



Congratulations to the 2015 AAHB Research Scholars

Mentee Name

Mentor Name

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Mentee: Michael Mackenzie, Ph.D.



Dr. Michael Mackenzie is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Health & Nutrition at the University of Delaware. He utilizes a continuum of mixed methods research approaches to investigate: 1.) how engaging in physical activity and mind-body practices influences health behaviors and outcomes; and 2.) how this knowledge can be implemented via community-based behavioral health education, programming and services. Dr. Mackenzie received his PhD in Health & Exercise Psychology from the University of Calgary and completed his Postdoctoral Fellowship in Exercise Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mentor: Diane Abatemarco, Ph.D., MSW



Dr. Diane J. Abatemarco is an Associate Professor and the Chief of Pediatric Population Health Research at Jefferson/Nemours Department of Pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University. She is newly appointed Director of Maternal Addiction Treatment and Research Program at Jefferson University. Her primary areas of expertise in research with underserved populations and include health behavior change, implementation science, evaluation and outcomes, and behavioral epidemiology.

Dr. Abatemarco's primary research is focused on innovative interventions to enhance health care for child and maternal health systems. She is currently the PI of a pediatric-based practice transformation intervention to prevent toxic stress and improve development of children age 0 to 3 with mindfulness based parenting with new mothers in treatment for opioid addiction. Dr. Abatemarco is also currently funded to implement mindfulness to women at risk of preterm birth, obese pregnant and recently delivered women, and to pediatricians and their staffs. She is also involved

in a national effort to increase mindfulness in pediatrics and reduce toxic stress. She created and is the former Director of the PhD in Population Health Sciences at Jefferson University.

Mentee: Rodney Joseph, Ph.D.



Dr. Rodney Joseph is a Postdoctoral Fellow on the T32 Transdisciplinary Training in Health Disparities Science Grant (T32-1T32NR012718-01) at the Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovation. His research interests include the development, implementation, and evaluation of culturally relevant physical activity interventions for African American women, use of innovative technologies to deliver physical activity interventions, and accurate assessment of physical activity among racial/ethnic minorities. Dr. Joseph's research emphasizes the role of culture and behavioral health theory in promoting physical activity among minority populations. He received his PhD in Health Education and Promotion from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health.

Mentor: Jay Maddock, Ph.D., FAAHB



Dr. Maddock is a professor in the Office of Public Health Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Professor Maddock has led the research and evaluation arm of the Healthy Hawaii Initiative, a statewide Department of Health program to reduce chronic disease since 2000. Professor Maddock has extensive experience in system, environmental and policy research to improve population level risk factors including physical inactivity, tobacco use and poor nutrition in multiethnic, disparate communities. His work bridges both the research and practice communities. Dr. Maddock has been named the Bank of Hawai'i Community Leader of the Year and received the Award of Excellence from the American Public Health Association, Council on Affiliates. He has chaired the state board of health, co-authored the state physical activity and nutrition plan and was a charter member of the NIH study section on Community Level Health Promotion. He is also the PI on the Hawaii Health Data Warehouse and has served as an investigator on several NIH and Robert Wood Johnson funded studies. He is an author of over 90 scientific articles, and

150 chapters and abstracts on community level health promotion. His research has been featured in several national media outlets including The Today Show, Eating Well, Prevention and Good Housekeeping. Dr. Maddock has given invited lectures in numerous countries including Australia, Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, El Salvador and Brazil and he holds honorary Professorships at two universities in China.

Mentee: Annie Nguyen, Ph.D., MPH



Dr. Annie Nguyen is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. Her research interests are in issues relevant to older adults including contextual meanings of successful and healthy aging, subjective wellness and quality-of-life, and resources that support chronic disease self-management and aging in place. She is particularly interested in topics relevant to minority populations. Dr. Nguyen received her PhD in Public and Community Health from the Medical College of Wisconsin and her M.P.H from Dartmouth College.

Mentor: Scott Rhodes, Ph.D., MPH, FAAHB



Dr. Rhodes is a public health Professor at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. His research focuses on the integration of community engagement, health promotion and disease prevention in both rural and urban communities nationally and internationally. Specifically, his research explores sexual health; HIV and sexually transmitted diseases; and health disparities, including substance use and obesity, among vulnerable communities. Rhodes has extensive experience in developing, implementing and evaluating interventions for African American, Hispanic/Latino and immigrant populations; persons living with HIV and AIDS; self-identified gay and bisexual men; men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender persons.

Mentee: Christina Sun, Ph.D.



Dr. Christina Sun is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Her research interests include HIV prevention, social networks, and lay health advisor and new media technology interventions to reduce health disparities among racial/ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, and transgender persons. Dr. Sun received her PhD in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and her MS in Clinical Psychology from California State University, Fullerton.

Mentee: Nathan Smith, Ph.D.



