

GMaP REGION 3 MEMBER PROFILES

GMaP Region 3 Members



Joseph K. Agyin, PhD
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
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Dr. Agyin joined the Department of Cellular & Structural Biology at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio in September 2002 and is currently an Assistant Professor. The main interest of Dr. Agyin's laboratory is the design and synthesis of small molecules for drug discovery purposes.

Dr. Agyin is a member of the GMaP Region 4 Communication and Dissemination Committee.

His current research focus is on the development of bone-targeted drugs as potential treatments for multiple myeloma and its associated bone disease. The three projects his lab is currently pursuing are on proteasome inhibitors, 2-methoxyestradiol analogs, and bone-targeted nitric oxide donors.

Dr. Agyin also has expertise in equity valuation, capital asset pricing model, valuation of options, futures, and other derivatives, venture capital, portfolio management, and managerial accounting. Dr. Agyin was a recipient of an AACR Minority-Serving Institution faculty Scholar Award (2006 and 2007), and an AACR Minority Scholar Award (2005).

Dr. Agyin completed his PhD in Chemistry at Purdue University in 1996. He completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Cancer Therapy and Research Centers Medicinal Chemistry at the Institute for Drug Development and was later promoted to Assistant member. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Ghana and a Master of Science in Chemistry at Western Michigan University. In 2008 he completed an MBA in Business at Duke University.



Oluwatoyin A. Asojo, PhD
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Dr. Asojo is Associate Professor Pediatrics-Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, Director of Undergraduate Education Initiatives at the National School of Tropical Medicine, as well as researcher at the Sabin Vaccine Institute Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development.

Dr. Asojo is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Evaluation Committee.

Dr. Asojo is a protein crystallographer and her research interests include structure based drug design as well as characterizing structures and functions of proteins from neglected tropical diseases, multidrug resistant cancer and pathogenic bacteria. Dr. Asojo is committed to STEM education and coordinates a summer research internship for high-school students funded by the American Chemical society's Project SEED. Dr. Asojo has won numerous awards, including Visiting Professorship at CAPES-Fiocruz /CDTS in Brazil; University of Nebraska at Omaha Woman of Color Award - Science & Technology; Gladys Pearson fellowship in pediatric cancer; AACR-MICR award; Keystone Symposia scholarship; and an NCI-NIH K01 Career development award.

Most recently, Dr. Asojo was Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, UNMC (2005 -2012), Research Assistant Professor and Manager of the X-ray Crystallography Core facility at the Eppley Cancer Institute at UNMC (2003 - 2005). Prior to that, she was a Staff Scientist at Tibotec Rockville Maryland and research fellow at the National Cancer Institute Frederick Maryland.

Dr. Asojo earned her Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Houston (1999) and Bachelors of Science degrees in both chemistry (with honors 1993) and economics (1992) at Trent University in Ontario, Canada.



Janis E. Campbell, PhD
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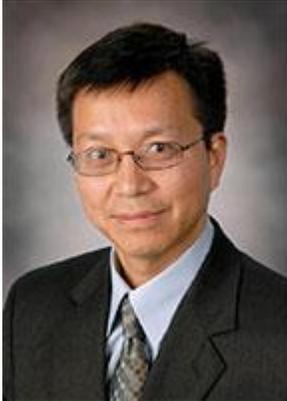
Dr. Campbell is currently an Assistant Professor of Research in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. She is focused on culturally tailored interventions for smoking cessation.

Dr. Campbell is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Evaluation Committee.

Her current projects include: University of Oklahoma Community Networks Project (NIH/NCI): This study sought to reduce cancer health disparities by establishing and supporting a collaborative network involving the University of Oklahoma Cancer Center, the Oklahoma State Health Department, the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Conference of Black Mayors. University of Oklahoma Community Networks Native Nurse Navigator (NIH/NCI): The University of Oklahoma Community Networks Program (OUCNP) created a new

Patient Navigator for American Indian patients referred to the University of Oklahoma Medical Center (OUMC) for abnormal indications that may lead to a diagnosis of cancer or for treatment with a diagnosis of cancer. The University of Kansas Tailored Smoking Cessation for American Indians: This study is the first controlled trial to examine the efficacy of a culturally-tailored smoking cessation program for AI/ANs, All Nations Breath of Life (ANBL). ANBL is group-based and is culturally-sensitive in all program components. It recognizes the sacred role of tobacco among many AI/ANs and how culture affects smoking cessation among AI/AN, while still addressing recreational smoking.

Dr. Campbell graduated summa cum laude receiving a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma. She completed a Master of Arts and then a PhD at University of Oklahoma.



Yidong Chen, PhD
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Dr. Chen is the Director of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (CBBI) and Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. He specializes in bioinformatics, computational modeling and biostatistics in the area of gene expression, DNA copy number, SNP and other data analysis method development.

Dr. Chen is a member of the GMaP Region 4 Evaluation Committee.

During the past 14 years of research, since the beginning of microarray technology, he has been able to develop cutting-edge technologies to handle the data that scientists produce as they elucidate the links between genes and cancer. CBBI is of the leaders at the forefront of developing computational intensive analysis tools in UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, and it provides cutting edge technology, the knowledge of genomic data sets in development around the world, a role in experiment designs, and the synergies from collaboration between computational and experimental biology. Dr. Chen focuses on finding ways to help scientists analyze and visualize their ever-expanding data with increasingly complex statistical methods, diverse computational implementation, specialized experiment design involved in genomic experiments, such as the joint analysis with DNA copy number and gene expression profiling of breast cancer cell lines by using the high-resolution tiling-path microarray technology.

Before he joined National Institutes of Health (NIH) at 1996, he was with Hewlett Packard Co as a Research Engineer. At NIH, Dr. Chen joined microarray technology development effort at National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), as a Special Expert, Staff Scientist, and later Associate Investigator for microarray image, statistical analysis, and bioinformatics. From 2006-2008 he joined Genetics branch at National Cancer Institute (NCI) as a staff scientist. During his 13-year period with NHGRI and NCI, he contributed about 90 peer reviewed publications and book chapters.

Dr. Yidong Chen received his BS/MS degrees in Electrical Engineering from Fudan University, Shanghai, China, and Ph.D. in Imaging Science from Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY.



Virmarie Correa-Fernandez, PhD
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Dr. Correa-Fernández is an Instructor in the Department of Health Disparities Research (HDR) at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC). Dr. Correa-Fernández's research has focused on understanding health behavior change among diverse underserved populations, with a specific focus on smoking cessation and at-risk drinking.

Dr. Correa-Fernández is a member of the GMaP Region 4 Communication and Dissemination Committee. She is a FY 13-14 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.

