Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Annual Report 2017

Working with Communities to Improve Health through Collaborative Research, Education and Service
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February 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

As we begin the new year of 2018, I want to share with you some of our major accomplishments and activities at the Center for Reducing Health Disparities during the calendar year of 2017. More details are contained in this 2017 annual report.

The year of 2017 witnessed several important successes we had in obtaining funding support for some of our projects at the Center. With the leading effort by Dr. Athena Ramos, we successfully renewed the grant from Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC) for another two years. Dr. Tzeyu Michaud and I worked closely with Dr. Mohammad Shahpush and the clinical team at Nebraska Medicine to get the approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for our telemedicine project to have a no-cost extension to February 2018. So far we have developed four research papers and given one presentation related to this project. Our Bridge to Care program, led by Dr. Drissa Toure, received funding support from Douglas County Health Department, Methodist Hospital, and other community partners. More recently, our Center has secured a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council to help us host an important event at KANEKO through which we offered a theatrical presentation of the narratives from our recently completed study “Listen to My Story: Perspectives of African American Mothers and Male Offenders on Violence in Omaha, Nebraska.” Special thanks to Eric Meyer, Maria Teel, and Jason Dunidis for their effort in helping us get this grant and working closely with KANEKO to plan for the event.

As an academic center, we continue to maintain a high level of productivity in conducting health disparities research, especially community-engaged research. In 2017 our team managed to publish over a dozen research papers in refereed journals. Based on first-hand data collected from local communities, we released four reports documenting unmet health needs in the African American faith communities in Omaha, local refugees, and perspectives of African American mothers and former offenders on violence in Omaha. These reports have been shared with and well received by our community partners.

During 2017 our team successfully hosted a series of events for the purpose of community engagement, advocacy, health education and promotion. We worked with KANEKO to host a forum on violence prevention in April 2017 whereby three keynote speakers and a community panel shared their perspectives on violence prevention in Omaha. With the help from Eric Meyer, Graduate Assistant at the Center, we felt encouraged to receive a congratulatory letter from former President Obama despite his unavailability to attend the event.

Dr. Renaisa Anthony led the Minority Health Month efforts in April 2017 and we were honored to have Dr. David Acosta, physician, former Associate Vice Chancellor at UC Davis and currently the Chief Diversity Officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges as our Grand Rounds distinguished guest speaker.
Our North Omaha Office, led by Wayne Houston, has been active in engaging the community in several important health and wellness events including assisting the North Omaha Community Care Council (NOCCC) with their first annual Youth Conference and Annual Luncheon. Mr. Houston also assisted with fundraising, coordination of the American Heart Associations (AHA) Power to End Stroke project, as well as coordination of the Black Family Health and Wellness Association's Annual Health Fair at Omaha North High School with over 600 participants attending. We appreciate that with Dr. Keyonna King’s leading effort, our Center was able to continue the mental health project in close partnership with community agencies and stakeholders.

Dr. Ramos led our effort in hosting two important visits by renowned scholars and leaders. Dr. Marc Schneker, Distinguished Professor at University of California at Davis and Dr. Jane Delgado, President & CEO of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health. Dr. Ramos, together with Antonia Correa and Natalia Trinidad, facilitated five Mental Health First Aid trainings through the eastern part of Nebraska, Omaha, Crete, and Lincoln. They also worked with Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim to become certified to facilitate the Familia Adelante program, making us one of 15 sites throughout the U.S. certified for implementing this program.

Bridge to Care (Btc) is an interdisciplinary student-led organization at UNMC, which has been supported by our Center since 2015. During 2017, Dr. Toure worked closely with a large number of student leaders, volunteers, and our community partners to provide training to 32 students for them to become refugee health navigators. These partnerships also allowed the BTC to successfully host two health fairs through which they were able to provide critically needed vision, dental, BMI, blood pressure, and blood glucose screening and education to more than 450 local refugees and their families.

The year of 2017 was also marked with several important personnel changes at the Center. Dr. Renalsa Anthony, former Deputy Director at the Center, left us and started her new chapter of promoting and advocating for health equity and women's health. We were excited about having Dr. Keyonna King join us as a new faculty member who brought with her expertise in utilizing community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach to address health disparities in various underrepresented minority communities. We recently celebrated the retirement of Antonia Correa, former Outreach Project Specialist at the Center, together with some of our community partners whom Antonia has been working with. Antonia’s dedicated work in community outreach, bilingual health education, mental health awareness, tobacco cessation, women’s health, and other areas has made a critical difference for the Center to effectively engage and serve some of our local underserved communities, especially local Latino and immigrant communities.

Thank you for your support and attention to the Center for Reducing Health Disparities. We welcome any suggestions and partnership from you as we continue our journey in promoting health and health equity in Nebraska and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dejun Su, PhD
Director

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The CRHD Vision and Mission

**Vision of the Center**
To become a nationally-recognized Center of Excellence for promoting health equity through quality research, education, and community engagement.

**Mission of the Center**
To promote equity and social justice in health and health care by leading collaborative efforts to generate and disseminate evidence-based, policy-relevant solutions.

**Goals**

**Goal #1:** Enhance the role of UNMC in addressing disparities in health outcomes among Nebraskans through consistent community engagement, partnerships, and advocacy.

**Goal #2:** Promote translational research that would help reduce disparities in health status and health care at the local, state, national, and global levels.

**Goal #3:** Support UNMC’s education initiatives in health disparities.
Community Engagement, Service and Advocacy
CRHD PROGRAMS & INTERVENTIONS

Health Fairs

Black Family Health and Wellness Association (BFHWA), North Omaha Health Fair
The 19th Annual North Omaha Health Fair was held on March 25, 2017 at Omaha North High School. This year, BFHWA offered the following free health screenings to the community:

- Vision
- Chiropractic & Spinal Health
- Hearing
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Dental Health
- Kidney Function
- Diabetic Foot Exams
- Breast Exams

- Prostate (DRE) Exams
- Mental Health Screening
- Stroke and Heart Screening
- Cholesterol/Glucose Screening
- STD Screenings
- Bone Marrow Recruitment

The 2017 health fair attracted over 650 participants, with 196 completing the BFHWA screening form and 230 completing the program evaluation. Key findings: Self-reported personal medical history of those returning forms showed that many of our patrons suffered from high blood pressure, high cholesterol, arthritis, diabetes, cancer and heart disease. All screening participants received exit interviews with either a physician or nurse regarding their testing results. Any participant having high readings would be encouraged to seek healthcare assistance as quickly as possible and would get a follow up phone call from a health professional. Wayne R. Houston, the Community Health Program Manager for CRDH North Office, is the president and founder of Black Family Health & Wellness Association (BFHWA).

Black Family Health and Wellness Association Health Conference
The 7th Annual BFHWA Health Conference entitled “Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself” was held at Omaha North High School on Saturday, November 11, 2017. The conference provided attendees the opportunity to access their Spiritual, Behavioral and Physical health through various workshops.

Bridge to Care Health Fairs

Students from all colleges of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and staff from the Center for Reducing Health Disparities, working with Bridge to Care, helped to plan and carry out two Refugee Health Fairs in 2017.

Islamic Center of Omaha (ICO) Basic Health Screening
In 2017, over 80 people at ICO participated in basic health care screenings, such as flu vaccine and blood pressure screenings. The campaign was coordinated by Dr. Toure, Nurse Ira Combs and Dr. Katherine Bravo from the College of Nursing.
Healthy Living

Back Safety Training for Farmworkers

The Center partnered with a local farm and farmworker advocacy group to develop a back safety training to reduce back injuries associated with farm work. The training was developed as a bilingual (English/Spanish) module that could be implemented easily by farm managers and supervisors. Center staff traveled to the farm to implement and test the module with 63 Latino farmworkers in June 2017. The training was well-received by the workers and partners.

BodyWorks Program

The BodyWorks program is an evidence–based program that provides parents and caregivers with tools and information to help their family make small, specific changes in the way they eat and are physically active in order to help maintain a healthy weight. The program is designed for parents and caregivers with children between the ages of 9–14. The Center hosted BodyWorks during January and February 2017 at Castelar Elementary and a total of 6 families participated during the eight 1.5 hour sessions. Each participant received a toolkit at the end of the program that will help them and their family improve their nutritional intake and increase physical activity.
City Sprouts South Community Garden
Over the last three years, Dr. Athena Ramos has worked with neighborhood leaders and various South Omaha organizations to develop and lead a community garden and associated programming within the South Omaha community. In 2016, the College of Public Health provided start-up funding for the project. Since then, the Center has conducted an annual neighborhood assessment to be able to track outcomes of the garden on the surrounding neighborhood, connected the garden with other community-based organizations, developed signage, and facilitated health-related programming onsite at the garden and surrounding community. We are also working with Omaha by Design to develop a strategic vision to activate the space and create a plan for future potential uses.

