
Dara Daneen Méndez, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Epidemiology
Interim Director, Center for Health Equity
University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
130 De Soto Street. 5130 Public Health
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
ddm11@pitt.edu
412-648-5664 (office)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 2005-2009 **Ph.D.**
Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Department of Maternal and Child Health
Minor: Epidemiology
Specialization: Social & Perinatal Epidemiology, Health Disparities
Dissertation Research: “The Effects of Institutional Racism, Perceived Discrimination and Maternal Stress on Preterm Birth”
- 2003-2005 **M.P.H.**
Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Department of Maternal and Child Health
Master’s Research: “Neighborhood Characteristics and Racial Differences in Perceived Stress for Pregnant Women”
- 2005 **Interdisciplinary Certificate in Health Disparities**
Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 1998-2002 **BA, magna cum laude**
Spelman College
Major: Sociology and Anthropology, Pre-Medicine
Senior Thesis Research: “External Internalization: An Exploration of Maternal Health, Stress, and Life Events on Pregnancy Outcomes”
-

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Epidemiology; Program Assessment and Evaluation; Geospatial Approaches; Qualitative Approaches; Mixed Methods; Ecological Momentary Assessment; Community-Partnered Research Approaches; Health Inequities; Social Determinants of Health (Racism, Neighborhood Context); Maternal and Child Health (Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes); Women’s Health (Obesity/CVD)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020 Interim Director, Center for Health Equity, Pitt Public Health
- 2014- Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Epidemiology
-Secondary Appointment, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences
-Secondary Appointment (2020), Division of General Internal Medicine, School of Medicine
-Faculty Affiliate, Geoinformatics Laboratory, School of Computing and Information, Pitt

- 2020 Black COVID-19 Health Equity Coalition
ACHD/DHS COVID-19 Task Force
- 2019- Health Equity Editor, *Block Chronicles*
- 2018- Maternal Mortality Review Committee, Pennsylvania
- 2019- UPMC Mortality Review Committee
- 2019- NHLBI/NIH PRIDE Program, Core Faculty Mentor
- 2016- Advisory Board of Directors, Women Engaged (Atlanta, GA)
- 2015- Member (2016- Executive Member and Research Lead) Infant Mortality Collaborative, Allegheny County, PA
- 2012-2013 Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Epidemiology
- 2011-2012 Interdisciplinary Alcohol Research Trainee (T32, NIAAA), University of Pittsburgh, Departments of Psychiatry and Epidemiology; Research Focus: Neighborhood Disadvantage, Alcohol and Food Environments and Disparities Gestational Weight Gain and Loss
- 2009-2011 Kellogg Health Scholar, University of Pittsburgh, Center for Minority Health & Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences; Research Focus: Neighborhoods and Pregnancy Using Concept Mapping Approaches; Institutional Racism and Health; Program Assessment for The Birth Circle
- 2008-2016 Board of Directors, National Women's Health Network (Board Chair, 2012-2015)
- 2008-2009 Ruth K. Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award Fellow, *National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*; Conducted study on "The Effects of Institutional Racism and Residential Segregation on Preterm Birth."
- 2005-2009 Research Consultant, Spirit House of Durham, NC and UNC Dept. of Women's Studies; Lead focus groups and analysis of study examining mother-daughter communication among African American women about sexual and reproductive health.
- 2007-2009 Research Consultant, NC State Center for Health Statistics, NC Birth Defects Monitoring Program: Conduct analyses related to Barriers to Care for Children with Birth Defects in North Carolina
- 2007-2009 Researcher, Grant-writer and Community Activist, Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association and Coalition to End Environmental Racism; Involved in research and partnership-building to address issues of inequality and placement of municipal waste in a historically African American community.
- 2006-2008 Trainee, MCH Epidemiology, UNC Department of Maternal and Child Health; Coursework, scholarship and training in Maternal and Child Health, Perinatal Epidemiology, and Health Disparities.
- 2006-2007 Graduate Research Assistant, UNC School of Public Health Office of Student Affairs; Conducted research and outreach on behalf of the school and to provide public health instruction and opportunities to underrepresented students.

- 2005-2007 Graduate Researcher, UNC Institute of African American Research; Conducted study using oral history and historical document analysis to examine the health of enslaved people in antebellum North Carolina and their living ancestors.
- 2003-2006 Graduate Research Assistant, UNC Program on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health Outcomes; Provided research and evaluation support and assisted with establishing the Centers for Community Research.
- 2005 Qualitative Research Consultant, North Carolina Healthy Start Foundation; Lead focus groups and qualitative analysis of health disparities and infant mortality in North Carolina.
- 2004 NIH Fogarty Minority International Research Trainee, Human Sciences Research Council, Cape Town, South Africa; Conducted a study on mother-to-child transmission of HIV and the effects of the HIV epidemic on educators and the education system in South Africa.
- 2002-2003 Research Assistant, Public/Private Ventures; Managed the summer research internship program and provided research and evaluation support of Children's Futures, a community-based health and family development initiative in Trenton, NJ.
- 2001-2002 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Spelman College; Provided research support on a study examining "gendered-racism" and well-being among African American women.
- 2001 NIH Fogarty Minority International Research Trainee, Department of Child Development, University of West Indies, Jamaica; Led a mentored study on the environmental factors associated with autism.
- 2000 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Purdue University; Led a mentored study on the relationship between experiences of discrimination and the use of complementary and alternative medicine.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING, WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2020 Institutional Equity Training, Yoga Roots on Location (as component of the REACH Initiative)
- 2019 Institutional Mentoring Program Across a Community of Color (IMPACT)
- 2018 NSF Connections in Smart Health Workshop (Peer-reviewed and competitive selection)
- 2018 People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, Undoing Racism
- 2017 Health Equity Training, Joyce James Consulting and Allegheny County Health Department
- 2015-2016 Scholars in Residence Fellowship Program, Academy Health/Aetna Foundation. (Peer-reviewed and competitive selection).
- 2014 Scholar, *Public Health Critical Race Praxis Institute*, Maryland Center for Health Equity, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. This NIMHD-funded training institute (P20MD006737) is a four-day intensive seminar focused on the application of Critical Race Theory and Public Health Critical Race Praxis in public health research. (Peer-reviewed and competitive selection).
- 2014 Trainee and Aetna Foundation Scholarship Awardee, National Institutes of Health mHealth Winter Training Institute and Summit. Gaylord National Resort Hotel; National Harbor, MD. (Peer-reviewed and competitive selection).

