

April 7-8, 2019 | Gainesville, FL

An Un-Meeting on Rural Health and Health Equity

Supported by

UF Clinical and Translational
Science Institute
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

UF IFAS
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 **CLIC** Center for Leading
Innovation & Collaboration

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Welcome

We are delighted that you have chosen to participate in the Un-Meeting on Rural Health and Health Equity on April 7 and 8 in Gainesville, Florida. This Un-Meeting is hosted by the University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences with support from UF and the Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration (CLIC), the coordinating center for the National Institutes of Health's Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program.

Bringing together experts and stakeholders from the CTSA Program, IDeA Program, Cooperative Extension and other sectors, we hope to foster an exchange of ideas and knowledge, new connections, and collaboration to expand potential solutions that promote rural health and health equity. What drew us all to this event was a desire to help people, and that is what our worlds have in common: putting research into practice to improve health and expand opportunity in our communities.

We look forward to an unconventional format that will allow us to tap into the collective experience of our diverse group, which hails from more than 30 states. As conversations unfold in a setting designed to stimulate creativity, inspiration is sure to strike. Contrary to what one might expect, a tremendous amount of forethought and planning has enabled this free-form experience. We hope you'll join us in thanking those who have lent their expertise, time and talents to make it happen: an esteemed Steering Committee, expert speakers, and a crackerjack event planning team.

We stand ready to champion and support new collaborations that emerge from this event and hope you will too. Welcome to Gainesville!



Dave Nelson, MD
Interim Senior Vice President
for Health Affairs, UF, and
President, UF Health;
Director, UF Clinical and
Translational Science Institute



Jack Payne, PhD
UF Senior Vice President for
Agriculture and Natural
Resources, UF/IFAS

Event Details

Welcome Reception

Sunday, April 7, 2019, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
(refreshments and hors d'oeuvres provided)
UF Clinical and Translational Research Building
(CTRB), 2004 Mowry Road, Gainesville, Florida

We will provide a shuttle from the Hilton to the reception, and back. The shuttle will run continuously between the UF Hilton and CTRB with the first shuttle leaving the Hilton at 5:45 p.m. and the last return from the CTRB at 8:15 p.m. For those who are driving, parking is available in the garage adjacent to the CTRB.

Un-Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2019, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(breakfast and lunch provided)
The Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention
811 South Main Street, Gainesville, Florida

We will provide a shuttle from the Hilton to the Cade Museum, and back. The shuttle will depart the Hilton at 8 a.m. For those who are driving or staying at another hotel, parking is available at the Cade.

Name Badge Pickup

You may pick up your name badge for the event at the reception the night before, or at the Cade Museum on Monday beginning at 8:20 a.m. Welcome packets will be available at the Cade Museum.

Acknowledgements

This unconventional meeting is the second in a series of Un-Meetings organized by CLIC to promote team science within and in connection to the national CTSA Program consortium. Visit the CLIC website to explore the [Un-Meeting concept](#) in more detail, or check out an example of a [past Un-Meeting](#). This event is supported by CLIC (NCATS Grant U24TR002260), the UF CTSI (supported in part by NCATS CTSA UL1TR001427), and UF/IFAS. Complimentary admission to the Sweat Solution exhibit during the Un-Meeting is provided by the Cade Museum. Content of event materials is solely the responsibility of the organizers and does not necessarily represent the official views of event sponsors. Listings of local transportation, dining and other options are included for the convenience of attendees but do not imply endorsement by the organizers or sponsors.

About the Venues

The University of Florida [Clinical and Translational Research Building](#)

As headquarters for clinical and translational science at UF, the building brings together research teams from different scientific spheres and houses patient-oriented research venues for the CTSI and the Institute on Aging. The 120,000-square-foot facility, completed in 2013, features two main wings. It achieved platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, signifying it meets the highest standards for environmentally friendly design. The building was funded in part through an NIH ARRA grant awarded to the Institute on Aging.

The Cade Museum

The mission of the Cade Museum for Creativity & Invention is to transform communities by inspiring and equipping future inventors, entrepreneurs, and visionaries. [The museum is named for Dr. James Robert Cade](#), a professor of renal (kidney) medicine at the University of Florida and the lead inventor of the sports drink Gatorade. Opened to the public in May 2018, the museum reflects Dr. Cade's outlandish spirit, zest for life and new ideas and his constant, genuine interest in helping, motivating and encouraging people of all ages and experience. Feel free to explore the Sweat Solution exhibit on the ground floor, admission provided by the Cade Museum in support of this event.

Un-Agenda

Reception: Sunday, April 7, 2019, UF Clinical and Translational Research Building

5:45 p.m.	First shuttle departs UF Hilton and Conference Center (shuttles run continuously)
6:00 p.m.	Reception begins
6:30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.	Brief welcome remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. David Nelson, Interim Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, UF and President, UF Health; Director, UF CTSI • Dr. Jack Payne, UF Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, UF/IFAS
8:15 p.m.	Last shuttle returns to UF Hilton and Conference Center

Un-Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2019, Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention

8:00 a.m.	Buses depart UF Hilton and Conference Center
8:20 a.m.	Buses arrive at Cade Museum – Registration, Breakfast and Networking
9:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks and Introduction – Dr. Michael Gutter, UF/IFAS
9:05 a.m.	Welcome – Dr. Michael Kurilla, Director, Division of Clinical Innovation, NCATS
9:10 a.m.	The “Un-Rules” – Dr. Michael Gutter, UF/IFAS
9:15 a.m.	Framing the Issues from Different Perspectives – 4x4s <i>Four presenters, four minutes and four slides each, set the stage for discussion.</i>
9:35 a.m.	Breakout Topic Identification – Post-It exercise <i>During the 4x4s, start jotting down topics you’d like to discuss. Write each topic on a Post-It. We’ll sort the Post-Its into themes for the day’s breakouts.</i>
10:10 a.m.	Breakout Session 1 <i>Four concurrent topics based on sorted Post-It ideas.</i>
10:55 a.m.	Breakout Session 2 <i>Four new concurrent topics based on sorted Post-It ideas.</i>
11:40 a.m.	Lunch and Networking <i>Please form two lines, one on either side of the buffet, for speed.</i>
12:30 p.m.	Reframing the Issues from Different Perspectives – 4x4s
12:45 p.m.	Topic Identification – Post-It exercise
1:20 p.m.	Breakout Session 3 <i>Four new concurrent topics based on sorted Post-It ideas.</i>
2:05 p.m.	Breakout Session 4 <i>Regional breakouts, option for unstructured networking.</i>
2:50 p.m.	Reflections and Next Steps
3:00 p.m.	Close <i>There will be a bus returning to the Hilton after the meeting. For those heading straight to the airport, taxis will be available at the Cade. Uber and Lyft are also options. Luggage can be stored at the museum.</i>

4x4 Presenters

A hallmark of the Un-Meeting is a series of 4x4 talks that set the stage for discussion. Presenters each give a four-minute presentation with no more than four slides (hence the “4x4”) on themes of interest from different perspectives. Our presenters, in alphabetical order by last name, are:

**Extension perspective:
“Well Connected Communities”**



Janet Golden, MBA, Director of Professional Development at the National 4-H Council

**Attendee perspectives: “Beyond the zip code:
A tribute to rural diversity”**



Tracy Irani, PhD, Professor and Chair of Family, Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida

**National perspective: “Regional trends in
rural health disparities”**



Alana Knudson, PhD, Co-Director of the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis

**National perspective:
“Social determinants of rural health and
access to care”**



Paul Moore, DPH, Senior Health Policy Advisor at the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

**Extension perspective: “Framing the
collaboration: How do we effectively address
rural health disparities?”**



LaToya J. O’Neal, PhD, Assistant Professor and Extension Health and Wellness Specialist at the University of Florida

**CTSA perspective:
“Precision population health and learning
health communities”**



Betsy Shenkman, PhD, MSN, BSN, Co-Director of the University of Florida CTSA, Chair and Professor of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics

**CTSA perspective:
“Bridging medical schools and land-grant
universities to advance translational
research”**



Henry N. Young, PhD, Associate Professor at the University of Georgia

Un-Rules of Engagement

The Un-Meeting format, which is without the rules and structure of a traditional conference, provides a unique opportunity for attendees to focus on what really matters to them, as they drive the agenda and resulting discussions. A series of brief 4×4 presentations (4 slides in 4 minutes) help set the stage for discussion. Attendees then identify topics they want to discuss and jot them down on Post-It notes, which are organized by event coordinators into logical categories. These categories become the breakout session topics, with four concurrent breakouts anticipated per session.

Below are a few “un-rules” that will help us create a welcoming space where people are free to share, be heard and drive their own learning.

First Un-Rule: The Law of Mobility

By design, Un-Meetings are very fluid and flexible in nature. If you choose to attend a breakout session and find it less relevant to your interests than you hoped, you should feel empowered to leave the session and check out a different one. You are free to go where your interests lie, and leave if your interest wanes. Similarly, if you meet a potential collaborator and want to start working on ideas right away, claim a nook or sofa to chat.

Second Un-Rule: The Law of Curiosity

One benefit of this Un-Meeting is learning more about what each of us does, and how we can help each other. No one knows everything ... just ask! There are NO wrong questions ... or answers. This goes for acronyms and jargon too. Many of the terms we use in one field might have equivalent terms in another. We’re going to learn to speak each other’s language, and it’s ok to ask for real-time translation. If you’re wondering what something means, someone else probably is too.