• Garden Sprouts Program
During the summer, the Center partnered with the Learning Community Center of South Omaha to facilitate a garden sprouts program, based on the L.A. Sprouts curriculum, which is an evidence-based nutrition, cooking, and gardening intervention aimed at improving dietary intake and reducing the risk of obesity and related metabolic disorders in Latino youth between the ages of 8–11. The youth spent the first half of the class at the City Sprouts South community garden learning about science and gardening and the second half at the Learning Community Centers of South Omaha learning about nutrition, healthy eating, and cooking.

City Sprouts South Video Series
The City Sprouts South group received an additional grant to support the creation of an educational video series about healthy eating, physical activity, and gardening focused on Latino youth. The series will include lesson plans for teachers to be used in the classroom, videos, and other supplemental materials. Three of the five videos were filmed in 2016, and two were filmed in 2017. The Center has partnered on the project by providing feedback on the lessons, script, dissemination strategy, and participating in the filming. The video series can be accessed at: http://www.omahasprouts.org/learn
**Familia Adelante**

The Familia Adelante program is a multi-risk reduction behavioral health prevention program for Latino/Hispanic youth and families (FA) and addresses the impact of acculturative stress on Latino communities while equipping Latino-serving organizations with a psycho-educational curriculum that helps Latino families manage negative behavioral health outcomes associated with stress exposure. The curriculum is 12 sessions in length and is for youth ages 10–14 and their parents/caregivers. The Familia Adelante intervention is administered to youth and parents concurrently but separately in a group format. The Center collaborated with the Comunidad Maya Poxan Ixim (CMPI), an organization that serves the Q’anjob’al speaking Mayan community in Omaha to submit a successful application to the National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health (NNED Learn). Two staff members from the Center, the Executive Director, and two youth from CMPI attended the facilitators training in New Mexico in March 2017. From April 2017 to August 2017, the team received additional training via webinars and conference calls with the program developer.

Our collaborative team was certified to implement this program in August 2017, and we began the program sessions with the youth and the parents in September 2017. A total of 6 parents and 11 youth completed the program.
**Mental Health First Aid**

Antonia Correa and Natalia Trinidad have been trained in Mental Health First Aid USA curriculum. They are amongst the few Spanish-language trainers in the state of Nebraska. Mental Health First Aid is an international program which has proven to be effective in: (1) Growing knowledge of signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and addictions; (2) Identifying multiple types of professional and self-help resources for individuals with a mental illness or addiction; (3) Increasing their confidence in and likelihood to help an individual in distress; and (4) Increasing mental wellness among participants. Studies also show that the program reduces the social distance created by negative attitudes and perceptions of individuals with mental illnesses. Mental Health First Aid USA is listed in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). Five trainings were conducted in 2017:

- Early Learning Center, Crete Public Schools, Crete, Nebraska, February 23, 2017 and March 2, 2017; 8 participants.
- Latina Resource Center, Catholic Charities, Omaha, Nebraska, June 8–9, 2017; 7 participants.
- Learning Communities Center of South Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska, June 28, 2017; 9 participants.
- Latino Center of the Midlands, Omaha, Nebraska, August 9, 2017; 9 participants.
- Region 5, Lincoln, Nebraska, August 31, 2017; 33 participants.

**Youth Engagement**

**Health Professionals Career Day**

On June 5, 2017, the UNMC and OPS Health Professionals Career Day committee, coordinated by Wayne R. Houston, held the 3rd Annual Career Day, at the Sorrell Building. A special Thank You to Ali S. Khan, MD. MPH, Dean and Professor of the College of Public Health, who, along with Dr. Marvin L. Stancil, Associate Professor, Dept. of OB–GYN–UNMC, welcomed over 170 youth from the Empowerment Network’s “Step Up” Program. Campus colleges had representatives from Nursing, Dentistry, Allied Health, Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, and the Office of Recruitment and Student Engagement. The HPCD committee members were Sherman Petite, Channing Bunch, Lisa Spellman, Rolee Kelly, Molly Handke, Margaret Winnicki, Keyonna King, Tamara Cardin, Kevin Howard and Omaha Public Schools members, Chris Wiley and Lesley Dean. Thank you to the Chancellor’s office for continued support of this program.
Support Groups & Workshops

Bridge to Care (BTC)

Domestic Violence in the Refugee Population

Bridge to Care in collaboration with EMPOWER, another student organization, organized Schwartz Center Rounds on Domestic Violence in the Refugee Population. The session was held on April 19th, 2017.

Speakers were:
Alana Schriver, MPH: OPS Refugee Specialist
Elizabeth Ajongo, BSW: Heartland Family Services Sudanese Cultural Ambassador
Pam Franks, RN, BSN: Embrace the Nations Founder & Executive Director
Tanya Howard, RN, BSN: Nurse Care Coordinator UniNet

Moderator: Heidi Keeler, PhD, RN: Director of UNMC Office of Community Engagement. Objectives were to: 1) Discuss how healthcare professionals can better identify and assist survivors of domestic violence in the refugee population, 2) Explain the barriers that exist in prevention, recognition, and treatment of domestic violence in the refugee population, 3) Describe how various cultures define and interpret the term “domestic”.

Parenting Education Program

Bridge to Care (BTC) in collaboration with Bridget Barnes, Director, Boys Town Nebraska/Iowa Common Sense Parenting, and Refugee Empowerment Center, presented to a group of parents at the Refugee Empowerment Center. Over 90 refugee parents and their families attended the general parenting education session which was interpreted into multiple dialects to suit the five different languages spoken among the attendees.
BTC and Bridget Barnes held seven parenting education sessions in 2017 to serve more refugee parents. Twenty-two parents went through all of the sessions and received a “Common Sense Parenting” certification. In hopes to improve the program, a pre and post measurement was conducted to assess the outcome of the program’s impact and see how well the sessions were suited to the targeted populations.
**Refugee Health Navigation Program**

Bridge to Care (BTC) at UNMC worked in collaboration with the Douglas County Health Department to train 32 refugee health navigators between April 2017 and August 2017. The refugee health navigation curriculum was developed by the Douglas County Health Department to assist health navigators to direct and provide guidance to newly arrived refugees in regards to their health care needs. The navigation program contains three units*.

*Unit 1 – U.S. Healthcare Systems
*Unit 2 – Introduction to Good Health and Healthy lifestyle
*Unit 3 – Personal Hygiene and Home Care

A total of 180 refugees participated in the health navigation program. Approximately 64% were male and 58% were from Somali.

The BTC leadership team would like to thank Ms. Scharol Bronson, Community Health Planner, Health Promotions, Stephen B. Jackson, Supervisor Health Promotion Section, Community Health and Nutrition Division Douglas County Health Department and Jason Dundis, Administrator I, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).
A special thank you goes to the Bridge to Care Leadership and all UNMC Students involved in this project.

We would like to acknowledge all of the community center staff who helped provide training to the refugee community. These partners are:

City Light Benson Church  
Embrace the Nation  
Intercultural Senior Center  
Kachin Church  
Karen Christian Revival Church  
Refugee Empowerment Center  
Somali Community Center
Summer Camp

Camp Kitaki – Family Days is held twice a year and allows parents to bring their children out to see the Camp and engage in activities such as crafts, cannoning, archery, hiking and horseback riding. The families also enjoyed hanging out at the Kitaki Lake and making music at Kitaki’s Musical Playground.

Bridge to Care in collaboration with the YMCA Camp Kitaki organized two family days. Five refugee families attended, for a total of 32 participants.
Other Support Groups & Workshops

Domestic Violence Workshops

The purpose of these workshops is to provide education and awareness of domestic violence experienced in the Latino community and to assist individuals and families experiencing violence in their homes. The Center is able to refer people to community-based resources. These prevention efforts should ultimately decrease the number of victims and individuals who perpetrate any type of violence. Antonia Correa has been collaborating with the Mujeres y Valores group for the last ten years educating Latina women about the importance of developing healthy self-esteem and being empowered to achieve a better quality of life.