Dr. Correa-Fernández's research has focused on understanding health behavior change among diverse underserved populations, with a specific focus on smoking cessation and at-risk drinking. She is interested in elucidating the psychosocial mechanisms and treatment response related to smoking cessation among individuals with mental health disorders (e.g. depression, anxiety). In the long term, she aims at investigating the efficacy of evidence-based treatments for the co-morbidity of tobacco dependence with non-nicotine substance use disorders and other mental health problems; and to inform, develop, evaluate and disseminate culturally competent interventions for Latino smokers with these comorbidities. She is also interested in understanding and promoting the participation of Latinos in clinical trials and behavioral research studies.

In 2005, Dr. Correa-Fernández joined the U54 Partnership for Excellence in Cancer Research between MDACC and the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center. She successfully applied for a CURE Diversity Supplement to the NCI Cancer Education and Career Development Program at MDACC, which funded her postdoctoral fellowship. Currently, she is co-investigator of a research study examining sociocultural determinants of modifiable cancer risk behaviors among Latinos. She has been trained in Motivational Interviewing and certified as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist.

Dr. Correa-Fernández completed a postdoctoral fellowship at MDACC. She received her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Carlos Albizu University, Puerto Rico (PR), in October 2003



Ana Paula Cupertino, PhD
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Dr. Cupertino is an assistant professor in the Department of Preventative Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Cupertino has been the University of Kansas Medical Center's (KUMC) most visible and outspoken advocate for addressing health disparities in the Latino community since 2005. Her critical role in this effort was publically recognized in 2011, when she was asked by the Executive Vice Chancellor of KUMC to direct the *JUNTOS* Center for Advancing Latino Health.

Dr. Cupertino currently serves as the GMaP Region 4 Chair of the Communication and Dissemination Committee and is a member of the Internal Coordinating Committee.

Dr. Cupertino has conducted extensive research on health disparity issues both here in the United States, Mexico and in Brazil. Dr. Cupertino has had an active role in several NIH and CDC funded projects in community-based participatory research, cancer prevention, tobacco cessation and prevention among rural smokers and Latinos, the reduction of health disparities among Latinos, immigrant health, and e-health initiatives that employ computer kiosks and telemedicine. She has experience in the design of electronic tools to enhance health communication, including: www.juntosks.org, a bilingual kiosk to support smoking cessation (*Decidete*) and a regional diabetes resource site (*Juntos Controllamos la Diabetes*).

Her passion is evident in her active engagement in a number of organizations and coalitions that promote health in Latino communities throughout Kansas. She represented KUMC on the Strategic Planning Taskforce for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment - Center for Health Disparities and was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Kansas Hispanic Latino Affairs Commission. She has represented Kansas at national and international meetings that included strategic planning efforts between the Department of Health and Human Services and the government of Mexico. As director of *JUNTOS*, Dr. Cupertino established an agreement with the Consulate of Mexico in Kansas City in which *JUNTOS* serves as the fiscal agent to initiate *Ventanilla de Salud* activities in the state of Kansas.

Dr. Cupertino completed her PhD in Human Development at the University of California, Davis. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at the Universidade Federal- Brazil and completed a Master of Arts in Social Psychology at the Universidade de Brasilia-Brazil. She also completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Kansas Medical Center.



Barbara Damron, PhD, RN, FAAN
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Dr. Damron is an Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico (UNM) College of Nursing, with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nursing and Health Policy Collaboration doctoral program at the UNM College of Nursing. She has 30 years of oncology nursing experience and over fifteen years of experience as a psychologist.

Dr. Damron is a member of the GMaP Region 4 Communication and Dissemination Committee.

Dr. Damron chairs doctoral and master's students' research committees and mentors undergraduate honors students through the research process. She also developed and is Director of the Office of Community Partnerships and Cancer Health Disparities, at the University of New Mexico Cancer Center. Dr. Damron also conducts community based participatory research through her office, and is currently funded by the National Cancer Institute, UNM Institutional Grants, and private foundations. Currently, Dr. Damron is also serving as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Institute of Medicine/American Political Science Association Congressional Health Policy Fellow.

Dr. Damron's research and professional areas of expertise include: policies related to cancer screening and biospecimen collection, cancer health disparities, community educational interventions, communication, quality of life, side effect management, and barriers to cancer screening. Her doctoral research addressed the issue of effective communication between cancer patients and health care professionals. She currently is conducting research that facilitates screening for breast cancer.

She received her BSN from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and her MSN from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She completed a PhD in Educational Psychology, with an emphasis on social/personality/developmental psychology applied to oncology, from the University of Texas at Austin.



Bisrat G. Debeb, DVM, PhD
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Dr. Bisrat Debeb is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. A native of Ethiopia, Dr. Debeb received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree with high honors from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia in 1999. He completed his Masters degree in 2005 at Tuskegee University Tuskegee, Alabama and obtained his PhD degree in 2008 from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Thereafter, Dr. Debeb joined The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as a postdoctoral fellow and was appointed Assistant Professor at the Department of Radiation Oncology-Research in 2011.

Dr. Debeb leads several projects on translational breast cancer research with a goal to translate laboratory findings to the clinic to reduce mortality in patients with metastatic breast cancer (with a particular focus on inflammatory breast cancer). Initially, Dr. Debeb's research focus was to understand the role of breast cancer stem cells in mediating therapy resistance and disease recurrence, and to investigate cancer cell dedifferentiation/plasticity in breast cancer progression and metastasis. Most recently, Dr. Debeb developed novel brain metastases preclinical mouse models from HER2-positive and triple-negative inflammatory breast cancer cells and identified miR-141 as a key regulator of metastatic colonization to the brain. Dr. Debeb received grant awards including an R21 from the NIH/NCI to identify the molecular drivers of brain metastases towards developing novel targeted strategies to prevent and treat breast cancer brain metastases.



Babalola Faseru, MD, MPH
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Dr. Faseru is an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Preventive Medicine & Public Health (primary) and the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He is also the Consultant Medical Epidemiologist for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Health Promotion.

Dr. Faseru is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Faculty Recruitment and Job Placement Committee.

Babalola's current funding comes from NIH and ACS and his primary research area is in cancer prevention and control, with a focus on nicotine dependence and smoking cessation in both clinical and community-based settings. His study populations include African Americans (KIS studies), American Indians (TCTABS) and hospitalized patients (UKANQUIT, EQUIP and 2KanQuit). He is also an international Consultant for Tobacco Control in Nigeria (UIACS).

Dr. Faseru obtained his medical degree from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria and Masters of Public Health from the University of Kuopio, Finland with a Cancer Research Fellowship from WHO IARC Lyon, France.



Maria E. Fernandez, PhD
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Dr. María Fernández is an Associate Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center, School of Public Health (UTSPH). Her research focuses on cancer prevention and control among low-income and minority populations, development and evaluation of lay health worker delivered interventions, and applying interactive communication technology to health promotion, and dissemination and implementation research.

Dr. Fernández currently serves as the GMaP Region 4 co-Chair of the Faculty Recruitment and Job Placement Committee and is a member of the Internal Coordinating Committee.

