

## Research Activities Newsletter

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The latest news and announcements



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## In the News: Congratulations to the following awardees!!!



**Gloria Aidoo-Frimpong**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH), is PI on a new award from PCORI in collaboration with the African Immigrants Health Research collaborative for the project entitled, *Developing WhatsApp as a Patient-Centered Research Engagement Tool for US-Based African Immigrants*. This project aims to address critical gaps in engagement methodologies and seeks to advance the science of engagement by systematically evaluating the use of *WhatsApp* as a culturally appropriate and patient-centered research engagement tool for African immigrants in the United States.



**Renee Cadzow**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH), is PI on a new award from UB's Civic Engagement Research Fund, for the project entitled, *CHWs, Allies and Academics Advisory Group: Strategic Planning for Co-Produced Research Policies and Practices*. The project has three aims. 1) Establish and grow mutually beneficial relationships between representatives from community (including Community Health Workers (CHWs) and community-based organizations) and representatives from institutions (academia, education, government, healthcare). 2) Expand and sustain a learning community in which CHWs, academics and allies develop and apply the skills to co-produce research together. 3) Co-develop and advocate for the implementation of institutional policies and practices for community-partnered research and evaluation.



**Akua Gyamerah**, Assistant Professor of Community Health and Health Behavior (CHHB), is PI on a continuation of her current K award from the National Institute of Mental Health/NIH, for the project entitled, *Intersectional Minority Stress, Mental Health, and HIV Treatment and Care Among MSM Living with HIV in Ghana*. The project continues to integrate intersectionality and minority stress theory and operationalize measures to examine how intersectional social stressors affect mental health and HIV treatment outcomes among Ghanaian MSM living with HIV and to develop an intervention to mitigate factors on this pathway to improve health.

Dr. Gyamerah also received a supplement for her K award from the National Institute of Mental Health/NIH for the project entitled, *Intersectional Minority Stress, Mental Health, and HIV Treatment and Care Among MSM Living with HIV in Ghana*. This supplement provides funding for the West Africa AIDS Foundation's subaward.



**Rachael Hagman Blair**, Associate Professor of Biostatistics, is Co-I on a new award from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (PI: Chelsie Armbruster, Microbiology and Immunology) for the project entitled, *Impact of Polymicrobial Interactions and Within-host Adaptation of CAUTI Pathogenesis*. The study aims is to determine the impact of polymicrobial interactions and inoculation order on bacterial viability, transcription profiles, and biofilm composition in an "artificial bladder model". The research also will examine these effects on colonization, immune stimulation, and infection progression in a mouse CAUTI model and identify genotypic and phenotypic changes that occur in all three species during persistent colonization and examine contribution to biofilm formation, CAUTI severity, and polymicrobial interactions. The long-term objective of the project is to identify new targets for preventing or disrupting the formation of recalcitrant polymicrobial biofilms and to inform treatment strategies for catheterized patients with persistent polymicrobial bacteriuria.



**David Hostler**, Chair and Professor of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, is PI on a new award from the University of Pittsburgh/NIH for the project entitled, *Effects of Operational Naps on Blood Pressure and Performance Among Night Shift Workers*. The project aims to identify the optimal duration of a nap taken during night shift work (i.e., the duration that allows for maximal BP dipping with minimal impact on performance upon waking). The project will also determine the impact of moderate doses of caffeine on BP dipping, performance upon waking, and the optimal duration of napping.





**Mark Janko**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH), is PI on a transfer award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/NIH for the project entitled, *Effectively Linking Molecular Informatics and Network Analytics to Reduce Malaria (ELIMINAR-Malaria)*. The objective of this project is to effectively link scalable and actionable network and molecular tools to understand the ways in which human mobility contributes to malaria population structure, importation, and diffusion in the northern Peruvian Amazon.

Dr. Janko also received a foreign supplement for the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia's subaward for his current K award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/NIH, for the project entitled, *Effectively Linking Molecular Informatics and Network Analytics to Reduce Malaria (ELIMINAR-Malaria)*.



**Kyler Knapp**, Assistant Professor of Community Health and Health Behavior (CHHB), is PI on a new award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/NIH for the project entitled, *Enhancing Alcohol Use Disorder Recovery by Capturing the Dynamics of Psychological Well-Being in Daily Life*. The project will address the need to better understand and assess psychological well-being (PWB) in daily life during recovery from alcohol use disorder (AUD). The researchers will combine baseline measures and ecological momentary assessments (EMA) of transient PERMA (mPERMA; a comprehensive, validated, and theoretically aligned measure of PWB in daily life), to assess a community-based sample of adults in AUD recovery. **Gregory Wilding**, Professor of Biostatistics is Co-I on the project.



**Jessica Kruger**, Clinical Associate Professor of Community Health and Health Behavior (CHHB) and **Mark Gallimore**, Teaching Innovations Specialist in the Dean's Office, are Co-PIs on a new award for the D2L Educators-in-Residence program, in collaboration with SUNY, for the project entitled, *Reducing Cognitive Load and Enhancing Engagement Through Standardized Brightspace Course Templates*.



Students and faculty often report challenges navigating Brightspace courses due to variability in course design. Prior research suggests that extraneous cognitive load—caused by less accessible or inconsistent design, and unclear organization—can hinder learning. This project will seek to implement standardized course templates to reduce cognitive load, offer more options for student engagement, improve student engagement and satisfaction, and streamline faculty course design.