Parenting Workshops

The Center presents workshops on positive parenting approaches based on the Boys Town Common Sense Parenting guidelines. These workshops include information about talking to children about tobacco, alcohol and drug prevention, mental health, personal development including self-esteem, anger management, stress management, healthy eating, and more. Workshops have been presented at the Mujeres y Valores group as well as other community groups by Antonia Correa.
Tobacco Prevention & Control

The Tobacco Prevention Program at the Center has been funded by Tobacco Free Nebraska since 2002. The program continues to be a major component of the services provided to the Latino community by the Center. This program focuses on tobacco education and prevention in both youth and adults. This initiative has been successful due to the use of a culturally and linguistically sensitive approach. In addition to tobacco prevention, the program focuses on health issues related with tobacco use, like diseases and disparities in healthcare access affecting the Latino community. The Center works closely with community agencies, businesses, faith based organizations, and tobacco-free coalitions to educate, collaborate, and promote a tobacco-free society. The Center continues providing tobacco prevention outreach and engagement programs, serving on the front lines in addressing the health needs of the underserved associated with tobacco use with the ultimate goal of attaining and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Below is a listing of some of the Latino outreach initiatives that are associated with this project:

Cessation ( Quitting) Program
Natalia Trinidad became a certified American Lung Association Freedom From Smoking program facilitator. The program features a step-by-step plan for quitting smoking and transitioning to a smoke-free lifestyle. Each session is designed to help smokers gain control over their behavior, and because no single quit smoking plan is effective for all smokers, the program has a variety of evidence-based techniques for individuals to combine into their own plan to quit smoking. Antonia Correa and Natalia Trinidad are available to provide an 8-week cessation program in English and Spanish. The cessation program includes information on behavioral modification, peer support, and basic information on pharmacotherapy. During 2017, Natalia facilitated the program at the Siena Francis House during the summer.

Latinas, Tabaco, y Cán cer
Antonia Correa, Athena Ramos, and Natalia Trinidad support the Latinas, Tabaco, y Cán cer project. Latinas, Tabaco, y Cán cer (LTC) is a group of Latina women, mainly from South Omaha, engaged in education and advocacy activities to develop community-based projects that build community capacity and influence the social norms around tobacco use, exposure to secondhand smoke, and health promotion. The women gather together every other month to learn more on a topic related with tobacco and/or cancer. The involvement and advocacy of LTC participants in community initiatives benefits the community. Some of the activities that LTC has participated in during 2017 include: Cinco de Mayo Parade, Heartland Pride Parade, Susan G. Komen Walk, and many more. This year, we hosted a special meeting with Dr. Jane Delgado, President & CEO of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health. We were also especially proud that the Latinas, Tabaco y Cancer group received the “Volunteer of the Year” award during the MOTAC Annual Luncheon on November 16, 2017. The award recognizes and individual or group that actively works to promote a tobacco- and smoke-free community.
Partnership with the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Antonia Correa, Athena Ramos, and Natalia Trinidad participate in the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as a way to reach out to Latino business owners and companies about tobacco related issues. In April 2017, they hosted the monthly Chamber meeting and provided a presentation on the importance of tobacco-free spaces including homes and parks, MOTAC’s efforts within the Latino community, and solicited support from Latino businesses.

Television Show

Antonia Correa is the host of “Hablemos en Familia del Tabaco y Algo Más”, a quarterly half hour TV program that connects directly to the Spanish-speaking community in the Omaha metro and surrounding areas. This television show has aired on Cox 22 from 2004–2013 and now is being live streamed and archived on TV Latina Nebraska (http://www.livestream.com/tvlatinancebraska). This show has been a vital part of the information dissemination network developed to educate the Latino community on the harmful effects of tobacco use, secondhand smoke, and to improve lifestyles of the Latino community. Some of the topics that have been covered on the show include: Dangers of Tobacco Use, Smoke-Free Apartments, Smoking & Fires, and the Latinas, Tabaco, y Cáncer Group.
Tobacco Free Park Clean-ups

Over the last year, the Center has participated with MOTAC in leading a number of tobacco
clean-ups in city parks. We picked up tobacco trash such as cigarettes butts and other litter.

Tobacco Talk Radio Show

The Tobacco Talk radio show is a one-hour live call-in program aired on Radio Lobo (KBBX
97.7 FM) every quarter. It is currently funded by a grant from Tobacco Free Nebraska and is
hosted by Antonia Correa with invited special guests. This program is used to educate
Spanish-speaking listeners on the dangers of tobacco and the benefits of smoke-free
environments. The show provides the opportunity to answer a wide variety of questions
relating to tobacco use, exposure to second hand smoke, and behavioral problems related with
tobacco. The target audience is estimated to be 70,000–80,000 listeners per show.
Women and Men's Health

HALO "Healing and Loving Ourselves" Project
On June 24, 2017, Dr. Renaisa Anthony convened the Summer Starts with Healing Arts: Another Healing and Loving Ourselves (HALO) Project at Kaneko. The ladies of HALO learned about the importance of mental health and stress reduction through the arts. Dancing, singing, painting, yoga, poetry and journaling were a part of the day. Over 70 women participated throughout the day. The HALO Project is grateful to Kaneko for hosting the event during their Kinetic exhibit featuring the mobile work of John Buck. Felicia Webster from Verbal Gumbo, Leah Margolis (yoga instructor), Kenetta Vogt from Blue Moon Fitness/squadONE and Doris Moore from the Center for Holistic Development made the event spectacular.

Health Equity
Dr. Renaisa Anthony presented an interactive lecture, "A Dialogue on Health Disparities and Actions to Achieve Health Equity" as part of the Kansas State University's celebration of National Public Health Week and Minority Health Month. Also, for the UNMC, College of Public Health, Minority Health Month, Dr. Anthony was able to bring Dr. David Acosta, physician, former Associate Vice Chancellor at UC Davis and currently the Chief Diversity Officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges as our Grand Rounds distinguished guest speaker, who discussed, "Beyond Disparities: Action-Oriented Solutions for Diversity, Inclusion & Equity."
Partnerships with Organizations and Campus Groups

**Alzheimer’s Association Nebraska Chapter**
The Alzheimer’s Association is the world’s leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Their mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support of all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Over the past year, Wayne R. Houston has served on the leadership council of the Nebraska Chapter.

**American Heart Association (AHA)**
The mission of AHA is to build healthier lives free of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Wayne R. Houston serves on the Board of Directors of the American Heart Association’s Midwest Affiliate. Over the past 8 years, Wayne has taken a leadership role in addressing health disparities in north Omaha by facilitating “The Power to End Stroke” Power Council as President. The PTES is a national recognized program of the American Heart Association, and the mission of the Power Council is to create awareness of stroke risk to help save lives in the community. This is done by providing leadership, advocacy, education and mobilization of the African-American community to reduce the risk of stroke. The Midwest Affiliate has developed a strong Power Council that has received regional recognition and has increased awareness and creative programming. Over the past year, this group has organized the following projects:

**Heart Healthy Happy Hour**
Due to the weather, this program was moved to March. Despite the change, this program was well attended by approximately 90 participants. All of the guest were treated to food, wine and prizes before the guest speakers presented. Each of the speakers provided information on stress management and risk factors for stroke. Sheritta Strong, MD from Charles Drew HealthCare Center and Nichole Cooks, BSN, RN the Nebraska Medicine Stroke Program Coordinator shared some insights into lifestyle management.

**Pamper Day** An event in February which incorporated vendors for health products, free haircuts and massages. There were 50 participants.

**Healthy Eating Project**
“Simply Cooking with Heart” was held on Friday, March 17th and Healthy Cooking Demonstration was held on Friday, November 10th at Girls Inc. facilitated by No More Empty Pots
**Bridge to Care (BTC)**

BTC is an inter-professional, community-engaged and student-led legacy project supported by the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) under the leadership of Dr. Toure. BTC is the only UNMC Recognized Student Organization (RSO) with direct aims of providing opportunities for students to interact and provide health services and education to refugees in Omaha. BTC supports resettled refugees through biannual health fairs, providing health education, screening, and services from community partners (i.e. clinical practices, Federally Qualified Health Centers, state and local public health) and UNMC students. Volunteers simultaneously develop cross-cultural competencies.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, over 60 community-based clinics and health care organizations, with more than 300 students across all professions on the UNMC campus (College of Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health), Creighton University, and over 1000 refugees engaged together in Bridge to Care programs. This includes refugees who participated in the Bridge to Care youth mentoring programs, health education sessions, health navigation programs and health fairs.
BTC Programs

- Health Education Sessions: A total of twelve health education sessions took place at different refugee centers with diverse communities. Students taught about the U.S. health care system, mental health, diabetes, hygiene, Medicaid, bed bugs, medication safety, OTC drugs, and parenting education.

- Mentoring Sessions: The mentoring program in partnership with Omaha Public Schools, conducted seven sessions. Students taught refugee youth about nutrition and eating healthy snacks. They also learned about bullying and proper tooth brushing techniques. Each participant received a toothbrush, tubes of toothpaste and floss.

- Health Fairs: Students from all colleges of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and staff from the Center for Reducing Health Disparities, worked with Bridge to Care, to plan and carry out the biannual health fairs (World Refugee Day and Fall Fair) in 2017.

  - The Annual World Refugee Day for Omaha refugees Health Fair was held on summer in Collaboration with Omaha Public School. The event was hosted at the Joslyn Museum on June 24, 2017.