Dr. Fernández is also the Associate Director for the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research (CHPPR) at UTSPH. She is the Principal Investigator (PI) of the National Cancer Institute-funded Community Networks Program Center (CNPC) Latinos Contra El Cancer, which aims to reduce the cancer burden among Hispanics in Texas by using community-based participatory research. In addition, Dr. Fernández is the PI of several grants funded by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), including a study that is the first to develop and test culturally appropriate and tailored materials to increase HPV vaccination among Hispanics with low literacy skills, and a program developed to increase breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening and HPV vaccination among underserved Texas by connecting low income 2-1-1 callers to screening and prevention services. She is an Associate Editor for the journal Health Education and Behavior and a member of the NIH Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health study section.

Dr. Fernández has extensive experience with the development and evaluation of health promotion interventions for Mexican Americans and other Hispanic groups. She has developed several tailored, theory- and evidence-based cancer control programs using technology to improve health communication and health promotion for low-income and minority populations. She is the P.I. for LINCC – Latinos in a Network for Cancer Control – a Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN) in Texas, funded by the CDC that focuses on accelerating the use of evidence-based cancer control in Hispanic communities.



Bertha "Penny" Flores, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC
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Dr. Flores is an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, School of Nursing. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston. Dr. Flores received her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin with a focus on women's health and geriatric portfolio. Her research interests are cancer prevention, health literacy, culture and language among Hispanic women. She received the prestigious John A. Hartford Scholarship (09-11) and the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Center for Excellence on Health Disparities STAR Fellowship (13-14). She has presented her research findings at local, national and international conferences.

Dr. Flores is a FY 14-15 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.



Kip Gallion, MA

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Mr. Gallion is an accomplished health communications producer and researcher with vast experience in program development and analysis. Over the years, he's performed media production and coordination for many health groups and research teams in Houston and San Antonio. His work to promote cancer control, diabetes risk and tobacco cessation has been recognized in scientific literature and lauded with media industry awards. At the IHPR, he assists the director as the Deputy Director, Dr. Ramirez, in daily operations and oversees various research projects and their print, radio, TV and social media components.

Mr. Gallion is the co-PI of GMaP Region 4.



Curtis Henry, Ph.D.

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Dr. Curtis J. Henry received his B.S. in Molecular Biology from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in 2003 and his Ph.D. in Immunology from Wake Forest University in 2008. Dr. Henry then joined Dr. James DeGregori at the University of Colorado AMC as a postdoctoral fellow and was promoted to Research Instructor in 2012. He currently focuses on understanding the impact of age on hematopoiesis and how these aging-associated alterations promote leukemia. Dr. Henry believes that the only way to successfully combat the vast malignancies we face is to have an equally diverse group of individuals tackling critical scientific issues.



Chris Hensley
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Hensley completed his undergraduate studies at Rice University. His current thesis work is centered on the concept of metabolic heterogeneity and its implications for metabolic imaging and therapy in human cancer. In particular, he wants to understand 1) how oncogenotypes in non-small cell lung cancer affect the metabolism of these tumors *in vivo*; and b) whether the use of advanced techniques in MRI that can map regional differences in hypoxia and altered perfusion can simultaneously inform respective alterations in cellular metabolism. As an MSTP trainee, he will be returning to 3rd year medical school. He plans to pursue a residency and postdoctoral training, and eventually pursue a position as a primary investigator. He would like to further explore the fields of metabolism, imaging, and their intersections.



Juell Homco, MPH
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Mrs. Homco is the lead epidemiologist in the Department of Medical Informatics at the University Of Oklahoma School Of Community Medicine. In this role, she oversees a wide range of research studies and quality improvement activities. She also serves as the measurement lead for MyHealth Access Network, a regional health

information exchange (HIE). MyHealth is a consortium of hospitals, clinics, payers, universities, and health organizations in Oklahoma with the goal of improving health through the provision of advanced health IT infrastructure and robust analytics.

Mrs. Homco is currently pursuing a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Oklahoma. She is particularly interested in the impact of health information technology on utilization, disease prevention, and overall population health.

Mrs. Homco received her MPH from Saint Louis University with a concentration in epidemiology and biostatistics.



Jessica R. Hyde, MS, CHES
Texas Department of State Health Services
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Jessica Hyde is a Program Specialist at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). She currently works on the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (TCCCP), funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The TCCCP is charged with reducing the cancer burden in Texas by ensuring the implementation of the *Texas Cancer Plan*, especially among racial/ethnic groups and other marginalized populations who experience significant health disparities, as well as those with disproportionately high rates of tobacco use.

Jessica is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and holds a Master of Science in Health Sciences degree and a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of Texas at Tyler. During her graduate studies, she developed a thesis project on the cancer-related health communication needs of Hispanics residing in Northeast Texas. She also worked with the local health department to plan a regional tobacco prevention and cessation campaign entitled “Clear the Air,” which is currently being implemented in DSHS Health Service Region 4/5N.



Amanda E. Janitz, PhD, MPH, BSN
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Dr. Janitz recently completed her PhD in Epidemiology with a focus on childhood cancers. Her dissertation focused on the association between congenital anomalies and any childhood cancer and the association between air

pollution and childhood acute leukemia. After graduating in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, she worked as a pediatric oncology nurse. In 2007, she began pursuing a Master of Public Health in the College of Public Health. During this program, she studied the etiology and survival of three select childhood cancers and worked with Susan G. Komen for the Cure on their 2009 Community Profile. Upon graduation, she worked as a Research Nurse in pediatric oncology. She then returned to the University of Oklahoma in 2010 with a goal of completing the doctoral program and contributing to cancer research in Oklahoma. Since returning, she has coordinated Komen's 2011 Community Profile, taught the Principles of Epidemiology course, collaborated with the Oklahoma Tribal Epidemiology Center, and worked on several other projects in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. She currently works for the Region VI Public Health Training Center and the Southwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center.



Anita Y. Kinney, PhD, RN
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Dr. Kinney joined the University of New Mexico faculty in 2013. As the University of New Mexico Cancer Center's Associate Director of Cancer Control and Population Sciences and Carolyn R. Surface Endowed Chair in Cancer Population Sciences, Dr. Kinney leads efforts aimed at addressing the cancer burden in their catchment area thru basic and applied research and outreach.

Dr. Kinney is a member of the GMaP Region 4 Communication and Dissemination Committee.

With over 30 years of experience in cancer care and prevention research, she has led or collaborated in numerous studies focusing on determinants of cancer, patient-reported outcomes and randomized trials involving individuals and families at increased risk for cancer and cancer survivors. Her overarching research goal is to understand variation in cancer risk, determinants of risk and outcomes, and to use this information to develop effective interventions that facilitate informed decision making and positive changes in health behaviors and cancer survivorship. She has considerable experience studying these issues in socially and geographically underserved populations. She has published widely and currently holds several grants from the National Cancer Institute.