Dr. Nathan Grant Smith is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Houston. His research focuses on behavioral health among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans populations, with emphasis on sexual health behavior and tobacco use. His work includes exploration of sexual-orientation- and gender-identity-based health disparities and development and testing of health promotion interventions. He received his PhD in Counseling Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Mentor: David Seal, Ph.D., FAAHB



Dr. Seal is a 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. He has extensive experience and expertise with the conduct of social behavioral formative and intervention research within a multicultural community-based participatory framework. Dr. Seal has nationally-recognized expertise in qualitative methods and has conducted national and international trainings in qualitative methods, applied field research ethics, and cultural competency. Dr. Seal is further experienced with the conduct of formative studies with racial and ethnic minority populations in both U.S. and non-U.S. settings to directly inform intervention development. His work has focused primarily on correctional populations, MSM, and at-risk urban couples.

Mentee: Paul Branscum, Ph.D., RD



Paul Branscum, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Exercise Science at the University of Oklahoma. His initial training is in nutrition and dietetics and he received his PhD in Health Promotion and Education from the University of Cincinnati. He has designed and evaluated school-based and after school-based childhood obesity prevention programs in association with organizations such as the YMCA of the Greater Columbus area, United Way, Action for Healthy Kids, Princeton City Schools in Cincinnati, OH, and Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH. His research interests include predicting and changing obesogenic health behaviors among children, parents and young adults, and survey design.

Mentor: Lorraine Wallace, Ph.D., FAAHB



Dr. Lorraine Wallace is an Associate Professor and Director of the Area Health Education Center's Clear Health Communication Program at The Ohio State College of Medicine. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts in professional journals in areas including health literacy, health disparities, health services, and behavioral health, and was recently awarded Fellow status of the American Academy of Health Behaviors. Her research interests are centered on health literacy, clear health communication, health disparities, and access to medical care. She has been involved in health literacy research and teaching for the past decade and has conducted extensive research assessing and creating low-literacy patient centered materials for various target populations. For example, she has developed and validated low-literacy questionnaires to assess patients' understanding of medical procedures (e.g. tubal ligation), chronic disease management (e.g., chronic obstructive lung disease), and medication related knowledge and expectations (e.g., opioid medications), as well as interventions to aid low-literacy patients in medical decision-making. She is also interested in further developing and refining quick, one-sentence health literacy screening items.

Mentee: Rachel Torres, Ed.D., MPH



Dr. Rachel Torres is an Assistant Professor of Health Education at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York. Her research interests include health communication, health disparities and community-based participatory research methods. She received her EdD in health education from Teachers College, Columbia University, an MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and BA in sociology from the University of California at Irvine.

Mentor: Derek Griffith, Ph.D.



Dr. Derek Griffith is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Health and Society at Vanderbilt University where he also directs the Institute for Research on Men's Health and he is affiliated with the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center. Dr. Griffith is a social scientist who focuses on social influences on men's health and racial and ethnic health disparities. He specializes in qualitative methods and behavioral interventions to reduce African American men's chronic disease risk often using a community-based participatory research approach. Dr. Griffith has active research projects addressing racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality in Michigan and improving African American men's eating practices and physical activity and reducing obesity. In November 2013, Dr. Griffith was presented the Tom Bruce Award by the Community-Based Public Health Caucus of the American Public Health Association in recognition of his leadership in community-based public health and for his research on "eliminating health disparities that vary by race, ethnicity and gender". Dr. Griffith's research has been funded by several institutes within the NIH and foundations such as the American

Cancer Society and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Dr. Griffith is on the editorial board of *Health Education & Behavior and Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*.

Mentee: Ashley Merianos, Ph.D.



Dr. Ashley L. Merianos is an Assistant Professor in the Health Promotion and Education Program at the University of Cincinnati. Her research and teaching emphases include child and adolescent substance abuse prevention, program evaluation, and epidemiology. She is interested in strengthening family, school, and community partnerships as a means to increase youth engagement in healthy behaviors. Dr. Ashley Merianos received her PhD in Health Education with a cognate emphasis in child and adolescent health and psychology from the University of Cincinnati.

Mentor: Adam Barry, Ph.D.



Adam Barry currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Health & Kinesiology at Texas A&M University. Dr. Barry's formal academic preparation was in the field of health education (school and community setting), with specific training and expertise in alcohol use and abuse. Barry's research focuses broadly upon the assessment and measurement of alcohol-related behaviors, spanning numerous areas including (1) impaired driving, (2) protective behavioral strategies college students employ to minimize intoxication, (3) the alcohol-activity association, and (4) measurement of alcohol-related behaviors (i.e., use of single-item scales, visual cues of intoxication). An emphasis of his current work is examining the alcohol-related issues of military personnel transitioning from service to college. He has served as PI on an NIAAA funded grant that explores whether student veterans' alcohol-related cognitions and patterns of use differ from those of their non-military peers, as well as whether they also experience a greater proportion of negative outcomes (mental health, social, and academic) as a result of their alcohol use.

