Welcome!

Picture yourself here in our building…
How to Best Participate in this Meeting

• We encourage you to keep your video on, but audio muted.

• Questions should be dropped into Chat.

• At 12:30pm, PhD applicants will be directed to a breakout room. Master’s students will stay in the main room until further direction.

• The main session meeting is being recorded, but not the breakout sessions.
Agenda

• Introduction of Education Team
• Educational Mission
• Student Services and Student Life
• Faculty Panel
• Student/Alumni Panel
• Degree Programs with Q&A (Breakout Sessions)
Epidemiology Education Team

Vice Chair for Education
Samar R. El Khoudary, PhD, MPH, BPharm, Associate Professor

Areas of Emphasis: Cardiovascular & Diabetes Epidemiology; Clinical Trials & Methods; Obesity & Nutritional Epidemiology; Women’s Health Epidemiology

Director, Doctoral Degree Program
Thomas J. Songer, PhD, MPH, MSc, Assistant Professor

Areas of Emphasis: Applied Public Health Epidemiology; Injury Prevention Epidemiology

Director, Master’s Degree Programs
Nancy W. Glynn, PhD, Associate Professor

Areas of Emphasis: Aging Epidemiology; Prevention, Lifestyle & Physical Activity Epidemiology

Student Services Manager & Program Administrator
Lori S. Smith, BA

Student Services Specialist
Amy L. Rhodes, MEd
Educational Program

• Students:
  ➢ 115 Active Students (as of January 2021)
    • 52 MPH and 9 MS
    • 52 PhD and 2 DrPH

• Mission:
  Prepare the next generation of public health leaders through rigorous educational programs
Departmental Faculty

• Faculty
  • 43 primary faculty
  • 8 emeritus faculty
  • 35 secondary faculty
  • 15 adjunct faculty

• Grants
  • 130 active grants
  • 17 new grants, $2.6 million in FY 2020
  • 27 new grants, $5.6 million in FY 2019

• Manuscripts
  • 450-500 published annually
Major Research Areas

- **Reproductive Health**
  - Ideal weight gain in pregnancy
  - Causal inference methods in clinical trials
  - CVD risk and social determinants of birth outcomes
  - Pelvic Inflammatory disease – novel pathogens

- **Cancer**
  - Fatty liver and hepatocellular cancer
  - Microbiome and pancreatic cancer
  - Screening - lung and colon cancer
  - Diet and chemoprevention

- **Cardiovascular Disease**
  - Vascular contributions to dementia
  - Menopausal transition, lipids, and vascular disease
  - Transfusion after MI
  - Subclinical vascular disease

- **Diabetes, Obesity**
  - Pittsburgh Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study
  - Diabetes Complications Trial
  - Lifestyle – novel methods and community intervention
  - Bariatric surgery outcomes

- **Injury**
  - Trauma and emergency care
  - Head injury in kids
  - Trauma Coagulopathy

- **Infectious Disease**
  - Geotemporal and genetic monitoring
  - Hepatitis B Network
  - HIV/TB control in Africa
  - Infectious Disease Modeling
  - Flu and COVID-19 surveillance

- **Neuroepidemiology**
  - Dopamine signaling and mobility
  - Brain and environmental navigation
  - Alzheimer’s disease

- **Environmental Health**
  - Air Pollution and asthma
  - Environmental toxins in early pregnancy
  - PaDOH – fracking and childhood cancer

- **Aging and Longevity**
  - Menopause: long term impact
  - Family Study of Longevity: Multi-omics
  - Muscle aging, body composition and disability
  - Targeting Aging with Metformin (TAME) - clinical trial
**Student Services & Student Life**

**Mission:** Communications, connections, support
- Personalized, student-centered team approach
- Strategic operational process guidance enables students to focus on academics, career goals and enrichment activities

- Epidemiology Student Liaison Committee
- EPI Gives Back
- Student Public Health Epidemic Response Effort (SPHERE)
- Global Health Student Association (GHSA)
- Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)
- School-wide and Departmental Committees
Faculty Panel

Emma Barinas-Mitchell, PhD, Associate Professor

Director, Health Equity Certificate; Director, Ultrasound Research Laboratory; Co-Director, NIH T32 Cardiovascular Epi Training Program

Areas of Emphasis: Cardiovascular & Diabetes Epidemiology; Clinical Trials & Methods; Social Epidemiology & Health Equity; Women’s Health

Anthony Fabio, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor

Co-Chair, Epidemiologists Promoting Equity and Anti-Racism

Areas of Emphasis: Injury Prevention Epidemiology; Social Epidemiology & Health Equity

Adam Santanasto, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor

Areas of Emphasis: Aging Epidemiology; Molecular & Genetic Epidemiology
Student/Alumni Panel

Guy Agostinelli, MPH (April, 2020) – UPMC Strategy Analyst

Kavya Hiryur, Accelerated MPH (expected April, 2021) – Presidential Management Fellows Program, Public Health Analyst, Data Modernization Initiative under the Deputy Director for Public Health Science and Surveillance, Centers for Disease Control

Raj Kumar, PhD, MPH (PhD, 2018) – Postdoctoral Fellow at the Brain Injury Research Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Alexa Meinhardt, MPH (December, 2019) – Preparedness Epidemiologist, Delaware Division of Public Health

Alex Sundermann, MPH, CIC – DrPH student in Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Clinical Research Coordinator, Pitt Microbial Genomic Epidemiology Laboratory, Division of Infectious Diseases; Infection Control Preventionist

Susanna Qiao, ScM, MBBS – PhD student in Epidemiology of Aging; Accelerometry-based metrics to identify performance fatigability in older adults
Master’s and Doctoral Degree Programs
Breakout Sessions
Next Steps

• PhD Applicants
  • Proceed to Breakout Room #1 for your session with Dr. Songer and Lori Smith

• Master’s Applicants
  • Stay in Main Room until dismissed to Breakouts with students/alumni

All applicants can leave the meeting directly from a breakout room. You do not have to return to the main room unless you would like to ask us a question!
Curricula

MPH – 45 credits
21 PPH; 15-17 Epi Core; 9-11 Electives
Internship (200 hrs) & Essay

MS – 45 credits
3 PPH; 28-32 Epi Core; 10-14 Electives
Thesis – original research, 2 oral exams

Degree programs can be completed in minimum 3 terms (See Handout)

Collaboration

Faculty and Student Interaction
- Departmental Seminar; Dean’s Day; Epi Gives Back; Student Liaison Committee

Internships/Research (see Handout)
- Domestic and International
- Student Jobs

Culmination

Our students are difference makers and get top quality jobs (see Handout)
- Recipients of Centers for Disease Control/CSTE Fellowship awardees
- Key positions in State and County Health Departments
- Top researchers at NIH, CDC, FDA, American Red Cross, etc.
- Analysts at influential public and private sector industries including insurance and consulting
- Doctoral programs, medical school, dental school
Master’s Breakout Rooms

Room #2: Master’s Alumni  
Hannah Allen, MPH; Alyson Harding, MPH; Jenna Nelson, MPH

Room #3: Master’s Current Students  
Charlie Mead (MPH); Rosie Benford (MPH)

Room #4: Master’s Current Students  
Taylor Robinson (MPH 4+1); Phoebe Balascio (MS)

Room #5: Master’s Current Students  
Ke’alohi Worthington (MPH); Yi-chuan Yu (MS)

Room #6: Housing/Roommates/General Pitt Questions/Alumni  
Erica Fan, MPH