After earning a master's degree in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, she earned a PhD degree in epidemiology from the University of Texas School of Public Health. Dr. Kinney completed a postdoctoral research fellowship from the National Cancer Institute-funded in cancer control and epidemiology at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Misti K. Knight PhD, LAT
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Misti K. Knight PhD, LAT, Associate Professor of Health and Wellness at Paul Quinn College, began her employment with the college in the Fall of 2013. She received the Ph.D. in Kinesiology with a focus in Sport Management from Texas Woman's University in May of 2012. Prior to obtaining her Ph.D., she received her M.S. in Kinesiology from The University of North Texas and a B.S. in Exercise and Sport Studies from Tarleton State University. Misti has experience teaching and mentoring students in the fields of athletic training, sport management and kinesiology. Additionally, she has had the opportunity to develop program curriculum for online and traditional degree programs throughout her career. Her research specifically focuses on the burnout experienced by athletic trainers in the athletic training profession, through out the NCAA. Additionally, she is interested in researching the health and wellness of college student's at Minority Serving Institutions. She holds license in Athletic Training from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Prior to pursuing a career in academia, she spent ten years employed as an athletic trainer at various institutions, most notably Children's Medical Center of Dallas.



Rajkumar Lakshmanaswamy, PhD
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Dr. Lakshmanaswamy is an associate professor of biomedical sciences at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) at El Paso. He is also interim associate dean for research, interim associate dean for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and interim chair for the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Lakshmanaswamy is a member of the GMaP Region 4 Evaluation Committee.

Dr. Lakshmanaswamy's contributions to cancer research are reflected as author or coauthor of several scientific publications in journals and book chapters. His interest in breast cancer research has earned him research funding from different agencies. One of his major research interests is addressing the most prevalent cancers that affect the local Hispanic population.

From 2000 to 2002, he held the position of specialist in the Department of Molecular Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, California. Later, from 2002-2004, he held the position of research endocrinologist at the same institution. He joined TTUHSC in 2004 as an assistant professor. He has been at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine as the Basic Science Research Director since 2009.

Dr. Lakshmanaswamy received his doctoral degree in 1999 from the University of Madras, Chennai, India. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the Cancer Research Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, California, from 1997 to 2000.



Crystal Lumpkins, PhD
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Dr. Crystal Y. Lumpkins, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in the Family Medicine Research Division and also is a voluntary faculty member at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications in Lawrence, Kansas. The focus of her research is to investigate the impact of religion and spirituality on health behavior outcome via various public health communication processes and messaging.

Dr. Lumpkins is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Communication and Dissemination Committee.

Her research is primarily community driven where she is following community based participatory research principles and approaches to engage Kansas and Missouri communities in the research process to address cancer and other health disparities. She is currently Principal Investigator of a 5-year National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute cancer communication study where she is working with faith-based organizations to evaluate the efficacy of church-based communication and how this impacts colorectal cancer screening behavior among African Americans. In addition to her research, she mentors and teaches graduate and undergraduate students and is actively involved with service projects in the Lawrence, Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri areas.

Dr. Lumpkins received her doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2007. Her current and primary research interest is in cancer communication, specifically breast and colorectal cancer risk and prevention communication targeted to minority and underserved populations



Scherezade Mama, DrPH
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Scherezade Mama, DrPH, is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Health Disparities Research at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Mama's research interests are in understanding physical activity adoption in adults using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Dr. Mama's research uses an ecologic approach to explore correlates of physical activity in women and ethnic minorities, with a focus on psychosocial factors related to physical activity adoption and maintenance in an effort to promote health and reduce health disparities. Dr. Mama is a FY 14-15 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.



Cynthia M. Mojica, PhD
Institute for Health Promotion Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
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Dr. Mojica is an Assistant Professor at the Institute for Health Promotion Research, department of epidemiology and biostatistics, school of medicine at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. Her work focuses on Latino cancer health disparities, namely to improve cancer screening rates and improve diagnostic follow-up.

Dr. Mojica is a member of the GMaP Region 4 Evaluation Committee.

Dr. Mojica has vast experience in the design and implementation of community- and clinic-based interventions on chronic diseases, screening, and obesity among Latinos.

Dr. Mojica's expertise includes Cancer screening and diagnostic follow-up; community and clinic-based intervention development and evaluation; contextual/neighborhood effects on cancer outcomes; ethnic minority and underserved populations and obesity prevention.

Dr. Mojica completed her PhD in Health Services at The University of California, Los Angeles. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences at the University of California Davis. She then completed a Master of Public Health at the University of California Los Angeles.



Daisy Y. Morales-Campos, PhD
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Morales-Campos, who joined the IHPR in September 2009, is a bilingual/bicultural researcher with experience developing and implementing community-based interventions among Hispanics. She is involved in several IHPR research studies, including *Enlace*, a culturally tailored intervention to increase Latinas' physical activity, and *Salud San Antonio!*, which promotes breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening among local Latinas.



Dana Mowls, MPH
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Dana Mowls is currently pursuing a doctorate in epidemiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Dana works as a graduate research assistant under her mentor, Dr. Laura Beebe. Dana works on an array of projects, such as mapping electronic cigarette/vapor shops and creating health indicator reports, all of which allow her to pursue her research interests in the field of epidemiology with regards to understanding and eliminating disparities in tobacco-related morbidity and mortality.

Dana grew up in Ohio where she obtained a BS at The Ohio State University and a MPH at Kent State University. Currently, Dana is exploring gender and race-specific trends in lung cancer incidence rates to understand the impact of anti-tobacco efforts and to identify at-risk populations. As a result of this research, Dana has become highly interested in the largely unexplained lung cancer gap between African Americans and whites. Dana also has a position with a bench science lab, where she studies molecular alterations in head and neck tumors with special attention on the implications of nicotine and tobacco exposure.

Dana's overarching career goal is to contribute to research and practice that works to eliminate disparities in tobacco-related morbidity and mortality. She anticipates her dissertation research to involve the study of nicotine exposure on molecular processes, with nicotine concentrations similar to the levels in NRT and/or electronic

cigarettes. In the future, Dana hopes to hold a position in academia so that she can engage in research, teaching, and mentoring opportunities.



Amar Natarajan, PhD
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Dr. Natarajan is a medicinal chemist and his laboratory is focused on developing small molecule inhibitors against post translationally modified disease relevant targets. Students and postdoctoral fellows in Dr. Natarajan's laboratory work on projects at the interface of chemistry and biology. Dr. Natarajan is a strong proponent of exposure to practical scientific education very early in a student's career. His laboratory actively participates in summer research internships for high-school students supported by the American Chemical Society SEED program and for undergraduates through the SURP program.

Dr. Natarajan earned his bachelors and masters degrees in chemistry from India and his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Vermont, Burlington VT (2001). After a postdoctoral stint at Harvard Medical School (2001-2005) Dr. Natarajan started his independent career as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston TX. In 2009 Dr. Natarajan was recruited as an Associate Professor to the Eppley Institute for Cancer Research, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha NE.



