

West Chester University

MPH CONNECTIONS | FALL 2021



Editor: Amanda Colón

Co-editors: Dr. Stacie Metz and Dr. Gopal Sankaran



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MPH Program Director: Dr. Stacie Metz	3
Social Media	4
Dr. Rebecca Rich	5
Dr. Erin Knight	6
MPH Student Advisory Board	7-8
Beta Xi Chapter Delta Omega Executive Board	9
Global Climate Change	10
Recent Alums Spotlight	11-13
Amal Alghamdi	14
Addressing Social Isolation in PA Older Adults	15-16
Center for Rural PA Grant	17
Opioid Education in Higher Education	18
Virtual Professional Development Series	19-21
Young Professional Award	22
Faculty Accomplishments	23-25



MPH Program Director

Dr. Stacie Metz

A key value and pillar of both the MPH program and the university is community engagement. Our university was re-certified with the Carnegie Foundation Classification for Community Engagement (CCE) due to our strong commitment to building mutually beneficial partnerships with the larger community while positively impacting the professional development of our students. Our MPH program is built on the foundation of community engagement in which our faculty, staff, and students contribute their time and expertise to responding to the needs of the community.

Dr. Angela Lavery (Gerontology & MSW faculty), Dr. Erin Knight (MPH HCM) and I (MPH CH) joined the **PA Dept of Aging's Intergenerational University Connections Program**. This service learning experience provided the platform for interprofessional graduate students to be trained in ageism first aid, to learn about the PA Dept of Aging's structure & services via an illuminating virtual training with Secretary Torres and other state aging leaders, and facilitate discussion or activities over the phone with older adults at risk for social isolation.

Ultimately, we hope this type of experience will better prepare students to assess and address the complex needs of older adults in our communities, but more importantly, view older adults as assets whose lived experience should be at the table when prioritizing and planning programs, services, and policies. This was a unique opportunity for students to learn lessons from a newly formed partnership, including how to use service learning and volunteerism as a means to build capacity in their own organizations and communities.

To view the press release, photos, and videos, go to: <https://www.wcupa.edu/communications/newsroom/2021/11.16DeptofAging.aspx>



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



For campus events &
student/program highlights
follow us on Facebook



Interested in MPH Student
Advisory Board
Announcements? Follow us on
Instagram



For all career & professional
development opportunities
follow us on LinkedIn



Meet Dr. Rebecca Rich

PhD, CHES®

Dr. Rebecca Rich is a new addition to the Department of Health as an assistant professor. In her own career development related to public health, she attended a sexuality education seminar at Planned Parenthood. From that three day training session for sexuality educators, Dr. Rich uses the skills that she learned in her teaching as well as to advocate for quality and comprehensive sexuality education. It is also the focus of her research. Her interest in teaching college students about health was influenced by teachers in the health field throughout her educational career. That interest has grown into passions for health and sexuality education, pedagogy, women's sexual health and incorporating social justice into health education. All of which Dr. Rich believes can greatly improve the quality of life and are worth advocating for. When asked about her experience at WCU so far, here's what Dr. Rebecca Rich had to say, "I can't say enough about how friendly, welcoming, and supportive everyone at WCU has been. I'm also having a blast getting to know my students and what they are involved in on and off campus".

“

When you're considering a career in public health, think about what your strengths are and what your passions are. Ideally, you will be able to combine the two and give yourself the best chance for success.

”



Meet Dr. Erin Knight

Dr. Erin Knight recently joined the Department of Health at WCU this Fall 2021 semester as an assistant professor. Before earning her PhD, she worked in state and community-based organizations for several years and has previously experience teaching at another institution before joining WCU. Through these experiences, Dr. Knight has learned the importance of community engagement in higher education. "By



connecting our teaching, research and service with community-based organizations in authentic ways we can create incredible opportunities for impact, and it goes both ways—our students and faculty benefit from the learning that can happen from working with community partners and the communities themselves benefit from their engagement with our institution. I view this as our responsibility, but it's also a gift to be able to do this kind of work". Her passions in public health include promoting health equity through policy and practice changes that address social determinants of health. She is also passionate about training students and health professionals to shift more attention from individual behavior to creating healthier community environments.

Trust that your work matters and surround yourself with positive people who share your values. That energy can help sustain you, but also practice self-care, because we need you here for the long haul!