  - The Fall Refugee Health Fair was held on November 11, 2017. The Health Fair was hosted at and planned in collaboration with Benson High School in Omaha. Services provided by UNMC and Creighton University students, community–based health organizations and vendors included vision screening; dental screening; flu shots; health screenings such as BMI, blood pressure, and glucose; as well as health education booths on topics such as tobacco cessation, sun exposure, maternal and child health, and dietetics.

The Bridge to Care leadership thanks all volunteers, collaborators and exhibitors for their time, efforts, and enthusiasm to make a difference in the lives of our underserved communities.

Better Together

BTC in Collaboration with University of Lincoln under the leadership of Dr. Megan Kelley participated in the organization of “Better Together” – A community–focused, statewide planning event that included a panel discussion (Community members shared their experiences in Nebraska), a keynote speaker (Dr. Jessica Goodkind shared about her refugee well–being project at the University of New Mexico), and group conversation (experienced facilitators shared resources and the way to move forward together). The event was held on October 28, 2017 at UNMC College of Nursing (Omaha and Kearney). Between Omaha and Kearney there were 66 people who attended the event. Participants were community members, community organizations, University of Nebraska educators and researchers.
Central States Center for Agricultural Safety & Health (CS–CASH)

Dr. Athena Ramos has been working closely with CS–CASH over the last five years. She has had two pilot projects funded and one fully-funded project through CS–CASH and has worked with other members of the group on various projects providing advice on outreach to Latino agricultural workers and rural communities.

Douglas County Board of Health

Wayne R. Houston has served on this County Board for 4 years. The Douglas County Board of Health is given the authorization by statute to form a department of health to aid in carrying out core public health functions. These core functions include assessment and policy development, prevention of illness and disease, and assurance of services including public health nursing, health education and environmental services. Since 2013, Mr. Houston has served on the policy development and health education outreach committees.
North Omaha Community Care Council (NOCCC)

The purpose of the North Omaha Community Care Council is to improve the health and well-being of adults, children and families who, work, live, worship and conduct business in the North Omaha community. Since 1996, Wayne R. Houston has presided over the NOCCC general meetings and has served on the Board of Directors. The NOCCC had three major projects in 2017, a youth trainee / mentorship program to help administer a DHHS grant; the Metro Area Teen Health Summit; and the annual fundraising luncheon.

This year’s 5th Annual Impact Luncheon entitled “Investing In Our Youth” was held December 15th at Girls Incorporated. Over 150 attendees received an insightful message from guest speaker, Jamison Horton. Special recognition was given to community members in the following categories: Spirit of Business – Omaha Economic Development Corporation, Spirit of Advocacy – Brenda Council and Spirit of Youth – Maurice Jones.

The 2nd Annual Metro Area Teen Summit was held at Metropolitan Community College on Saturday, September 23rd in the Culinary Arts Building. The youth participants were able to choose sessions relating to lifestyles, health, teen relationships and business ownership. Over, eighty high motivated youth engaged in various interactive presentations. This project was sponsored by the NE DHHS.

Toys for Tots

In 2017 the Center for Reducing Health Disparities continued its support by directly reaching out to the United States Marine Corps. Our CRHD location was able to enroll over 38 families and distribute gifts to 87 children in the community during the 2017 holiday season. The Toys for Tots project coordinated by Maria Teel was a group effort. Special thanks to Kandy Do, Antonia Correa, Drissa Toure, Natalia Trinidad, Martha Goedert, Rick Boldt, Jeffrey Miller, Lina Jiang, Megan Frisbie, Jermayne Thompson, Linda Vondras, Lakisha Starks Neal, Ashley Vonseggern and Talia McGill for making this a success. Donations were distributed to families on December 18th and 19th, 2017.
Advocacy Activities & Professional Services

Dejun Su
Dr. Dejun Su serves as a member of the College of Public Health’s Leadership Council. He also serves as a member of the UNMC Library Library Advisory Committee. Dr. Su has been a team member of the CLAS Initiative in the Community Health Improvement Plan organized by the Douglas County Health Department.

Antonia Correa
Antonia Correa served on the board of directors of Community Alliance.

Athena Ramos
Dr. Ramos served on the board of Comunidad Maya Pikan Ixim and Fontenelle Forest.

Drissa M. Toure
Dr. Toure serves as the Director and Faculty Advisor of Bridge to Care (BTC), an interdisciplinary student-led organization at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Dr. Toure serves as the Chair of the Election Committee of the Islamic Center of Omaha. He also worked with the board to organize a health fair for the Muslim communities in Omaha.

Dr. Toure also served as the member of the 2017 Fetal Infant and Mortality Case Review Team. Douglas County Health Department is the lead agency of the Fetal Infant Mortality Review process.

Dr. Toure served on the board of Directors of Omaha Area Health Education (AHEC).

Dr. Toure was a speaker and the chair of the Second National Congress in Health Sciences (JONARES2) organized by Higher Institute of Health Sciences and Hassan 1st University of Settat, Morocco, which took place 07–12 of December at Settat, Morocco.

UNMC College of Public Health Initiatives

Latino Public Health Advisory Committee – Dr. Athena Ramos, Antonia Correa, and Natalia Trinidad are part of the College of Public Health’s Latino Public Health Advisory Committee (LPHAC). This year, the group hosted a Grand Rounds presentation, the 3rd annual COPH Dia de los Muertos Ofrenda, and attended the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) to recruit potential students. Roger Gonzales, a current COPH student, attended the National Hispanic Medical Association Conference to assist with recruiting.

South Omaha Community Tour for Faculty – This year the Center was able to host a full-day community tour to familiarize COPH faculty with the history, landscape, and context of the South Omaha community. We partnered with various organizations to participate in the tour including One World Community Health Center, the Intercultural Senior Center, Comunidad Maya Pikan Ixim, Latino Center of the Midlands, Justice for Our Neighbors–Nebraska, Heartland Workers Center, and City Sprouts South.
Community Partnerships

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Psychological Association, Behavioral & Social Science Volunteer Program
- American Society for Public Administration
- Avenue Scholars
- Bellevue Public Schools
- Benson High School
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha
- Boys Town
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee
- Building Healthy Futures
- Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center at Macy, NE.
- Castelar Elementary School
- Catholic Charities – Juan Diego Center & Latina Resource Center
- Centro Hispano de Columbus
- City Sprouts/City Sprouts South
- College of Saint Mary
- Comité Latino de Schuyler
- Community Alliance
- Compassion in Action/RAW DAWGS Youth Gang Prevention Program
- Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim
- Connoisseur Media/Radio Lobo-97.7 FM
- Consulate of Mexico
- Creighton University Latino Student Association (CULSA)
- Deer Park Initiative
- Douglas County Department of Corrections
- Douglas County Health Department
- El Centro de Las Americas – Lincoln
- El Museo Latino
- El Perico Newspaper
- Empowerment Network
- Fontenelle Forest
- Heartland Pride
- Heartland Workers' Center
- Inclusive Communities
- Intercultural Senior Center
- Islamic Center of Omaha (ICO)
- Justice for Our Neighbors
- Kaneko
- Latin Media Network, TV Latina
- Latinas Unidas
- Latino Center of the Midlands
- Latino Leaders High School Clubs
- Live Well Omaha
- Lothrop Elementary School
- Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC)
- Midlands Latino Community Development Corporation
- Mujeres y Valores
- National Alliance for Hispanic Health
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Omaha Branch
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women Greater Omaha Chapter
- National Latino Tobacco Control Network
- National Network for LGBT Health Equity
- Nebraska Corrections Youth Facility
- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Maternal & Child Health Program
- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity, Division of Public Health
- Nebraska Families Collaborative
- Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Nebraska Medicine Fontenelle Clinic
- Nebraska Migrant Action Coalition
- Nebraska Migrant Education Program
- Nebraska Tobacco Disparities Network
- New Era Baptist Church Convention
- North Omaha Area Health
- North Omaha Community Care Council
- Omaha 360
- Omaha City Planning Department
- Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance
- Omaha Police Department
- Omaha Public Library
- Omaha Public Schools, African American Achievement Council & Latino Academic Achievement Council
- Omaha Public School District Office of Community, School & Family Engagement
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated
- One World Community Health Centers/Learning Community & Healthy Families
- Public Health Association of Nebraska
- Redes En Acción
- Refugee Empowerment Network
- Refugee Health Collaborative
- Region 5 and 6 Behavioral Healthcare
- Rural Community Workers' Alliance
- Siena Francis House
- South Omaha Community Care Council
- South Omaha Soccer League
- Susan G. Komen Foundation, Nebraska
- Tobacco Free Nebraska
- Tobacco Free Sarpy
- UNO, Office of Latino Latin American Studies
- Walgreens
- WellCare of Nebraska
- Women's Center for Advancement
CRHD Resource Library

The CRHD Resource Library provides a list of recently published educational and research articles and books on major health disparities, with a focus on African American, Latino and Asian American communities. It also includes information on interventions aiming to address these disparities, such as with cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and tobacco smoke. All resource library materials have been catalogued through the McGoogan Library of Medicine and can be searched online. Currently, the CRHD has over 275 items in the resource library. Resources can be used by policymakers, healthcare providers, community leaders and others. Most materials are freely available in hard copy through the Center. Over the next year, the Center will be working to make some materials available through our website or through various electronic formats.