Florence Ndikum-Moffor, PhD, MPH
University of Kansas Medical Center-MOVED
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Dr. Ndikum-Moffor is a Research Instructor at the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Her recent research engagements have been on behavioral science, cancer screening, and health equity, with particular focus on cancer prevention and control from a population perspective.

Dr. Lumpkins is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Communication and Dissemination Committee.

She has applied qualitative and quantitative research methods to assess mammography satisfaction among AI/AN women, and managed several health disparities research and community projects. She recently was awarded a Diversity Supplement grant by NCI to assess knowledge of hereditary breast-ovarian cancer and interest in genetic testing among African American women, and is interested in future research to determine if access to genetic counseling/cancer risk assessment services for women with breast-ovarian cancer would influence treatment choices and outcomes.

She joined the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at KUMC in 2010 as a Postdoctoral Fellow and Program Manager on a P20 project to assess mammography satisfaction and experiences among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women. Dr. Ndikum-Moffor is passionate about promoting breast and cervical health among African immigrant/refugee women; she coordinates breast and cervical cancer education and screening days funded by and in partnership with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, KC Affiliate, Office on Women's Health, and the Early Detection Works Program of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Originally from Cameroon, Dr. Ndikum-Moffor obtained her PhD from the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL in Animal Science – with concentration in Animal Molecular and Cell Biology. After her doctorate, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Environmental and Human Toxicology at the University of Florida, and later worked in the pharmaceutical industry for several years. In 2009, Dr. Ndikum-Moffor obtained a MPH from the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), and embarked on a career change.



Frances Nedjat-Haiem, PhD, LCSW
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Nedjat-Haiem's interests center on the intersection between health and behavioral health in end-of-life care, specifically for vulnerable populations experiencing psychosocial distress and barriers to cancer care. She is currently a tenure track Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at New Mexico State University. As a licensed clinical social worker, she has specialized in the medical field, with experience working in hospitals and out-patient clinical settings for the past 13 years. This work has informed her research trajectory and helped me to build a strong knowledge base for evidence-based practices with seriously ill older adults, their family members, and health care providers. Nedjat-Haiem has a special interest in improving the quality of end-of-life care and advance care planning for older, vulnerable, low income and rural patients. For example, she has conducted research with seriously ill, Spanish speaking Latinos as well as older military veterans. Although these groups are at increased risk for negative behavioral and health outcomes, there is a paucity of research and interventions developed with their beliefs and values in mind, especially in palliative oncology. Therefore, her research portfolio has focused on addressing this gap.



Tomas Nuño, PhD
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Dr. Nuño is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Arizona Cancer Center. His research is investigating clinical, economic, and quality of life outcomes and assessing disparities among underserved populations, including racial ethnic minorities and rural populations.

Dr. Nuño is involved with GMaP as the Region 4 Co-chair of the Communication and Dissemination Committee and is a member of the Internal Coordinating Committee. He is also involved with the Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools (HSHPS) as a 2013-2014 Health Services Research Scholar.

In 2012, Dr. Nuño was awarded a 3-year National Cancer Institute (NCI) Centers to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) Administrative Research Grant to be conducted as part of the University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC) R25T Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC) Translational Research Training Program.

His dissertation research explored breast and cervical cancer screening among rural-dwelling Hispanic and American Indian women in Arizona. A key part of his research was the evaluation of a community-based, randomized controlled trial that assessed a promotora-administered intervention to promote breast and cervical cancer screening in a rural community along the U.S.-Mexico border. Upon completion of his doctorate, Dr. Nuño was selected for a postdoctoral fellowship with the Arizona Area Health Education Center-funded Clinical Outcomes and Comparative Effectiveness Research (COCER) Academic Fellowship Program. The goal of the fellowship program was to provide training in clinical outcomes and comparative effectiveness research, with a specific focus on primary care for rural and underserved patients, families, and communities in Arizona and its interface with specialty and tertiary care.

Dr. Nuño completed his PhD in Epidemiology in August 2011 at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH).



Mary O'Connell, PhD

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Dr. O'Connell is a Distinguished Achievement Professor and a Regents Professor in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, at New Mexico State University. Her interests include plant secondary metabolism and drought and disease resistances.

Dr. O'Connell currently serves as the GMaP Region 4 Chair of the Evaluation Committee and is a member of the Internal Coordinating Committee. Dr. O'Connell was also the Principal Investigator for BMaP Region 4.

Over the past 28 years she has developed research programs on plant secondary products including extraction and analysis for drug discovery as well as gene expression and regulation of complex pathways of "nutraceuticals" with an emphasis on chile. She directs the NIH NCI Partnership for the Advancement of Cancer Research: NMSU & Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, which has been an active partnership since 2002.

Dr. O'Connell earned her BS in biology at the College of Mt. St. Vincent in New York, her PhD in biochemistry at the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Cornell University and completed post-docs at University of California San Diego and University of Virginia.



Babatunde "Kay" Oyajobi, MBBS, PhD, MBA
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Dr. Oyajobi is an Associate Professor in the department of Cellular & Structural Biology with cross appointments in the departments of Medicine and Molecular Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Dr. Oyajobi currently serves as the GMaP Region 4 Chair of the Faculty Recruitment and Job Placement Committee and is a member of the Internal Coordinating Committee.

Dr. Oyajobi's research focuses on cancers that affect the skeleton such as multiple myeloma that is twice as common in blacks as in white Caucasians and Asians, with the difference in incidence rates evident across genders. The overall goal of his research is to better understand the pathobiology of multiple myeloma and other cancers metastatic to the skeleton (such as breast and prostate cancers) and to translate insights gained into novel therapeutic strategies that will benefit patients with cancer-induced bone diseases.

Dr. Oyajobi's interests also include career development and research training for underrepresented minorities at all levels. He is co-PI of the NCI-funded Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (T32) Institutional Training Grant, PI of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)-funded institutional Cancer Research Training Program, both of which support training of pre- and postdoctoral trainees and in particular trainees from populations underrepresented in biomedical sciences.

Dr. Oyajobi is one of the PIs of a NIGMS-funded R25 Bridge-to-the-Doctorate grant that supports and prepares underrepresented minority post-baccalaureate students to be competitive for admission to top-tier doctoral programs. He is also one of the PIs of a NIGMS-funded K12 Institutional Research and Career Development Award (IRACDA) that supports postdoctoral trainees to obtain training in research and teaching concurrently.

Dr. Oyajobi received his medical degree with distinction in pathology from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He also has a MS in Clinical Biochemistry from the University of Leeds and a PhD in Human Metabolism and Clinical Biochemistry from the University of Sheffield, both in the U.K. He completed several post-doctoral fellowships in England, France and the U.S. before being appointed on the faculty at UTHSCSA. Most recently, he completed a MBA at the University of Texas at Austin.