MPH STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

2021-2022 Executive Board

The mission of the MPH Student Advisory Board, better known as MPH SAB, is to support the Department of Health by serving as a liaison between students and faculty/staff in order to foster a sense of community and professionalism.

Faculty Advisor: Chiwoneso Beverley Tinago, PhD, MPH, CHES®



President: Danielle DiGiorgio

Danielle is a third year MPH student in the Community Health Track. She is on the path to graduate in 2022. Aside from academics, she works full time as a Drug and Alcohol Prevention Specialist in Chester County. When she isn't occupied with school or work, she enjoys staying active, whether it be playing sports, hiking or hanging out the beach.

Vice President: Sinja Sharma

Sinja is a second year Community Health student in the MPH program, on path to graduate in May 2022. Sinja dedicated time as a volunteer at the Chester County Health Department where she uses her public health skills as a contact tracer for COVID-19. Sinja also serves as the President of the International Graduate Student Association. When she isn't occupied with school or work, she enjoys reading and being outdoors, especially if it involves hiking, traveling, or participating in adventure sports!



Secretary: Doris Swarn

Doris is a second year Health Care Management student in the MPH program, on path to graduate in December 2021. Aside from academics, she works full time as a Health and Safety Coordinator. When she isn't occupied with school or work, she enjoys staying active and loves volunteer, cook, and sew!



Community Health Track Representative: Kena Patel

Kena is a second year MPH student on the Community Health track, on path to graduate in December of 2021. She currently works as a graduate assistant for Dr. Neha Sunger and Dr. Lorenzo Cena in the Department of Health and looks forward to utilizing her MPH degree for the betterment of the community. In her free time, she enjoys travelling and participating in outdoor activities.



Recently Elected Executive Board Members Term: January 2022

Secretary: Rashad Freeman



Rashad is a second year Master of Public Health student on the Community Health Track. After completion of his degree, he hopes to continue education to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Public Health. His research interest is centered around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their potential influence on health behavior and health outcomes.

Health Care Management Track Representative: Marguerite Lena

Marguerite is a WCU graduate transfer on the Women's Soccer Team as well as the graduate assistant in the Academic-Athletic Mentor Program. Marguerite works with student-athletes in supporting their academic endeavors and is pursuing a MPH on the Health Care Management Track with the goal to increase accessibility and equity within the healthcare system.



APHA Liaison: Daniel Hofmann



Dan is a second-year MPH student in the Community Health track. Dan completed a B.S. in Neuroscience from the University of Cincinnati in 2015. Their interests include Cancer and Chronic disease prevention.

Social Outreach Manager: Ragha Mohan

Ragha Mohan is an international student from India and raised in Kuwait. Ragha completed her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Wyoming and is currently an MPH Candidate in the Community Health track. She also currently serves as the Graduate Assistant at the Lawrence A. Dowdy Multicultural Center and the ReFrame Student Leader at the Wellness Promotion Center on campus.



WCU BETA XI CHAPTER DELTA OMEGA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Faculty Advisor: Chiwoneso Beverley Tinago, PhD, MPH, CHES®

Meet the Executive Board Members

PRESIDENT: VICTORIA PAULINE



Victoria Pauline is a recent MPH graduate and fellow alum of WCU! She was inducted into Delta Omega in May 2021. Victoria currently works as a Project Coordinator at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. She is thrilled to serve as the President of the Beta Xi Chapter at WCU for this upcoming academic year!

VICE PRESIDENT: ASHLEY CIFARELLI



Ashley Cifarelli was inducted into Delta Omega Beta in 2019. She received her MPH in Healthcare Management in 2019 at WCU. Ashley has been working with Penn Medicine since 2017 beginning at Chester County Hospital and currently working as a Junior Project Manager, Radiation Oncology in Philadelphia.

TREASURER : DORIS SWARN



Doris is a second year Health Care Management student in the MPH program, on path to graduate in December 2021. Doris was inducted to the Delta Omega Honor Society in May 2021.

SECRETARY : SUNITA AMIN



Sunita is a WCU MPH alum & Certified Health Education Specialist. She was inducted into Delta Omega Honor Society in 2018. She currently works as a Senior Engagement Consultant with Cigna Health Care.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

ENV 435/581



Undergraduate students helping Assistant Professor, Dr. Melanie Vile, calculate carbon sequestration in the Gordon Natural Area. She has developed a new course ENV 435/581 titled, “Global Climate Change,” which was taught for the first time this Fall 2021. Students pictured are measuring DBH (diameter at breast height) for all trees in the park. Pictured (from left to right: Taylor Chapman, Sunday Htoo, and Heather Jacobson). Not pictured are Bakr Salman and Dante Fruncillo, both MPH students, who are helping extend these measurements to West Goshen Township (WGT) parks to determine canopy cover, carbon sequestration, and forest floor temperature. Results will be shared with the WGT Board of Supervisors to advise whether more plantings are needed to help offset carbon-dioxide emissions, and hence climate change.