Courses Offered by CRHD Faculty

Public Health Program Evaluation

This course is designed to provide an overview of methods for evaluating health promotion programs. It is taught by Dr. Dejun Su. Students will learn methods for choosing appropriate evaluation designs and procedures for data collection, choosing and developing survey items, and interpreting and describing evaluation results. The course is intended for graduate students and health professionals who will be actively involved in addressing public health issues through interventions and evaluations.

Scientific Writing

This course is for doctoral students to work on sharing their research through peer-reviewed publications. The students write a paper during the class, practice providing critiques to one another, and ultimately submit the paper to a journal. This course is taught by Dr. Paul Estabrooks.
Student Advising

The center is working with the UNMC Service Learning Academy which facilitates interprofessional and interdisciplinary public health learning experiences in local, regional, national and international communities. The Center has worked with specific faculty and students to provide meaningful learning opportunities in underserved communities.

Dr. Dejun Su chaired the supervisory committees for the capstone/service learning projects conducted by Ashvita Garg and Anne Lavelle. He was also a member of the Supervisory Committees for PhD students Eric Meyer, Jamie Larson, and Zijian Qin. As a committee member, Dr. Su also supervised Samuel Woodruff in his capstone/service learning project. Dr. Su mentored Dr. Tzyeu Michaud, Dr. Junmin Zhou, Jessica Wiens, Kandy Do, Joshua Qu, Rajvi Wani, and Joshua Qu in their research projects in 2017.

Under Dr. Touré’s supervision, Kandy Do performed research design, IRB applications, literature reviews, designed and administered surveys, and finished three manuscripts. Dr. Touré also served on the Service Learning/Capstone committee for Ashvita Garg, as the Preceptor for her project. Dr. Touré served as a faculty advisor for Bridge to Care Program (BTC). BTC is an interdisciplinary student-run organization at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. BTC seeks to provide health education to locally resettled refugees; to educate health professions students and increase their cultural awareness regarding the health needs of refugees; and finally, to offer openings for medical professionals to interact with refugees and enhance their awareness of refugee health. Dr. Touré worked with Alexandria Tran on research project required for MD 3 (M-ID 763).
Research
Research Projects

Appreciative Rural Narratives on Community Welcoming

This project seeks to better understand community welcoming of newcomers from the perspective of rural community leaders. The team has developed an interview protocol using the appreciative inquiry process to identify key strengths and explore opportunities within communities to better welcome and integrate newcomers into community life. The project is funded by the Rural Futures Institute and was featured on a recent video: https://youtu.be/WOzXkIzw91w

Project team members include: Athena Ramos (PI), Marcela Carvajal, and Maria Mushi.

City Sprouts South Neighborhood Assessment

The neighborhood assessment is focused on exploring the impact of the City Sprouts South community garden on the surrounding neighborhood. The neighborhood was defined and a census of households was conducted in 2016. The annual follow-up assessment was conducted between October–November 2017.

Project team members include: Athena Ramos (PI), Natalia Trinidad, Marcela Carvajal, and Maria Mushi.

Health and Safety Among Immigrant Cattle Feedyard Workers in the Central States Region

This project seeks to: (1) Systematically explore and describe the health status and occupationally related risks among Latino immigrant cattle feedyard workers in Nebraska and Kansas; (2) Test the Ecological Stress-based Model of Immigrant Health and Safety, which predicts if workers’ intrapersonal mechanisms (i.e., stress appraisal, ethnic identity, and cultural values) mitigate culture-related occupational stress and negative health outcomes; and (3) Review, develop, evaluate, and disseminate bilingual (English/Spanish) health and safety educational and policy materials designed specifically for cattle feedyard operations.

Project team members include: Athena Ramos (PI), Gustavo Carlo, Kathleen Grant, Antonia Correa, Natalia Trinidad, Axel, Fuentes, Rodrigo Gamboa, Jose Sanchez, and Casper Bendixsen.
**Latino Hog CAFO Workers Study**

The Health & Job Hazards of Latino CAFO Workers in Missouri study was funded by the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety & Health to systematically understand and describe occupational risks; CAFO job processes among the phases of hog production including: sows, nursery pigs, and finishing; and explore opportunities for safety and health educational interventions through the identification of perceptions and acceptance of occupational risk, health effects, healthcare needs, and health beliefs among CAFO workers and their families. We conducted a prospective panel study with immigrant Latino hog CAFO workers and their families in Missouri and tracked them over the course of one year. We also conducted qualitative focus groups with workers to explore job risks and opportunities to improve job safety.

Project team members include: Athena Ramos (PI), Axel Fuentes, Natalia Trinidad, Antonia Correa, Jose Sanchez, and Marcela Carvajal.

**Understanding Hispanics and Sense of Community in Rural Nebraska**

Understanding Hispanics and Sense of Community in Rural Nebraska is a community-engaged mixed methods research study funded by the Rural Futures Institute. The project seeks to assess sense of community, belonging, and integration of Latino immigrants in two rural northeast Nebraska communities, Schuyler and Columbus. Two graduate students, Marcela Carvajal and Melissa Leon, worked as co-investigators and learned the process of community-engaged research. Two hundred individuals have participated in the survey, and six focus group were conducted. The results of the study were shared back with community partners and have been presented at the annual Cambio de Colores Conference.

Research team: Athena Ramos (PI), Marcela Carvajal (Co-I), Melissa Leon (Co-I), Antonia Correa, and Natalia Trinidad.
**Vitamin A in Maternal Child Health: The VitaMatCH Project**
University of Nebraska Medical Center Vice Chancellor for Research Health Disparities Grant
The purpose of this project is to determine the prevalence of vitamin A deficiency and inadequacy in a population of pregnant women and their newborns and identify related predictors.
(Hanson, PI; Su Co-I)

**A Systematic Review and Meta–Analysis of Alcohol– and Drug–Related, Culturally Appropriate Interventions and Policies for Native American Communities**
UNMC, College of Public Health Innovation Fund
The purpose of this project is to conduct a systematic review and meta–analysis of alcohol– and drug–related, culturally appropriate interventions and policies for Native American Communities (Wilson, PI; Su, Co-I)

**Forming Team Grant: Integrating evidence–based nutrition, exercise, and weight management interventions in primary care to increase reach, effectiveness, and maintenance of lifestyle Interventions**
University of Nebraska, Food for Health Grant
The goal of the proposal is to form an interdisciplinary team for a pilot project to address obesity and health–equity related to obesity through primary care. Funding for this project was provided by the University of Nebraska, Food for Health Grant (Estabrooks, PI; Su, Co-PI; Almeida, F., Co-PI)

**Remote Interventions Improving Specialty Complex Care (RIISCC)**
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Health Innovation Award
The project seeks to establish a telehealth program to serve diabetic patients in Nebraska. The goal of the RIISCC model is to reduce readmissions and emergency room visits in high–risk, high–utilization, and high severity diabetic patients; thus improving quality of care and reducing cost. (Siahpush, PI; Su, Co-I)

**Creating a contextual overview of resources for healthy active lifestyles in Omaha to support community engagement on actionable strategies for promoting equity in built environments**
UNMC, College of Public Health Innovation Fund
The purpose of this project is to conduct a systematic assessment of the physical activity opportunities and quality of those opportunities currently exists (Hill, PI; Su, Co-I)

**Developing and Implementing a Public Health Approach to Youth Violence Prevention and Control in Omaha, Nebraska**
UNMC, College of Public Health Innovation Fund
The purpose of the project is to (1) Conduct a comprehensive literature review to identify evidence–based intervention strategies, (2) Conduct interviews with community organizations, focus groups with community residents, and interviews with youth to assess current intervention strategies and needs, and (3) propose coordinated intervention strategies for both the hospital–based and community–based programs targeting youth violence. (Su, PI)
A Multi-State Comparative Analysis of Medicaid Expansion on Preventable Emergency Department and Inpatient Utilization and Costs

UNMC, College of Public Health Innovation Fund
The purpose of the study is to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the impact of Medicaid coverage expansion on preventable hospital utilization and costs using state-level administrative databases of emergency department (ED) and inpatient visits.
(Wilson, PI; Su, Co-I)

Reducing Food Wastage through blending Smart Food Inventory Monitoring, Behavioral Influencing and Gamification

University of Nebraska, Food for Health Planning Grant
The purpose of this project is to develop innovative wireless sensing and reporting technologies to acquire and track food inventory at the consumer’s home. Aligned with this effort is cutting edge research into behavioral influencing using social networking and gamification.
(Sharif-Kashani, PI; Su, Co-I)