Third Un-Rule: The Law of Efficiency

We want to make every second count. The day is in your hands, and we are open to opportunities for efficiency. Feel free to start jotting down ideas on Post-Its early. Or, when your breakout group meets, start talking right away. If no one has started the discussion yet, feel free to jump in. Is the line only running down one side of the buffet at lunch? Make a new line on the other side!

Fourth Un-Rule: The Law of Flow

Be open to however the Un-Meeting might unfold. Whatever happens ... happens. Whoever comes are the right people. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have. Whenever it starts is the right time. When it’s over, it’s over.

Fifth Un-Rule: The Law of Momentum

The Un-Meeting is as much about what happens after the event, as it is about the event itself. We hope you’ll pledge at least one action item as you leave. We want to continue the conversation. Together, we can turn possibility into reality.

Continuing the Conversation

What happens next? We hope the conversation continues after the Un-Meeting. You can take concrete action in several ways. And please let us know if and when you do, so we can gauge success of the meeting, inform future gatherings, and help in any way we can.

Voice Your Intention

On the way out, we have one final Post-It note request. Write down one concrete action you'll take and stick it on the board next to the exit. We'll take a picture and hang on to these ideas.

Socialize after the Event

Got some extra time for an impromptu social hour or dinner? The following downtown options are within a 15-minute walk and open at 3 p.m. on Mondays:

- Big Lou's NY Style Pizzeria
- Emiliano's Cafe
- Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille
- Loosey's Downtown
- Mojo Hogtown Barbecue
- Pop-a-Top General Store (Depot Park)
- V Pizza and SideCar

Visit [Gainesville.com](https://www.visitgainesville.com/) offers more ideas, but be sure to check hours, as many Gainesville restaurants are closed on Mondays or may not open until later in the day: <https://www.visitgainesville.com/>

Share Your Feedback and Experience

We need your input to understand what worked well and what could be improved for future un-meetings, and to foster tangible and meaningful outcomes after the event. Be on the lookout for a survey shortly after the event, and six months out.

Stay Connected

Tag #ruralunmeeting and #CTSAProgram in your social posts.

Join the [“Un-Meeting on Rural Health and Health Equity” Group](#) on LinkedIn, or contact meghanmeyer@ufl.edu and ask to be added to the group if you can't find it.

Our Theme: Rural Health and Health Equity

The focus on rural health and health equity addresses recommendations in recent congressional appropriations subcommittee reports, which encourage the CTSA Program to leverage resources and capabilities to improve rural health outcomes and eliminate long-standing regional health disparities. Rural Americans, who make up as much as 20 percent of the US population, face health disparities rooted in economic, social, racial, ethnic, geographic and health workforce factors, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. CTSA Program hubs, IDeA-CTR sites and Cooperative Extension institutions are uniquely positioned to work together to address these issues.

The Un-Meeting offers a timely opportunity to leverage robust national infrastructure across sectors in pursuit of a shared mission to translate science for practical application. Un-Meeting discussion topics will be identified by attendees in real time, but examples of potential topics of interest include rural stress, the opioid epidemic, food insecurity, geographic disparities, experiential learning opportunities, social determinants of health, healthy environments, rural diversity and cultural identity, access to health care, occupational health, bridging silos across sectors and disciplines, and opportunities for regional collaboration.

Visit the event website to peruse related background materials and resources shared by attendees: <https://www.ctsi.ufl.edu/an-un-meeting-on-rural-health-and-health-equity/background-materials/>

Learning to Speak the Language (and Acronyms)

You might be unfamiliar with the terms we've used so far, such as CTSA and Cooperative Extension. Or you might be fluent in the language of one or both of these worlds. Within our respective spheres, we might even have different ideas about what we do. That's OK! One benefit of this Un-Meeting is learning more about what our institutions do and how we can help each other. The same goes for other acronyms and jargon we use at this event: Many of the terms we use in one field might have equivalent terms in another. We're going to learn to speak each other's language. A brief introduction to some key terms:

What is translation? What is translational science?

According to the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), *translation* is the process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public – from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes. *Translational science* is the field of investigation focused on understanding the scientific and operational principles underlying each step of the translational process.

NCATS produced the following diagram to explain: <https://ncats.nih.gov/translation/spectrum>

The UF CTSA produced this video to help explain: <https://youtu.be/uJdoHNQo5hY>

What is a CTSA Program hub?

Funded by the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, the [Clinical and Translational Science Awards \(CTSA\) Program](#) supports a national network of more than 50 medical research institutions – called hubs – that work together to advance translational research. The purpose of the CTSA Program is to get medical and population health interventions to patients and populations more quickly, and to enable research teams, including scientists, patient advocacy organizations and community members, to tackle system-wide scientific and operational problems in clinical and translational research that no one team can overcome in isolation. CTSA Program hubs collaborate locally, regionally and nationally to catalyze innovation in training, research and processes. In Florida, there are two CTSA Program hubs: the University of Florida in partnership with Florida State University, and the University of Miami.

What is CLIC?

The [Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration \(CLIC\)](#), housed at the University of Rochester, is the coordinating center for the CTSA Program, and serves the program through coordination, transparent communication, actionable metrics, network analytics and innovative collaboration tools for use around the consortium, and to make the work and accomplishments of the CTSA Program vibrantly visible to all stakeholders.

What is the IDeA-CTR network?

Funded by the NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program builds research capacities in states that historically have had low levels of NIH funding by supporting research, faculty development and infrastructure improvements. The program also enhances the ability of investigators to compete successfully for additional research funding and serves the research needs of medically underserved communities. It currently supports competitive research in 23 states and Puerto Rico. To translate research advances emerging from IDeA states into better patient care and improved public health, the IDeA-CTR network supports 11 sites that are fostering partnerships between basic and clinical scientists in IDeA institutions and

among other NIH-funded programs, and are developing infrastructure for clinical and translational research.

What is Cooperative Extension?

Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. The University of Florida, together with Florida A&M University, administers the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. At the University of Florida, Extension is part of the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), and is called UF/IFAS Extension. UF/IFAS also includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) and the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.

UF/IFAS Extension produced this video to help explain: https://youtu.be/wnCqkh_5kDU

What is the Cooperative Extension System?

The [Cooperative Extension System \(CES\)](#), in partnership with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, is translating research into action: bringing cutting-edge discoveries from research laboratories to those who can put knowledge into practice. CES empowers farmers, ranchers, and communities of all sizes to meet the challenges they face, adapt to changing technology, improve nutrition and food safety, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and protect our environment. CES is operated through the nation's Land-grant University System in partnership with federal, state and local governments, with an office in or near most of the nation's approximately 3,000 counties.

Your Hosts

We're pleased to introduce your hosts for the Un-Meeting, which include our Master of Un-Ceremonies and Steering Committee, as well as our event planning team and volunteers.

Master of Un-Ceremonies

Look for the fedora and you'll find the Un-Meeting MC and Steering Committee chair, Michael "Mike" Gutter. The Associate Dean for Extension and State Program Leader for 4-H Youth Development, Families and Communities for the University of Florida/IFAS, Dr. Gutter earned his BS in Family Financial Management and his PhD in Family Resource Management from The Ohio State University with a specialization in Finance. His research focuses on examining how socioeconomic status, financial education, personal psychology, and financial socialization are related to financial behaviors. His current work focuses on the intersection of finances and health outcomes with emphasis on financial toxicity in cancer patients. Dr. Gutter's outreach focuses on improving financial behaviors by increasing knowledge, skills, and access to services.



Steering Committee

An esteemed Steering Committee has been instrumental in guiding our Un-Meeting planning. Be on the lookout for them during the event as they help welcome the group and catalyze conversations.



Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH, FACE, Director of Community Engagement, University of Florida CTSI



Michael Gutter, PhD, Associate Dean for Extension, UF/IFAS



Linda Kirk Fox, PhD, Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Georgia



John Mathias, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor, Florida State University



Wayne T. McCormack, PhD, Distinguished Teaching Scholar and Professor, University of Florida



Gia Mudd-Martin, PhD, MPH, RN, Associate Professor, University of Kentucky



LaToya J. O'Neal, PhD, Assistant Professor and Extension Health and Wellness Specialist, University of Florida



***Thomas A. Pearson, MD, MPH, PhD**, Director of Precision Public Health and Translational Workforce Development, UF CTSI



Heidi Liss Radunovich, PhD, Associate Professor, Extension Specialist and Program Director for UF/IFAS Extension Engagement



Robert Rhyne, MD, Professor of Family and Community Medicine, University of New Mexico



Roberta Riportella, PhD, Associate Dean for Outreach and Engagement, Oregon State University



***Ahlshia Shipley, PhD**, National Program Leader, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA



Laura Sugarwala, MBA, RDN, Senior Engagement Manager at the Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration, University of Rochester



Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD, Program Director, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, NIH

*Not able to attend.

Event Planning Team

Our event planning team will be hard at work during the event and behind the scenes, ready to help with any questions you might have. Please let the UF team know if you want recommendations on what to do in lovely Gainesville if you have some downtime after the Un-Meeting!