Malaney O'Connell
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After graduating from Crane High School as the Valedictorian in 2007, Malaney was accepted into the Honor's program at McMurry University. She began research training and developed a thesis project on the physiological significance of over-expression of steroid sulfatase in breast tissues of Abilene women. To obtain additional research skills, she was accepted as a student intern by TTHSC/Receptor Logic. After graduation with her BS in Biochemistry, she was offered a position at Receptor Logic as a research associate. In the fall of 2011, Malaney was recruited to the PhD program at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Currently Malaney is studying the differential expression of isoforms of cancer stem cell marker, DCLK1, in colon carcinogenesis and the development of diagnostic, prognostic, and treatment strategies.

Malaney is a FY 14-15 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.



Amelie Ramirez, PhD
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Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, an internationally recognized cancer and chronic disease health disparities and communications researcher, is a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where she also is founding director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research, which researches health disparities. Over the past 30 years, Dr. Ramirez has directed many research programs focused on human and organizational communication to reduce chronic disease and cancer health disparities affecting Latinos, including cancer risk factors and genetics, clinical trial accrual, tobacco prevention and cessation, obesity prevention, and more.

Dr. Ramirez is the director of GMaP Region 4.

All Dr. Ramirez' projects are theory-based, quasi-experimental, and focused on cancer, chronic disease, and/or obesity prevention. These projects have led to unique health communication models and interventions that have contributed to increased access to care, preventive screening rates, and healthy behavior changes. Dr. Ramirez is a pioneer of the theory-based "dual-link" communication model, which combines behavioral journalism techniques pushed through mass media (peer modeling) and the creation of culturally relevant peer models in the community to build local networks and reinforce mass media messages (peer reinforcement). Dr. Ramirez directs two national research networks, one funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to target Latino cancer through research, training, and education (*Redes En Acción*, www.redesenaccion.org), and one funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to target Latino childhood obesity through evidence-based research, field-building, and community engagement and empowerment for healthy change (*Salud America!*, www.salud-america.org). For *Redes*, she led: the publishing of a Latino cancer research agenda; funding of 18 grantees to study cancer in Latino communities; collaboration on more \$200 million in multi-site research grants, one that found that navigation can reduce Latinas' times to diagnosis and treatment; mentoring of hundreds of Hispanic students and minority researchers; and 2,000+ outreach events and published bilingual stories, videos and educational materials. For *Salud America!*, she led: producing e-communications and videos with the latest in Latino childhood obesity news, research, funding, and events; developed the first-ever Latino Childhood Obesity Research Priority Agenda; funded 20 grantee researchers who leveraged \$1.5 million in *Salud America!* funding into more than \$30 million in new research funding; developed the Policy Contribution Spectra, an evidence-based model that visually illustrates, defines, and measures the process of policy contribution; published a special supplement to inform the research field; and launched the *Salud America! Growing Healthy Change* website to give people the policies/resources/stories to spur healthy change (<http://www.communitycommons.org/salud-america/>).

Dr. Ramirez has two endowments to support her research and that of the IHPR—the Dielmann Chair in Health Disparities Research and Community Outreach and the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Endowed Chair in Cancer Healthcare Disparities and Outreach at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC), the Health Science Center's National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center. She also is Associate Director for Cancer Prevention and Health Disparities at the CTRC, where she oversees program development, translational research, cancer surveillance data, recruitment, and minority outreach and trial accrual.

Dr. Ramirez is a leader in social media as director of the SaludToday social media campaign for Latino health. The SaludToday blog (www.saludtoday.com/blog) and associated Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube pages combine Dr. Ramirez' internal research and communications—evidence-based, culturally tailored educational videos, articles, newsletters, and websites—along with externally curated news to promote health among Latinos. By sheer number of followers, SaludToday has an extremely broad reach via its blog (15,000+ subscribers), Twitter page (6,300+ followers), Facebook page (1,000+ fans), and YouTube channel (61,000+ video views). SaludToday has won more than a dozen Web Health Awards and reached content-sharing agreements with national media outlets and other bloggers, serving as a model for health organizations to increase their outreach with minimal cost and staff time.

Dr. Ramirez also understands the great need for mentorship programs and diversity in the research field. She has personally trained and/or mentored over 200 Hispanic undergraduate and pre- and post-doctoral students, as well as early-career faculty members, instructing about research design, methods, data analysis, and career development. Many of her trainees have achieved high profile and broad-reaching independent success, including K01 awards. She also directs *Éxito! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training*, an NCI-funded project to train and encourage Latino master's-level students and professionals to pursue a doctoral degree and cancer research career. Since 2011, more than 20% of *Éxito!* participants have been accepted into doctoral programs.

Dr. Ramirez has authored many peer-reviewed articles, is an editorial board member on several prestigious journals, including *Health Education Research*, and is frequently invited to speak at scientific meetings. She has been recognized for her work in public health and health disparities research and advancing Latinos in medicine, public health, and behavioral sciences across the U.S., including: 2011 White House “Champion of Change”; 2011 director-at-large of the American Society of Preventive Oncology (ASPO); 2007 election to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies; 2007 Professor of Survivorship from Susan G. Komen For the Cure; 2003 Humanitarian Award from the American Cancer Society; and the 1996 Sarah Mazelis Award for Health Promotion from the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Ramirez received a B.S. from the University of Houston and her M.P.H. and Dr.P.H. degrees from the University of Texas Health Science Center at the Houston School of Public Health.

Read her blog at www.saludtoday.com/blog.



Rebecca Adeigbe, MS
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Rebecca Adeigbe is a project coordinator at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio’s Institute for Health Promotion Research. She currently coordinates the *Exitó! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training* program funded by the National Cancer Institute and the *Salud America! Research Network to Prevent Obesity Among Latino Children* funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Rebecca is also a second year doctoral student at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) working on her Ph.D. in applied demography, as part of the school of public policy. She has a master’s in health and kinesiology with a concentration in community health and a bachelor’s in exercise physiology from UTSA.

For the past five years, Rebecca has researched Latino health disparities and has transitioned her work to begin focusing on measuring and explaining the structural determinants of Latino health in three primary domains: (1) cancer survivorship; (2) cancer prevalence and incidence; and (3) obesity. Her primary career goal is to reduce the burden of cancer and disease among Latinos by researching, explaining and providing policy recommendations that promote health equity.



Susana Ramirez, PhD
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A. Susana Ramirez is an Assistant Professor of Public Health Communication at the University of California in Merced. Her research employs mixed methods to understand the multiple levels of communication influence on health behaviors and to reduce cancer-related health disparities among Latino populations. Dr. Ramirez research seeks to understand the social, cultural, and environmental factors that affect health behaviors and then develop, implement, and evaluate multi-level interventions to improve those behaviors. She is particularly interested in primary prevention of cancer through lifestyle-related behavior change, including diet and physical activity, as well as environmental exposure (e.g., air pollution) and secondary prevention strategies (e.g., cancer screening). Her published research has examined the development of and effectiveness of culturally tailored messages for Latina populations, knowledge and beliefs about cancer risk factors, and health information seeking behaviors.

Dr. Ramirez completed a Cancer Prevention Fellowship (postdoctoral) in the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. Dr. Ramirez earned a PhD in Communication from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Santa Clara University. Dr. Ramirez is a FY 14-15 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.



