

## Stempel Research Scholarship 2019-2020 Projects

Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work

Name of project:	Project Investigator Name:	Contact information: - FIU Email	Contact information: - Phone	Please select the school or department you are affiliated with:	Where will the student perform the project (location)?	Topic/Research Area:	Desired qualifications:	Duties/Responsibilities
Development and Pilot Testing of the Snackability Smartphone Application to Identify Healthy and Unhealthy Snacks	Cristina Palacios	cristina.palacios@fiu.edu	305-348-3235	Dietetics & Nutrition	AHC5 - Room 323	<p>The "Snackability" app is currently being developed in collaboration between the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, Stempel College and School of Computing and Information Sciences at FIU through the VIP program.</p> <p>The aims of this project are:</p> <p>(1) Develop an app to provide a simple output informing how healthy the snack is by assigning a score and gamification based on how compliant it is to the USDA guideline for healthy snacks;</p> <p>(2) Evaluate the app's feasibility, usability, satisfaction, and acceptability among college age students by using focus groups.</p> <p>(3) Test the effectiveness of the app on improving snack quality intake, diet quality and weight among college age students.</p>	<p>Responsible person</p> <p>Good at working with others</p> <p>Good communicator</p> <p>Basic skills with handling data</p> <p>Well organized and planning ahead</p>	<p>Help recruit participants</p> <p>Help conduct interviews</p> <p>Help follow-up participants</p> <p>Help do anthropometric assessments (weight, height, waist circumference). There will be training on this.</p> <p>Help enter and analyze data.</p>
Intervention to promote physical activation and improve sleep and feeding practices in infants for preventing obesity early in life (The Baby-Act Trial)	Cristina Palacios	cristina.palacios@fiu.edu	305-348-3235	Dietetics & Nutrition	AHC 5 - 323	<p>Our goal is to test the clinical effectiveness of a multi-faceted and multi-leveled intervention focusing on three main areas: physical activity (i.e., infant activation, sleep and screen time), nutrition and growth monitoring, delivered through the WIC Program using a multi-media approach. For this, we are conducting a cluster-randomized controlled trial among pregnant women participants of the Puerto Rico WIC (PR-WIC) program. An equal number of clinics are being randomized to the control (usual care) arm or to the WIC+ (usual care + intervention) arm in the San Juan area. The lifestyle intervention will focus on age-appropriate infant physical activation, healthy sleep and limiting screen time, healthy dietary patterns and growth monitoring. The content will be delivered with a multi-media approach (web-platform, mobile messages and phone follow-up). Participation in the intervention will begin in the last trimester of pregnancy and continue until the infant is 12 months old. We will determine the extent to which the intervention may impact adequate weight gain, infant activity and nutrition from birth to 12 months of age compared to the control arm.</p>	<p>Responsible person</p> <p>Good at working with others</p> <p>Good communicator</p> <p>Basic skills with handling data</p> <p>Well organized and planning ahead</p>	<p>Help with the intervention development</p> <p>Help with data entry and data analysis</p>
Transgender Health Assessment in Broward County	Kristopher Fennie	kfennie@fiu.edu	305-348-4545	Public Health: Epidemiology	On campus, Broward Department of Health, various community health sites	<p>This is a community based participatory research project in which the Broward Department of Health, FIU, and members of the transgender community are doing an assessment to evaluate the health care needs and issues in the transgender community. Part 1 is a qualitative study to look at issues specific to transmen and transwomen in different ethnic and cultural communities. Part 2 is a broad based quantitative survey of the transgender community.</p>	<p>Desired qualifications include any of the following: (i) experience working in the community setting, (ii) qualitative research experience, (iii) interviewing experience, (iv) basic computer skills, (v) data management skills.</p> <p>Women of color, Spanish speaking, and sexual minorities are encouraged to apply.</p>	<p>Serve as a research assistant. Depending on the strengths and experience of the applicant, duties and responsibilities will be adjusted. Three main areas of responsibilities include (i) helping with data collection and management (qualitative and quantitative); (ii) possible interviewing (quantitative aspect), help with focus groups (note taker); (iii) recruitment (methods depend on suggestions from community advisory board); (iv) help with analyses if appropriately trained.</p>