UF CTSI



Matt Alday,
Director of
Finance and
Administration



Claire Baralt,
Director of
Strategy and
Planning



Deaven Hough,
Communications
Specialist



Amy Lawson-Ross, Executive
Assistant to the
Management
Team



Meghan Meyer,
Associate
Director of
Communications



Sarah Stanley,
Communications
Intern

UF/IFAS



Debora Bell,
Executive
Assistant to the
Associate Deans
for Extension



**Samantha
Grenrock,**
Public Relations
Specialist



Michael Gutter,
Associate Dean
for Extension,
UF/IFAS



Giselle Navarro,
Extension Public
Health Program
Manager

Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration (CLIC)



**Kate
Fetherston,**
Coordinator



Judy Giordano,
Collaboration
Initiatives
Coordinator



Laura Meyers,
Communications
Coordinator



**Laura
Sugarwala,**
Senior
Engagement
Manager



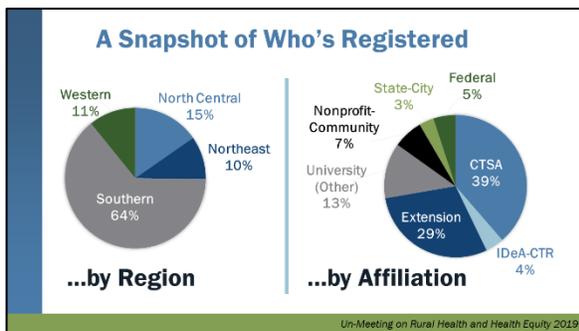
Robert White,
Associate
Director of IT and
Analytics

Event Volunteers

A special thanks goes out to the following volunteers for lending their expertise and time on the day of the event: Katie Blackburn, MSPH, CTSI Research Coordinator; Sarah Chavez, MPH, Doctoral Candidate and Research Coordinator; Rachel Damiani, MA, CTSI TL1 Team Fellow and Doctoral Student; Katie Eddleton, MPH, Associate Director, CTSI Office of Clinical Research; Neo Gebru, MPS, CTSI TL1 Team Fellow and Doctoral Student; Samantha Paige, PhD, MPH, Postdoctoral Research Fellow; Brian Sevier, PhD, Director, CTSI Office of Clinical Research; Melissa Vilaro, PhD, MPH, CPH, Postdoctoral Associate.

Attendees

More than 100 people from more than 30 states have registered for the Un-Meeting. This section includes brief descriptions of relevant expertise, interests and biographical details shared by attendees, in alphabetical order by last name. You can also find an attendee list of all registrants that includes email addresses and is sortable by state at: <https://www.ctsi.ufl.edu/an-un-meeting-on-rural-health-and-health-equity/>.



Angie Abbott, EdD, RDN, CD, Purdue University
Assistant Dean and Associate Director

I am the Assistant Dean and Associate Director for Purdue Extension in the College of Health and Human Sciences. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics from Ball State University, a master's degree and a post-graduate dietetic internship through Ball State University, and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Creighton University.

I am a registered dietitian and Extension Specialist in the area of nutrition education programs that target limited resource audiences. My current interests are in the area of employee engagement and leadership styles.



Wari Allison, MD, PhD, University of Texas Health San Antonio
Assistant Professor

I am an assistant professor of infectious disease at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio and medical director at the San Antonio AIDS Foundation (SAAF). I attended Imperial College School of Medicine, London and completed internal medicine residency at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and infectious disease fellowship at NYU. I hold a PhD in Public Health from the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Australia. I am passionate about access to health care for underserved populations in the US and in resource-limited settings overseas. My current research focuses on prevention, screening and linkage to care in relation to HIV and viral hepatitis.



Jorge H. Atilas, PhD, Oklahoma State University College of Human Sciences – FCS Extension
Associate Dean, Extension and Engagement

I lead cooperative extension efforts in Oklahoma focused on behavioral outcomes that improve health across communities in the state.



Susan S. Baker, EdD, Colorado State University
Professor and Extension Specialist

At Colorado State University, I administer the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), a healthy eating and active living educational program targeting low-income adults that is administered by Cooperative Extension nationally. My research interests include the evaluation of EFNEP interventions as well as consumer food insecurity and health disparities among low-income women of child-bearing age.



Casper "Cap" Bendixsen, PhD, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute

Director of the National Farm Medicine Center and Research Scientist

I am a social-cultural anthropologist working to translate health and safety knowledge for rural and agricultural communities, as rural populations are particularly vulnerable and agriculture remains one of the most hazardous occupations in the US. I direct a multidisciplinary center that approaches these issues from the perspectives of injury prevention, pediatric injury prevention, public health, education, environmental and occupational health, bioinformatics, anthropology and health communications. In my own work, I leverage my background in farming, ranching and rodeo with ethnographic methods and social theory in community-based research projects ranging across the translational spectrum—from child immunological development to training rural firefighters to be informed safety advocates on their local farms.



Alison "Ali" C. Berg, PhD, RD, LD, University of Georgia

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist

As a state Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist for University of Georgia, I provide leadership to nutrition education and health promotion programs across the state of Georgia. Since 2016, my USDA- and CDC-funded research and outreach education have focused on obesity and cancer prevention in Rural Georgia. I have a strong interest in how to best serve the health needs of rural Georgians and rural Americans who face different barriers to good nutrition, physical activity and health care than their metro and urban counterparts.



Shirley Bloodworth, University of Florida

Citizen Scientist

I work with the Citizen Scientist program at UF. As a retired nurse, I have been very active in lifelong learning in the community. Currently, I have organized the Aging Well & Planning Ahead Educational Series at the Gainesville Senior Recreation Center and have added two special Advanced Directive workshops in connection with the seminars. My husband and I owned a 12-acre farm in the rural town of Newberry, and my daughter attended Newberry schools.



Scott C. Brown, PhD, University of Miami

Research Associate Professor

I am an environmental health scientist and research associate professor in the UM Miller School of Medicine Department of Public Health Sciences. For 15 years, I have led studies (RWJF, NIH, HUD and CDC) to understand built environmental policies and strategies that promote health in vulnerable populations. I am co-leader of one of 11 inaugural teams selected by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Design+Health Research Consortium and am PI on an RWJF-funded grant examining health impacts of greening (tree-planting) initiatives in low-income Miami neighborhoods. As PI on a US HUD grant, I published the first study to link block-level greenness (vegetative presence) to lower risk of chronic conditions, in ~250k Medicare beneficiaries. I participated in three NIH grants (as co-I, project director or investigator) on built environment and Hispanics' health. My research is described in the US EPA Guide to Smart Growth & Active Aging; and Active Design Miami guidelines.



Chelsey Byers Gerstenecker, MA, University of Illinois Extension

Extension Educator

I influence the well-being of individuals and communities through creative interaction of interdisciplinary research and practice. My focus is on whole person well-being and disease prevention and management. My programming promotes physical, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual and vocational wellness across the lifespan.

My primary focus is brain health. Older people are living longer, with 80 percent of them living with at least one chronic health condition. Concerns about memory loss and dementia become increasingly important to adults as they age. Current research demonstrates that diet, exercise, quality sleep, stress management, intellectual challenge and social engagement are factors that contribute to lifelong brain health.

I partner with the Illinois Area Health Education Center to promote rural health opportunities. This collaboration offers rural educational programs, health fairs, health screenings and the promotion of health careers for students living in rural areas.



Catherine G. Campbell, PhD, MPH, University of Florida
Research Associate

My primary areas of research interest are food systems and community health, particularly how food access relates to health disparities in low-income populations. My doctoral training was in ethics and theories of justice, complemented with an MPH, with coursework focusing on food systems and social and behavioral sciences.



Laura Campbell, MBA, MPH, Oregon Health & Science University
Community Research Liaison

I work with a team of other OHSU Community Research Liaisons. We represent rural regions across the state, living and working in these communities. We develop regional networks, identify local needs and facilitate local steering committees to connect our rural communities with university resources and expertise and connect the university with rural communities. In this role, my areas of expertise includes community outreach and engagement, community engaged research, research project management, coalition building and capacity building for research, data and evidence-based approaches.



Sarah Chavez, MPH, University of Florida
Doctoral Candidate and Research Coordinator

Rural health and health equity are areas of research that need further attention. There is a need to address access and think of efficient ways to do so. My research focuses on mobile health apps and the evaluation of apps specific to clinical practice care guidelines. Technology and apps are one method to reach the rural population. I am interested in learning new methods and experiences from researchers and the target population.



Sarah Chavez, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
Senior Scientist

Rural areas in the Midwest experience higher incidence and mortality for certain types of cancers, as well as lower screening rates. We are interested in studying the needs of rural communities and implementing new community outreach and engagement strategies to reach populations in the Siteman Cancer Center's catchment area. Our research is focused on identifying the modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors for cancer as well as the at-risk groups for these factors; utilizing epidemiologic methods to understand the interactions between behavioral and biologic determinants of adverse cancer outcomes; and contributing to the translation of epidemiological findings into behavioral interventions at the individual and population level.



Gina Claxton, MPH, RD, Indiana CTSI
Program Manager

The Indiana CTSI strives to serve our many rural communities across the state. Our Community Health Partnerships program collaborates with Purdue Extension Educators in every county and includes liaisons with networks in each corner of the state. Recently the program has added four statewide health coalitions that will address rural health with a focus on cardiovascular disease and diabetes, cancer, asthma and obesity prevention. Our current pilot award opportunities are prioritizing applications targeting health improvement in rural communities.



