

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EPIDEMIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

EPI VISIT DAYS RESEARCH FAIR 2024

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Key Acronyms

CBPR: Community -Based Participatory Research Program

COVID-19: Coronavirus disease 2019

CVDs: Cardiovascular Diseases

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Viruses

HSV2: Herpes simplex virus

NIDA: National Institute on Drug Abuse

NHLBI: The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

HPV: Human papillomavirus

MESA: Multi -Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis

MCH: Maternal and Child Health

RA: Research Assistant

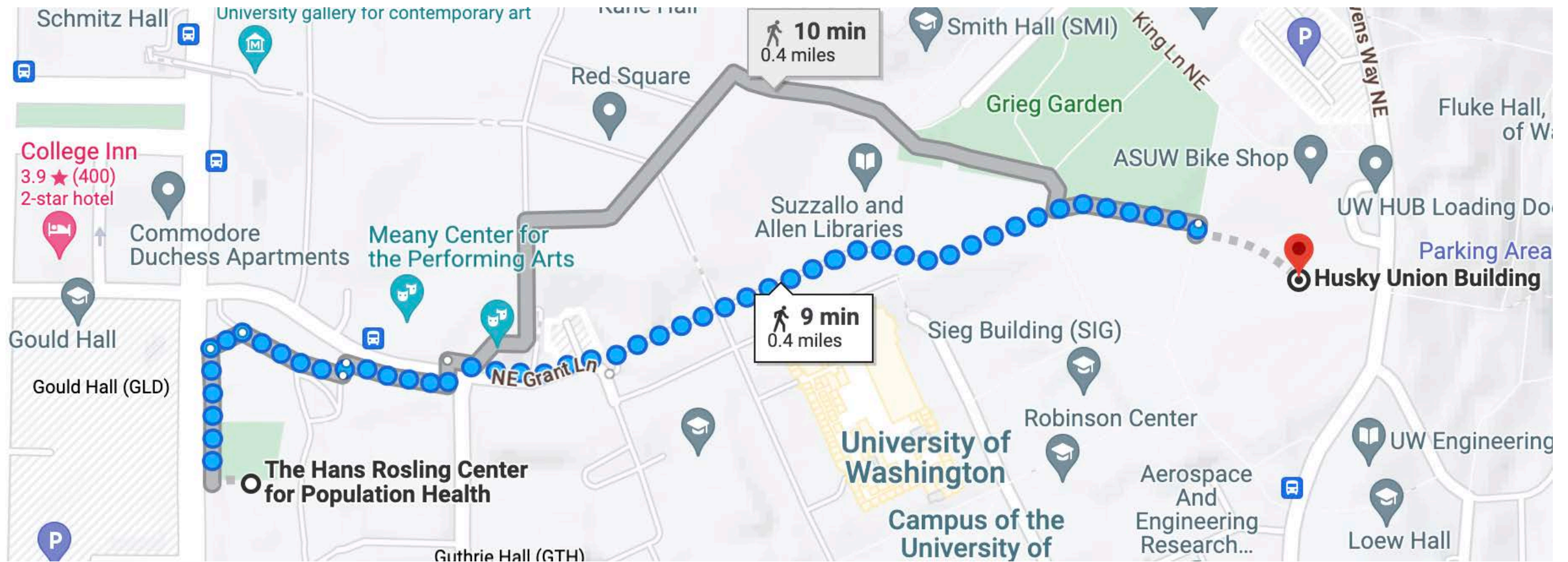
SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa

STI: Sexually Transmitted Infection

TA: Teaching Assistant

Venue

- [Husky Union Building](#) Room 250 on **Friday, March 1, 10:45am - 12:00pm**
- Husky cards are not required to access HUB 250