Every little tree counts

RECENT ALUMS

Spotlight



Abigail Zimondi

MPH

Abigail is an WCU MPH alum in the Community Health Track who graduated in August of 2020. This August, she completed certificates in Applied Mindfulness, Business, Management, and Marketing. For Abigail's ALE experience she interned at WCU's Center for Contemplative Studies conducting a study focusing on the research question, "Given that participation in 'Shared Reading' groups appears to increase mindfulness and improve quality of life in undergraduate students, what experiences most impact participants?" Abigail presented her ALE experience at the Research & Creative Activity Day this past April. She is currently applying to doctoral programs.

Gianna Marciante, MPH

Creates COVID-19 Module for Campus



Gianna Marciante participated in a team of WCU students and staff, Stephanie Kienle, Dr. Zeinab Baba, and Nick Gourousis to develop COVID-19 online educational module. The development of this module was driven by the impact of the pandemic in the community. The goal was to provide information and resources for a safe semester while addressing important facts and concerns. They felt an important need to raise student awareness COVID's impact on the community, steps to mitigate the spread, and what to do if symptoms develop. The modules also contain self-assessment surveys at the end of each lesson, which students may choose to complete voluntarily for a chance to win a free iPad. The self-assessments at the end of each module allows students to express any ongoing concerns regarding the semester while examining their knowledge of the pandemic, and its effects on the community.



Gianna's contribution focused on WCU specific guidelines and regulations as well as mental health awareness information. This module consists of mental health information regarding pandemic depression, stress, & anxiety and ways to improve mental health, while providing resources on campus that promote health and well-being. Applying competencies from the Health Care Management track, she was able to assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health, design a population-based project for WCU students, and perform effectively on an interprofessional team. She also developed an evaluation blueprint for WCU Office of Student Affairs that provides a framework for evaluating the survey data collected in the modules. With the blueprint, faculty can assess and evaluate current needs of WCU students and strategically plan for the development of new or improved on-campus resources specific to students' needs.



William Curley

MPH



William Curley is a recent MPH graduate in the Environmental Health track, and recently completed the ALE experience. Upon graduating, William is further planning, preparing, and installing riparian buffers to capture sediment, sequester carbon, combat flooding, and absorb and retain excess non-point source inputs like nitrogen and phosphorous from impacting downstream communities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed as the Watershed Restoration Project Coordinator at Stroud. He describes his takeaways from the ALE experience he completed at the Stroud Water Research Center as,

“ West Chester University’s ALE experience allowed me to develop a professional and trusted relationship with my selected site, Stroud Water Research Center. My passion for the environment and providing restoration efforts in Southeastern Pennsylvania aligned with the ethos of Stroud and their decade’s long efforts focused on water quality, etymology, research, and watershed restoration. Working with their Watershed Restoration Group, I was able to coordinate and apply the Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP), developed by the US Department of Agriculture, on an integral unnamed tributary on the Pequea Creek in Lancaster County. This unnamed tributary and its headwaters flow through multiple dairy and farming operations and has been degraded due to human and animal activities over the years. By applying the SVAP framework and learning about the nature of this waterway I was able to provide Stroud with a baseline assessment of the health of the stream and the surrounding riparian zone with the goal of implementing several best management practices in the near future.

”



Amal Alghamdi



featured on the publication for the Historic Newlin Grist Mill



Amal Alghamdi is a student at West Chester University working to complete a degree in Environmental Health. She had become interested in Newlin Grist Mill after conducting water testing for one of her courses. Amal's internship entails conducting research and compiling background information on the Chester and Concord Creek watersheds. She will be examining maps, previous studies, and any materials that could help to create a profile of these watersheds. The project will entail communicating with regulatory agencies and reviewing public records to compile this information. The goal of this internship is to create a better understanding of each watershed's characteristics, catalog their features, and establish a snapshot of the current state of these waterways. This information is critical for developing long-term strategies and engaging community partners. Amal is excited to be a part of this first step in protecting Newlin Grist Mill's water resources and applying the skills she has learned to real-world situations. She believes the experience will be beneficial for her career when she returns to Saudi Arabia.



