Dear NHS Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

We hope that you had a good Fall semester! As we bring the semester to a close, we want to fill you in on all the accomplishments, opportunities, and events happening in NHS. We also bring to you a feature on NHS faculty member, Dr. Viola Vaccarino.

In August 2022, we welcomed a new NHS cohort: Aishat Gambari, Erica Kocher, Su Yeon Oh, and Sarah Qabazard. Glad to have you as part of NHS and we wish you all the very best in your first year!

This semester, we made some changes to our editorial committee – we said goodbye to Ben, who had served on the committee for 3 years (THANK YOU Ben!) and welcomed Lan Tran as the new chair. We look forward to bringing you more interesting content in the coming semesters.

We wish you all a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Cheers,

Wilhemina and Lan

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**NHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**James (Jiada) Zhan, 2nd year**

James wrote a novel and comprehensive R package, called “dietaryindex”, on GitHub that can calculate many common dietary indexes (HEI2015, AHEI, DASH, MED, DII) within 1-2 steps using all dietary assessment tools, which include but are not limited to NHANES, ASA24, DHO3, BLOCK FFQ. It is a very neat package and it has gained some attention on GitHub (10 stars, 3 forks). He has plans to publish it as a nutrition methodology paper. Access the dietary index package here: https://github.com/jamesjiadazhan/dietaryindex

He also wrote an R package, called "pandaOmics", on GitHub to facilitate the processing and analyzing of -Omics data. While it currently only supports LC-MS, it can process the LC-MS data right after metabolite feature extraction and then perform multiple linear regressions using limma very easily with a few lines of code. Installation is straightforward. It is designed to benchmark against xmsPANDA developed by Karan Uppal. Access the pandaOmics package here: https://github.com/jamesjiadazhan/pandaOmics

**Kasthuri Sivalogan, 3rd year**

Kasthuri was selected as a trainee for the Graduate and Post-doctoral Training in Environmental Health Science and Toxicology T32 Training Grant.

**Wilhemina Quarpong, 3rd year**

Wilhemina had a poster and oral presentation at the just ended 2022 International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS)- International Congress of Nutrition:


Akua Tandoh, Amos Laar, Rebecca Pradeilles, Agnès Le Port, Hibbah Osei-Kwasi, Gideon Amevinya, Richmond Areyetey, Charles Agyemang, Michelle Holdsworth, Wilhemina Quarpong. How ready are community stakeholders to implement interventions to address the marketing and availability of unhealthy foods and beverages in and around schools in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?

**Yara Beyh, 4th year**

Yara received two awards and had a paper published recently:
Over 90 countries have legislated that fortification of at least one grain (wheat flour, maize flour, rice) be mandatory. The purpose of this project is to assess the existing evidence of the health impact of fortifying with folic acid in countries after the start of mandatory fortification. Any outcome (positive or negative) potentially attributable to folic acid (e.g. serum/plasma folate, neural tube defects, cancer incidence) will be reviewed. If there are several studies reporting the same outcome, a meta-analysis will be completed for that outcome. The literature has been searched and 150+ articles have been tentatively identified with relevant results. These topics will be reviewed to determine the health impact of fortifying with folic acid.

**Systematic review and meta-analysis of outcomes associated with mandatory food fortification with folic acid.**

**clockwork RNA sequencing analysis**

We are conducting a single cell RNA sequencing analysis at the Bhasin Biomedical Lab at Emory. The study entails analyzing 30 samples from the placenta and PBMCs of controls and GDM women in Northern India. The steps include a bisulfite sequencing approach to create the methylation profile library, followed by a high throughput transcriptomics analysis using RNA barcoding approach for profiling purposes using 10x Genomics technology. This rotation - data collection through lab work - will bring students interested in -omics a step closer to learning the methodological approaches in the field. Further, publications will be made after the computational analysis (not part of this rotation) is conducted and finalized. The work is expected to span over 3-4 months, starting any time after mid-December. If interested, please contact Dr. Manoj Bhasin (manoj.bhasin@emory.edu) or Yara Beyh (ybeyh@emory.edu).

**Quantitative and qualitative data analysis and systematic review**

Dr. Siegel is seeking students for a variety of projects involving quantitative and qualitative data analysis and systematic reviews. Topics include dietary (including foods and beverages) trends among people with diabetes using NHANES; diet-related behaviors, attitudes, and perceptions; impact of diet on climate and health; intersection of public health nutrition and sustainable food systems. Contact Karen Siegel @ krsiege@emory.edu if interested.

**Literature review and grant writing in diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases**

We are in the process of writing one or two grants to be submitted in June of 2023 and soon after. This project entails type 2 diabetes and -omics, including but not limited to genomics, metabolomics and possibly lipidomics related to diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases. We are looking for one or more students interested in those topics and would be willing to help in literature review and participate in drafting of the grant. The project is currently active and the student will be welcomed to participate.