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FACULTY ATTENDING THE 2024 VISIT DAYS RESEARCH FAIR



List of Faculty Attending

- [Dr. Alexander Reiner](#)
- [Dr. Alyson Littman](#)
- [Dr. Amanda Phipps](#)
- [Dr. Janet Baseman](#)
- [Dr. Jeanie Santaularia](#)
- [Dr. Rachel Winer](#)
- [Dr. Stephen Hawes](#)
- [Dr. Steve Gloyd](#)
- [Dr. Steve Mooney](#)
- [Dr. Steve Schwartz](#)
- [Dr. Walter Kukull](#)

Dr. Alexander Reiner



- **Research areas** : Genetic epidemiology of atherosclerotic, thrombotic and cardiovascular disease; population biology; genomics
- **Current research** : Genetic drivers of heterogeneity in type 2 diabetes pathophysiology
- **Opportunities for students**: thesis and dissertations which could lead to manuscripts.

Dr. Alyson Littman



- **Research areas** : Clinical Epi, Physical Activity, Obesity, and Diabetes
- **Current research** : I conduct multi - methods research, primary in Veterans. My current research involves a randomized trial of a SmartMat to identify early signs of foot ulceration in people with diabetes. I am also currently leading research into gender affirming surgical care for transgender and gender diverse Veterans.
- **I'm excited about:** my two current studies
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis, dissertation, and independent study

Dr. Amanda Phipps



- **Research areas** : Cancer Epi, Epi Methods, Training
- **Current research** : My research is focused on colorectal cancer survival, and the interplay between lifestyle factors and tumor characteristics in shaping cancer prognosis. I have a particular interest in modifiable lifestyle factors and the gut microbiome, and their impacts on tumor biology and patient outcomes.

Dr. Janet Baseman



- **Research areas** : Applied epidemiology in public health practice ; informatics; infectious disease epidemiology; surveillance; coronavirus; Covid - 19; emerging diseases; epidemics; pandemics; disease outbreaks
- **Current research** : My research centers around applied epidemiology in public health practice, strategies for improving disease surveillance systems, and public health informatics. She is also adjunct faculty in the Department of Health Systems and Population Health and is a member of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) Research Team.
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis, dissertation, SEAL Team

Dr. Jeanie Santaularia



- **Research areas** : Injury and Violence , Antiracism, CBPR, Maternal and Child Health, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research:** My research examines how (1) social and institutional determinants influence violence; and (2) violence gets under the skin or is 'embodied' to impact health. I aim to expand this research to better understand the cumulative influence of violence over the life course as well as the roles of society, community, psychosocial and family protective factors in offsetting negative outcomes due to violence. Ultimately, I will build on this research to develop and test scalable interventions in underserved populations informed by understanding the role of larger social structures, familial and cultural contexts.