Dr. Kruger also is Co-I on an award from UB's Civic Engagement Research Fund (PI: Michael Applegarth, School of Social Work) for the project entitled, *Pathways to Stability: A Community Navigation Program at the Buffalo Downtown Library*. The program aims to reduce emergency service utilization and prevent unnecessary criminal legal system involvement while offering students high-impact, real-world training in trauma-informed care and interdisciplinary service delivery.



**Lucia Leone**, Associate Professor of Community Health and Health Behaviors (CHHB), is PI on a new award from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities/NIH for the research project entitled, *Comparative Effectiveness of Food Prescription Programs for Food Insecure Families with Young Children*. This project will address the urgent need for community organizations to understand how to increase utilization of food prescription programs among families with small children. The research employs a community-engaged approach to develop and test two innovative food prescription interventions among 225 Medicaid families with children (ages 2-6 years) who have screened positive for food insecurity at local pediatric clinics. **Anne Mathiebe**, Assistant Director of Research and Evaluation, Community Health Interventions Lab and **Gregory Wilding**, Professor of Biostatistics are Co-Is on the project.



**Amy Millen**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH), is PI on a transfer award from the National Institute of Aging/NIH for the project entitled, *Family of Origin Bilingualism and ADRD: An Epidemiologic Study of 377,000 Older Adults in the US*. This study will examine the association between bilingual family of origin and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) over 50 years later in Project Talent, a sample of 377,000 individuals representative of the current cohort of older Americans. **Benjamin Chapman**, Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH) is Co-I on the project.





**Jean Wactawski-Wende**, Dean of School of Public Health and Health Professions and SUNY Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health is PI on the continuation of an award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, NIH for the project entitled, *Women Health Initiative – Regional Center*. As the Northeast Regional Center for the WHI, the study will collect health outcomes and new risk factor data in the postmenopausal women who have been participants since the study launched in 1993. With 70,000 remaining active participants now aged between 78 and 103 years, the extension award will continue to focus on heart failure, atrial fibrillation, VTE, coronary heart disease, peripheral arterial disease (PAD), stroke and sleep disorders, as well as assessing dementia, fracture, falls, physical function and mortality. Co-Investigators from EEH are **Hailey Banack**, Research Assistant Professor, **Michael LaMonte**, Research Professor, **Amy Millen**, Associate Professor, and **Heather Ochs-Balcom**, Professor.



**Nathaniel Woodard**, Assistant Professor of Community Health and Health Behavior (CHHB), is PI on a new award from the Perry Foundation, managed by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, for the project entitled, *Promoting Physical Activity among Buffalo Prostate Cancer Support Groups*. This project will implement a physical activity intervention integrated into the structure of existing support groups serving survivors of prostate cancer, the most common cancer among men in the U.S. Based on existing physical activity and cancer research, the expectation is that the intervention will be feasible and effective for promoting physical activity, thus improving cancer- and treatment-related symptoms and quality of life.



**Jihnhee Yu**, Professor of Biostatistics, is Co-I on a continuation award from the National Institute of Aging/NIH (PI: Carleara Weiss, School of Nursing), for the research project entitled, *The Benefits of Nicotinamide Riboside Upon Cognition and Sleep in Older Veterans*. The project continues to investigate the relationship between NAD<sup>+</sup> serum levels and biomarkers of neurodegeneration as well as the role of sleep disturbances as a candidate mechanism of cognitive impairment and neurodegeneration.

## Grant Clinic

### New Principal Investigator (PI) Lab Registration

The VPRED's Office at UB, shared the link below. If you have not already done so, please click the link to register your basic research laboratory.

<https://www.buffalo.edu/administrative-services/forms-catalog/facilities/laboratory-registration.html>

## NIH Funding Opportunities (RFA)

### Miscellaneous

[RFA-DK-26-315](#) – (R01 Clinical Trial Required)

#### Advancing Research on the Application of Digital Health Technology to the Management of Type 2 Diabetes

This Notice is to promote extramural biomedical research that improves the understanding of disease management and leads to improved preventions, diagnosis, and treatment of diabetes, digestive, and kidney diseases. Programmatic areas within the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases include diabetes, digestive, endocrine, hematologic, liver, metabolic, nephrologic, nutrition, obesity, and urologic diseases. **Application Due Date:** October 6, 2026. **Expiration Date:** October 7, 2026.

## Limited Submission Funding Opportunities

Only one application per institution is allowed for the following FOAs and prior approval from the OVPR is required to be the sole applicant. If interested in applying, please provide the OVPR with notification 60 days prior to the deadline to [ovpr.limitedsubmission@research.buffalo.edu](mailto:ovpr.limitedsubmission@research.buffalo.edu) before proceeding with the application.

[Limited Submission Funding Opportunities](#)



Prior Research Opportunities can be found on the SPHHP RAS website and by clicking the link below:

[Research Opportunities from Past Newsletters](#)

**Words to Live By**

“Every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed of an equal or greater benefit.”

- Napoleon Hill, American author, lecturer, and motivational writer

For more information on RAS services, visit our website at [sphhp.buffalo.edu/ras](http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/ras)