PUBLICATIONS

*denotes student or trainee

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Elliott JP, Christian SN, Doong K, Hardy HE, **Méndez DD**, Gary-Webb TL. Pharmacist Involvement in Addressing Public Health Priorities and Community Needs: The Allegheny County Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Project. *Preventing Chronic Disease* (Accepted).
2. Elliott JP, Christian SN, Doong K, Hardy HE, **Méndez DD**, Gary-Webb TL. Pharmacist Involvement in Addressing Public Health Priorities and Community Needs: The Allegheny County Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Project. *Preventing Chronic Disease* (Accepted).
3. Kline C, Chasens E, Bizhanova Z, Sereika S, Buysse D, Imes C, Kariuki J, **Méndez DD**, Cajita M, Rathbun S, and Burke L. The association between sleep health and weight change during a 12-month behavioral weight loss intervention *International Journal of Obesity* (Accepted).
4. Ekeke P, **Méndez DD**, Yanowitz TD, Catov JM. Racial Differences in the Biochemical Effects of Toxic Stress in Pregnancy. *Inter J Envir Res Public Health*. 2020 Sep 23;17(19):E6941. doi: 10.3390/ijerph17196941.
5. **Méndez DD**, Fabio A, Robinson T, Bear T, Keenan E, Schiff M, Gary-Webb T. Green Grocer: Using Spatial Analysis to Identify Areas for a Mobile Food Market. *Progress in Community Health Partnership: Research Education and Action* 2020. 2020;14(1):109-115. doi: 10.1353/cpr.2020.0013. PMID: 32280128.
6. **Méndez DD**, Sander SA, Lai Y, Wallace ML, Rathbun SL, Gary-Webb TL, Davis EM, Burke LE. Ecological Momentary Assessment of Stress, Racism and Other Forms of Discrimination During Pregnancy Using Smartphone Technology. *Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol*. 2020 Sep;34(5):522-531. doi: 10.1111/ppe.12619. Epub 2020 Jan 13. PMID: 31930744.
7. Quinn TD*, Wu F, Mody D, Bushover B, **Méndez DD**, Fabio A. Associations Between Neighborhood Social Cohesion and Physical Activity in the United States, National Health Interview Survey, 2017. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2019;16:190085. DOI:<http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd16.190085external icon>
8. **Méndez DD**, Sanders S, Karimi H, Gharani P, Gary-Webb T, Wallace M, Davis E, Gianakas J, Burke L. Understanding Pregnancy and Postpartum Health Using Ecological Momentary Assessment and Mobile Technology: Protocol for the PMOMS Study. *JMIR Protocols*. 2019 Jun 26; 8(6):e13569.
9. McLemore M, Asiodu I, Crear-Perry J, Davis DA, Drew M, Hardeman RR, **Méndez DD**, Roberts L, Scott KA. Letter to the Editor re: Race, Research, and Women's Health Best Practice Guidelines for Investigators by Luwam Ghidei, MD, Anne Murray, MD, and Janet Singer, MSN, CNM. *Obstetrics and Gynecology Journal* 2019 Aug; 134(2):422-423.
10. Wint K*, Elias T, Méndez G, **Méndez DD**, Gary-Webb T. Experiences of Community Doulas Working with Low-income African American Mothers. *Health Equity* 2019. Apr 8; 3(1): 109-116.
11. **Méndez DD**, Devaughn S, Duell J. The Pregnancy Ecological Momentary Assessment Pilot Study: Applications of Mobile Technology. *Integrative Gynecology Obstetrics J*. 2019; 2(1): 1-6.
12. Raskind IG*, Chapple-McGruder TD, **Méndez DD**, Kramer MR, Liller K, Cilenti D, Wingate MS. MCH workforce capacity: Maximizing opportunities afforded by a changing public health system. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 2019 Jul; 23(7): 979-988.

13. Assibey-Mensah V*, Fabio A, **Méndez DD**, Lee P-C, Roberts JM, Catov JM. Neighbourhood assets and early pregnancy cardiometabolic risk factors. *Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol*. 2019 Jan; 33(1): 79-87. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ppe.12531>
14. Gary-Webb TL, Bear TM, **Méndez DD**, Schiff M, Keenan E, Fabio A. Evaluation of a Mobile Farmer's Market Aimed at Increasing Fruit and Vegetable Consumption in Food Deserts: A Pilot Study to Determine Evaluation Feasibility. *Health Equity* 2018; 2(1): 375-383.
15. Imes CC, Zheng Y, **Méndez DD**, Rockette-Wagner B, Mattos MK, Goode RW, Sereika SM, Burke LE. Group-based trajectory analysis of physical activity change in a U.S. weight loss intervention. *J Phys Act Health*. 2018 Nov 1; 15(11): 840-846.
16. Kline C, Burke L, Zheng Y, Sereika S, Imes C, **Méndez DD**, Rockette-Wagner B, Stollo P, Rathbun S, Chasens E. Bidirectional relationships between weight change and sleep apnea in a behavioral weight loss intervention. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. 2018; 93(9): 1290-1298.
17. Liller K, Chapple-McGruder T, Castrucci B, Wingate MS, Hilson R, **Méndez DD**, Cilenti D, Raskind I. An Examination of the Perceived Importance and Skills Related to Policies and Policy Making among State Public Health Injury Prevention Staff. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*. 2018 Jan/Feb; 24(1): 75-80.
18. Goode RW*, Styn MA, **Méndez DD**, Gary-Webb T. African-Americans in Standard Behavioral Treatment for Obesity, 2001-2015: What have we learned. *Western Journal of Nursing*. 2017 Aug; [epub 2017 Feb 1]. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0193945917692115>.
19. Burke LE, Shiffman S, Music E, Styn MA, Kriska A, Smailagic A, Siewiorek D, Ewing LJ, Chasens E, French B, Mancino J, **Méndez DD**, Stollo P, Rathbun SL. Ecological Momentary Assessment in Behavioral Research: Addressing Technological and Human Subject Challenges. *J Med Internet Res*. 2017 Mar 15; 19(3): e77. DOI:10.2196/jmir.7138.
20. **Méndez DD**, Thorpe R, Amutah N, Davis E, Walker R, Chapple-McGruder T, Bodnar L. Neighborhood racial composition and poverty in association with pre-pregnancy weight and gestational weight gain. *Social Science and Medicine- Population Health*. 2016 Dec. 2: 692-699.
21. **Méndez DD**, Gary-Webb T, Fabio A, Goode R, Zheng Y, Imes C, Duell J, Burke LE. Neighborhood factors and six-month weight change among overweight individuals in a weight loss intervention. *Preventive Medicine Reports*. 2016 Oct; 4: 569-573.
22. **Méndez DD**, Kim KH, Hardaway C, Fabio A. Neighborhood racial and socioeconomic disparities in the food and alcohol environment: Are there differences by commercial data sources? *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. 2016; 3(1): 108-116.
23. **Méndez DD**, Duell J, Reiser S, Martin D, Gradeck R, Fabio A. A methodology for combining multiple commercial data sources to improve measurement of the food and alcohol environment: applications of geographical information systems. *Geospatial Health*. 2014; 9(1): 71-96.
24. **Méndez DD**, Burke J, Jones J, Salter C. Perspectives from community-based doulas and mothers: Neighborhood context and pregnancy. *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice*. 2014; 7(4): 91-106.
25. Cassell C, Strassle P, **Méndez DD**, Lee KA, Krohmer A, Meyer R, Strauss R. Barriers to Care for Children with Orofacial Clefts in North Carolina. *Birth Defects Research (Part A)*. 2014;100(11): 837-47.

26. **Méndez DD**, Hogan VK, Culhane JF. Institutional racism, neighborhood factors, stress, and preterm birth. *Ethnicity and Health*. 2014;19(5):479-99. Epub Oct 18 2013.
27. **Méndez DD**, Doebler DA, Kim K, Amutah NN, Fabio A, Bodnar LM. Neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage and gestational weight gain and loss. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 2014 Jul;18(5):1095-103. Epub Sept 12 2013.
28. Cassell CH, Lee K, **Méndez DD**, Strauss RP, Meyer RE. Factors Associated with Time and Distance Traveled to Cleft and Craniofacial Care. *Birth Defects Research (Part A): Clinical and Molecular Teratology*. Oct 2013; 97(10):685-95.
29. **Méndez DD**, Hogan VK, Culhane JF. Stress and Pregnancy: The Role of Institutional Racism. *Stress and Health Journal* 2013 Oct; 29(4):266-74.
30. Cassell CH, **Méndez DD**, Strauss RP. Maternal Perspectives on Barriers to Care Among Children With Orofacial Clefts in North Carolina. *Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal*. May 2012; 49(3):262-9 [Jul 8 2011 Epub ahead of print].
31. **Méndez DD**, Hogan VK, Culhane JF. Institutional Racism and Health: Using Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Data to Develop a New Index for Mortgage Discrimination on the Community Level. *Public Health Reports*. Sept-Oct 2011; Suppl. 3, 126: 102-14.
32. Liverpool J, Francis S, Liverpool C, Dean G, **Méndez DD**. Leptospirosis: The under-reporting of a hidden and emerging public health problem." *Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*. 2008; 102(3): 1–7.
33. **Hall D** (maiden name), Samms-Vaughan M, Roberson S, Onugha T, Siles R. The Effects of the Environment on Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Jamaica. *West Indian Med J*. Nov 2001; 50 Suppl 5: 12-37.