Dr. Rachel Winer



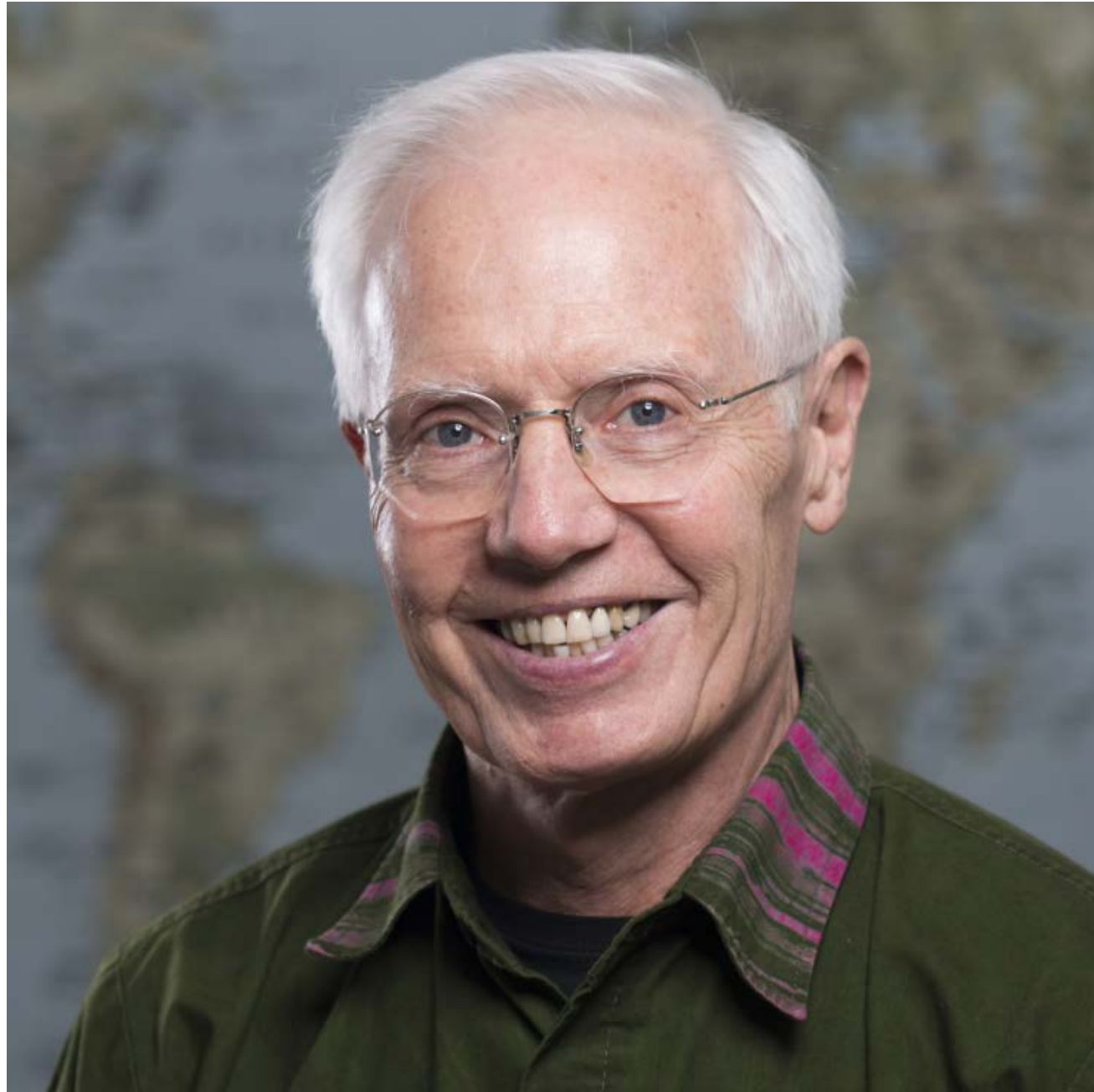
- **Research areas** : Cancer Epi, Infectious Diseases
- **Current research** : Prevention of HPV and HPV-related cancers
- **I'm excited about:** i ncreasing cervical cancer screening access through HPV self-sampling
- **Opportunities for students** : thesis, dissertation

Dr. Stephen Hawes



- **Research areas** : Cancer Epi, Infectious Diseases, Global Health
- **Current research** : Currently collaborating on studies of HIV drug resistance in sub-Saharan Africa; Large datasets of historical studies of HPV, HIV, and cervical cancer from Senegal, West Africa as well as studies of HPV and cervical cancer screening in Seattle which would be great for thesis projects
- **I'm excited about:** HPV and cervical cancer research in Senegal
- **Opportunities for students** : thesis, dissertation, RA (START)

Dr. Steve Gloyd



- **Research areas** : Social Determinants of Health , Global Health, Infectious Diseases, MCH, Public Health Practice
- **Current research** : Understanding and addressing the principal social, political, and economic factors that influence health and health services
- **I'm excited about:** making substantive changes in policy and working with students
- **Opportunities for students** : mentoring