Carol Connell, PhD, RD, Mississippi Center for Clinical and Translational Research
Professor, Kinesiology and Nutrition

I am the associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi. I am also the co-director of the MCCTR Community Engaged Research Core. My areas of expertise are nutrition, food security, development of community nutrition and physical activity interventions in rural areas of Mississippi.



Carol E. Cornell, PhD, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Professor

I have over 25 years of experience in community-based applied prevention research in rural, underserved and predominantly minority communities. Most of my research has included community partners and community health workers and involved developing, implementing and evaluating behavioral interventions to reduce risk for chronic diseases, particularly cardiovascular disease. I am multiple PI and co-director of the Arkansas Center for Health Disparities (ARCHD) and co-I for the Arkansas Prevention Research Center, and I have been active in these centers' research projects focusing on reducing health disparities in rural, underserved communities. I co-lead ARCHD efforts to encourage new health disparities research through funding of pilot projects and mentoring early stage investigators. I work closely with the community engagement leaders of our CTSA, and I co-teach community-based program design. I am also chair of our Department of Health Behavior and Health Education.



Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH, FACE, University of Florida CTSA
Director of Community Engagement

I am associate dean for research at UF and dean's professor of epidemiology in the College of Medicine and the College of Public Health and Health Professions. I have been funded since 1989 by NIH for primary data collection and peer-delivered interventions among underrepresented populations, especially related to substance use and misuse as well as psychiatric comorbidity. My work with rural populations is through the UF CTSA. I direct UF CTSA's community engagement program, HealthStreet, through which our team assesses health needs and concerns from community members in North Central Florida, which includes rural counties. HealthStreet gives everyone a voice in the research enterprise. I am also director of a NIDA T32 training the next generation of scientists.



Rachel E. Damiani, MA, University of Florida
TL1 Pre-doctoral Fellow

As an NIH-TL1 pre-doctoral fellow, I am conducting a collaborative study focused on understanding the unique challenges and opportunities of recruiting participants in rural Florida. My background is in science and health communication, and I have expertise in disseminating scientific findings within communities through both evidence-based practices and stories.



John M. Diaz, PhD, University of Florida
Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist

My expertise relates to program design and evaluation. I serve as an evaluation specialist for UF/IFAS, and I work on enhancing the evaluation of health-based programming to improve program delivery and evaluative efforts.



Aurora Drew, PhD, Dartmouth College
Director

I work with the Community Engaged Research Core at Dartmouth Synergy. I teach applied epidemiology and work with regional public health networks. I am also a co-investigator on a community-engaged project on rural opioids and infectious disease in New England.

Photo not available

Jeff A. Feller, MSISE, WellFlorida and University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions
CEO and Adjunct Faculty

I am the chief executive officer of WellFlorida Council, one of 11 statutorily designated local health councils in Florida, and have served the council for nearly 25 years. During my tenure with WellFlorida, I have served on numerous community advisory bodies regarding health policy development and community health improvement. In addition, I have been the principal investigator or lead project manager or author on more than 100 community health needs assessments, community health improvement plans and program/system evaluations. I oversee an annual budget of nearly \$12 million with a service focus on maternal and child health services, HIV/AIDS, contracted fiscal management and technical assistance of nonprofit agencies and community health planning. I am also an adjunct faculty at the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy.



Karen Franck, PhD, University of Tennessee
Assistant Professor

As the program evaluator for UT Family and Consumer Sciences, I have led evaluation efforts related to community health initiatives including in rural counties. These have included community-level work building capacity in rural communities to identify and implement health and obesity prevention initiatives.



Mary L. Garcia, BS, MBA, Florida Department of Health in Putnam County
Administrator

Putnam is a small rural county. I am the administrator of the Department of Health, where we have initiated programs to address Diabetes, Oral Health (School Based Sealants) and are the only CHD in the state to have a certified Violence Intervention Team.

We champion Healthy Weight initiatives with the State Parks, the county and municipalities. I am a member of the Bartram Trail Society and the Palatka Trail Town Committee. I am very proud to share that the Bartram Trail received National Trail Designation and Palatka just received one of 7 Trail Town designations for the State of Florida.

We began a Racial Issues Study Circle in Palatka last year. DOH-Putnam supported the effort. I also attended the first class and am a trained RISC facilitator. Circles now are active in three areas of the county. This is key as transportation is one of our major factors affecting the health of our citizens.



Carol Geary, PhD, MBA, RN, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Postdoctoral Research Associate

My current work and most relevant work is centered on rural patient and stakeholder engagement. My personal research focuses on transitions from hospital to nursing home for older adults.



Neo Gebru, MPS, University of Florida

Doctoral trainee

I am a behavioral researcher by training, with background in clinical psychology. I am currently a doctoral student at UF, studying health behavior and focusing on substance misuse. I am also collaborating with researchers with expertise in communication science to better understand the unique barriers and facilitators of participation in research by rural tobacco users. We hope to develop a tailored messaging intervention to increase participation of rural individuals in research to ensure research findings are inclusive and, in turn, valid and generalizable to that population.



Janet Golden, MBA, National 4-H Council

Director of Professional Development

I have been a 4-H professional for 23 years. I started my career as a 4-H Agent/faculty member with the University of Florida in 1996 managing a large urban program for 14 years. I joined the National 4-H Council as an associate in 2010, where I am currently the national program director for 4-H STEM and Well Connected Communities professional development director. In my ten years at Council, I have focused on a variety of projects. I currently provide programmatic direction for 4-H STEM with a result of equipping young people to be the solution in their communities; creating pathways to prosperity and building secure futures. I also provide leadership for the professional development efforts for Well Connected Communities in partnership with RWJF.



Mike Gutter, PhD, University of Florida

Associate Dean for Extension

My main area of expertise is family and behavioral economics. I focus my research on the connections between finances and health. In my leadership role, I work with all of county Extension faculty and state research and extension specialists to address numerous issues relating to families and youth. My focus is on social determinants of health and the barriers facing rural communities in accessing and managing health.



Jeffrey Harman, PhD, Florida State University

Professor

I am a health economist and health services researcher interested in access to and delivery of health care to vulnerable populations. My research has examined the delivery, use and funding of mental health care in rural settings using large secondary databases. Examples of these studies include an assessment of inpatient psychiatric treatment for depression in rural areas, receipt of mental health care by rural veterans and the funding marketplace for rural mental health care.



Phyllis Hendry, MD, University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville

Professor and Associate Chair of Emergency Medicine Research

I am a pediatric emergency physician with interests in trauma, emergency medical services (EMS), pain management and end-of-life care. My duties include serving as deputy medical director for Pediatric Transport, TraumaOne Flight Services and Florida's EMS for Children (EMSC) medical director. EMSC is a HRSA funded state partnership grant. A key focus of EMSC is the FL PEDReady program, which aims to enhance pediatric preparedness/readiness in rural EMS agencies and EDs. Additional areas of focus include analysis of pediatric EMS transports (EMSTARS) in relation to health disparities, reduction of infant mortality, EMS to ED handoffs and pediatric disaster planning. As associate chair for EM Research on the Jacksonville campus, I oversee grants and research related to children and adults with health disparities. This work includes the Pain Assessment and Management Initiative (privately funded) study of post traumatic syndromes after motor vehicle accidents and transitions of care.



Kathy Hosig, PhD, MPH, RD, Virginia Tech

Associate Professor and Extension Specialist

I am an associate professor of population health sciences at Virginia Tech. I serve as director for the Virginia Tech Center for Public Health Practice and Research (CPHPR) and as Public Health Extension Specialist and state program leader for health for the Virginia Cooperative Extension. I am a registered dietitian with a Bachelor of Science in nutrition and dietetics from Virginia Tech, a doctorate in human nutrition from Purdue University and a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I teach health education, health behavior and program evaluation in the Master of Public Health program. My research focuses on promotion of healthful lifestyles through public health programs across the lifespan to prevent and manage chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, substance misuse and addiction.



Angela Howard, University of Florida

Citizen Scientist

My interest in health equity and rural health is because of my life living with sickle cell disease. I came on board as a patient advisor with the Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics through the University of Florida, which branched me over into the UF CTSI's Citizen Scientist Program. I serve as president for the local chapter in Gainesville of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida.



Amy E. Hughes, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Assistant Professor

I am a health geographer trained in geospatial information sciences (GIS), and I use geo-enabled health utilization data to study health disparities. Recently, I have been studying spatial access to mammography for uninsured urban vs rural women in North Texas. The ultimate goal this study is to use GIS and program utilization data to inform both the development of the brick-and-mortar screening program network and deployment of mobile mammography machines.



Timothy Hunt, PhD, MSW, Columbia University

Associate Research Scientist, Associate Director, SIG/CSSW

My research areas include: 1) designing, testing and disseminating HIV/STI prevention and health-promoting interventions in urban and rural settings, domestically and globally; 2) studying the effectiveness of capacity-building strategies and methods to support evidence-based HIV and addiction prevention and treatment; and 3) the adaptation and translation of evidence-based interventions aimed at reducing harm due to addiction to alcohol, tobacco and other substance-related cardiovascular and infectious health risks.