Book Chapters

1. **Méndez D**, Amutah N. "Infant Mortality." In People of Color in the United States: Contemporary Issues in Education, Work, Communities, Health, and Immigration. Valire Carr-Copeland, Ed. 2017.
2. Rowley D, Chapple-McGruder T, **Méndez D**, Browne D. "Chapter 10. Disparities in Maternal and Child Health in the U.S." in Maternal and Child Health: Programs, Problems and Policies in Public Health, 3rd Ed. Jonathan B. Kotch, Ed (2012).

Commentaries (peer-reviewed)

1. Kozhimannil K, Hernandez E, **Méndez D**, Chapple-McGruder T. Beyond the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act: the role of the implementation and further policy change to address the US maternal mortality crisis. *Health Affairs Blog*. Feb 2019. DOI: 10.1377/hblog20190130.914004.
2. **Méndez DD**. and Spriggs AL. Race as a social construct: The genetic fallacy. *The Amer J of Obs and Gynec*. Apr 2008; 198(4): 484.

Online Content

1. **Méndez DD** et al. "Response to 'Pittsburgh's Inequality Across Gender and Race Report' (2019). <http://www.newvoicespittsburgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Pittsburghs-Inequities-Across-Race-and-Gender-Response2.pdf>

Legislative Reports and Content

1. Provided testimony and input into City of Pittsburgh Council's Legislation on Racism as a Public Health Crisis. Legislation then used to develop the Allegheny County legislation and legislation in the state of Ohio.
 - a. Testimony: <https://www.blockchronicles.com/post/professor-méndez-delivers-statement-to-pittsburgh-city-council-on-racism-as-public-health-crisis>

Reports and Briefs

1. Burnet J, Bunch S, Butler-Hill E, Crowe A, Guciardo S, **Hall D**, Jones B. "Women's Health: Attitudes and Practices in North Carolina Focus Group Research." North Carolina State Infant Mortality Collaborative. Report for North Carolina Healthy Start Foundation, June 2005.
2. **Hall D** (maiden name), Walker K. "Children's Futures: A Review of the Literature." Report for Public/Private Ventures, May 2003.

Manuscript Under Review

1. Lora E Burke, PhD, MPH, Christopher E. Kline, PhD, **Méndez DD**, PhD, Saul Shiffman, PhD, Eileen R Chasens, PhD, Yaguang Zheng, PhD, Christopher C Imes, PhD, Mia I Cajita, PhD, Linda Ewing, PhD, Rachel Goode, PhD, Meghan Mattos, PhD, Jacob K Kariuki, PhD, Andrea Kriska, PhD, Stephen L Rathbun, PhD. Nightly variation in sleep influences self-efficacy for adhering to a healthy lifestyle: a prospective study – Under review International J of Behavior Medicine, Oct 2020.
2. Mellers M, Matjasko J, Brooks M, Gary-Webb T, Méndez D, Talbott E, Fabio A. The Effects of Sports and Entertainment Arena with a Community Benefits Agreement on Violence: The Game within A Neighborhood. Under review at the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.
3. Kariuki, J. K., Rockette-Wagner, B., Cheng, J., Burke, L. E., Erickson, K., **Méndez, D.**, Sereika, S. M., & Barone Gibbs, B. (2020). Vicarious Experience in MESA Increases the Odds of Attaining the Leisure-Time Physical Activity Recommended by the Guidelines. Under review at Preventive Medicine.
4. Schiff M, Fabio A, **Méndez DD**, Gary-Webb T. A Decade of Drinking: Temporal Trends in United States Household Beer Purchasing and Estimated Standard Drink Consumption. Under review with Substance Use & Misuse.
5. Davis E. ... **Méndez DD**. et al. Comparison of Two Screening Strategies for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. Under review with Diabetes Care.
6. Pedram G, Hassan AK, Meirman S, Lora EB, Stephen LB, Rathbun, Esa MD, Gary-Webb T Geographically-explicit Ecological Momentary Assessment For Peer Review (GEMA) Architecture and Component Health Informatics Journal
7. Fabio T, Schiff M, **Méndez D**, Gary-Webb T. A Decade of Drinking: Temporal Trends in United States Household Beer Purchasing and Estimated Standard Drink Consumption. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health; Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.
8. Mellers M, Brooks M, Gary-Webb T, **Méndez D**, Bear T, Talbott E, Fabio A. The Effect of a Casino on Violence: Gambling with a Neighborhood's Future, Journal of Quantitative Criminology.
9. Nightly variation in sleep influences self-efficacy for adhering to a healthy lifestyle: a prospective study. Lora E Burke, PhD, MPH; Christopher E. Kline, PhD; **Dara D Méndez**, PhD; Saul Shiffman, PhD; Eileen R Chasens, PhD; Yaguang Zheng, PhD; Christopher C Imes, PhD; Mia I Cajita, PhD; Linda Ewing, PhD; Rachel Goode, PhD; Meghan Mattos, PhD; Jacob K Kariuki, PhD; Andrea Kriska, PhD; Stephen L Rathbun, PhD

MEDIA

Interviewed in: 90.5 WESA's "The Confluence" for December 7, 2020. "Recently Released Health Indicators Fall Along Racial Lines, Again"

<https://www.wesa.fm/post/recently-released-health-indicators-fall-along-racial-lines-again>

Interviewed in: What Black Pittsburgh Needs to Know about COVID-19. May 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/1HoodMedia/videos/2658516534404524/>

Health Equity Editor and conducted interview for *Block Chronicles* "Health Equity and Covid-19 in the US and Brazil". April 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzqodWoFtBE>

WESA/NPR interview and article "Addressing Pittsburgh's Public Health Crisis: Racism". December 2019, Megan harris, Kiley Kosciński & Kevin Gavin: <https://www.wesa.fm/post/addressing-pittsburghs-public-health-crisis-racism#stream/0>

Work described and Quoted in *The Pittsburgh Courier* article "Maternal Mortality and Morbidity". December 2019.

Quoted in *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article "Racism as a public health crisis focus of city council meetings". December 2019.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2019/12/05/Racism-public-health-crisis-Pittsburgh-city-council-Burgess-Lavelle-inequality-gender-race/stories/201912050123>

Quoted in *Nation's Health* article "Programs work from within to prevent black maternal deaths: Workers targeting root cause — Racism". August 2019, 49 (6) 1-17; Kris Krisberg.

<http://thenationshealth.aphapublications.org/content/49/6/1.3-0>

Labors and Losses: Why are new mothers dying at an alarming rate in this country? Interviewed on maternal mortality in the US. *Pitt Med Magazine*. Winter 2018.

<https://www.pittmed.health.pitt.edu/story/tough-questions>.

Appearance in WTAE News Short film "Chronicle: Project Hunger." Interviewed on food insecurity in Pittsburgh and research collaboration with the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. 2018.

Work described in: "Scope of infant mortality disparities in Allegheny County unacceptable." *The New Pittsburgh Courier*. Esther Bush. April 17-23, 2013. National Minority Health Month series.

"How does where you live affect your health, pregnancy and birth?" *The New Pittsburgh Courier*. Dara Méndez. April 17-23, 2013. National Minority Health Month series.