Dr. Steve Mooney



- **Research areas** : Injury and Violence , Epi Methods, Physical Activity, Obesity and Diabetes, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research** : My research uses epi methods to understand how place -based health disparities emerge and are sustained. It is informed by historical injustice shaping present resources, and often leverages administrative data, spatial methods, and computer science -y approaches.
- **I'm excited about:** a project assessing the long-term impact and sustainability of vacant lot greening in Philadelphia
- **Opportunities for students** : dissertation, maybe RA positions

Dr. Steve Schwartz



- **Research areas** : Epidemiology of cancer; cardiovascular disease and female reproductive conditions; interaction of molecular genetics and environmental factors in health and disease
- **Current research** : A major objective of my research is to determine the influence of genetic susceptibility, either alone or in combination with lifestyle and environmental risk factors. Also cancer epi in companion canines through the Dog Aging Project.
- **Opportunities for students** : dissertation, maybe RA positions, cancer epi training grant

Dr. Walter Kukull



- **Research areas** : Aging & Neurodegenerative Diseases , Epi Methods
- **Current research** : I direct the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center, [U24 AG072122] which includes 37 AD Centers data funded by NIH/NIA. We have longitudinal clinical and neuropath data on 45,000 persons, freely available at www.naccddata.org
- **Opportunities that I have for students**: thesis, dissertation, manuscript, independent study

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**OTHER FACULTY NOT ABLE TO
ATTEND TODAY WITH POTENTIAL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS**

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Dr. Alie Fohner



- **Research areas** : Genetic Epi, Aging and Neurodegenerative diseases, CBPR
- **Current research** : I am applying genomics and proteomics to understand risk for Alzheimer's disease and dementia, including assays of targeted biomarkers of neurodegeneration. I also apply big data methods and machine learning to complex data, including electronic health records. All of my work is conducted through a lens of equity and bioethics.
- **I'm excited about:** applying new methods to complex problems related to precision population health
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis

Dr. Anjum Hajat



- **Research areas** : Social Epi, Antiracism, CBPR, Environmental and Occupational Health, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research:** My work focuses on environmental health disparities and environmental justice, as well as economic and racial inequity and its impacts on health and racial health disparities. I currently have a community engaged project in the Duwamish Valley examining air pollution and asthma. I also have a project that examines precarious employment's impacts on health of workers.
- **I'm excited about:** beginning data collection on my community engaged project
- **Opportunities for students** : thesis, dissertation, and independent study

Dr. Brandon Guthrie



- **Research areas** : COVID-19, Epi Methods, Global Health, Infectious Diseases, MCH, Training
- **Current research** : Improving engagement in HIV care (primarily in Kenya) - linkage and retention in HIV/AIDS care, expedition of treatment initiation, and reduction of mortality
- **Opportunities for students** : Please ask!

Dr. Burcu Darst



- **Research areas** : Genetic Epi, Cancer Epi
- **Current research** : My research is focused on identifying germline genetic and multi -omic risk factors of prostate cancer across diverse populations using genome -wide genotyping, sequencing, polygenic risk scores, and metabolomics.
- **I'm most excited about:** the potential to use genetics and multi -omics to reduce the burden of prostate cancer and its health disparities.
- **Opportunities for students** : thesis, dissertation, and independent study

Dr. Daniel Enquobahrie



- **Research areas** : MCH, CVDs and Metabolic Diseases, Genetic Epi, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research** : My research focuses on (1) pre-pregnancy and early/mid pregnancy risk factors (and associated mechanisms) for pregnancy complications and outcomes, and (2) early life and developmental origins of metabolic and cardiovascular diseases.
- **I'm most excited about:** teaching and mentoring
- **Opportunities for students** : thesis, dissertation, RA/TA, and manuscript involvement

Dr. Eric Chow



- **Research areas** : Clinical Epi, Cancer Epi, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases, Physical Activity, Obesity and Diabetes
- **Current research** : improving outcomes for cancer survivors of childhood cancer and adult cancer patients: observational studies and intervention trials designed to improve adherence to clinical care and lifestyle recommendations.
- **I'm excited about:** opportunities to meaningfully impact lives of cancer survivors
- **Opportunities for students:** it depends; please ask!