Mentee: Daphne Hernandez, Ph.D.



Dr. Daphne Hernandez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health & Human Performance at the University of Houston. Her interdisciplinary research program is centered on food insecurity/food assistance programs (i.e., indicators of poverty) and obesity among socioeconomically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups with a specific emphasis on racial and ethnic minorities, women, and children. Dr. Hernandez received her PhD in developmental psychology from Boston College, MEd in psychological services from the University of Pennsylvania, and an AB in psychology from Princeton University.

Mentor: Lisako McKyer, Ph.D., MPH



Dr. Lisako J. McKyer is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health & Kinesiology at Texas A&M University, and director of the institution's Transdisciplinary Center for Health Equity Research. She is jointly appointed to the Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine and adjunct appointment with the School of Public Health, Texas A&M Health Science Center. She earned her MPH and PhD degrees from Indiana University (IU) and was the first African-American woman to earn the PhD in Health Behavior from IU, as well as the first to earn tenure in her department at Texas A&M. Dr. McKyer has trained and graduated more minority health research doctorate recipients than any other faculty member in her department. In 2014, she received the University-wide Texas A&M Distinguished Achievement Award for Graduate Mentoring, the highest award conferred by the Association of Former Students. Dr. McKyer's research focuses on factors contributing to child and adolescent health

inequities. Her applied research includes community based participatory approaches to health promotion, and cultural competence and training of health professionals. She is PI or co-PI on more than \$7 million of extramural grants/contracts since 2006. Her projects have supported at least 12 students and 3 staff members, and served as a platform for undergraduate students to conduct research and earn research awards.

Mentee: Abigail Gamble, Ph.D.



Dr. Abigail Gamble is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Science Officer in the Office of Population Health at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She has established a line of mentored research using theory-based and ecological approaches to examine physical activity and obesity among youth in rural, low-income, predominantly Black communities in Mississippi. Dr. Gamble's long-term career goal is to become a leading independent behavioral scientist conducting intervention research to prevent pediatric obesity during critical developmental periods from pregnancy through adolescence. She received her PhD in Health and Kinesiology from the University of Mississippi in 2011.

Mentor: Mark Kittleson, Ph.D., FAAHB, FAAHE



Mark J. Kittleson, PhD, FAAHB, FAAHE is Professor and Department Head of Public Health Sciences at New Mexico State University. Dr. Kittleson is most noted for his research and service in the use of technology within the profession of health education/health promotion and public health. He created the HEDIR (a large health education listserv) that has been used by the profession for over 20 years (with a membership of nearly 2,000); he created the first completely on-line peer-reviewed health education journal in 1997 (*The International Electronic Journal of Health Education*), which he sold to the American Association in Health Education in 2001. More recently Dr. Kittleson is the PI of a federal grant to determine effectiveness of sexuality education, service learning, mentoring and parental involvement in the reduction of teen pregnancy in New Mexico. Dr. Kittleson has published nearly 90 peer-reviewed articles in various scholarly journals, as well as over 140 national/international presentations. He has authored or edited 15 textbooks. In addition, he has secured over \$2 million in outside

funds. He has Fellow Status in the American Academy of Health Behavior (he was a founding member) as well as the American Association of Health, Education.

Mentee: Katie Crosslin, Ph.D.



Dr. Katie Crosslin is currently an Assistant Professor at Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX. Previously, she was a Research Scientist at a level 1 Trauma center and became interested in home safety, especially in vulnerable populations. She has conducted cross-cultural research studies with immigrant Hispanic women regarding unintentional ingestion from household cleaners and other substances. Additionally, she conducts both quantitative and qualitative research focusing on the mental health effects of online harassment, and the acceptability of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. Dr. Crosslin received her PhD in Health Education from Texas Woman's University, and her Master's and Bachelor's degrees from Baylor University.

Mentor: Kelli Will, Ph.D.



Dr. Kelli England Will is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics' Division of Community Health and Research at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Will conducts research involving design and evaluation of large-scale behavior-change programs that benefit the health and safety of children, teens, and young adults. Her areas of expertise are injury control, motor vehicle safety, health behavior theory, and risk communication. Dr. Will received her BS and MS in Experimental/General Psychology from Old Dominion University and earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Virginia Tech. She has received over 25 research grants and contracts for her work in injury prevention and risk communication, and has numerous publications in refereed health and safety journals. Recent funders have included the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Institutes of Health, the US Navy, and the Virginia Highway Safety Office. Dr. Will is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, a Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, and a Delegate of the American Academy of Health Behavior. She is involved in child injury prevention at the regional, state, and national levels, serving on a number of health and safety boards, coalitions, and committees.

Thank you to the Mentors!