Erik J. Rodriguez, PhD, MPH
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Dr. Rodriguez is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of California San Francisco. He has planned and conducted observational research on cigarette smoking among minorities using data from nationwide studies.

Dr. Rodriguez is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Faculty Recruitment and Job Placement Committee.

Dr. Rodriguez's Investigations include 1) assessing the role of unhealthy behaviors, such as cigarette smoking, in the relationship between chronic environmental stress and depressive symptoms for Latinos and African Americans compared to Whites 2) describing the changes in cigarette consumption nationwide from 1997 to 2010 among Latinos compared to non-Latino Whites, and 3) assessing the 6 and 12 month outcomes of an internet-based smoking cessation intervention among Latinos residing in the U.S. Future work will involve analyzing tobacco use biomarker data to establish optimal levels of urinary total NNAL and serum cotinine for varying levels of cigarette smoking by racial and ethnic group and individual Latino national ancestry group, respectively.

His interests include tobacco use among U.S. minority groups including Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans and emerging tobacco use patterns such as light and non-daily cigarette smoking and products such as electronic cigarettes.

Dr. Rodriguez received his Bachelor of Science in Health Science at California State University, Fresno. He received a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology and Health Administration from Loma Linda University. He then received a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of California Davis.



Aaron Rowland, PhD
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Dr. Aaron Rowland is an Assistant Professor at New Mexico State University. Dr. Rowland's interests are in elucidating the physiological and pathophysiological significance of orphan cytochrome P450's (CYPs).

Dr. Rowland is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Faculty Recruitment and Job Placement Committee. He is also a FY 13-14 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.

CYPs are drug metabolism enzymes responsible for the metabolic conversion of approximately 75% of exogenous chemicals. Of the 57 known human enzymes, roughly 25% are considered orphans with no known physiological function. His laboratory is interested in understanding the physiological significance of the orphan, CYP2S1, and its potential role in lung carcinogenesis. Specifically, they evaluate the impact of altered CYP2S1 expression and function, via polymorphic variants, on shifts in endogenous metabolic pathways within human bronchial epithelial cells.

Dr. Rowland has a current NIH funded research project called "Bioactive Lipids in lung Carcinogenesis: A Modulatory Role for CYP2S1".

Dr. Rowland received a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from New Mexico State University. He then completed Post-Baccalaureate Research in Bethesda, MD and went on to complete a PhD in Pharmacology at the University of Utah in 2005. In 2008 he completed a Postdoc in Pulmonary Toxicology at the University of Utah.



Bodour Salhia, PhD
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Dr. Salhia is an Assistant Professor at the department of the Integrated Cancer Genomics Division of the Translational Genomics Research Institute.

Dr. Salhia is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Evaluation Committee. She is also a FY 13-14 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.

Dr. Salhia's specific research goal for her Epigenetics project is to characterize chromatin modifying genes commonly altered in cancer, which can then become targets of drug discovery and future epigenetic therapy to reverse the epigenetic modifications that inappropriately turned genes on or off in cancer cells. Multiple Myeloma, a cancer originating from plasma cells in bone marrow, is one of our cancers of focus for this study. Goals for her Breast Cancer Metastasis projects are: 1) to perform multi-omic analysis of breast cancer brain and bone metastasis; 2) identification of predictive DNA methylation biomarkers of metastasis; and 3) the development of preclinical models brain and bone metastasis for personalized mouse genomic studies and testing new therapies.

Dr. Salhia received her Honors Bachelor of Science Degree (1998) in Biological Sciences from the University of Toronto. She pursued graduate studies in Molecular and Cellular Biology with a focus on brain tumors and obtained a Master of Health Sciences (2001) and a Ph.D. (2006) from the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumor Research Center, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto.



Sandra San Miguel, MS
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Mrs. San Miguel is a Research Instructor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She coordinates projects targeting Latino cancer health disparities and survivorship, including patient navigation and *promotora* interventions.

San Miguel is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Communication and Dissemination Committee.

Her interests include the psychosocial effects of cancer on Hispanic/Latino cancer survivors and their families, health promotion, prevention, breast cancer genetic testing, participation of H/L in clinical trials, patient navigation and the utilization of community health workers as agents for behavioral change and community outreach, patient provider communication, cancer survivorship, cultural competence, the impact of immigration and acculturation on health and disease outcomes, mental health, and bridging the educational and medical gap between H/L and the mainstream population.

She is especially involved in testing patient navigation and/or promotora models in improving cancer screening rates and quality of life among Latinos. Her current research includes: Improving Quality of Life Among Hispanic/Latino Breast, Colorectal and Prostate Cancer Survivors: A Randomized Control Trial of Patient Navigators Using the LIVESTRONG Cancer Navigation Services Program & *Promotores de Salud*: A National Program.



Isabel Schlaepfer, PhD
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Isabel Schlaepfer was born in Madrid, Spain and attended the Universidad Complutense and the Universidad de Navarra in Pamplona, where she graduated with a degree in Biochemistry. She joined the University of Colorado AMC in 1992 in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes, where she worked as a PRA for over a decade on lipid metabolism and genetics. She obtained her PhD from the Department of Integrative Physiology in 2008 plus a certificate in Behavioral Genetics from IBG in Boulder. In 2012 she joined the Department of Pharmacology in Denver as an Instructor. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Division of Medical Oncology, genitourinary cancer program, at the University of Colorado.

Dr. Schlaepfer's research goal is to use her genetics and molecular and lipid metabolism training and apply it to investigate the fuel pathways used by cancer cells to grow and survive current anti-cancer treatments. The main aspect of her research is the investigation of lipid and glucose metabolism in prostate cancer cells. Specifically, she is interested in using clinically safe drugs from the cardiovascular/obesity field to image and elucidate prostate cancer metabolic weaknesses that can be exploited in the clinic for more effective combinatorial therapies.

Dr. Schlaepfer is a FY13-14 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.



Arun Sreekumar, PhD
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Dr. Sreekumar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Sreekumar's research interests are in the areas of biomarker discovery and understanding pathway alterations during cancer development and progression.

Dr. Sreekumar is a member of the GMaP Region 4 Evaluation Committee.

His work involves the use of high throughput metabolomics platforms as well as system's based data integration using bioinformatic tools. His metabolomic projects are funded by RO1 and UO1 from NCI as well as funds from Susan Komen Foundation, CPRIT, Department of Defense and Alkek Foundation. The bioinformatics initiative is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

In the area of metabolomics, Dr. Sreekumar's goal is develop multiplex metabolomic markers and biochemical pathways to study cancer development and progression. He was the lead author in paper on metabolomic profiling of prostate cancer that was published in Nature. He has since established an unbiased mass spectrometry-based metabolomic profiling platform to interrogate tumor metabolite. He is currently studying the metabolomic alterations in breast and bladder tumors as an extension of his earlier work on prostate. The workflow incorporates metabolomic evaluation of patient specimens, delineation of class-specific metabolic profiles, functional validation of pathways using invitroa and invivo model systems of the disease and development of non-invasive multiplex metabolic markers for detection and prognosis. In addition, Dr. Sreekumar is also developing informatics tools to integrate matched OMICS datasets to study cancer progression from a systems perspective.