Dr. Hyunju Kim



- **Research areas** : Nutritional Epi , Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases
- **Current research** : My research focuses on 1) building evidence on the role of diets for cardiovascular disease prevention, 2) identifying metabolic and biologic pathways that are modifiable by healthy diets, and 3) uncovering early biomarkers and therapeutic targets of cardiovascular disease and kidney disease. I use omics data (metabolomics, proteomics, epigenetics) from feeding studies and large observational studies in my research.
- **I'm most excited about:** the opportunity to identify dietary factors that may be modified for cardiovascular disease prevention, discover objective biomarkers of dietary intake, and elucidate the mechanisms underlying diet - disease associations.
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis, independent study, and RA position

Dr. Christine Khosropour



- **Research areas** : Infectious Diseases, Clinical Epi, Public Health Practice
- **Current research** : I do both “traditional” epidemiologic research (studying transmission and natural history of STIs) and practice -based research (evaluating the implementation of HIV prevention and control programs)
- **I’m excited that:** my work spans the full research continuum, from studies looking at natural history of infections all the way to studies that evaluate the implementation of evidence -based settings
- **Opportunities for students** : thesis (for students graduating in 2025)

Dr. Jessica Chubak



- **Research areas** : Cancer Epi, Clinical Epi, Epi Methods, Pharmaco -Epi, Training
- **Current research** : Cancer screening, survivorship
- **I'm excited about:** finding a new methodological challenge to solve.
- **Opportunities for students** : it depends; please ask!

Dr. Laura Harrington



- **Research areas** : CVDs and Metabolic Diseases, Aging and Neurodegenerative diseases, Clinical Epi, MCH, Pharmaco-Epi, Physical Activity, Obesity and Diabetes
- **Current research** : I am studying physical activity and sedentary behavior in relation to venous thromboembolism risk. I am also conducting a new population -based inception cohort study about venous thromboembolism sequelae
- **I'm excited about:** possible sex-specific risk factors for cardiovascular outcomes
- **Opportunities for students** : thesis in related topics

Dr. Maayan Simckes



- **Research areas** : Public Health Practice, Antiracism, Epi Methods, MCH, Social Determinants of Health, Training
- **Current research** : I serve as the Population Survey Supervisor at WA Department of Health where I oversee three population survey teams that gather critical information from Washingtonians across the life course.
- **I'm excited about:** opportunities to advance equity and social justice.
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis, dissertation, practicum, independent study

Dr. Mandy Fretts



- **Research areas** : CVDs and Metabolic Diseases, Nutritional Epi, CBPR, Physical Activity, Obesity and Diabetes, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research** : PI of the Strong Heart Study, a longitudinal study of heart disease and its risk factors in 12 American Indian communities. I am also leading the Cooking for Health Study --a randomized trial being conducted in partnership with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, to improve cooking skills, diet quality, and blood sugar among individuals with type 2 diabetes.
- **Opportunities for students** : thesis, dissertation, independent study, manuscript involvement

Dr. Namrata Singh



- **Research areas** : Pharmaco - Epidemiology, Cancer Epi, Clinical Epi
- **Current research** : I focus on work to improve the evidence base for the management of patients with rheumatic diseases who are at risk or have cancer. My research is at the intersection of aging, cancer and rheumatology
- **I'm excited about:** the hope that this work might impact care discussions with patients in real life clinical encounters.
- **Opportunities for students:** Independent study, RA position, manuscript involvement

Dr. Julianne Meisner



- **Research areas** : Global Health, Infectious Diseases, Epi Methods, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research** : My work examines health across the human, animal, environment interface, with a particular focus on infectious disease transmission among marginalized communities. I'm particularly interested in the root political, historical, and economic causes of this marginalization that operates across species boundaries, and the use of mathematical models as a way to bring multiple forms of knowledge into quantitative analyses.
- **Opportunities for students:** research support and pilot data for research involving R, spatial epi, or mathematical modeling.