Addressing Social Isolation in PA Older Adults

**Fall 2021 Inter-generational Service Learning Experience with the PA Department of Aging
Written by Krystal Harbaugh, MPH Student and Service Learning Participant**

According to the National Institute of Aging 2019, social isolation among older adults is associated with a higher risk for health conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease, depression, and cognitive decline. Risk factors include marital status, mobility impairments, transportation barriers, and lack of social network. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this public health concern. In response, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging recognized the need to promote community health and capacity building to address this issue. The WCU MPH program and the Gerontology Graduate Certificate program were approached by the PA Department of Aging to collaborate on a service learning experience (SLE) to address concerns of social isolation among at-risk older adults in PA.

In preparation for the project, students participating in the SLE attended a virtual training session in September with members from the PA Department of Aging. Panelists included Secretary Robert Torres, Assistant Secretary Stephanie Cole, Director of PA Elder Protective Services Denise Getgen, and PA Long-term Care Ombudsman Margaret Barajas. The discussion included the impact of social isolation, advocacy for the safety and well-being of older adults, healthy aging resources, and career/professional development Q&A. Stephanie Cole described the Department of Aging's overall goal to help mitigate the issue of social isolation as, "changing of societal attitudes toward older adults, reducing stigmas and stereotypes of aging, and promoting inclusivity can improve the value we place on older adults as members of our communities."

The experience included completion of the Gerontological Society of America's Ageism First Aid training, and at least six hours of engagement by phone or virtually with their assigned older adult. Students were required to conduct a pre- and post-assessment of perceived social network support with their individual. During the phone/virtual sessions, students engaged in discussion or activities on health promotion topics, reminiscence, creative expression, and/or leisure activity.

Several other PA universities have participated in the project, and it has been met with success. Secretary Robert Torres shared the positive impact that the project had on a previous student and stated, "It really changed her perspective on life and she was reevaluating her priorities, so that was touching to hear."

Reference: National Institute on Aging. (2019). Social isolation, loneliness in older people pose health risks. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
<https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/social-isolation-loneliness-older-people-pose-health-risks>

What can you do?



- Apply for careers at the PA Department of Aging or the Philadelphia Corporation of Aging
 - <https://www.aging.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
 - <https://www.pccares.org/>
- Encourage your staff to complete the online Ageism First Aid Training
- Build your interprofessional gerontological skill set in WCU's Grad Certificate in Gerontology





Center for Rural Pennsylvania Grant

Pennsylvania Coroner / Medical Examiner Services

Co-Investigators Harry D. Holt and Ramona Stone have been gathering data and conducting interviews throughout the past year to study the impact of the Opioid Crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic on death investigation services. Their efforts have been supported by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and West Chester University Department of Health with a total budget of \$74,447.00. The researchers have collaborated with the Chester County Office of the Coroner, the Pennsylvania State Coroner's Association, and the Penn State Survey Research Center. Dr. Christina VandePol, M.D., from the Chester County Office of the Coroner has been a critical part of the study in providing guidance and expertise in the field of medicolegal death investigation.

Data has been gathered from Pennsylvania Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Forensic Pathologists to assess how the ongoing Opioid Crisis and the Covid-19 Pandemic has influenced the ability to conduct medicolegal death investigation services. The research efforts have been supported through by the hard work from MPH Graduate Students Danisha Heyward, Miskyat Oladosu, Balee Leaser, and Bhumkia Patel. Graduate students have been hard at work editing the final report and engaged in data analysis, literature review writing, and scheduling interviews with participants. They have learned what the process of research is like and the fascinating world of death investigation in Pennsylvania.

MPH program graduates who have assisted with the project include Dr. Amrit Baral and Alyson Marsden. Both MPH graduates have gone on to their next position, with Dr. Baral enrolled in a fully funded Epidemiology PhD program at the University of Miami (FL). Alyson Marsden has moved to Colorado and is with a company engaged in life science and clinical trials. Graduate students who have assisted in the effort look forward to further collaboration as we publish and present findings from the study at conferences and in manuscripts.

The study is ongoing and principal investigators will be pursuing additional funding to support the research and research activities for graduate students. The co-investigators want to extend special thanks to the Department of Health and to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania for their support of the research work of MPH graduate students.