GRANTS AND FUNDING SOURCES

Grants

Submitted/Under Review:

2020 PA DOH Maternal and Child Health (Title V) Workforce Development Grant

2020 DHHS Covid-19 Comprehensive Strategy
Role: Collaborator (PI: Forbes Fund)

Current

- 2020-2021 NIH, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
COVPN2005: SARS-CoV-2 Prevalence Study
Role: Co-Investigator
10% FTE
- 2020-2021 The Pittsburgh Study, Pregnancy Cohort
University of Pittsburgh funded study
Role: Co-Investigator
5% FTE
- 2019-2023 CityMATCH Birth Equity Institute (BEST ALLEGHENY)
Role: Co-I, Collaborator
No Funding, TA Provided by CityMATCH
- 2019-2021 Heinz Endowments #E6823- BEST Allegheny (ACHD, MCH Division)
Role: Co-I/Collaborator
Total Amount: \$200,000 grant #E6823
- 2020-2021 Pitt Center for Race and Social Problems Pilot Grant
"Home Visitation and the Effects of Perceived Racism on Adverse Birth Outcomes in Black Families"
Role: PI
Total Amount: \$10,000
- 2020-2021 Pitt Momentum Fund Teaming Grant
"A Black Women's Health Agenda"
Role: PI
Total Amount: \$60,000
- 2020-2021 Pitt CTSI Word Out Grant
Role: Co-PI (with Healthy Start)
"The Community Infant Feeding Assessment"
Total Amount: \$10,000
- 2019-2022 NIH, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Diversity Supplement (Serwaa Omowale)
Role: PI
Total Amount: \$83,808
- 2018-2023 NIH/NHLBI Obesity PRIDE Program (PI: Beech)
Role: Faculty Mentor
Total Amount: In-Kind
- 2018-2022 CDC-funded Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Initiative
(NU58DP006582-02, PI: Roderick L Harris, ACHD)
Role: Co-I/Evaluator
Live Well Allegheny: Focus on the health of African Americans across the life-course
Total Amount: 10% FTE (year 1), 5% FTE (years 2-5)
- 2017-2022 NIH, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Postpartum weight retention and cardiometabolic disparities: The effects of contextual, psychosocial, and behavioral factors (R01 HL135218-01)
The PMOMS Study

Role: PI
Total Direct Amount: \$1,800,686; 40% FTE

- Completed*
2019 Pitt Year of Creativity- Health Justice Night (PI: Pierson-Brown)
Role: Co-I
- 2019-2020 Pitcairn-Crabb Foundation (PI: Healthy Start Foundation)
Healthy Baby Zone
Role: Co-I (in kind)
Total Amount: \$25,000
- 2019-2020 The Forbes Fund Management Assistance Grants – Healthy Start: “Allegheny County
Comprehensive Maternal and Child Health Strategy”
Role: Advisor and Core Member
Total Amount: In-Kind
Total Amount: \$30,000
- 2018-2020 Healthy Lifestyle Institute Pilot and Feasibility Grant
University of Pittsburgh
Implementing a Multifaceted Mobile Market to Promote Healthy Lifestyles in Unhealthy Food
Environments
Role: Co-I (PI: Bear)
Total Amount: \$20,000; In-kind FTE
- 2017-2018 Center for Health Equity (CHE) Faculty Collaborating with Community Mini-Grant Award
University of Pittsburgh
Breastfeeding in the Pittsburgh Area: A Focus on African American Families
The Pittsburgh Black Breastfeeding Research Study
Role: PI
Total Amount: \$2,500
- 2017-2018 NIH, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Diversity Supplement (R01 HL135218-01S1)
Recipient: Gabriella Méndez
Role: PI/Advisor
Total Direct Amount: \$44,938
- 2013-2017 NIH, National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
Real Time Data Collection with Adaptive Sampling and Innovative Technologies
(5R01HL107370-S1), Diversity Supplement (2013-2016), Co-I (2016-2017)
Total Direct Amount: \$246,419 (75% FTE average); (7% FTE)
Role: PI of Diversity Supplement to R01 (PI of R01: LE Burke), Co-I
- 2015-2016 Academy Health/Aetna Foundation Scholars in Residence Fellowship
Role: PI
Total Amount: \$15,000
- 2014-2015 University Center for Social and Urban Research, University of Pittsburgh
Steven Manners Faculty Development Award
The development of a measure of neighborhood wellbeing for Pittsburgh neighborhoods
Role: PI (Co-PI: Fabio)
Total Amount: \$10,000
- 2012-2015 The Aetna Foundation

Neighborhood environment and racial disparities in maternal obesity, infant mortality, and preterm birth

Role: PI

Total Amount: \$100,000 (15% FTE)

- 2012-2013 Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion
VA Substance Use Disorder QUERI Pilot Award (PI: Broyles)
Practical content for alcohol intervention discussions in primary care
Role: Co-I (PI: Broyles)
Total Amount: \$10,000
- 2011-2012 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
Interdisciplinary Alcohol Research Training Program (PI: Cornelius)
Role: Trainee
- 2010-2012 National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Program, Health Disparities Scholar
Role: PI
- 2009-2011 W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Kellogg Health Scholars Program, Multidisciplinary Track (PI: S. Thomas, J. Burke)
Role: Health Scholar/Researcher
- 2008-2009 Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child and Human Development
Ruth Kirschstein Pre-doctoral National Research Service Award
The effects of institutional racism and residential segregation on preterm birth
(F31HD057782)
Role: PI

Other Funding Sources

- 2014 The Aetna Foundation-NIH mHealth Training Scholarship
2012 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation SAAPHI/APHA Travel Award
2008-2009 University of North Carolina Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship
2006-2008 Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Fellowship
2007 Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference Travel Award
2005-2006 Maternal and Child Health Bureau Fellowship Program
2004 Public Health Traineeship

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION COLLABORATIONS

- 2017- Healthy Start/PPS Teen Elect Program
2016- Pittsburgh Black Breastfeeding Circle
2015- Infant Mortality Collaborative; Maternal and Child Health Division (ACHD)
2015- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Mobile Market Program
2015-2016 Georgia Department of Health, Title V Needs Assessment
2009-2013 Birth Circle Doula Agency

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2020 *Invited Lectures:*
Postdoctoral Master in Clinical and Translations Research Program, University of Puerto Rico 3rd Novel Methodologies in Health Disparities Research Symposium Jan 30-31

Perinatal and Reproductive Health: An Overview of Health Equity. Reproductive Epidemiology Program (EPI 2720). Feb 2020

Women's Health Epidemiology. Nov 2020.

Introduction to Health Equity and Racism and Health
BEST Allegheny Initiative

Development of Health Equity and Anti-Racism Curriculum and Summer Reading for Medical
School Course, Clinical Experiences, UPitt SOM; 2019-2021

2019

Course Director:
Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Social Epidemiology

Invited Lectures:
Department of Africana Studies
Course: African American Health Issues

Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, U Pitt
Courses: Health Equity Research Methods; Overview of Health Equity

Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Courses: Psychosocial Epidemiology; Seminar in Epidemiology

Center for Health Equity Journal Club
Led Journal Club Feb 2019

Healthy Start Community Health Advocates Training (May 24, 2019)
Lecture: Race, Racism and Health Equity: The Case of Maternal and Infant Health

2018

Course Director:
Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Social Epidemiology

Invited Lectures:
Department of Africana Studies
Course: African American Health Issues

Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, U Pitt
Course: Health Equity Research Methods

Clinical Research Education, CTSI, UPitt
Course: Introduction to Research on Disparities in Healthcare

Program in Nurse Midwifery, School of Nursing, U Pitt
Course: Community Health and Nurse Midwifery

Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Reproductive Epidemiology

2017

Invited Lectures:
Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, U Pitt
Course: Health Equity Research Methods

Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Psychosocial Epidemiology

Program in Nurse Midwifery, School of Nursing, U Pitt
Course: Community Health and Nurse Midwifery

2016

Course Director:
Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Social Epidemiology

Invited Lectures:
Department of Africana Studies
Course: African American Health Issues

Clinical Research Education, CTSI, UPitt
Course: Introduction to Research on Disparities in Healthcare

School of Social Work, UPitt
Course: Introduction to Social Work Research

Dept. of Epidemiology, UPitt
Course: Reproductive Epidemiology

2015

Invited Lectures:
Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, U Pitt
Course: Research Methods in Health Equity

Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Courses: Women's Health Epidemiology; Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology

2014

Invited Lectures:
Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Research Seminar in Pediatric, Perinatal, and Reproductive Epidemiology
Course: Psychosocial Epidemiology (Developed new course module in social epidemiology)

Facilitation, Social Epidemiology Journal Club, U Pitt

2013

Invited Lectures:
Dept. of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Epidemiology of Women's Health

Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, U Pitt
Course: Overview of Health Equity

Facilitation, Social Epidemiology Journal Club, University of Pittsburgh

2012

Invited Lectures:
Lecturer, Department of BCHS, U Pitt
Course: Overview of Minority Health and Health Disparities in the US

2011

Invited Lectures:
School of Social Work, U Pitt
Course: Qualitative Research

Department of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Research Seminar in Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology

- 2010 *Invited Lectures:*
Department of Epidemiology, U Pitt
Course: Research Seminar in Reproductive, Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology
- 2008 Co-Instructor, Department of Maternal and Child Health, UNC-Chapel Hill
Course: Understanding and Addressing Health Inequities in the United States
- Invited Lectures:*
Department of Maternal and Child Health, UNC-Chapel Hill
Course: Reproductive Health Policy
- Department of Public Health Sciences, College of Health and Human Services, UNC-Charlotte
Course: Health Policy and Quality of Life
- 2007 *Invited Lectures:*
Department of Maternal and Child Health, UNC-Chapel Hill
Course: Issues in Maternal and Child Health
- 2005-2006 Teaching Assistant to Vijaya Hogan, Department Maternal and Child Health, UNC-Chapel Hill
Courses: Understanding and Addressing Health Inequities in the United States; Research Seminar in Health Disparities

PRESENTATIONS

*denotes student advisee

Peer-Reviewed Oral Presentations (Past 10 years)

- Hardeman R, Tongtan C, Smith M, Karebeah J, David VR, **Méndez DD**. Police exposure as a determinant of structural racism: An exploration of the association between preterm birth in neighborhoods with high police exposure. The American Public Health Association Conference, Nov 2020 (virtual format).
- Tongtan C, Rachel H, Morrison S, J'Mag K, **Méndez DD**, David VR. Police exposure as a determinant of structural racism: An exploration of the association between preterm birth in neighborhoods with high police exposure. Society for Epidemiology Research 2020 Annual Meeting, scheduled December 15-18, 2020.
- Méndez DD**. The narratives of key partners and stakeholders addressing chronic disease risk factors in African-American communities in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Presentation for Special Session 6: Addressing Racial Disparities in Chronic Disease through Programs and Policies: REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) in Allegheny County, PA. The American Public Health Association Conference, Nov 2020 (virtual format).
- Salter C, Wint K, Burke J, **Méndez D**, Documet P and Terry M Speaking in code: The overlap between birth trauma and mistreatment. The American Public Health Association Conference, Nov 2020 (virtual format).
- Hill AV., **Méndez DD**., Haggerty CL., Miller E., & De Genna NM. Syndemics of Sexually Transmitted Infections in Pregnant Young Women. The 2020 STD Prevention Conference: September 14-24, Atlanta, GA (virtual format).
- Méndez DD**, Schiff M, Hardeman R, Chambers B, Fabio T, Gary-Webb T. Mortgage Lending Inequities as a Form of Structural Racism: Implications for Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes. American Public Health Association Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 2019.

Méndez G. **Méndez DD**, Tibbs N, Mehta U. Reasons for Breastfeeding Weaning Among Black/African American Women of Pittsburgh. American Public Health Association Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November 2019.

Méndez DD; co-panelists: Gary-Webb TL, Maseru N, Garland R; (A focus on Maternal and Child Health) Health Equity for African American Populations across the Lifespan: Research and Practice Activities at the Center for Health Equity, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. American Public Health Association Conference, November 2018.

Imes C, Burke, L, **Méndez DD**, Sun R, Yang Y, Rathbun S, Chasen E. Impaired Nighttime Sleep Negatively Effects Next-Day Physical Activity: Results from an Ecological Momentary Assessment Study. American Heart Association Conference, EPI/Lifestyle Scientific Sessions, Mar 2018.

Goode, R., Ma, Q., Sereika, S. M., Hu, L., Mancino, J. M., Mattos, M. K., **Méndez, D.D.**, Imes, C.C., Danford, C, Zheng, Y. and Burke, L. E.. Black-white differences in self-efficacy and weight change in a 12-month behavioral weight loss program. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 50(Suppl 1), S183, Paper session 27. Paper presented at the 37th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Washington, DC. 2016.

Méndez DD, Rathbun S, Ma Q, Goode R, Zheng Y, Mattos M, Imes C, Danford C, Sereika S, Hu L, Burke L.E. *Neighborhood Grocery Store Density is Associated with Daily Self-Efficacy Among Individuals in a Behavioral Weight Loss Intervention Study*. American Heart Association Conference, EPI/Lifestyle Scientific Sessions, March 1-4, 2016, Phoenix, AZ.

Zheng, Y, Sereika, SM, Ewing, LJ, Danford, CA, Terry, MA, Imes, CC, Goode, R, **Méndez, DD**, Mattos, M, Hu, L., Sun, R., & Burke, L. E. (2016). Is Self-Efficacy Associated with Patterns of Self-Weighing Behavior? *Circulation*, 133, AP245.

Burke LE, Rathburn S, Smailagic A, Siewiorek DP, Ewing LJ, **Méndez DD**, Ye L, Zheng Y, Shiffman S. *Environmental predictors of weight loss/gain in a longitudinal study using EMA*. Society of Behavioral Medicine 36th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions, April 22-25, 2015, San Antonio, Texas.

Méndez DD, Kim K, Hardaway C, Fabio A. *Examining systematic biases in secondary commercial data sources of food and alcohol environments: Differences across neighborhood racial and socioeconomic characteristics*. American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition, November 15-19, 2014, New Orleans, LA.

Fabio A, Christopher P, **Méndez DD**, Duell J, Mellers M, Sharma R. *Ten Year Prospective Assessment of Changes in Alcohol Outlet Density and Violence in Pittsburgh Neighborhoods*. Society for Prevention Annual Meeting, May 27-30, 2014, Washington, DC.

Cassell CH, Krohmer A, **Méndez DD**, Lee K, Strauss RP, Meyer R. *Factors associated with time and distance traveled to cleft and craniofacial care*. 12th International Congress on Cleft Lip/Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies, May 5-10, 2013, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Méndez D, Almario Doebler D, Kim K, Amutah N, Fabio A, Bodnar L. *Neighborhood factors and racial disparities in gestational weight gain and loss*. Black Caucus of Health Workers and the Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues Pre-Conference Meeting, San Francisco, CA, October 27, 2012.

Méndez D, Burke J, Jones J, Salter C. Neighborhood context and pregnancy health: Perspectives from community-based doulas and mothers using Concept Mapping. American Public Health Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, October 31, 2012.