Dr. Marie Spiker



- **Research areas** : Nutritional Epi, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research** : household food security, food policy, food systems governance and infrastructure, food loss and waste, and food supply chains. I use qualitative methods, mixed methods, and systems science methods including mapping and modeling complex systems.
- **I'm excited about:** research to understand the upstream determinants (e.g- food systems, environment, structure, and behavior) of nutrition and health outcomes
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis, dissertation, TA (WIN 2024)

Dr. McKenna Eastment



- **Research areas** : Global Health, Antiracism, Clinical Epi, Infectious Diseases
- **Current research** : I am an Implementation Scientist in the areas of global women's health, cervical cancer screening and treatment, HPV vaccination, HIV treatment and prevention. I have an R01 to improve HIV treatment and prevention integration in family planning clinics in Mombasa, Kenya. I am also a co-investigator on the CASCADE CLIMB research base focused on pragmatic clinical trials in cervical cancer screening and prevention in women living with HIV.
- **I'm excited about:** improving the health of women across the globe
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis, dissertation, and independent study

Dr. Peter Leary



- **Research areas** : Cardiovascular & Metabolic Disease Epi
- **Current research** : I am focused on clinical research and the clinical trend of the translational spectrum as it relates to pulmonary vascular disease and right heart failure. This includes biomarker focused work to hint at mechanistic insight, trials to test this insight, and descriptions of care delivery and disease burden.
- **I'm excited about:** understanding novel mechanisms for right heart adaptation.
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis

Dr. Robert Kaplan



- **Research areas** : Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases, Genetic Epi, Nutritional Epi, Physical Activity, Obesity and Diabetes, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research** : Population based studies of chronic diseases in US Latino and Hispanic communities: "HCHS/SOL" cohort

Dr. Alastair Matheson



- **Research areas** : Public Health Practice, Injury and Violence, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research** : We are using linked administrative data to examine risk and protective factors for suicide.
- **I'm excited about:** the opportunity to influence public health practice and improve health and wellbeing.
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis and dissertations, practicums, all of which could lead to manuscripts.

Dr. Steven Erly



- **Research areas** : Infectious Diseases, Antiracism, Injury and Violence, Public Health Practice
- **Current research** : Interactions between social determinants of health and HIV, STI, and drug user-health.
- **I'm excited about** : using data for real - time intervention and care linkage
- **Opportunities that I have for students:** thesis, dissertation, manuscript involvement

Dr. Susan Graham



- **Research areas** : Infectious Diseases , Psychiatric Epi, Clinical Epi, CBPR, Epi Methods, Global Health, Social Determinants of Health
- **Current research** : My research focuses on Interventions to improve HIV prevention and care outcomes, in the United States and in Kenya
- **I'm excited about:** the opportunity to make a difference with community - engaged intervention development and testing
- **Opportunities that I have for students** : possible RA

Dr. Trang VoPham



- **Research areas** : Environmental and Occupational Health Epi, Cancer Epi,
- **Current research** : uses geospatial science, including geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing, to examine environmental risk factors for cancer and other chronic diseases
- **I'm excited about:** our lab's new geospatial light exposure model that can be linked with study populations to conduct epidemiologic studies!
- **Opportunities for students:** independent study, practicum

Dr. Vivian Hawkins



- **Research areas** : Public Health Practice, Environmental and Occupational Health, Infectious Diseases, MCH, Training
- **Current research** : I am involved in projects ranging from modernization of surveillance dashboards to implementation of a new electronic medical record system to developing an evaluation plan for STI clinical services.
- **I'm excited about:** helping bring a “data to action” mentality to the work of the health department
- **Opportunities for students:** thesis, dissertation, practicum, and independent study