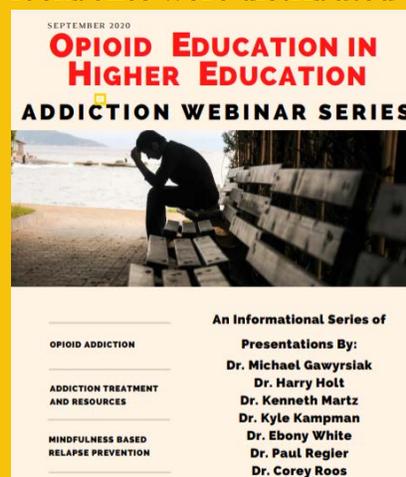
Opioid Education in Higher Education: Addiction Webinar Series

MPH Graduate Students Shivani Naik and Kena Patel assisted Harry D. Holt throughout the last year on a \$100,000 grant that was awarded from the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Programs (PA DDAP). Both Shivani and Kena are trained dentists from India and are planning on graduation from the MPH Community Health Track in December 2021. The Co-Principal Investigators for the grant were Dr. Holt and Dr. Michael Gawrysiak from the Department of Psychology. The team from the Department of Health collaborated with Dr. Michael Gawrysiak and Department of Psychology graduate students. The goal of the grant was to increase the awareness and education among West Chester University students, staff, faculty, and wider West Chester community members regarding the dangers of Opioid Use Disorder. Efforts included organizing and hosting a webinar series entitled “Opioid Education in Higher Education: Addiction Webinar Series.” This event was held in 2020 and was hosted four speakers that presented on following topics:

1. Opioid Addiction: What Does it Mean to Me?
2. Updates on the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder
3. Examining the Intersection of Race and Class: How Opioid Addiction became an Epidemic
4. Cue-reactivity as a Vulnerability to Addiction and Relapse

The grant also supported a day-long mindfulness training event entitled: “Day-long clinical training workshop in Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention – Rolling Admission (MBRP-RA).” The workshop was delivered to medical and mental healthcare practitioners working in the field of addiction recovery.

The grant also supported a day-long mindfulness training event entitled: “Day-long clinical training workshop in Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention – Rolling Admission (MBRP-RA).” The workshop was delivered to medical and mental healthcare practitioners working in the field of addiction recovery. Throughout period of the grant Shivani and Kena researched content to publish through social media sites. The audience for the social media channels was West Chester University students. Cross-brand channels from the social media sites of WCU Student Health Services, Office of Wellness Promotion, West Chester University, Parent and Family Relations, and PA DDAP were also used to publish the material. The grant closed out with hosting an evening of Opioid Use Disorder education and awareness being presented in collaboration with the Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services at the Sykes Theater. The Theater was nearly full to capacity with WCU students and educational materials, drug disposal kits, and drug lockboxes were distributed to the attendees.



Principal Investigators



Harry D. Holt, PhD, JD, MBA, Assistant Professor, Department of Health, College of Health Sciences



Michael J. Gawrysiak, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology



Fall 2021 Virtual MPH Professional Development Series Presents:

The goals of the series are to promote intellectual inquiry, professional growth, and expand networking opportunities. Panelists and guests included MPH faculty/staff, campus partners, current students, MPH alumni, and an array of community partners. We are tremendously grateful for their expertise and time.

PA Department of Aging Service Learning Training: The Role of State and Regional Aging Services in Reducing Social Isolation in Older Adults

Guests

- Robert Torres, Secretary, PA Department of Aging
- Stephanie Cole, Assistant to the Secretary
- Denise Getgen, Director, PA Elder Protective Services
- Margaret Barajas, Ombudsperson, PA Long-term Care

Emergency Preparedness and Public Health: A Virtual Panel with Regional Partners

Guests

- Breena E. Green, MPH-EH Alum, Grants Management Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region III, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Alyssa Jacobsen, MA, Preparedness Program Workforce Manager, Philadelphia Department of Public Health
- Raechelle Walker-Ellis, MPA, Senior Grants Management Specialist, Disaster Grants Division, FEMA, Region III, U.S. DHS

Digital Innovations in Health Care with UCHealth CIO Steve Hess Hosted by Dr. Erin Knight



Steve Hess is the chief information officer for UCHealth, a nationally recognized, nonprofit health care system with operating revenue of \$5.4 billion and a workforce of more than 26,000 people. UCHealth includes 12 Colorado hospitals, with about 2,000 inpatient beds and more than 150 clinics in Colorado, southern Wyoming and western Nebraska. Mr. Hess is responsible for the management of information systems across the enterprise, including Epic, an electronic medical record system; The Source, UCHealth's employee intranet; and My Health Connection, a patient portal. Previously, Mr. Hess was the chief information officer for University of Colorado Hospital, a partner of UCHealth. Prior to joining UCHealth, Mr. Hess was the chief information officer for Christiana Care Health System, one of the country's largest health care providers.