- Fabio A, Chung-Yu C, D'Antonio J, Duell J, **Méndez D**, Sharma R. Reports on the association between alcohol outlet density and violence are unstable: Walking a straight line. American Public Health Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, October 31, 2012.
- Frederick I, Salter C, **Méndez D**. *Improving birth satisfaction and outcomes among disadvantaged women through community-based doulas: A starting point for social justice*. American Public Health Association Conference, Denver, CO, November 2010.
- Méndez J, **Méndez D**, Coffey H, Martin K. *Stories in Shadows: Amplifying the Voices from Silenced Communities*. American Educational Studies Association Conference, Savannah, GA, November 2008.
- Méndez J and **Méndez, D**. *The Bronx is Still Burning: The Enduring Effects of Social, Educational, Environmental, and Health Inequities in the Hunts Point Section of the South Bronx*. American Educational Studies Association Conference, Savannah, Georgia, November 2008.
- Méndez J and **Méndez D**. *“Ya Basta” (Enough is Enough): Exploring the efforts to revitalize the South Bronx from the Young Lords to Majora Carter*. Puerto Rican Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 2008.
- Cassell CH, **Méndez D**, Strauss RP, White V, Meyer R. Barriers to care among children with orofacial clefts in North Carolina. American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 2008.
- Strauss RP, Cassell CH, White V, **Méndez D**, Meyer R. Parent voices: perceptions of team and non-team cleft lip/palate care in a population-based survey. American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 2008.
- Méndez J and **Méndez D**. *Examining the Intersections of Race and Class and the Social, Environmental, and Health Inequities that exist in the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx, New York*. UNC-CH University Research Day, March 2008.
- Cassell C, **Méndez D**, Strauss R, White V, Meyer R. *Parental Perspectives on Barriers to Care for Children with Orofacial Clefts*. The National Birth Defects Prevention Network Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Feb, 2008
- Peer-Reviewed Poster Presentations (Past 10 years)
- Hill, AV, **Méndez DD**, Haggerty CL., Miller E., & De Genna NM. Examining syndemic indicators in pregnant young women. American Public Health Association Conference, Oct 2020 (virtual format).
- Salter C, Wint K, Burke J, **Méndez D**, Documet P and Terry M. Descriptions of secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, burnout and moral distress among maternity healthcare professionals related to patient birth trauma. The American Public Health Association Conference, Nov 2020.
- Kariuki, J. K., Rockette-Wagner, B., Cheng, J., Burke, L. E., Erickson, K., **Méndez, D.**, Sereika, S. M., & Barone Gibbs, B. (2020). Abstract MP18: Vicarious Experience Trumps Neighborhood Characteristics in Predicting Leisure-time Physical Activity in the Multi-ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis Dataset. *Circulation*, 141(Suppl_1). https://doi.org/10.1161/circ.141.suppl_1.mp18
- Kline C, Bizhanova Z, Sereika S, Buysse D, Imes C, Kariuki J, **Méndez DD**, Chasen E, Burke L. Better Sleep Health is Associated with Greater Weight Loss During a 12-month Behavioral Weight Loss Intervention. American Health Association, EPI/Lifestyle Annual meeting, March 2020
- Mellers M, Brooks M, Gary-Webb T, **Méndez DD**, Talbott E, Fabio T. A Natural Experiment of the Effect of the Opening of a Casino on Neighborhood Violent crimes. Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. May 2019.

- Imes C, Kline C, **Méndez DD**, Yu Y, Sun R, Chasens E, Rathbun S, Burke L. Subjective Versus Objective Measures of Sleep: Results from an Ecological Momentary Assessment Study. American Heart Association, EPI/Lifestyle Annual Meeting, March 2019.
- Méndez G*, Tibbs N, Mehta U, Gary-Webb, **Méndez DD**. Family influences and breastfeeding Practices Among Black Women in Pittsburgh, PA. American Public Health Association Conference, November 2018.
- Cartus A*, **Méndez DD**, Calavaro C. Neighborhood-level housing characteristics and birth weight in Pittsburgh, PA 2009-2013. American Public Health Association Conference, November 2018.
- Kline C, Sereika S, Burke L, Imes C, **Méndez DD**, Strollo P, Rockette-Wagner B, Rathbun S, Chasens E. Adults with obstructive sleep apnea have lower adherence to weight loss behaviors in a behavioral weight loss intervention. American Heart Association Conference, EPI/Lifestyle Scientific Sessions, Mar 2018.
- Burke L, Chasens E, Imes C, Kline C, Strollo P, Baniak L, **Méndez D**, Rathbun S. Does Quality of Sleep Affect Self-Efficacy for Adhering to a Healthy Lifestyle Plan? 38th Annual Society for Behavioral Medicine Scientific Meeting. March 29-April 1, 2017. San Diego, CA.
- Burke L, Shiffman S, **Méndez DD**, Chasens E, Smailagic A, Siewiorek D, Ewing L, Mancino J, Rathbun S. Impact of Location and Social Context on the Probability of a Dietary Lapse Among Adults in Weight Loss Treatment. American Heart Association Epi/Lifestyle Scientific Meeting. March 7-10, 2017. Portland, Oregon.
- Kline C, Rockette-Wagner B, Baniak L, **Méndez DD**, Chasens E, Sereika S, Burke L. Bi-directional Relationship Between Sleep and Sedentary Behaviors in Adults Who Are Overweight and Obese. American Heart Association Epi/Lifestyle Scientific Meeting. March 7-10, 2017. Portland, Oregon.
- Burke L, Sereika S, Imes C, Baniak L, **Méndez DD**, Strollo P, Ye L, Chasens E. Sleep Apnea is Reduced Following a Behavioral Weight Loss Intervention but Impedes Weight Loss Outcomes. American Heart Association Epi/Lifestyle Scientific Meeting. March 7-10, 2017. Portland, Oregon.
- Blum ES*, **Méndez DD**, Roberts JM, Adibi JJ. Maternal sources of stress within her combined individual and neighborhood environment and the risk of preeclampsia. Poster presented at: Office of Health Sciences Diversity Poster Day 2016 May. University of Pittsburgh.
- Fabio A, Gianakis J, **Méndez D**, Webb TG. The Relationship between Alcohol Outlet Density and Violence is Explained by Commercial Activity. Presented at the 2016 Epidemiology Congress of the America's Conference, June 22nd, 2016, Miami FL.
- Imes C, Zheng Y, Lu H, **Méndez D**, Goode R, Mattos M, Ma Q, Sun R, Yu Y, Danford C, Sereika S, Burke L. *Patterns of Change in Step Count During the First 12 Months of a Weight Loss Intervention: A Group-based Trajectory Analysis*. American Heart Association Conference, EPI/Lifestyle Scientific Sessions, March 1-4, 2016, Phoenix, AZ.
- Zheng Y, Sereika S, Ewing L, Danford C, Terry M, Imes C, Goode R, **Méndez D**, Mattos M, Hu L, Sun R, Burke L. Is Self-efficacy Associated with Patterns of Self-weighing Behavior? American Heart Association Conference, EPI/Lifestyle Scientific Sessions, March 1-4, 2016, Phoenix, AZ.
- Cui C*, **Méndez D**, Mitchell-Miland CE, Blum ES, Duell J, Fabio, A, Gary-Webb TL. Food environment and health outcomes in the US: A systematic review of audit studies. Poster session presented at: Inaugural Forum on Population Health Equity; 2015 Sep 10-11; Boston, MA.

Méndez D, Ewing L, Zheng Y, Imes C, Goode R, Mancino J, Music E, Burke L. The neighborhood environment and weight change among individuals participating in a weight loss intervention. American Heart Association Conference, EPI/Lifestyle Scientific Sessions; Baltimore, MD, March 3-5, 2015.