Shoshanah Inwood, PhD, Ohio State University

Assistant Professor

I am a rural sociologist at The Ohio State University. I hold degrees in rural sociology, environmental science and biology. My career has focused on the intersections of agriculture, environment and society in the context of community and economic development. I have maintained a dual focus on the role of communities in food system development and addressing the question of who will be the next generation of farmers in light of a shrinking and aging farm population. My research and outreach program centers on three themes: 1) Community-based economic development through food and agriculture 2) Social and community factors affecting farm growth and development and 3) The persistence of

agriculture at the rural-urban interface. I approach these questions through a sociological lens and utilize a mixed methods approach integrating qualitative and quantitative data collection methods and analysis techniques.



Tracy Irani, PhD, University of Florida

Professor and Chair of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences

As chair of my department, I promote research, education and extension efforts related to rural health and wellness. Our faculty work in the areas of poverty, rural health disparities, chronic disease, nutrition and more. I am also the lead PI on the Outreach Core of the Southeastern Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, based at UF.



Soghra Jarvandi, MD, PhD, University of Tennessee

Assistant Professor

My research involves dietary and lifestyle factors for prevention and management of chronic diseases, such as cancer, Type 2 diabetes and obesity. As a community health specialist at the University of Tennessee Extension, my work involves health promotion, especially among underserved populations.



Pierce Jones, PhD, UF/IFAS Program for Resource Efficient Communities

Professor

I direct the Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC), a group that works with large master planned land development projects. Many of these projects are referring to themselves as "wellness communities." In an effort to establish meaningful baselines for these projects, PREC has undertaken a review of existing wellness certification programs from the CDC (and others) and an extensive review of pertinent academic literature. The goal is to produce an understandable and objective field guide for use by built environment professionals.



Samantha Jonson, MPS, NIH-NCATS
Special Assistant to the NCATS Director

I look forward to learning more about rural health and health equity research being conducted across the CTSA Program and in the translational science discipline.



Lauren Kennedy, PhD, Tennessee State University
Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist

My expertise and interests are in the examination of policy, systems and environmental changes that support healthy lifestyle behaviors and address the social determinants of health disparities. Additionally, I study the implementation of health behavior change programs in practice-based settings that address social determinants of health to improve population-level health outcomes.



Robert P. Kimberly, MD, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Professor

As principal investigator of the CTSA Hub at UAB, I recognize the importance of reaching out to all constituents in our region. Through our Partner Network of 11 institutions, we have the opportunity to both innovate and implement initiatives related to rural health.



Candice King, MBA, MAE, ACORN Clinic
Executive Director

I returned to ACORN Clinic as the executive director in 2013 after previously serving in this role in the mid-2000s. ACORN Clinic is a non-profit rural health clinic providing low-cost medical and dental care to low-income, uninsured residents of north central Florida. I previously served as the founding director of a sales tax funded county health program for the working uninsured named CHOICES (Community Health Offering Innovative Care and Educational Services). I have held senior manager positions and volunteer leadership positions in several organizations in which key responsibilities included public outreach, strategic planning, research and communication activities. My research experience

includes a focus on public program evaluation and health disparities.



Sarah Kirby, PhD, North Carolina State University
Assistant Director, FCS Program Leader and Professor

My health expertise relates to the built environment, specifically housing-related health and safety hazards. I am the NC Healthy Homes coordinator for the HUD/NIFA Healthy Homes Partnership. Additionally, as the FCS program leader, I am responsible for advocating and supporting health-related programs of faculty. Our FCS programs focus on health in its broadest sense—physical, social, emotional, financial and environmental—and address the underlying issues associated with health.



Linda Kirk Fox, PhD, University of Georgia
Dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences

My job is to provide vision and a collaborative environment for administrators, faculty, staff and students to succeed. In FACS we are studying the sciences and applying the principles of business and design in the human sciences. I am a strong advocate for the integration of research, teaching and public service to fulfill the land-grant university obligations to develop strong economics, safe and diverse communities and healthy children and families.



Alana Knudson, PhD, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis
Co-Director

I serve as a program area director at NORC at the University of Chicago and the co-director of NORC's Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis. I have over 20 years of experience implementing public health programs, leading health services and health policy research projects and evaluating program effectiveness. I have led projects funded by AHRQ, CDC, CMS, HRSA, VHA, USAID, USDA, RWJF and other private foundations. I serve as the director for the Rural Health Tracking and Evaluation Project funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. I am the co-PI on a USDA funded study, conducted in partnership with the Ohio State University, to examine the impact of health insurance on farmers and farm enterprises. I also have state and national public health experience after working at the North Dakota Department of Health and for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.



Sonja Koukel, PhD, New Mexico State University
Extension Health Specialist

Nationally, I served as the Health Literacy Action Team chair for ECOP's National Framework for Health and Wellness from 2014 to 2017. At the state level, I am a founding member of the New Mexico Health Literacy Coalition, which is comprised of partners from the Department of Health, private businesses and the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Office of Health Equity and Office of Border Health. The coalition is active in raising awareness for health literacy and working toward a health-in-all-policies approach to integrating health literacy into the state's public policy.



Jen Kraschnewski, MD, MPH, Penn State University
Associate Professor

As co-lead of our CTSI Community-Engaged Research Core, I am a clinician investigator with a research focus on behavioral interventions to promote healthy lifestyles in clinical and community settings. I serve as PI for a five-year million dollar CDC REACH grant to provide the Hispanic communities in Lebanon and Reading, Pennsylvania, the evidence-based tools to improve their health, prevent chronic diseases and reduce health disparities via community-led culturally tailored interventions. I also direct Penn State's Project ECHO and serve as PI for a recently awarded, three-year SAMHSA grant to address opioid use disorder with medication-assisted treatment utilizing a hub and spoke model. Project ECHO is a telehealth approach to disseminate medical knowledge to rural communities and reduce health disparities.



Janice L. Krieger, PhD, University of Florida
Professor and Director of the STEM Translational Communication Center

I have studied rural health and health equity for the past 20 years. I am particularly interested in the contribution of rural cultural identity for understanding how health communication practices can reduce—or exacerbate—rural inequities. I have examined these issues in contexts such as well-being and disease prevention, including nutrition, the HPV vaccine and colorectal cancer screening as well as treatment decision-making.



Michael G. Kurilla, MD, PhD, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

Director of the Division of Clinical Innovation

I am the director of the Division of Clinical Innovation at NCATS. In this capacity, I oversee the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program, which supports innovative solutions to advance the efficiency, quality and impact of translational science, with the ultimate goal of getting more treatments to more patients more quickly.



Nora Leahy, Washington University in St. Louis

Public Health Research Coordinator

Through Washington University School of Medicine and Siteman Cancer Center's Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities, I am the coordinator for a project that is implementing a public health literacy training program for community members in rural Southern Illinois, which is part of Siteman's catchment area. Modeled after an MPH curriculum, the Community Research Fellows Training (CRFT) program has trained over 100 community members in St. Louis in core competencies of public health, provided them with increased skills in Community Based Participatory Research and taught them the importance of research for evidence-based public health. We are working with stakeholders in Southern Illinois to adapt the existing program to better reflect the needs of the region through emphasis on rural health disparities, particularly in cancer and chronic disease.



Ming Lei, PhD, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

Director of the Division for Research Capacity Building

I am the director of the Division for Research Capacity Building at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). I oversee the Institute's research capacity-building programs, which include the Institutional Development Award (IDeA), Support of Competitive Research (SCORE), Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) and the Science Education Partnerships Awards (SEPA).

I am a molecular geneticist by training. During my academic career, I taught genetics and microbiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. I studied the regulation of DNA replication as an NIH-funded principal investigator. I began my governmental service at the National Science Foundation, where I managed NSF's research grant portfolio in Molecular Biology, Genetics and Genomics. I served as the deputy director of the Center for Cancer Training and the chief of the Cancer Training Branch at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), overseeing NCI's Fellowships,

Career Development Awards and Institutional Training & Education grant programs. I joined NIGMS in 2018.



Ruth Litchfield, PhD, RDN, LD, Iowa State University
Professor

As an extension specialist in Iowa, the majority of programming occurs in geographic locations that would be considered rural. In addition to limited health services, many rural communities lack other resources which influence health such as grocery stores and opportunities to be physically active. Extension programming in rural communities needs to be attuned to and sensitive to the resources available for community members to implement recommendations and strategies.



Gilberto Lopez, ScD, MPH, MA, University of Rochester Medical Center
Research Assistant Professor

I am a research assistant professor at the University of Rochester, where my research focuses on the social determinants of cancer in the rural US and health inequity among migrant populations. I am a broadly trained social scientist with backgrounds in sociology, medical anthropology and public health with particular expertise in mixed methods of research.



Mark B. Marchant, MPH, MBA, CCRP, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Director of the Clinical Trials Administrative Office

I work to ensure innovative therapeutic agents are available to all residents of Alabama where over 90 percent of its counties are considered rural. Having grown up in the Black Belt region of Alabama, I understand the challenges that people face to access quality health care. It is my passion to continue to expand that access so that all residents—not simply those with means—will have the same opportunities as those in our more urban areas of the Southeastern United States.



Marlayna Martinez, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Community Research Liaison

I have worked in the rural San Luis Valley located in Southern Colorado for the last three years, focusing on food insecurity and providing food skills education and nutrition to underserved, hard-to-reach community members. The foundation to good health is access. Through my work, I have become familiar with geographic, economic, linguistic and cultural barriers to access. I have transitioned my work recently to help further evidence-based medical research through a community-based participatory research approach in rural Colorado. With this work, research findings can be applied directly to develop interventions specific to our communities, and the relationships built will bring sustainability and effectiveness to the problems truly faced by those living in the San Luis Valley. When community is involved in research, it can lead to scientifically sound research and build great trust between researchers and the community.