**Pediatric study data collection and analysis rotation**

I will have a rotation opportunity in the spring and possibly the fall as well (grant pending for fall). This will be a pediatric study at a Decatur afterschool program. So the times will be between 330-530p Monday-Thursday (exact times are not set yet). I am testing the FIFA 11 for Health program in school aged children. This program is a soccer-based intervention that teaches soccer and key health messages that are delivered through soccer drills on the field. There will be some physical function measurements and some surveys done pre and post this 11 week program. I am looking for a student to help deliver the program and help with data collection and analysis. They can contact me if interested. Jennifer Frediani jfredia@emory.edu

**Systematic review and meta-analysis of outcomes associated with mandatory food fortification with folic acid.**

Over 90 countries have legislated that fortification of at least one grain (wheat flour, maize flour, rice) be mandatory. The purpose of this project is to assess the existing evidence of the health impact of fortifying with folic acid in countries after the start of mandatory fortification. Any outcome (positive or negative) potentially attributable to folic acid (e.g. serum/plasma folate, neural tube defects, cancer incidence) will be reviewed. If there are several studies reporting the same outcome, then a meta-analysis will be completed for that outcome. The literature has been searched and 150+ articles have been tentatively identified with relevant information. The student will contribute to the next phase of the research: extracting key information from the studies, completing the meta-analysis for a subset of
Postdoctoral Fellow Position in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology

A postdoctoral fellow position in reproductive and perinatal epidemiology is available in the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Informatics (DBEI) at the University of Pennsylvania in collaboration with the Center for Reproductive Health (CRH). The position is open to candidates with a background in statistics, biostatistics, or related fields who are interested in pursuing a career in this area. The successful candidate will work on a project focused on evaluating the impact of environmental exposures on reproductive outcomes. The position offers opportunities for training in advanced analytical methods and for participation in national and international conferences. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in a relevant field and a strong research background. For more information, please contact Dr. Pachón at pac@upenn.edu.

Postdoctoral Scholar Position in Cancer Population Science at Penn State University

Penn State University's Center for Translational Research (CTR) is seeking a postdoctoral scholar to work on the BLOOM study, which focuses on the impact of organic farming on health outcomes. The successful candidate will be involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of data collection and will receive mentorship in statistical methods and data analysis. The position offers competitive salary and benefits, as well as opportunities for leadership and interdisciplinary collaboration. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in a relevant field and strong experience in public health research. For more information, please contact Dr. Hinkle at hinkle@psu.edu.

Personal Chair Global Health and Nutrition at the University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh is seeking an experienced researcher to lead a research group focused on the intersection of agriculture, nutrition, and health. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to develop and deliver training programs in areas relevant to global health, including nutrition, epidemiology, and public health. The position offers a competitive salary, a supportive working environment, and the opportunity to collaborate with leading researchers in the field. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in a relevant field and a strong research background. For more information, please contact Prof. Jaacks at jaacks@ed.ac.uk.

Postdoctoral positions in Cancer Population Science at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center is currently recruiting postdoctoral scholars to work on various research projects focused on cancer survivorship, health services research, and translational science. The positions offer opportunities for training in statistical methods, research design, and data analysis. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in a relevant field and a strong research background. For more information, please contact Dr. Williams at jsantos@georgetown.edu.

The University of Edinburgh: Postdoctoral position

The University of Edinburgh is currently recruiting a postdoctoral researcher to work on a project focused on the impact of environmental exposures on health outcomes. The position offers opportunities for training in advanced analytical methods and for participation in national and international conferences. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in a relevant field and strong experience in public health research. For more information, please contact Prof. Jaacks at jaacks@ed.ac.uk.

Postdoctoral positions in Cancer Population Science at the University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania is currently recruiting postdoctoral scholars to work on various research projects focused on cancer survivorship, health services research, and translational science. The positions offer opportunities for training in statistical methods, research design, and data analysis. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in a relevant field and a strong research background. For more information, please contact Dr. Hinkle at hinkle@psu.edu.

Postdoctoral positions in Cancer Population Science at the University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania is currently recruiting postdoctoral scholars to work on various research projects focused on cancer survivorship, health services research, and translational science. The positions offer opportunities for training in statistical methods, research design, and data analysis. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in a relevant field and strong experience in public health research. For more information, please contact Dr. Hinkle at hinkle@psu.edu.
Transdisciplinary (TD) Training Opportunity in Energetics and Cancer

We are in our 7th year of building a diverse community of transdisciplinary (TD) and translational (TL) researchers including those interested in cancer disparities and invite you to apply to our mentored program: The Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer (TREC) Training Workshop. The Workshop builds upon the NCI TREC Initiative and covers topics across the cancer control and T0-T4 continua. Funded by the U.S. National Cancer Institute and led by Yale University’s Dr. Melinda Irwin with a Senior Advisory Board and expert international faculty, this program builds capacity in TD and TL energetics and cancer research and is designed for early career investigators (i.e., junior faculty and postdocs). This 5-day, in residence Workshop places emphasis on developing and applying TD and TL competencies focused on energetics (i.e., obesity, diet and exercise) and cancer. Faculty span an array of professional disciplines, from basic scientists to clinicians to behavioral and population scientists. Formal didactic learning is integrated with one-on-one dialog and small group discussions to enable fellows to learn from each other, from faculty, and to develop a TD and TL network.