Imes, C. C., Ye, L., Zheng, Y., Mancino, J., Danford, C. A., Mattos, M., Music, E., **Méndez, D.**, Lu, H., Ewing, L. J., Sereika, S. M., Burke, L. E. (2015). Mean Daily Pedometer Step Count is Associated with Weight Loss. *Circulation*, 131(Suppl 1), AP110. American Heart Association's Epidemiology and Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Health Councils, Baltimore, MD. http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/131/Suppl_1/AP110.abstract

J Duell, **Méndez D**, Sharma R, D'Antonio J, Chung-Yu C, Fabio A. Assessing the impact of professional football games on the relationship between neighborhood alcohol outlet density and violent crime. American Public Health Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, October 29, 2012.

Salter C, Frederick I, **Méndez D**, Atwell-Keister S. Challenges of sustaining a community-based doula program: Lessons learned from listening to doulas. American Public Health Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, October 29, 2012.

Méndez D, Fabio A, Burke J, Duell J, Dubowitz T, Abrams B, Kim K, Bodnar L. Neighborhood food and alcohol environment and disparities in pregravid body mass index (BMI) and gestational weight gain. Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology Conference. Minneapolis, MN. June 2012.

Méndez D, Doebler D, Amutah N, Fabio T, Kim K, Abrams B, Bodnar L. Neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage and the black-white disparity in poor weight gain during pregnancy. University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association Data and Dine Conference. May 2012.

Cassell C, Lee K, **Méndez D**, Strauss R, Meyer R. Factors Associated with Time and Distance Traveled to Cleft and Craniofacial Care. Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference. New Orleans, LA. December 2011; and National Birth Defects Prevention Network Meeting. Arlington, VA. February 2012.

Fapohunda A., **Méndez D**, Sharma, R, Schlar, L, Srinivasan S, Conti T. Intervention Screening Patterns and Birth Outcomes: Findings from the IMPLICIT Network in Allegheny County, PA. American Public Health Association Conference, Washington, DC, October 2011.

Méndez D. Measuring Residential "Redlining" as a Form of Institutional Racism in Public Health Research. Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference, Tampa, FL, December 2009.

Méndez D, Berger M, Parker S. Young African American women's perspectives on communication with mother-figures about sexual health and well-being. American Public Health Association, Philadelphia, PA, November 2009.

Cassell CH, **Méndez D**, Strauss RP, White V, Meyer RE. Barriers to care among children with orofacial clefts. National Birth Defects Prevention Network Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Feb 2008.

Invited Presentations/Webinars

Méndez D. Moderated: Structural Racism and Maternal Health: Working Towards Birth Equity. Heinz Endowments. November 20, 2020.

Méndez D. Novel Methods and Approaches to Understanding the Effects of Racism, Stress and. Experiences of Oppression on Maternal Health Outcomes. University of Puerto Rico 3rd Novel Methodologies in Health Disparities Research Symposium Jan 30, 2020

Méndez D. Breastfeeding Across the African Diaspora. Panelist and Moderator. Healthy Start BreastFED Symposium. Pittsburgh, PA. May 2019.

Méndez D. Career Panel in Women's Health. University of Pittsburgh, Department of Biological Sciences. February 13, 2019.

Méndez D and Omowale S. *Maternal Mortality Review: Lessons Learned from Texas and Insight for Pennsylvania*. Healthy Start Inc. Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Summit. Pittsburgh, PA. May 21, 2018.

Horsley D, Méndez G, Omowale S, Tucker A; **Méndez D** (moderator). Centering Black Women's Health: Student Research Studies Panel.

Méndez D. (Keynote Speaker) *Achieving Racial Equity in Pregnancy, Birth and Women's Health*. Pittsburgh Public Schools 2nd Annual Research Symposium. Alderdice High School. March 15, 2018.

Méndez D. *Contexts and Body Weight: Real-Time Data Collection Using Smartphone Technology*. Cardiovascular Epidemiology Conference. University of Pittsburgh. April 3, 2017.

Méndez D, Degenholtz H, Jarlenski M. *Achieving Equity in Birth Outcomes: Ethics, Policy & Practice Panel. Medical Ethics Update: Ethical Issues in Reproductive Health*. University of Pittsburgh. April 1, 2016.

MENTORING/ADVISING ACTIVITIES

- Director, Maternal and Child Health Equity Scholars: Over 15 students across the University of Pittsburgh seeking guidance, expertise and collaboration in addressing MCH Equity
- Faculty Mentor, NIH/NHLBI Obesity Health Disparities PRIDE
- Core Faculty, Perinatal/Pediatric; Women's Health; and Social Epidemiology Areas of Concentration
- Faculty, Women, Infants and Child Health Track, Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS)
- Student Advisees (current):
 - Undergraduate Level:
 - Taylor Robinson, pre-health track (role: research mentorship)
 - Master's Level:
 - Inngide Osirus, IDM Masters Student, Schweitzer Fellowship
 - Doctoral Level:
 - Primary Academic Advisees*
 - Amy Lai, University of Pittsburgh, Epidemiology PhD advisee & GSR
 - Teresa Hsiao, epidemiology PhD advisee, dissertation committee chair
 - Primary Research Advisees*
 - Serwaa Omowale, Social Work PhD, (Diversity Supplement submission)
 - Sarah Sanders, BCHS PhD student (role: GSR advisor, dissertation committee member, F31 primary sponsor)
 - Mary Schiff, University of Pittsburgh, Epidemiology (role: former GSR advisee in Social Epidemiology, dissertation committee member)
 - Comprehensive Exam/Dissertation Committee:*
 - Chinwoke Isiguzo, BCHS PhD student (role: GSR advisor, dissertation committee member, F31 primary sponsor)
 - Michelle Mellers, Epidemiology PhD, Comprehensive Exam/ Dissertation Committee
 - Sarah Minion, Epidemiology PhD, Dissertation Committee
 - Abisola Olaniyan, BCHS PhD Student, Comps/Dissertation Committee
 - Yuae Park, BCHS PhD student, dissertation committee; Research/Evaluation, Healthy Start
 - Postdoctoral Level:
 - Ashley Hill; Career Dev awards under development
 - Jewel Scott
- Other Mentoring
 - Marquis Hawkins, consultant on KL2 research (ancillary study to PMOMS)
 - Jacob Kariuki, consultant on Investigator Level Diversity Supplement