Dr. Sreekumar completed Post-doctoral training at the University of Michigan School, Ann Arbor and received a PhD at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India.



Patricia Thompson, PhD

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Dr. Thompson is an associate professor of cellular and molecular medicine at the University Of Arizona College of Medicine and leads the UACC's Cancer Prevention and Control program.

Dr. Thompson is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Faculty Recruitment and Job Placement Committee.

After she completed her PhD program, Dr. Thompson accepted a position with the National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson, Ark., where she trained in a new program for combining molecular biology with epidemiology (the branch of medical science that deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of diseases). Her work there led to an eventual collaboration with the CPC group at The University of Arizona Cancer Center.

She completed her training in Arkansas, and she accepted a faculty position at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston in 1999. Dr. Thompson took over as the CPC director in November 2011 from Elena Martínez, PhD, who recently relocated to the University of San Diego, Calif., and Peter Lance, MD, who is now the UACC Chief Cancer Control Officer.

Dr. Thompson completed her undergraduate work at Angelo State University in her hometown of San Angelo, Texas, before moving on to the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio, where she earned her PhD in microbiology and immunology.



Rose A. Treviño-Whitaker, MPH
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Treviño-Whitaker is a Project Coordinator in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas (UTHSCSA). Treviño-Whitaker, who joined the IHPR in December 2009 from MD Anderson, has been involved with several of the institute's projects and has over 5 years' experience in behavioral science, health promotion, interventions, biostatistics and epidemiology, which has been applied to study planning, research design and coordination, database management and data analysis, poster and manuscript development. Treviño-Whitaker coordinates the Region 4 Geographic Management Program (GMaP) for the IHPR.

Treviño-Whitaker received her Bachelors of Science at Texas A&M University and most recently completed her MPH at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health. Treviño-Whitaker coordinated the Region 4 Geographic Management Program (GMaP) for the IHPR.



Karen Triff
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Karen Triff is a Research Associate in her final year as a PhD candidate in Molecular Biology at Texas A&M University. Her doctoral work and current publications focus on colon cancer and the chemoprotective effects of bioactive compounds found in fish oil and fermentable fiber. Her current research with nutritionally derived molecules aims to provide novel approaches for treatment of cancer without the toxicity of chemotherapy. Karen's findings have also been presented at national science conferences such as Epigenetics and Chromatin at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, NY and Experimental Biology 2015 in Boston, MA. Her interests include the policies that advance basic biological research and its applications in medicine and other fields, she is a member of the Coalition for Life Sciences and has also gratefully received numerous scholarships and grants from NSC and NIH during her doctoral career.



Kristina Trujillo, PhD
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Dr. Trujillo is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She focuses her work on cancer molecular biology.

Dr. Trujillo currently serves as the GMaP Region 4 co-Chair of the Evaluation Committee and is a member of the Internal Coordinating Committee. She is also a FY 13-14 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.

Dr. Trujillo has received an NCI/R21 Exploratory grant to promote workforce diversity in basic cancer research award to investigate the molecular mechanisms through which these abnormalities affect local recurrence of breast

cancer following lumpectomy surgery. Dr. Trujillo's work has been recognized internationally, as she was invited to speak at the Gordon Research Conference in Barga, Italy in 2012. Her work has also been featured in widely read Newsletters such as "Mammary Cell News", and "MDLinx" and has been featured as a "Research Highlight" in the AACR journal "Molecular Cancer Research".

After completing her PhD in Molecular Biology she changed fields from plant molecular biology to cancer molecular biology. She was a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Jeffrey Griffith at the University of New Mexico from 2006-2011 and received an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship. During this time, Dr. Trujillo helped to define molecular abnormalities in histologically normal tissue up to 1 cm from the tumor that likely predisposes this tissue to tumor initiation.

She attended New Mexico State University joining the lab of Reagent's Professor Glenn D. Kuehn in 1999 as a Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) student. She graduated with a BS in microbiology in 2001. She remained in the Kuehn lab at New Mexico State University during graduate school as a Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) student. She studied the molecular mechanisms of polyamine-dependent drought resistance in plants completing her PhD in 2006.



Kelli Valdez, PhD
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Dr. Valdez is a Senior Scientist at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Her primary project is to develop and validate the mouse intraductal model (MIND) of human DCIS by intraductal transplantation of primary human DCIS cells into mice, which will allow for characterization of invasion potential and development of subtype-specific therapies.

Dr. Valdez is an active member of the GMaP Region 4 Faculty Recruitment and Job Placement Committee. She is also a FY 13-14 GMaP Early Career CHD Researcher Scholarship Awardee.

Dr. Valdez's central hypothesis is that there are subtypes of DCIS arising from distinct subpopulations of tumor initiating cells, and that these subpopulations have differing potentials for malignant progression. This hypothesis is based on previous studies using surface markers unique to normal human breast basal and luminal progenitor cells, as well as human breast cancer tumor initiating cells, to isolate and assess their *in vivo* growth and self-renewal potential.

Her specific aims are to 1) demonstrate the stability of the MIND xenograft model by sequential transplantation of human primary DCIS cells; and 2) characterize the signaling pathways, such as Notch, Wnt, Hedgehog, and Bmi-1, potentially involved in growth, self-renewal, and invasion of primary human DCIS cells using the MIND model. This will enable future pathway-focused studies will be extended to the discovery of molecular mechanisms underlying invasive progression in the xenograft lines that we plan to develop from primary human DCIS.



Christine Vinci
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Dr. Vinci is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in the Department of Health Disparities Research. Dr. Vinci's research broadly focuses on cognitive and affective mechanisms (e.g., affect regulation, expectancies, self-efficacy) implicated in the maintenance and treatment of psychopathology, with a focus on substance use disorders and underserved populations. More specifically, her work aims to understand the mechanisms underlying the effects of mindfulness-based strategies on smoking and alcohol use to prevent cancer.



Richard J. Wood, MHA
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Richard Wood is a research coordinator at the University of Texas School of Public Health and a doctoral candidate at the Texas A&M School of Public Health. His current work with the University of Texas focuses on a project titled: Tailored Aid for Communities adapting Tested Interventions for Cancer Control (TACTICC), which is funded by the National Cancer Institute. In his research coordinator role he seeks to increase the capacity of cancer control planners to find, adapt, and implement evidence-based approaches in their communities. Richard's doctoral dissertation topic with Texas A&M is on patient-centered cancer communication and psychosocial health. He has a particular interest in adaptation of evidence-based programs to better fit the needs of disadvantaged groups and eliminate health disparities in cancer survivorship.

He is also an FY2014-2015 GMaP Scholarship Recipient.