Integrating evidence-based nutrition, exercise, and weight management interventions in primary care to increase reach, effectiveness, and maintenance of lifestyle interventions

University of Nebraska, Food for Health Planning Grant
The purpose of this pilot project is to develop and test policy, program, and practice interventions that reach a large number of Nebraskans, especially those experiencing health disparities, effectively initiate and maintain patient weight control and that can be broadly adopted across diverse settings.
(Estabrooks, PI; Su, Co-PI)

The reach and effectiveness of technology-enhanced diabetes prevention programs

NIDDK
The goal of this project is to determine the reach and effectiveness of two different technology enhanced interventions to support weight loss for patients at risk for diabetes. Role: mentor, study design, intervention development, IVR development, RE-AIM evaluation.
(Almeida, Co-I)

PREDICTS—Diabetes Prevention

Omada Health
Goal is to test the effectiveness of an electronically supported diabetes prevention program.
(1,900,000 total costs)
(Estabrooks, PI; Almedia, Co-I, Michaud, Co-I)

Health and Safety Risks Among Immigrant Cattle Feedlot Workers in Nebraska & Kansas

National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health
(PI: Athena Ramos; Partners: Gustavo Carlo, Kathleen Grant, Axel Fuentes, Rodrigo Gamboa, Natalia Trinidad, and Antonia Correa)
Sustainability via active garden education
NIMHD
Overall goal is to determine the impact of SAGE, a gardening and nutrition education program, on physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption in low-to-middle income 3-5 years olds at daycare
(Lee, PI; Estabrooks, Co-I)

Feedyard Safety Program
National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health
(Yoder, PI; Rautiainen, Co-I; Ramos, Co-I)

Refugee Health Navigation Project: Provide Health Promotion Navigation to newly arrived refugees in Douglas County, Nebraska
Nebraska Douglas County Health Department
(PI: Drissa Toure; Team: Kandy Do and Jessica Ern)

MOTAC Communities of Excellence in Tobacco Control
Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
(PI: Athena Ramos; Partners: Antonia Correa and Natalia Trinidad)

Great Plains IDeA Clinical and Translational Research
NIGMS
Overall goal is to develop infrastructure, networks, and scholars that conduct high quality clinical and translational research.
(Rizzo, PI; Estabrooks, Co-Director, Co-I)

A randomized-controlled trial to compare the reach, effectiveness and maintenance of two family-based childhood obesity treatment programs in a medically underserved region
PCORI
Overall goal is to develop community capacity to implement and sustain a childhood obesity treatment program that effectively reduces child weight status. (2,000,000 total costs)
(Zoellner, PI; Estabrooks, MPI)

Appreciative Rural Narratives on Welcoming Communities
Rural Futures Institute
(PI: Athena Ramos; Partners: Marcela Carvajal and Maria Mushi)

SIPsmartER Southwest Virginia: A systems-based approach to disseminate and implement an effective sugar-sweetened beverage reduction intervention
NCI
Overall goal is to develop, establish feasibility, and determine the potential utility of an implementation strategy for SIPsmartER, which will reflect system-level needs and resources specific to SIPsmartER, as well as build general capacity related to organizational health literacy.
(Zoellner, PI; Estabrooks, Co-I)
Original Peer-Reviewed Publications


Estabrooks PA, Physical activity promotion and translational research. Transl Behav Med 2017;7:1–2


**Manuscripts Under Review**

Su, D., Wani, R., Chen, L. Misconception of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: How Does It Impact Public Opinion?

Ramos, A., Correa, A., Trinidad, N., Su, D. “Make A Parenting Program For Me: A Qualitative Study of Cultural and Logistical Considerations Among Spanish–Speaking Latino Parents in Nebraska”

Hanson, C., Berry, A., Samson, K., Su, D. “Risk for Cesarean Section, Body Mass Index, and Health Disparities”


Su, D., Wang, H., Michaud, T., Toure, D., Do, K., Tak, HJ. “Acculturation and Unmet Health Needs among Refugees in Omaha, Nebraska”

Flege, M., Grover, H., Mece, M., Ramos, A.K., & Thompson, M. Empathy as a moderator of sexual violence perpetration risk factors among college males.
Reports


Presentations
Bekmuratova, S., Tibbits, M., Wehbi, N., Meyer, E., Su, D., Davies, D. "Multi-level risk factors for violence in the community: A case study from Omaha, Nebraska". Oral presentation during the APHA 2017 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 4 – Nov. 8) in Atlanta.


Correa, A. & Trinidad, N. Going Back to School: The Importance of Attending College. Omaha, NE, January 27, 2017

Correa, A. Latinos and Mental Health: A guide you may need. Latinas Resource Center, May 9, 2017.

Correa, A. Understanding and using power the right way! Completely Kids Women and Values Group, May 17, 2017.

Correa, A. Being healthy is more than eating healthy and exercising. Latina Summer Academy, College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE, June 15, 2017.
Do, K., Toure, D., Nlam, N. L., and Su, D, "2016 Refugee Health Needs Assessment in Omaha, Nebraska". Posters at College of Public Health Research Conference, UNMC.

Dr. Drissa Toure attended the 2017 CityMatCH Maternal and Child Health leadership and Healthy Start Convention, Nashville, TN, September 18 –14, 2017. CityMatCH’s Annual MCH Leadership Conference is known for its cutting-edge maternal and child health content, in-depth skills-building sessions, and excellent professional camaraderie. This year central theme “Every Voice Counts.”

Dr. Drissa Toure participated as a panelist in the Library Research Month session, Systematic Reviews: What’s It All About? On October 25, 2017. He shared his experience in conducting a systematic review, how to build a strong team, unanticipated opportunities or reactions as a result of his research, and how working with librarians has helped his projects.


Estabrooks PA. Dissemination and Implementation Science Workshop. August 14–15, 2017. Introduction to translating research into practice for participants from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Role: Event organizer and speaker. Omaha NE


Houston, W. Presenter for Omaha Public Schools After School Program Shark Tank at McMillan Middle School. January 24, 2017
Houston, W. Presenter to American Heart Association, Omaha Metro Board of Directors, "Power to End Stroke" at Union Pacific Railroad Headquarters. February 7, 2017 – October 26, 2017

Houston, W. Facilitator of the American Heart Association "Heart Healthy Happy Hour" at Charles Drew Healthcare Center. April 21, 2017


Toure D. Second International Health Sciences Research Congress, Title: Optimizing Maternal–Infant Attachment, Settat, Morocco, December 2017


Ramos, A.K. Looking through the social ecological lens at migrant farmworker health in Nebraska. Cambio de Colores Conference, St. Louis, MO, June 14, 2017.

Ramos, A.K. & Marcos, L. Maya behavioral Health: Culture and context. Keynote presentation for Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Washington, DC, September 19, 2017.


Ramos, A.K. Immigrant health. Mary Our Queen School, Omaha, NE, November 9, 2017.

Su, D. "Health Disparities and Their Public Health Solutions". Invited presentation at the Dissemination and Implementation Science Workshop. College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Su, D. "Health Disparities in the U.S. and Their Public Health Solutions" Invited presentation at Nebraska WellCare, Omaha, Nebraska.


Toure, D. Presenter and the chair of the Second National Congress in Health Sciences (JONARES2) organized by Higher Institute of Health Sciences and Hassan 1st University of Settat, Morocco. December 07–12, 2017 Settat, Morocco.

Trinidad, N. Tobacco Jeopardy. Omaha Public Schools Youth Congress, Omaha, NE, February 3, 2017.

**Journal Reviewers**

Dr. Dejun Su served as a review for the journal BMC Health Services Research.

Dr. Dejun Su served as a reviewer for the journal PLOS One.


Dr. Athena Ramos reviewed content for the U.S. Agricultural Safety Centers YouTube site, NIOSH-sponsored manuscript, and the Young Supervisors Training Program.
The Center for Reducing Health Disparities Team
Dejun Su, PhD
DIRECTOR
Center for Reducing Health Disparities
Associate Professor
Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health
College of Public Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center
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Professional Summary
2012 – Present  Associate Professor, Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2010 – 2012  Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Texas Pan-American (UTPA), Edinburg, TX
2009 – 2012  Director of the CDC-Sponsored South Texas Border Health Disparities Center, UTPA, Edinburg, TX
2006 – 2010  Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, UTPA, Edinburg, TX
2007 – 2009  Graduate Advisor in the Sociology Master Program at the Department of Sociology, UTPA, Edinburg, TX

Education
2006  Ph.D. Sociology University of Chicago
1999  M.A. Demography Peking University, China 1999
1996  B.A. Sociology Peking University, China 1996

Research Interests
Social Demography
Medical Sociology
Health Research and Policy

Professional Affiliations
American Public Health Association
Renaisa S. Anthony, MD, MPH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Center for Reducing Health Disparities
Associate Professor
Department of Health Promotion, Social and
Behavioral Health
College of Public Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Professional Summary
2010 – 2017 Deputy Director, UNMC Center for Reducing Health Disparities
2010 – 2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion and Social and
Behavioral Health
2012 Scholar, M. Alfred Haynes Institute for Social Equity, Meharry/Vanderbilt
2011 Fellow, Health Equity Leadership Institute, University of WI–Madison
2008 – 2010 Assistant Research Professor, George Washington University,
Washington, DC 2007–2008 Fellow, National Institutes of Child Health and Human
2006 – 2007 House Officer Vanderbilt Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Education
MPH Harvard School of Public Health
MD University of Chicago Medical School with Honors BS
University of Minnesota Cum Laude

Clinical
Dr. Anthony is a licensed physician and practices integrative women’s health care.