Mylynda Massart, MD, PhD, University of Pittsburgh

Assistant Professor

I serve as the CTSI core director for special populations. I have previously worked in rural Idaho for five years on the National Health Service Corps. I am a family medicine physician with an emphasis on precision medicine and genetics in primary care.



John Mathias, PhD, MSW, Florida State University

Assistant Professor

I am an anthropologist and social work researcher who studies how communities respond to environmental health hazards, with a focus on environmental justice and health equity. I have studied community responses to water and air pollution in rural India. Recently, I have begun exploring how rural communities in the Florida panhandle are responding to health risks associated with climate change, especially increasingly frequent and devastating hurricanes. My research is primarily ethnographic and qualitative, but I collaborate with scholars using other methods to understand how biological, psychological and social processes contribute to or reduce environmental health risks.



Susan Mayfield-Johnson, PhD, MCHES, The University of Southern Mississippi
Assistant Professor

Much of my research career has centered on health disparities and health equity, with community-based participatory research, community health workers and rural health as a focal point for engagement with health disparate populations. I also have extensive experience with qualitative methodology.



Velma McBride Murry, PhD, Vanderbilt University
Professor

My expertise is in examining the ways racism affects family processes, behavior, and health outcomes of families. At Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, I hold the endowed Lois Autrey Betts Chair in Education and Human Development and Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor Award and serve as Co-Director of the Vanderbilt Medical Center CTSA Community Engagement Research Core and as a Professor of Human and Organizational Development. In addition to my service at Vanderbilt, I am a Distinguished Senior Research Fellow at the George Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. I serve on several national boards, including the Foundation of Child Development Board of Directors, National Academy of Medicine, Culture of Health Advisory Board and Blueprints Advisory Board of Directors.



Cathy McCarty, PhD, MPH, University of Minnesota Medical School at Duluth
Associate Dean and Professor

I teach medical ethics to first- and second-year medical students at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus. The mission of the Duluth campus is to be a national leader in improving health care access and outcomes in rural Minnesota and American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. I have conducted research within health care systems to improve rural health care delivery and am involved in research to identify clinical ethics needs among rural health care providers.



Wayne T. McCormack, PhD, University of Florida

Distinguished Teaching Scholar and Professor

I direct the Clinical and Translational Science PhD program and serve as the principal investigator of the TL1 training grant for PhD and dual degree students at UF. A unique feature of our training program is an emphasis on team science and multidisciplinary collaboration, which are embedded in both didactic and experiential training.



Tony Michael, JD, West Virginia University

Director and Professor

We are keenly interested in rural health and community resilience. West Virginia is a very rural state and consistently ranks at or near the bottom in numerous health metrics. The West Virginia University Extension Family and Community Development program hopes to facilitate positive change that leads to healthier citizens and stronger communities.



Yamile Molina, PhD, MS, MPH, University of Illinois at Chicago

Assistant Professor

I have recently conducted a cross-sectional survey of rural cancer survivors and caregivers in Illinois. I am planning to submit an RO1-level application within the next six months focusing on financial hardship and social networks of rural residents diagnosed with breast cancer.



Paul Moore, DPh, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Senior Health Policy Advisor

I serve as senior health policy advisor to the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. To this opportunity I bring experience related to rural health care of more than 30 years in community and hospital pharmacy. I have served as the CEO of a County Health Care Authority, consisting of one of the nation's earliest Critical Access Hospitals, the County EMS, a physician clinic and a Home Health Agency. I also serve as the executive secretary for the National Advisory Committee for Rural Health and Human Services.



Gia Mudd-Martin, PhD, MPH, RN, University of Kentucky
Associate Professor

As a health equities researcher, I have extensive experience conducting CBPR-guided research with rural Appalachian and rural Latino communities. I serve as chair of the Appalachian Translational Research Network and am PI of a CBPR-guided RCT to examine effective risk reduction strategies with the Kentucky Latino population. My research focuses on reducing risk for chronic diseases, especially cardiovascular disease and Type 2 diabetes. Through engaging with communities to examine and address environmental, psychosocial, biological and genetic factors that influence risk, together we can develop more effective risk reduction intervention strategies.



Priscah Mujuru, DrPH, RN, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)
Program Official

NIH-designated US health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, and sexual and gender minorities. NIMHD has organized minority health and health disparities research around three research interest areas: clinical and health services research, integrative biological and behavioral sciences and community health and population sciences. These priorities will advance minority health and health disparities research in a focused yet comprehensive platform. Each research area focuses on impacting the health determinants that contribute to poor health outcomes and to health disparity conditions.



Andrea Murray, MPH, Penn State CTSI
Community Engagement Coordinator

As the community engagement coordinator for the Penn State CTSI, my role is to facilitate community participation in all stages of research, identify key research opportunities and support the development of useful research tools. I foster strong relationships for research collaboration between community health providers, policymakers and academic researchers to improve research-based practice and stimulate practice-based research.



Debbie Murray, EdD, University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences

Associate Dean and Co-Director Georgia CTSA Community Engagement Function

I am co-director of the Georgia CTSA Community Engagement Core Function. I provide leadership for the state-wide Family and Consumer Sciences Extension program in Georgia; rural/urban health is a major emphasis. We are partnering with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project, Well Connected Communities. We have CDC-funded Obesity Intervention programs in several rural communities. We provide nutrition and obesity prevention programs statewide. Previously I directed a state-wide Health Education through Extension Leadership program, a state-wide partnership of the health sciences campus and Cooperative Extension at the University of Kentucky. I work closely with the Office of Rural Health in Georgia creating partnerships through our rural connections with the CTSA hub in Georgia. I was a co-director for the College of Family and Consumer Science's HHS funded Federal Health Insurance Marketplace.



Dave Nelson, MD, University of Florida

Professor and UF CTSI Director

As director of the UF CTSI and as interim senior vice president for health affairs at UF and president of UF Health, I have a deep appreciation for the importance of our un-meeting themes, particularly in the context of our university's land-grant mission. As a doctor and researcher, I specialize in liver disease and lead clinical trials, pragmatic trials and observational cohorts at a national and international scale. Through innovative partnerships with industry, academia and the FDA, our team has been able to leverage real-world evidence to address questions about the safety and effectiveness of newly approved hepatitis C drugs for populations underrepresented in initial trials. I have co-authored US treatment guidelines for hepatitis C (HCV), Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium guidelines for the use of genomic-guided HCV therapy, and World Health Organization HCV guidelines.



Mary Nelson Robertson, MA, CHES, Mississippi State University
Extension Associate III

As a member of the PROMISE Initiative team, I have experience conducting community engagement forums and one-on-one interviews with rural community members. I am also active in Mississippi State University's Health Equity Cross Campus Interest Group (HECCIG), which meets once a month to bring together individuals from different fields of study to share novel ideas, successes and challenges on issues related to health and wellness.



LaToya J. O'Neal, PhD, University of Florida

Assistant Professor and Extension Health and Wellness Specialist

I am an assistant professor and extension health & wellness specialist in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. I am a medical sociologist who specializes in minority health and health disparities. My current research and extension programs focus on reducing the risk of obesity-related chronic diseases among low-income and minority families residing in rural communities.



Nicole Owens Duffy, PhD, University of Florida

State Specialized Agent

My academic background is in sociology, with a concentration on families, communities and health. My research focuses on the impact of supplementing peer-taught nutrition education with increased access to healthy food on health outcomes, particularly among low-income parents. In the Extension program I lead, the UF/IFAS Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), I examine the nutritional health outcomes of our low-income participants across geographic location, among other factors.



Samantha R. Paige, PhD, MPH, STEM Translational Communication Center, University of Florida

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

My research applies principles of translational health communication and education to alleviate rural health inequities among patients at-risk or living with tobacco-associated lung disease. Broadly, I explore the social influence of technology and examine how it can be leveraged to promote continuity of care in rural communities. This includes exploring online communication dynamics among patients, and understanding how this translates to offline negotiations in healthcare decision-making with providers. Additionally, I examine how communication techniques can be strategically implemented to efficiently transport patients into the care continuum for timely diagnosis and treatment.



Nancy Pandhi, MD, MPH, PhD, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
Associate Professor

I am the faculty lead for Integrating Special Populations (ISP) at the UNM Clinical and Translational Sciences Center and a family physician. After completing a rural track during medical school and residency, my research program has been dedicated to improving the health of vulnerable populations through community-engaged mixed-methods health services research.

I am a national steering committee member of the Health Experiences Research Network (HERN), which seeks to illustrate and amplify diverse illness experiences across the US, including those living in rural areas. I am deeply committed to promoting primary care's role in achieving health equity and recently contributed to a national curricular toolkit on this topic.



Pamela Payne Foster, MD, MPH, University of Alabama School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa Campus
Professor and Deputy Director

I am a preventive medicine and public health physician, professor in the Department of Community Medicine and Population Health and deputy director of the Institute for Rural Health Research at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa Regional Campus. Prior to my faculty position at UA, I served as a faculty member at the National Bioethics Center for Health Care and Research at Tuskegee University. In addition to my broad training experiences in preventive medicine and public health, my career has focused on a wide variety of interests including racial and ethnic health disparities, bioethics with an interest on the intersection between social justice and health and community-based participatory or engaged research. Most recently, I have focused on HIV/AIDS-related stigma in rural faith-based settings in the Deep South.