Cultivate Leadership and Drive Change: Virtual Panel Discussion on Post-MPH Fellowships and Doctoral Programs

Alumni Guests

Stephanie Belinske, MPH, DrPH student in Health Equity & Social Justice at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Chronic Disease Epidemiologist for the State of Delaware



"I feel that it's really important to get the hands on experience because there's what the textbook teaches and then there's the practical application."

Dr. Richard Curley, MPH, DrPH in Social & Behavioral Science from Morgan State University; Past ORISE Fellow for the Health Resources & Service Administration and the Army Public Health Center; Senior Researcher & Project Manager, Fors Marsh Group



"When looking at fellowships you definitely have to go into them with an open mind and actually research them."

Dr. Aqeel Dix, MPH, EdD in Organizational Leadership & Innovation from Washington University; Assistant Professor, Department of Health Science, Lincoln University



"It's been challenging but it's been rewarding to teach my students about the public health field and what they could do within the field and the impact that they can make."

Jameyshia Franklin, MPH, DPA student at West Chester University; Past Main Line Health Fellow; Director of Patient Experience, Bryn Mawr Hospital



"One of the good thing is, always having a mentor. Having someone who's going to sponsor you and having someone who's going to mentor you are two different things."

Nicole Ivaska, MPH, CHES®, PhD, EdD student; PhD in Medical Science/Clinical Epidemiology; Lecturer, Department of Health & Exercise Physiology, Ursinus College



"It was really important to find the right program and the right fit that was going to give me the skills that I needed to enhance what I wanted to do."

Faculty Accomplishments

Young Professional Award

Dr. Chiwoneso Beverley Tinago



Tinago, C. 2021 Young Professional Award, awarded by the International Health Section of the American Public Health Association.

Scholarly Activity

Asempapa, B., Bean, N., Davidson, P., & Sankaran, G. Interprofessional Education (IPE) and Interprofessional Collaborative Care (IPCC): A case study on food insecurity. Oral (Virtual) presentation at the Child Health Forum, An Action-based, Interprofessional Approach to Combating Food Insecurity and Childhood Obesity in Our Communities, to serve as the foundation for building the University of Central Florida & University of Florida Interprofessional Education session, Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practice, on Friday, October 29. The presentation was repeated twice and drew a total of 384 students from the two universities.

Dickinson, K. L., Grillo, L., Lazar, N. R., Metz, S. M., Muhammad, M., & Queen, L. Gender Affirming Care Interprofessional Debriefing Panel. West Chester University Education and Programming for Integrated Care (EPIC) Symposium on Integrated Care and Support for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents, West Chester, PA, October 1, 2021.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Technology & Global Public Health. Invited panelist at the National Technology Day webinar (virtual), organized by the American Medical Women's Association, on January 6. Sankaran contributed a chapter to the book, Technology and Global Public Health, edited by Dr. Padmini Murthy and Dr. Amy Ansehl and published by Springer.

Sankaran, G. (2021). COVID-19: A pandemic perpetuating gender inequality. Oral (Virtual) presentation at the 149th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in Denver, Colorado on Tuesday, October 26.

Sankaran, G. (2021). A tale of two Nations: Political climate and COVID-19 vaccine coverage in India and the People's Republic of China. Oral (Virtual) presentation at the 149th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in Denver, Colorado on Wednesday, October 27.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Invited webinar presentation. Disseminating During the Pandemic: Sharing Your Success With Program Resiliency, in Mentorship Program: Program Dissemination Webinar, AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM Next Generation, on December 1.

Tinago, C. (Principal Investigator), **Baba, Z., Davidson, P., Johnson, K., Katirai, W., & Sankaran, G.** Assessing the Impact of a Rabbit Farming Project on Household Income, Food Security, and Empowerment in Uganda. WCU Provost Research Grant, \$10,000, July 2021-June 2023.

Professional & Community Service

Johnson, K., & Baba, Z. (2020-22). Facilitated the College of Health Sciences' Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Learning Community in Fall 2021 (2nd Cohort).