- The Investing NOW Program
 - Pittsburgh Public Schools Research Initiative
 - Faculty Mentor, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Postdoctoral Master in Clinical and Translational Research Program; Population-Based Research Track
 - Faculty Mentor, NIH/NHLBI Obesity Health Disparities PRIDE
- Student Advisees/Mentees (former/graduates):
 - Postdoctoral Level:
 - Vanessa Assibey-Mensah; Diversity Supplement Accepted for Funding (Declined)
 - Doctoral Level:
 - Chunzhe Duan, Epidemiology PhD student; Research advisee (Bernard D. Goldstein Award for Environmental Health Disparities): Environmental Health Disparities Related to Unconventional Natural Gas Drilling in Southwestern Pennsylvania
 - Cynthia Salter, BCHS PhD student, Comprehensive Exam/ Dissertation Committee
 - Michelle Mellers, Epidemiology PhD, Comprehensive Exam/ Dissertation Committee
 - Master's Level:
 - Paris Kingsberry, MS Epidemiology student, thesis committee
 - Cristina Codario, BCHS MPH student, thesis committee
 - Helen Ann Lawless, MPH Epidemiology study, thesis committee
 - Johnna Perrino, BCHS MPH student, master's paper committee (Graduated Dec 2018)
 - Gabriella Méndez, RA Advisee, Diversity Supplement, Master's thesis; BCHS MPH Student (Graduated Dec 2018)
 - Alysia Tucker, BCHS MPH Student; thesis committee (Graduated May 2018)
 - Daniel Seresin, Epidemiology MPH student advisee (Graduated December 2017)
 - Kristina Wint, BCHS MPH student; thesis committee (Graduated May 2017)
 - Eric Swetts, Epidemiology MPH student advisee; essay advisor (Graduated December 2016)
 - Ethan Blum, Epidemiology MPH student; thesis committee (Graduated May 2016)
 - Thomas Robinson, University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences; Summer Practicum in Collaboration with the Geoinformatics Laboratory: Geospatial analysis to determine sites for a new mobile food market, the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank
 - Lynda Rose, University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences; Summer Practicum in Collaboration with the Geoinformatics Laboratory: Geospatial analysis and Geographical Momentary Assessment among a Pregnancy Cohort
 - Chendi Cui, Epidemiology MS student (minor Biostatistics); Research assistant and advisee: Systematic review; data analysis
 - Austin Murray, Epidemiology MS student (graduated Dec 2014); Research assistant and advisee: Systematic review; data analysis
 - Katya Giovannetti Rivera, M.P.H., M.S.
 - Research assistant: developing measures of the food and alcohol environment
 - Former Epidemiologist/Biostatistician for the University of Puerto Rico
 - Undergraduate Level:
 - Melana Daynim, University of Pittsburgh, undergraduate student; Research advisee: Community-based research fellow, Hill House community health project
 - Lacy Lowry, University of Pittsburgh; Research Assistant: U Pitt School of Social Work Research Assistant Program (2011-2013); Assist with data compilation and analysis on projects related to maternal and child health
 - High School Level:
 - Tarah Wright, Shadyside Academy; Research advisee: Summer Research Mentor, Investing NOW Program (2012); Project: Systematic Review of the Association Between Neighborhood Context and Pregnancy-Related Hypertension

- Alexia Hobbs, Cary High School and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; Research advisee: The College Foundation's Young Epidemiology Scholars Competition (2007); Project: Racial disparities in autistic spectrum disorder (received \$5000 scholarship)
- Samy Arunkumar, U Pitt High School Research Experience, Allderdice HS

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

University/School/Department

- Diversity Supplement Advisory Committee, Graduate School of Public Health, U Pitt
 - White Paper to institute procedures for securing Diversity Supplement Awards
- Preliminary Exams Committee, Department of Epidemiology, U Pitt
- Student Liaison Committee, Co-Chair; Department of Epidemiology, U Pitt
- Research Strategic Planning Committee, Department of Epidemiology, U Pitt
- Health Equity Journal Club Facilitator, GSPH, U Pitt
- Abstract Reviewer, 2017, 2016 and 2015 Health Disparities Poster Competition, U Pitt
- Volunteer, Investing NOW, U Pitt
- Scholarship Reviewer, Center for Health Equity Scholarship Award Program, U Pitt
- Affiliate Faculty Member, Center for Health Equity, U Pitt
- Member, Maternal and Child Health Working Group, U Pitt, 2012-2014
- Member, Community Research Advisory Board, Center for Health Equity, U Pitt

Local/State

- Maternal Mortality Review Committee, Pennsylvania
- Executive Committee, Infant Mortality Collaborative, Allegheny County
- Collaborative Member and Researcher, Pittsburgh Black Breastfeeding Circle
- Steering Committee Member, Healthy Baby Zone
- Core Member and Advisor, Comprehensive Maternal and Child Health Strategy
- Volunteer, Community Connections, Ellis School
- Volunteer, Carlow Campus School
- Volunteer, Ronald McDonald House

National

- Guest Editor: International Enviro Research and Public Health J- Special Issues "Social, Structural and Policy Determinants of Matern and Child Health Inequities"
- Faculty Mentor, NIH/NHLBI Obesity Health Disparities PRIDE
- Advisory Board, Women Engaged (Atlanta, GA)
- Advisor, California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative
- Founding Member, Racism and Health Equity Collective
- NIMHD Special Emphasis Panel- NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)- Feb 2018; Feb 2019
- Measurement of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination on Health Think Tank, Johns Hopkins Univ
- NIH Special Emphasis Review Panel- NIMHD- R13/K99 ZMD1 DRI (J1) 1- Health Disparities conferences and career training awards- Oct 2016
- Former Chair, Board of Directors, National Women's Health Network
- Member, WK Kellogg Foundation Birth Outcomes Think Tank
- Editorial Board, Women's Reproductive Health Journal
- Editorial Board, Maternal and Child Health Journal
- Reviewer, International Journal of Health Geographics
- Reviewer, American Journal of Public Health
- Reviewer, Women and Therapy Journal
- Reviewer, Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice
- Reviewer, Nicotine and Tobacco Research

- Abstract Reviewer, Society for Behavioral Medicine (Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Factors in Health Track), 2016

HONORS AND AWARDS

- National Award for Effective Practice at the Community Level, Coalition for Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (2020)
- University of Pittsburgh's Institutional Mentoring Program Across a Community of Color (IMPACT) (2019)
- NSF Connections in Smart Health Workshop (Peer-reviewed and competitive selection) (2018)
- Delta Omega Honor Society, Theta Chapter, University of North Carolina-CH (2016)
- Scholars in Residence Fellowship Program, Academy Health/Aetna Foundation. (Peer-reviewed and competitive selection). (2015-2016)
- Trainee/Awardee, NIH mHealth Winter Training Institute and Summit (2014)
- Scholar, Public Health Critical Race Praxis Institute, Maryland Center for Health Equity, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (NIMHD-funded training institute: P20MD006737) (2014)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues Award (2012)
- NIH Loan Repayment Program: Health Disparities (2010-2012)
- Career Education and Enhancement for Health Care Research Diversity Program (2009-2011)
- University of North Carolina Tuition Incentive Scholarship (2008-2009)
- Delta Omega Research Award (2007)
- Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference Travel Award (2007)
- Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Traineeship- US Public Health Service (2006-2008)
- Research Award: The Social and Economic History of the Black Presence at UNC-CH (2006-2007)
- Maternal and Child Health Bureau Traineeship (2005-2006)
- Maternal and Child Health Bureau Leadership Program (2004-2005)
- NIH Fogarty Minority International Research Training Program (2004)
- Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society
- Golden Key National Honors Society
- Alpha Lambda Delta National Sociological Honors Society
- Alpha Epsilon Delta National Pre-Medical Honors Society

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- ACHD/DHS COVID-19 Equity Advisory Committee
- Black COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force
- Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PA), 2018-
- Director, Maternal and Child Health Equity Scholars Program, 2018-
- Advisory Board, Women Engaged, 2016-
- Executive Committee, Infant Mortality Collaborative, Allegheny County, PA, 2016-
- Board of Directors, National Women's Health Network, 2008-2016
- Founding Member, Allegheny County Core for Enabling Systems Study of Neighborhoods
- Planning Committee, Kellogg Health Scholar Program Annual Meeting, 2012
- Chair of International Relations, Potentialis International, 2006-2009
- Advisor, Stagville Descendants Council, NC, 2005-2012
- Production Assistant, 2007 & 2008, Summer Minority Health Videoconference, UNC
- Chair, Posters Committee, 2007 UNC SPH Minority Health Conference
- Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Leadership Training Program

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Public Health Association (APHA), Maternal and Child Health and Epidemiology Sections
- Society for Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER)
- Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER)
- Society for the Analysis of African-American Public Health Issues (SAAPHI)
- American Heart Association (AHA), Epidemiology and Prevention Section

SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

- Language Skills: Beginning Spanish and Portuguese
- Computer, Programming, and Software Skills: SAS, ArcGIS, Atlas.ti, Dedoose