Leanne Peters, MPA, Center for HOPE at Huntsman Cancer Institute
Community Liaison

As a community liaison, my role is to serve as a connection between researchers and communities. This is done specifically by developing strategic partnerships with health systems, nonprofit, tribal and religious organizations as well as governmental and other social service agencies that support underrepresented populations. The goal is to develop and implement long-term solutions to improve overall health and eliminate health inequities by connecting researchers to communities and creating mutually beneficial programs that incorporate feedback on the needs from the communities.



Nick T. Place, PhD, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Dean and Director of UF/IFAS Extension

This topic is not within my specific expertise area. However, as the Dean and Director for UF/IFAS Extension, I see both great opportunity and need in this area. First, our state has tremendous needs related to health issues and disparities, both in the rural and urban areas. We have an obligation to proactively address these issues via strategic educational programs that will result in positive behavioral changes. Ideally, this will be carried out via our Cooperative Extension System (CES) that exists in every state and county. CES is part and parcel to each of our Land-grant Universities, so we are poised to address this major need and challenge.



Heidi Liss Radunovich, PhD, University of Florida

Associate Professor, Extension Specialist and Program Director for UF/IFAS Extension Engagement

Much of my clinical research and extension work has been related to rural mental health. I am interested in how to best serve rural residents related to mental health and how Extension can help this effort. I am also interested in how opioids are affecting rural communities.



Melissa L. Rethlefsen, MSLS, AHIP, University of Florida

Associate Dean of George A. Smathers Libraries

My expertise lies with systematic reviews and evidence synthesis methodologies. The Health Science Center Library is a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, which seeks to improve the public's access to information to enable them to make informed decisions about their health. We contribute to this mission by partnering with local public librarians and libraries to teach consumer health information resources and health literacy topics.



Scott D. Rhodes, PhD, MPH, Wake Forest School of Medicine
Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Science and Health Policy

I am a professor in and chair of the Department of Social Science and Health Policy, Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. I also direct the Program in Community Engagement within the Wake Forest CTSI. I have published more than 200 articles and 30 book chapters on the health of vulnerable populations, including immigrants, Latinos and sexual and gender minorities. I edited a book titled “Innovations in HIV Prevention Research and Practice through Community Engagement” (Springer 2014) and co-edited a forthcoming book titled “New and Emerging Issues in Latinx Health” (Springer 2019).



Robert Rhyne, MD, University of New Mexico
Professor

I am a professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. I received an MD from the University of New Mexico and did a Family Medicine residency at Duke University Medical Center. I completed a fellowship as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. I co-founded RIOS Net, a primary care practice-based research network, in 1999 and serve as one of its co-directors. I have more than 30 years of practice experience in primary care and have been principal investigator and co-investigator on multiple NIH-funded projects. I serve as director of the Community Engagement and Research Core for the UNM Clinical & Translational Science Center, one of the CTSA hubs funded by the NIH.



Roberta Riportella, PhD, Oregon State University
Associate Dean for Outreach and Engagement

I have been an academic faculty member and health policy specialist in four public universities, always working as a rural medical sociologist with particular concerns for vulnerable populations’ access to health care. My current administrative position has two main threads: 1) giving leadership to a Family and Community Health Extension program where the goal is achieving positive outcomes in communities while applying a health equity lens to the programming; and 2) giving leadership to the College of Public Health and Human Sciences for its outreach and engagement activities. Those too are guided by a health equity lens and require a fuller connection of the college with the communities. I recently served with Extension’s national ECOP Health and Wellness Initiative, chairing the Health in all Policies

Education team and assisting in crafting a vision for Extension's work to improve health in communities.



Charity Sauder, MS, Penn State College of Medicine
Penn State CTSI Administrative Director

I am the Penn State CTSI Administrative Director. I have been instrumental in developing and building a team and administrative supplement to examine the frequency of 'diseases of despair' in rural Pennsylvania for our CTSA Hub and in collaboration with Highmark Inc.



Aaron Seaman, PhD, University of Iowa
Associate of Internal Medicine

My work focuses on evaluating and improving care delivery systems for older adults who have a cancer history. My current research examines coordination of survivorship care delivery for head and neck cancer survivors, and I'm interested in how geographic variation affects both the survivorship care experience and the ability to provide high-quality survivorship care.



Jackilen Shannon, PhD, Oregon Health & Science University
Professor

As lead of our community outreach and engagement for our CTSA and our comprehensive cancer center, I have led the development of community research coalitions in five rural regions through our state. I'm not sure this makes me an "expert" on rural, but our programs have developed steering committees in each rural region and have engaged with rural partners in addressing a wide range of community identified health needs. We currently work with three rural hospitals and support community research projects for interprofessional students rotating through our rural campus locations.



Karla P. Shelnett, PhD, RD, University of Florida
Associate Professor and Extension Nutrition Specialist

I lead a statewide extension program that focuses on obesity prevention through the adoption of healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors with a focus on low-income families. I serve as the principal investigator for Florida's SNAP-Ed program (UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program-FNP) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), which provide nutrition education and supports for families eligible for SNAP benefits. Both programs serve rural counties where we implement policy, systems and environmental changes to support the direct education and help make the healthy choice the easy choice. My research program helps to inform my extension program with a focus on food insecurity and food access.



Betsy Shenkman, PhD, University of Florida
Co-Director of UF CTSL, and Chair and Professor of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics

My research focuses on: 1) determining which combinations of health care, community, and patient factors influence quality and outcomes of care; and 2) developing corresponding evidence-based strategies to reduce disparities in health outcomes, particularly among underserved populations. Historically, the fields of implementation and improvement science and health disparities have not been optimally aligned to improve the health of all patients, including those at greatest risk for poor health outcomes, such as those living in rural areas. A significant part of my research combines the strengths of implementation and improvement science with those of health disparities. In my research, I use linked health care claims and electronic health record data for cohort discovery, study feasibility determination, and to augment primary data collection. By using these data, contained in the OneFlorida Data Trust, it is possible to identify and address health outcomes for those in rural areas.



Amy R. Sheon, PhD, MPH, Case Western Reserve University
Executive Director of the Urban Health Initiative

With a career-long focus on population health, health disparities and social determinants of health (SDOH), my recent work addresses digital divides, an unrecognized but fundamentally important SDOH. Since 2011, I have directed the Urban Health Initiative at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Prior to that, I directed a national demonstration project on early childhood obesity prevention for the non-profit Altarum Institute and established three large centers at the University of Michigan in clinical research, ethical issues in the life sciences and a social science think tank. My earliest work was conducting demographic and health surveys in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean;

and conducting HIV epidemiologic and prevention studies at NIH/NIAID. I earned a PhD in Public Health (Health Policy) from Johns Hopkins University and an MPH from the University of Michigan. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/amy-sheon-a1807212/>



Annie N. Simpson, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina and Delaware IDeA-CTR ACCEL
Associate Professor

I am a Health Services Researcher and Biostatistician who specializes in methods development for bias reduction in observational studies and in applied comparative effectiveness research including pragmatic trials and economic studies. I have particular expertise in analyzing large administrative billing data and electronic health record data using quasi-experimental design. As a co-investigator of the HRSA TeleHealth Center of Excellence at MUSC, I am involved in the evaluation of telehealth programs across the state of South Carolina. This includes examining changes in access to care and health outcomes among individuals living in medically underserved areas. Examination of the economic impact of rural-health outreach via telehealth is also an interest.



Laura Stephenson, PhD, University of Tennessee
Assistant Dean

Throughout my career, I have been involved in policy education and development with focus on diverse health issues such as statewide grandparents raising grandchildren's rights, local solid waste disposal options, healthy school vending policies and joint use policy for physical activity venues. Through these experiences, I have been a strong advocate for county-based programming, building capacity of interdisciplinary campus-based faculty teams and engagement of local, regional and state stakeholders. I have served as PI for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs, CDC 1416 obesity prevention in high obesity areas and of the USDA RNECE Policy Systems and Environmental Change Center: Healthy Local Places. In each of these grant-funded programs, we focus on strengthening community supports to implement integrated direct education, health promotion and policy, systems and environmental (PSE) approaches at local, state and national levels.



Katherine Sterba, MPH, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina

Associate Professor

My research at MUSC focuses on improving care experiences and quality-of-life outcomes in patients with serious illness and their family caregivers in South Carolina. My work focuses on designing and implementing family-focused interventions for delivery at the end of treatment to improve care transitions and communication guided by principles of implementation science and capitalizing on technology. I am leading several studies using technology to systematically assess and address the specialized needs of cancer survivors and their caregivers as they transition from treatment to the post-treatment period with the generation of personalized care plans and mobile support. My complementary area of focus includes work with the implementation science team for the MUSC Center of Excellence in Telehealth to enhance the reach of telehealth services in rural South Carolina settings.



Laura Sugarwala, MBA, RDN, University of Rochester

Senior Engagement Manager at the Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration

As a staff member of CLIC, I'm pleased to be partnering with the Un-Meeting planning team to host this event. My work prior to CLIC was in food insecurity as a food bank dietitian. The food bank supplies food and nutrition education services to 10 counties in upstate NY. The majority of the service area is rural, so our work was intertwined with food access, health and economic disparities.