Makau-Barasa, L. K. (2021-22). Lead Guest Editor of Cancer Control's Special Collection on Prostate Cancer in Underserved Populations.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Reelected to a one-year term (FY 2021-22) as Secretary, Board of Cerebral Palsy Association of Chester County/Chester County Disability Services. Dr. Sankaran has continuously served on the Board since 2000.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Invited Member, Awards Committee, A. Noam Chomsky Global Connections Awards, Society of Transnational Academic Researchers (STAR) Scholars Network.

Stone, R. (2021). Invited by the American Public Health Association Cancer Forum to join the leadership team as a Chair of the Memberships & Events Committee, and by the Pennsylvania Public Health Association to join the Memberships Committee. Dr. Stone has accepted these invitations to serve.

Publications

DeJoy, S. B., Mandel, D., McFadden, N., & Petrecca, L. (2021). Concerns of Women Choosing Community Birth During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Study. *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*, 66(5), 624–630. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmwh.13290>

Norris, S. A., Frongillo, E. A., Black, M. M., Dong, Y., Fall, C., Lampl, M., Liese, A. D., Naguib, M., Prentice, A., Rochat, T., Stephensen, C.B., **Tinago, C. B.**, Ward, K. A., Wrottesley, S. V., & Patton, G. C. (November 29, 2021). Nutrition in adolescent growth and development. *Lancet*, [doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01590-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01590-7)

Tinago, C.B., Frongillo, E.A., Warren, A.M., Chitiyo, V., Cifarelli, A.K.*, Fyalkowski, S.* & Pauline, V.* Development and assessment of feasibility of a community-based peer support intervention to mitigate social isolation and stigma of adolescent motherhood in Harare, Zimbabwe. *Pilot Feasibility Stud* 7, 110 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40814-021-00832-0>

Wieder, RK, MA Vile, KD Scott, JC Quinn CM Albright, K McMillen, C Herron*, H Fillingim.** 2021. Is bog water chemistry affected by increasing N and S deposition from oil sands development in northern Alberta, Canada, *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-021-09555-4>. To access the article as a PDF go here <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s10661-021-09555-4.pdf>. This manuscript describes the impacts of Oil Sands Mining on peatland ecosystem function. Specifically, the manuscript addresses how emissions of sulfur and nitrogen from the mining industry have compromised peatlands as a carbon sink for atmospheric carbon-dioxide.

Professional Development

Dwight L. Davidson, PhD, LMHC Leadership and Design Grant 2021, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) #002185121. Identification of foodways of people with Cystic Fibrosis, a qualitative exploratory study. As a consultant to Dr. Patricia Davidson and Dr. Amir Golmohamadi, I reviewed and provided input on the research design, tools, and interviews developed for and utilized in this \$100,000, one year, grant funded, pilot study. In addition, I will monitor sampling methodology and train study staff.

Tinago, C. WCU Quality Matters Initiative Participant (October 2021-June 2022)

Invited Lectures

Sankaran, G. (2021). COVID-19 and the Sustainable Development Goals: The Pandemic, Politics and Human Rights. Invited lecture (virtual) to graduate social work (MSW) students in SWG 590: Human Rights in Philadelphia course at West Chester University on July 29.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Foundations of Epidemiology. Invited lecture to Physician Assistant Studies students in PHYA 542: Research Methods in Health and Disease course at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on August 19.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Descriptive Epidemiology. Invited lecture to Physician Assistant Studies students in PHYA 542: Research Methods in Health and Disease course at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on August 25.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Fundamentals of Infectious Disease Epidemiology. Invited lecture (virtual) to undergraduate students in public health in PH 380: Epidemiology course at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado on September 7.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Foundations of Epidemiology. Invited lecture to Physician Assistant students in PAS 515: Professional Issues and Healthcare Policy course at West Chester University on September 10.

Sankaran, G. (2021). Descriptive Epidemiology. Invited lecture to Physician Assistant students in PAS 515: Professional Issues and Healthcare Policy course at West Chester University on September 17.

Sankaran, G. (2021). U.S. Health Care System, Social Determinants of Health, and COPC. Invited lecture to Physician Assistant students in PAS 515: Professional Issues and Healthcare Policy course at West Chester University on September 24.



Happy Holidays!

&

*Best wishes for
the New Year!*

Be safe and continue to practice COVID-19 preventive actions.