Research Interests
Women’s health across the life-course
Maternal and reproductive health (pregnancy outcomes)
Community based participatory research
Community engagement and outreach
Health disparities & equity
Cultural competence and health policy
Professional Affiliations
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Junior Fellow
American Public Health Association
American Medical Association
Centers for Disease Control Preconception Surveillance (PRESURV) Committee
Girls Inc., Board Member
Harvard Alumni Association
Leadership Omaha Class 33
National Medical Association
Nebraska Health and Human Services Minority Health Council
Nebraska Health and Human Services COIIN (Infant Mortality) Council
Physicians for Reproductive Health, Board Member
Urban League of Nebraska, Board Member
Women’s Fund of Omaha, Board Member

Dr. Anthony also delivered competent and compassionate medical care for underserved patients at the Charles Drew Community Health Center.
Athena Ramos, PhD, MBA, MS, CPM
COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER/INSTRUCTOR
Center for Reducing Health Disparities
College of Public Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center
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Professional Summary
2014 – Present  Community Health Program Manager, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Omaha, NE
2014 – 2015  Instructor, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Department of Health Promotion, Social & Behavioral Health, Omaha, NE
2007 – 2014  Program Coordinator, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Omaha, NE
2005 – 2007  Health Educator, Creighton University Cardiac Center, Research Department, Omaha, NE
2001 – 2005  Tobacco Control Outreach Specialist, Latino Center of the Midlands, Omaha, NE
2000  Nebraska Coordinator, Latino Vote 2000, United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, Chicago, IL

Education
2017  Ph.D. International Family and Community Studies, Clemson University
2015  Appreciative Inquiry Certificate in Positive Business and Society Change, Case Western Reserve University
2014  LGBT Health C3 Certificate: Basic & Advanced Skills, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2009  MBA, University of Nebraska at Omaha
2008  Certified Public Manager (CPM), University of Nebraska at Omaha
2004  Master’s in Urban Studies, University of Nebraska at Omaha
2004  Certificate in Working with Youth, University of Nebraska at Omaha
2002  Bachelor’s in Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha
1999  Certificate in Fundraising Management, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Research Interests
Tobacco control and prevention
Racial and ethnic health disparities
Healthy public spaces, recreation areas, and parks
Latino and LGBT health initiatives
Intercultural communication and cultural competency
Occupational safety, health, and wellness among migrant farmworkers and immigrants
Community development
Coalition-building
Policy advocacy

Professional Affiliations
Public Health Association of Nebraska
AgriSafe Network
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC)
Board Member, Fontenelle Forest
International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH)
Advisory Council Member, Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim
Keyonna King, DrPH  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
Center for Reducing Health Disparities  
College of Public Health  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
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Professional Summary
2017 – Present  Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion, Social & Behavioral Health  
2016 – 2017  Program Evaluator, University of Nebraska Omaha, Support and Training for the Evaluation of Programs (STEPs)  
2012 – 2015  Senior Research Associate, University of California Los Angeles, Clinical and Translational Science Institute/Community Engagement and Research Program (CERP)

Education
2014  Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), Loma Linda University  
2006  Master of Arts in Psychology with clinical emphasis, Pepperdine University  
2004  Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Creighton University

Research Interests
Dr. King focuses her research efforts on reducing health disparities and improving health outcomes for African Americans in the context of community-based participatory research (CBPR). She focuses on lifestyle diseases that adversely affect the African American communities such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. She is also interested in African American men's health, particularly men between the ages of 18 and 30 years old.

Professional Affiliations
American Public Health Association  
American Evaluation Association  
National Honor Society for Psychology (Psi Chi)
Paul Estabrooks, PhD
DISTINGUISHED CHAIR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Reducing Health Disparities
College of Public Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center
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Professional Summary
2016 – Present  Professor and Harold M. Maurer Distinguished Chair, Department of Health Promotion, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2010 – 2016  Professor, Human Nutrition, Food, & Exercise, Virginia Tech
2011 – 2016  Director, Translational Obesity Research Center, Virginia Tech
2012 – 2016  Professor, Family Medicine, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
2012 – 2016  Senior Director of Research, Carilion Clinic
2007 – 2010  Associate Professor, Human Nutrition, Food, & Exercise, Virginia Tech
1999 – 2003  Assistant Professor, Kinesiology, Kansas State University
1999 – 2003  Exercise Specialist, Office of Community Health, Kansas State University

Education
1999  Doctorate in Kinesiology, the University of Western Ontario
1996  Master of Science in Kinesiology, the University of Calgary
1993  Bachelor of Physical Education, with Distinction, the University of Calgary

Research Interests
Health behavior intervention research
Adult and childhood obesity
Diabetes prevention
Research to practice implementation science
Health equity in physical activity, eating, and weight control

Professional Affiliations
American Academy of Health Behavior
American College of Sports Medicine
American Public Health Association
International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Marcela Carvajal-Suárez, MPH, BS
OUTREACH PROJECT SPECIALIST
Center for Reducing Health Disparities
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University of Nebraska Medical Center
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Professional Summary
2016 – Present  Graduate Research Assistant/Co-investigator, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2011 – 2014  Health Manager, University of Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia
2006 – 2010  Environmental Health Officer, Health Office – Municipality of Caldas, Antioquia, Colombia

Education
2017  MPH in Epidemiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2006  Bachelor’s in Health and Environmental Resource Management, University of Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia

Research Interests
Racial and ethnic health disparities
Public health in Latino immigrants
Environmental health-related diseases
Epidemiology of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (zoonosis)

Professional Affiliations
American Public Health Association
Antonia Correa, MA  
OUTREACH PROJECT SPECIALIST  
Center for Reducing Health Disparities  
College of Public Health  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Professional Summary
2002 – 2017 University of Nebraska Medical Center; Omaha, NE, Outreach Program Specialist. Provided outreach, community engagement, and research support services to reduce health disparities.
1999 – 2002 Girls and Boys Town National Hotline; Omaha, NE, Bilingual Crisis Counselor
1996 – 1999 Inter-American University of Puerto Rico; Puerto Rico, Professional Counselor

Education
1993 M.A. Guidance and Counseling, Inter-American University, Puerto Rico, Summa Cum Laude
1970 B.A. Sociology with a Minor in Humanities, University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico

Research Interests
Health disparities in underserved populations
Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention and control
Mental Health
Cultural broker role in research studies
Cultural sensitivity and its importance when working with racial and ethnic minorities
Women’s Health

Professional Affiliations
Douglas County Health Department Board of Health, Member
Douglas County Health Department, Case Reviewer for the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)Team
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Former Member of Board of Directors Member
Omaha Public Schools Latino Academic Achievement Council, Member
Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN), Member
Community Alliance, Member of Board of Directors and IRB Committee
American Public Health Association
Wayne Houston, MPA
COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER
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Professional Summary
2014 – Present  Community Health Program Manager, Center for Reducing Health Disparities
1996 – 2014  Community Liaison Coordinator, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, UNMC
1991 – 1996  Instructor, Black Studies Department, University of Nebraska at Omaha
1988 – 1991  Director, Educational Talent Search Program, Creighton University

Education
Master in Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha
B.A. California State University Long Beach

Research Interests
Alzheimer’s Disease
Cardiovascular Disease Prevention
Community Engagement and Development Men’s Health
Obesity and Nutrition
Racial and Underrepresented Health Disparities

Professional Affiliations
American Heart Association, Board of Directors
Alzheimer’s Association, Board of Directors/Leadership Council
Black Family Health & Wellness Association (BFHWA), President
Douglas County Board of Health, Secretary
NAACP
North Omaha Community Care Council (NOCCC), Board Member
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., President/Nebraska State Representative
Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN)
Tzeyu L. Michaud, PhD
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
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Professional Summary
2015 - Present  Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health, UNMC
2009 - 2015  Graduate Research Assistant, Division of Health Policy and Management, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
2008 - 2009  Research Associate, Chang Gung University, Taiwan
2006-07 & 2009  Research Associate, National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan

Education
2015  Ph.D., Health Services Research, Policy & Administration (with an emphasis on Health Decision Science), University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
2006  MHA, Healthcare Management, Chang Gung University
2004  B.A. Healthcare Management, Taipei Medical University

Research Interests
Health Service Research
Economic Evaluation
Decision Analysis
Cost-effectiveness Analysis
Comparative Effectiveness Research

Professional Affiliations
Society of Medical Decision Making
Drissa Toure, MD, PhD, MPH
BRIDGE TO CARE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY CLINICAL RESEARCH/GRADUATE LECTURER
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Professional Summary
2010 – Present Community Clinical Research Coordinator, University of Nebraska Medical Center – College of Public Health, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Omaha, NE
2005 Intern, White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA/SM), Washington, DC
1998 – 2001 Medical Doctor, Founding Board Member, Medical Clinic ‘DEFI SANTE’, Bamako, Mali
1996 – 1998 Resident, University Hospital of Gabriel Touré, Trauma Intensive Care Unit, Bamako, Mali

Education
Ph.D. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research (Maternal, Child Health Epidemiology emphasis), University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health Omaha, NE
MPH Specialization in Maternal and Child Health, School of Public Health and Health Services, The George Washington University
MD Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry of Mali

Research Interests
Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology
Racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and child health
Prevention of poor pregnancy outcomes and neonatal mortality
Identification and prevention of maternal and infant mortality in developing countries
Epigenetics and pregnancy outcomes
**Professional Affiliations**
American Association of Public Health  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Teacher of Maternal and Child Health Global Voices for Maternal Health Survey  
Directors of Omaha Area Health Education (AHEC), Board Member  
2017 Douglas County Health Department Fetal Infant and Mortality Review, Team Member

**Honors and Awards**
Dr. Toure was the recipient of COPH July 2017 Chancellor’s Council Silver ‘U’ Award: Recognizes UNMC’s top performers whose daily contributions or special achievements help meet UNMC’s mission
Maria Teel
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE II
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Professional Summary
Although a Baltimore, Maryland native, Maria has called Omaha, Nebraska home for over 25 years. Her background is inclusive of many roles in Human Services, Customer Service and Marketing. Helping others is at the core of everything Maria strives to do, making her a great addition to the Center for Reducing Health Disparities team and an advocate for reducing disparities in our community. Maria serves as a member of Omaha 360 and the Black Family Health & Wellness Association and currently is working on future projects with Kaneko to disseminate research in a creative format.
Natalia Trinidad, BS
OUTREACH PROJECT SPECIALIST
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Professional Summary
2014 - Present  Outreach Project Associate, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Omaha, NE
2013 - 2015  Manufacturing Technologist I, American Red Cross, Omaha, NE
2012-2013  QC Analyst I, Novartis Consumer Health, Inc., Lincoln, NE
2011-2012  Chemistry Technician, Novartis Consumer Health, Inc., Lincoln, NE

Education
2019 (Expected Graduation)  MPH in Epidemiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2011  BS in Biology with a Minor in Business Administration, Creighton University, Omaha, NE

Research Interests
Prevention of underage drinking
Tobacco control and prevention
Community engagement and outreach
Racial and ethnic health disparities
Healthy public spaces, recreations areas, and parks

Professional Affiliations
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition
Kandy Do, MPH
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT
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Professional Summary
2015 – 2017 Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Education
2017 MPH Public Health Administration, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2015 B.S. Nutrition Science, minors: Psychology, Chemistry, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Research Interests
Hospital Administration
Healthcare Access
Public Health Integration
Refugee Health
Patient Safety and Quality Satisfaction
Health Disparities and Equity

Professional Affiliations
American Public Health Association
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Ashvita Garg, MBBS, MPH
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Professional Summary
2016 – Present  Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2016  Research Assistant, Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health Department, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2015 – 2016  Research Assistant, Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2014  Research Assistant, Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health Department, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Education
2017  MPH Health Promotion, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2013  Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Manipal College of Medical Sciences, Nepal

Research Interests
Public Health Disparities
Health Equity
Health Promotion
Chronic Disease Prevention

Professional Affiliations
American Public Health Association
Professional Summary
2016 – Present  Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2015 – 2016 Adjunct Professor, School of Criminology/Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha.
2015 – 2016 Adjunct Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Creighton University.
2003 – 2011 Police Officer, Omaha Police Department
1995 – 2003 Police Officer, Lincoln Police Department

Education
2018 (Expected graduation), Ph.D. Student, College of Public Health, Department of Health Promotion, Social Behavioral Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2015 Certificate in Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2014 MA, Criminology, University of Nebraska at Omaha
2012 MLA, Liberal Arts (Social Sciences), University of Chicago
2011 BS, Legal Studies, Bellevue University

Research Interests
Sexual victimization among children
Sexual offending
Youth violence and prevention

Professional Affiliations
American Public Health Association
American Society of Criminology
Sexual Offense Policy Research
Melissa Leon, MPH, BS
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
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Professional Summary
Present  Health Data Analyst, Center for Advanced Surgical Technology, Department of Surgery, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2016 – 2017  Co-investigator, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2013 – Present  Research Assistant, Rural Health Education Network, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2014 – 2015  Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Trainee, Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

Education
2016  MPH Community-Oriented Primary Care, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2010  B.S. Food Science and Human Nutrition with a Minor in Packaging Engineering, University of Florida

Research Interests
Racial and ethnic health disparities
Intercultural communication and cultural competency
Latino health initiatives

Professional Affiliations
American Public Health Association
Maria Mushi, BA
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
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Professional Summary
2017 – Present  Community Research Assistance, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2007 – 2010  Corps Member, AmeriCorps, University of Missouri Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri

Education
2017 – Present  MPH Health Promotion, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2015 – 2017  Certificate in Public Health Sciences, Colorado School of Public Health, University of Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, Denver, CO
2007 – 2012  Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, University of Missouri Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri

Research Interests
HIV/AIDS and malaria
Infectious diseases
Community health promotion

Professional Affiliations
American Public Health Association
Professional Summary
2017 – Current  Graduate Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2017  Graduate Assistant Department of Health Promotion, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2016 – 2017  Health Promotion TA, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health
2016 – 2017  Mentor for the undergraduate public health workshop
2014  Nutrition assistant for HIV positive infant project at Chantal Biya foundation (Hospital) ANRS/CAMEROON
2011 – 2014  Research assistant on the project "Assessment of lipodystrophy and metabolic disorders among African HIV-infected patients on second line therapy in Senegal, Burkina-Faso and Cameroon" entitle METABODY STUDY at ANRS–Cameroon (Central Hospital of Yaoundé)
2011 – 2013  Research assistant on the project "Evaluation of three second-line antiretroviral treatment regimens in Africa (Senegal, Burkina-Faso and Cameroon) entitle 2LADY STUDY at the ANRS–Cameroon (Central Hospital of Yaoundé). Sub project: evaluation of the socio-economical cost of HIV infection on patient
2009 – 2010  Research assistant on the project "Assessment of nutritional status and metabolic disorders among urban women, Yaoundé–Cameroon" at the Research Centre in Nutrition and Foods, Ministry of scientific research and innovation, Cameroon.

Education
Current  PhD student in Health Promotion
2017  Master in Public Health (Maternal and Child Health)
2010  Master with thesis: Major Nutrition and Biochemistry, University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon
2006  BSc in Biochemistry, University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon
**Research Interests**
Programs evaluation in early childhood development
Early cognitive stimulation of preschool children in developing country
Evaluating the impact of integrated programs (integrating nutrition and early stimulation or education programs)
Evaluating tools (effectiveness and adaptation by country, and culture)
Sustainability of interventions focused on early childhood development (long terms training, staffing, financial sustainability, economic benefits, short, medium and long-term impact)
Cognitive development of vulnerable children
Role of fathers and family structure on child development at the early stage
Parent mental health and child development
Double burden of malnutrition in developing country and the impact in early childhood development.

**Professional Affiliations**
Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN)
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Fulbright Alumni
UN Standing Committee on Nutrition
Jessica Wiens, BA  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
Center for Reducing Health Disparities  
College of Public Health  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
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Professional Summary  
2017 – Present  Research Assistant Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE  
2016  Health Outreach Volunteer, Peace Corps – Mozambique

Education  
2017  MPH Health Promotion Candidate, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE  
2016  B.A. Psychology, Creighton University, Omaha, NE

Research Interests  
Racial and ethnic health disparities  
Community based participatory research  
Refugee and humanitarian health  
Health literacy and healthcare access  
Cultural competence and health policy

Professional Affiliations  
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Contact Us

The Center is always happy to discuss the efforts that we are making in the community and how to develop and create effective partnerships, programs, and initiatives to meet community needs. We would love to work with you and/or answer any questions that you may have. Please feel free to contact us.

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