Camesha Tate, MPA, ACORN Clinic

Dental Clinic Administrator

ACORN Clinic (Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs) is a non-profit, mission-based clinic that provides primary and preventative dental and medical services to individuals and families of rural North Central Florida. Fees are based on a sliding fee scale. Medicaid, Medicare, and some private insurances are accepted. ACORN Clinic receives funds from private and public sources including United Way of North Central Florida, Alachua, Bradford, and Union Counties, as well as civic groups and private donors.

As dental clinic administrator, I am responsible for the daily operations of the clinic, grants management and stewardship of volunteers from the University of Florida, Veterans Affairs, Santa Fe College and community volunteer dentists. ACORN acts as a bridge between patients and community resources. In partnership with educational institutions, ACORN functions as an exemplary service-learning site for health professionals.



Carolyn Turvey, PhD, University of Iowa
Professor

I am a clinical psychologist. I specialize in the use of telemedicine and eHealth to improve access to and quality of care for mental health conditions. I also lead the Iowa City Center for the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Rural Health.



Timothy VanWagoner, PhD, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
OCTSI Administrative Director

I serve as the deputy director of the Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resources (IDEA-CTR), co-PI on the Oklahoma site in the IDEa-States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network and co-PI on several awards that focus on dissemination and implementation research in primary care. Each of these awards are dedicated to building additional research capacity in rural settings and with traditionally underserved populations.



Melissa Vilaro, PhD, MPH, University of Florida
Postdoctoral Associate

My primary research interests include identifying how environmental and social influences impact health behaviors and food choices among diverse groups, including low-income, rural and minority populations. I use theory-based approaches with qualitative and quantitative methods to inform health behavior change strategies. Additional areas of interest include food environments, food marketing and food policy issues, obesity prevention, survey development and health disparities. My published work explores the role of theory-based interventions for promoting long-term maintenance of fruit and vegetable consumption among adults, food advertising influences on children with a focus on black and Hispanic youth and the role of social factors and income status on food choice priorities of southern rural women in the US.



Jessica Vincent, MEd, CFT, RYT 500, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service
Health and Wellness Coordinator

I am the health and wellness coordinator for the Family and Consumer Sciences Department at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. I serve as the Project Manager of the Arkansas Delta Region Obesity Project, a CDC 1809 High Obesity Prevention program focused on expanding the implementation of evidence-based strategies to increase access to healthier foods and safe, accessible places for physical activity in targeted rural counties. My work concentrates on developing and strengthening coalitions and other local groups with a stake in community health, identifying key priorities and developing capacity and providing communities with assistance to garner or leverage resources to increase healthy food and physical activity access. I also serve on the national program development and training team for the 4-H Yoga for Kids program, and I am a co-developer of Extension Get Fit and the nationally recognized Extension Wellness Ambassador Program.



Karen Vines, PhD, Virginia Tech
Assistant Professor and Continuing Professional Education Specialist

In 2017, I led a group of faculty and extension educators in submitting a Rural Health & Safety Education grant (USDA-NIFA 2017-05664) to implement preventative approaches to opioid misuse and addiction. The number of grants and communities in which the approaches used in the first project has grown. Our team recently found a home in a human development program team within Cooperative Extension. We are working to develop greater programming and identify a biobehavioral specialist who can assist in supporting this work. So, my primary area of expertise is in providing leadership and considering how we as an extension organization position ourselves in a way that helps us identify and work with community to resolve critical community issues.



Melissa Ward-Peterson, PhD, MPH, FIU-RCMI, Florida International University
Post-Doctoral Associate

I am a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Epidemiology at Florida International University in Miami, Florida, where I manage the Research Infrastructure Core for FIU's Research Center in Minority Institutions (FIU-RCMI). A social epidemiologist by training, my research interests include disparities in access to substance abuse treatment and women's health. I have extensive experience in health equity research and program management and have provided technical support for projects sponsored by a

number of federal and international agencies, including HRSA, NIH's Fogarty International Center, the US Department of State, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and UNAIDS.



Jennifer Weis, MAN, RN, Mayo Clinic
Research Administrator

My expertise is in partnering with community organizations and community leaders to improve the health of immigrant communities.



David Wetter, PhD, University of Utah
Professor

Our work is targeted at eliminating inequities in health-related behavior and access to evidence-based interventions through translational research. Specific research foci include: theoretical models of addictive and cancer risk behaviors; the development and evaluation of theoretically-based interventions; and, translational research to implement and disseminate those interventions in real-world settings. Our research focuses on high-risk and marginalized populations, with a major focus on low socioeconomic status and diverse groups. We work in a variety of settings including Community Health Centers (CHCs). Many of the CHCs are in rural areas.



Jacquelyn White, EdD, Prairie View A&M University
Program Leader - Family & Community Health

I work with families who are food insecure, and they are the underserved and underrepresented clientele in Texas. I am the Program Leader – Family and Community Health, formerly known as Home Economics and Family & Consumer Sciences, for the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University. I provide leadership to the Family and Consumer Sciences Extension agents in 19 Texas counties. I provide information on emerging family issues, including cyberbullying, bullying, teenagers' behavior, parenting, grandparents parenting again, and conflict and anger management. I have extensive experience in working with limited-resource individuals and families. I received an EdD in Educational Leadership from the University of Phoenix; an MA in Clinical Sociology from Texas Southern University; and a BS in Home Economics from Texas Southern University.



Robert White, University of Rochester

Associate Director of IT and Analytics at the Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration

I am looking to learn more about rural health and health equity.



Chung Wi, MD, Mayo Clinic Rochester

Assistant Professor

My research interests include asthma, health disparities by social and physical environment, population health and rural health. We demonstrated many chronic conditions, including asthma as a multifaceted conditions contributed by genetic components and environmental factors, are disproportionately more common among those from lower socioeconomic status. As our study setting is a mixed rural-urban setting, we are investigating asthma morbidity by rural status taking into account social factors like socioeconomic status (SES) and physical environment factors like exposure to traffic.



David Willis, MD, CommunityHealth IT

Chief Medical Information Officer

We help small to medium sized practices in rural and non-rural communities with information technology, health information exchange, connecting with SDOH organizations and cybersecurity.



Henry N. Young, PhD, University of Georgia

Associate Professor

I received a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences & Pharmacy Health Care Administration from the University of Florida and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Davis in the Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care. I joined the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy faculty in July 2013, where I am the Kroger Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy. I am a behavioral and social scientist with expertise in health services research. My research interests include studying

medication use, health communication, and health outcomes, focusing specifically on minority and underserved populations.



Kendra M. Zamojski, UF/IFAS Extension NW District
Family and Consumer Sciences Regional Specialized Agent

In my experience as an extension agent, I have worked in mostly rural communities and counties. Much of my work has focused on health and wellness education.



Nadine Zemon, University of Florida
Citizen Scientist, CTSI

Over the past three years, I have had the great opportunity of serving as a community member Citizen Scientist (CS) at UF's CTSI. This newly developed CS model of patient/consumer engagement is unique in providing a venue for a broad base of patients and community members, including special interest groups, to have a voice in patient-centered outcome research. Our group works with researchers in many fields rather than advising in only one specific health area. As part of my CS role, I have been assigned to the CTSI Learning Health System Committee and have worked side by side with UF Health System leaders, College of Medicine Department Chairs and other Health Science Center leaders to identify, select and implement learning health system projects. Exploration and adaptation of the CS model might be useful in encouraging and facilitating grassroots engagement of members of rural communities.



Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD, NIH/NCATS
Program Director

I am a program director in the NCATS Division of Clinical Innovation, where I manage a portfolio of Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA), including the CTSA National Center for Data to Health. I am also a lieutenant commander in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, an elite group of public health leaders who respond to national health crises.



Yiliang Zhu, PhD, University of New Mexico

Professor

I direct the Loess Plateau Health Project, an 18-year cohort study in rural northwestern China for health policy and system research and program evaluation. I also direct the Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design Core for the Mountain West Clinical and Translational Research Infrastructure Network and UNM CTSC. With an increasing emphasis of research on rural health and health disparities in the MW region, I am interested in development and utilization of informatics tools and methodologies to support and enhance rural health research.



Linda Zittleman, MSPH, University of Colorado

Co-Director of the High Plains Research Network

I am a senior instructor in the University of Colorado School of Medicine, co-director of the High Plains Research Network (HPRN) and staff for the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI). I have worked for over 13 years with rural practices and community members in eastern Colorado on a range of primary care and public health studies and programs. HPRN aims to provide connections between clinical practice and the broader community. I coordinate the HPRN Community Advisory Council, which participates in all aspects of the HPRN work. I also helped establish and direct the Colorado Immersion Training in Community Engagement program with the CCTSI.



Virginie Zoumenou, PhD, CNS, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Professor, Extension Nutrition and Health Programs Director

My area of expertise is Extension outreach nutrition and health programs in rural areas, including EFNEP, FCS, and SNAP-ED. I am involved in a community engagement program through the implementation of the Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Initiative-Well Connected Communities project. My research interest is in childhood obesity prevention among preschoolers. I developed a Center for Obesity Prevention for Preschoolers, their siblings, and caregivers (COP-SPSC). I am a consultant in nutrition program development and evaluation in the US and developing countries. I am also interested in food systems and well-being.