Women-Centered HIV Care	Mary Jo Trepka, MD, MS	mtrepkam@fiu.edu	305 348 7186	Public Health: Epidemiology	MMC, AHC 5 Room 487	This project is part of a larger project to improve HIV care outcomes among women living with HIV in Miami-Dade County. The purpose of this part of the project is to ascertain current and potential health care provider and system women-centered HIV care practices that may mitigate the effect of adverse sociocultural factors on HIV care retention and antiretroviral therapy adherence. This part of the project is to analyze data from in-depth interviews of health care providers and women in the Ryan White Program.	Fluency in Haitian Creole OR Spanish (We are looking for a student with fluency in English and either Creole or Spanish) Must be able to listen to tapes of Spanish or Haitian Creole speakers and type in Spanish OR Haitian Creole Must be able to listen to tapes of interviews of English speakers and type them in English Strong writing skills in English	Perform literature reviews Transcribe interviews Translate transcriptions from Spanish to English or Haitian Creole to English Analyze qualitative data (We will train you in how to do this) Prepare tables and figures in Microsoft Word/Excel/Powerpoint Assist in publication preparation (there will be at least one publication and one presentation from this project that the student will be a coauthor on).
Young Latino gay and bisexual men with HIV project	Diana M. Sheehan	dsheehan@fiu.edu	305-348-8068	Public Health: Epidemiology	AHC5	This health disparities project will be embedded within a recently funded National Institutes of Health (NIH) study that examines HIV care and treatment among young Latino men who have sex with men. The study uses smartphone and electronic pill dispenser technology to assess medication adherence among Latinos living with HIV. It also uses Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to collect information about the places where this population lives, works, and plays. The selected student will have the opportunity to collaborate and be a co-author on at least 1 publication and 1 abstract to a scientific conference related to HIV care and treatment, Latino health, and health disparities.	'- Fluent in Spanish (speaking, reading and writing) - Comfortable working with people living with HIV	'- Assist with managing and cleaning data collected via smartphones and electronic pill dispensers - Assist with managing and cleaning GPS data - Assist with participant recruitment efforts - Assist with transcribing and coding qualitative data from in-depth interviews ** Based on these responsibilities and contributions to the study, the student will have the opportunity to collaborate on and be a co-author on at least 1 publication and 1 abstract to a scientific conference**
FIU Partnership for Preventing Health Risks among Youth	Staci Leon Morris	morrisl@fiu.edu	305-348-5613	Social Work	MMC AHC-5 #539	The major goal of this project is to provide a solid foundation for delivering sustainable, high quality, accessible, state of the science substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, and viral hepatitis (VH) prevention services to Hispanic young adults in Miami-Dade.	Motivated and reliable; interested in sexual health outreach; can work independently and as part of a team. Must be available on Wednesdays 10:30-4 and special events to be announced.	Tabling and outreach promoting safe sex practices and HIV/STD testing. Testing lab receptionist. Consenting research study participants. Data entry and other research opportunities possible.
Investigating mental and physical health and functioning in individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders	Shanna L. Burke	sburke@fiu.edu	305-348-7462	Social Work	Remote and AHC5	This series of projects examines core symptoms that are often associated with autism spectrum disorders and other neurodevelopmental disabilities, neurological issues, systemic issues, and related disorders using behavioral, clinical, and MRI data.	Excellent writing skills as evidenced by writing samples Curiosity Interest in the population Strong interpersonal skills	Writing literature reviews Interacting with research participants Assisting with on-campus study activities In-person activities will occur during 8-5 so an ability to be on campus during those times (not everyday; schedule can flex around class schedule) is essential
Psychosocial risk factors for Alzheimer's disease	Shanna L. Burke	sburke@fiu.edu	305-348-7462	Social Work	AHC5	Psychosocial risk and protective factors for Alzheimer's disease	Excellent writing skills as evidenced by writing samples Curiosity Interest in Alzheimer's disease Strong interpersonal skills Previous experience reading and synthesizing the peer-reviewed literature	Writing literature reviews Preliminary data analysis Assisting with on-campus study activities In-person activities will occur during 8-5 so an ability to be on campus during those times (not everyday; schedule can flex around class schedule) is essential

Autophagy and zinc	Juan Liuzzi	jliuzzi@fiu.edu	305-348-1611	Dietetics & Nutrition	OE267	Zinc is an essential nutrient that plays an important role in the regulation of autophagy, a key mechanism in the prevention of alcoholic and non-alcoholic fatty liver and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. The focus of our project is to analyze the molecular mechanism by which zinc regulates autophagy using "in vitro" models.	Background in Biochemistry and Nutrition.	Run assays in the lab, analyze databases (NHANES, GEO, dbGAP) and help prepare manuscripts.
A Mind-Body Intervention for Older People Living with HIV	Gladys Ibanez	gibanez@fiu.edu	305-348-4920	Public Health: Epidemiology	Research office at Borinquen Medical Center (Midtown area)	This is a NIH-funded 3 year research project to develop and pilot test an intervention that targets older people living with HIV. The project will conduct a mind-body intervention (qigong/tai chi) group, and two control conditions (a sham qigong group and a standard of care group). The aim of the study is to show that a mind-body intervention is acceptable and feasible to conduct for people living with HIV; and the second aim is to determine whether a mind-body intervention can reduce the physical and psychological symptoms that older people living with HIV experience.	Good communication skills and good interpersonal skills. Previous interviewing experience desirable but not required. Bilingual (Eng/Spa) preferred.	Students will assist the study research coordinator by doing the following: 1. interviewing study participants (training will be provided) 2. Screening and enrolling participants into the study 3. Making weekly phone calls and contacting study participants. 4. Help in setting up and preparing for weekly group sessions with participants.
Economic evaluation of health programs	Weiwei Chen	wechen@fiu.edu	305-348-8418	Public Health: Health Policy Management	at home	Health policy and economic evaluation	1. Have strong quantitative skills. 2. Be familiar with the US health system and healthcare in Florida	1. Collect and organize data for the analysis 2. Conduct data analysis under guidance
Cohort Studies in HIV/AIDS	Marianna K Baum	baumm@fiu.edu	305-348-2888	Dietetics & Nutrition	Either in the clinic interviewing participants or in the laboratory performing laboratory assays	HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, liver disease, HIV/AIDS comorbidities	Superior grades. For the clinic, no prior experience is required. For the laboratory, some previous laboratory experience is preferred.	1) In the clinic interview participants using standard questionnaires and enter responses into Redcap. 2) make reminder phone calls for participants appointments. 3) Assist in abstracting medical information from medical charts. 4) Assist with blood processing the laboratory (after training). 5) Assist with blood assays in the laboratory (after training).