+ people of color. Dr. Kline's work is guided by the principles of community-engaged research, and he has authored or co-authored dozens of scholarly publications, including a monograph, "Pathogenic Policing: Immigration Enforcement and Health in the US South (Rutgers University Press, 2019). He sits on the community advisory boards for a number of organizations focused on Latinx immigrants and LGBTQ+ populations, and he has received awards for his research, teaching, and community engagement.

Scott D. Rhodes, PhD, MPH, FAAHB

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Dr. Scott D. Rhodes is Professor in and Chair of the Department of Social Science and Health Policy, Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. He also directs the Program in Community-Engaged Research within the Wake Forest Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Committed to community-engaged research, Dr. Rhodes works closely with a community-academic research partnership comprised of community members, representatives from community organizations, and academic partners. This partnership has developed and tested more than 15 interventions to reduce sexual risk; increase engagement in HIV care; enhance cervical cancer screening; decrease smoking; improve access to needed care, and reduce substance use among adolescents and young people. Currently, Dr. Rhodes has funding from NIH, CDC, and the state of North Carolina. Two new NIH-funded studies on which he serves as PI include: reducing food insecurity among persons living with HIV and increasing COVID-19 testing and vaccination within the Latinx community.

Dr. Rhodes has published more than 250 articles and book chapters on the health of marginalized populations, including immigrants; racial/ethnic, sexual, and gender minorities; and rural populations. He edited, "Innovations in HIV Prevention Research and Practice through Community Engagement" (Springer 2014) and co-edited, "New and Emerging Issues in Latinx Health" (Springer, 2020).

Drs. MONTEMAYOR & MERIANOS

Benjamin N. Montemayor, PhD

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Dr. Benjamin Montemayor is a Research Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Texas A&M University. He has a PhD in Education Sciences with an emphasis in alcohol and other drug (AOD) behavior research in Health Promotion, from the University of Kentucky. Before the University of Kentucky, he received his Master of Science from Oklahoma State University in Health Promotion where his desire for researching AOD use among adolescent and young adult at-risk minority populations and underrepresented sub-groups began. Specifically, his research interests include the prevention and intervention of AOD use among these populations. Dr. Montemayor likes to utilize a harm reduction approach in AOD use programming and incorporates theory to help explain and predict future intentions and behaviors with AODs. He is experienced in all stages of AOD use programming, including the development and implementation of individual and group AOD use intervention programs, and is currently leading the initiatives of a campus multi-organization collaboration assessing contemporary perceived normative beliefs and actions, individual risk-factors, local traditions and customs, and scope and severity of participation in alcohol, drug, and polysubstance use of active substance-using students to help develop and implement tailored interventions among at-risk populations.

Ashley L. Merianos, PhD, CHES, TTS, FAAHB

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Dr. Ashley L. Merianos is an Associate Professor in the School of Human Services at the University of Cincinnati and an Affiliate Member of the Division of Emergency Medicine at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. As a health services researcher, Dr. Merianos has extensive training and experience in the epidemiology and prevention of substance use, quantitative methodology, and clinical and translational research in the pediatric healthcare setting. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist and Tobacco Treatment Specialist. Dr. Merianos has successfully secured funding as Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator from the National Institutes of Health – the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Her active program of research focuses on parental tobacco cessation and child tobacco smoke exposure reduction in the acute healthcare and inpatient settings, measurement of complex tobacco smoke toxicant mixtures within microenvironments, and evaluation of policies aimed at protecting children from related harmful effects.

Dr. Merianos has co-authored over 150 peer-reviewed publications in scholarly journals and has delivered over 130 professional presentations. She has garnered national and international media attention for her pediatric tobacco control research. Dr. Merianos is an American Academy of Health Behavior Fellow, American Academy of Pediatrics Tobacco Consortium Member, Tobacco Regulatory Science Member, and Thirdhand Smoke Research Consortium Affiliate Researcher.

Drs. ROBILLARD & SEAL

Alyssa Robillard, PhD, MCHES

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As a health educator by training, Dr. Alyssa Robillard appreciates the ecological view of health that considers both individual and social environmental factors associated with health problems—and the multiple ways we can begin to address them. She is committed to promoting health and health equity—especially among those for whom the burden of adverse health outcomes is high and the web of social and structural determinants is complex. In various roles, she has worked to address inequities across numerous areas, including HIV. She is especially interested in the role of storytelling in public health, especially for HIV prevention, care, and treatment. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University. She is also an Affiliate Faculty of the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina with the Voices/Voces Project. Dr. Robillard received her post-secondary training from Xavier University of Louisiana and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Public Health.

David W. Seal, PhD, FAAHB

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Dr. David Seal is a professor in the Department of Social, Behavioral, and Population Sciences at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Seal has extensive experience and expertise with the conduct of social behavioral formative and intervention research within a multicultural community-based participatory framework. He has been the PI on funded HIV prevention intervention studies with people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, prison populations, and delinquent female adolescents. He also has conducted funded studies to explore sexual behavior among at-risk heterosexuals in Syria; the impact of intersecting identities on risk behavior among racial and ethnic minority men; and emotional and sexual intimacy among gay, lesbian, and heterosexual couples. Seal received his PhD in social psychology from the University of New Mexico. He is a past-president and fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior. He currently is on AAHB's Board of Directors and serves as the Chair of the Diversity and Equity Council.