The Saint Louis University College for Public Health and Social Justice: Non-tenure and Tenure tracks

The Saint Louis University College for Public Health and Social Justice is seeking several new faculty members to join our public health and health management programs. We are looking for dynamic scholars who are eager to be part of a community. Currently, we are searching for faculty in the following positions:

2 tenure track Assistant/Associate Professor positions in public health
1 non-tenure track Assistant/Associate Professor position in public health
1 tenure track Assistant Professor position in health management and policy
1 non-tenure track Assistant position in health management and policy

Saint Louis University CPHSJ is a Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited school of public health in a Catholic, Jesuit university, and is committed to social justice, public health practice, collaboration, and innovation that leads to improved population health. The CPHSJ is nationally recognized for applied and community-based research. We are a mission-driven academic community where teaching, research, and service foster the growth of a more just and equitable society at home and around the world. We encourage applicants to apply whose teaching and research demonstrate a commitment to social justice approaches to equity for historically excluded communities.

Research coordinator – Savannah GA

I am looking for a stellar project manager (or Postdoc) with an MPH, PhD, or DrPh (can be recent graduate) living in the Savannah area with flexibility to work from the Armstrong Campus a ~1 year full-time position as the research coordinator of a weight management trial funded by the Hass Avocado Board and WeightWatchers. The objective of this 2x2 factorial randomized controlled trial is to compare 6-month changes in diet quality, % weight loss and other outcomes including physical activity of participants enrolled in a commercial weight-loss program (WW) vs. control in a diverse sample of adults living in the contiguous US. The trial will be focused on recruiting avocado consumers, and underrepresented people in weight management trials which include: 1) People of Latin American origin, 2) People of color, 3) Men

Job Duties:

1. Overseeing the running of clinical trials under the supervision and mentorship of Dr. Ana Palacios (principal Investigator).
2. Communicating with participants regarding study objectives following rigorous IRB and ethical standards.
3. Checking eligibility criteria of participants. Enrollment goal: n=376 participants (about 100 participants per month).
4. Setting participants to successfully complete study: Setting up weights, respond to timely questions, call, text and schedule video conferences with participants as needed.
5. Collecting data and performing weekly data quality checks (is data complete, are there strange responses, and follow protocol…).
6. Be committed to complete study goals.
7. Managing study budget.
8. Scheduling data collection and managing students.
9. Administering questionnaires and monitoring participants to ensure they adhere to the study protocol.
10. Monitoring the study to ensure that it complies with protocols, is ethically-conducted and follows regulatory standards.
11. Maintaining careful and detailed research records of study activity, including case report forms and study adverse events.
12. Creating reports to the IRB, and maintain close communications with the principal Investigator (PI).
13. Completing other assignments as required by the principal investigator.

This will be a 12-month appointment.

Payment of ~$45,000 to 48,000 /year with fringe benefits

Job start: ~01-01-2023

Job end ~12-31-2023

Contact: Ana M. Palacios, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Health Policy and Community Health - JPHCOPH
Georgia Southern University
11935 Abercorn Street, Solms 109B
Savannah, GA 31419
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The 7th annual course will be held June 26-30, 2023 at Water’s Edge Resort, Westbrook, CT, U.S.A. Costs will be covered. Notification of Intent to apply (simple, informal email to dlowry@fredhutch.org) is due no later than December 15, 2022. Full application is due no later than Sunday, January 15, 2023. For more detail and to apply, visit TRECTraining.yale.edu. Questions: contact Diana Lowry dlowry@fredhutch.org

**FIELD-RELATED CONFERENCES**

- **The American Society for Nutrition (ASN)**
  - When: July 22-25, 2023
  - Where: Boston, MA
  - Abstract submission deadline: March 1, 2023
  - More information [here](#)

**LOCAL EVENTS HAPPENING THIS WINTER**

- Music and performing art: [https://discoveratlanta.com/events/music/](https://discoveratlanta.com/events/music/)
- Food and wine: [https://discoveratlanta.com/events/food-wine/](https://discoveratlanta.com/events/food-wine/)
- Outdoor: [https://discoveratlanta.com/events/outdoor/](https://discoveratlanta.com/events/outdoor/)

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

Dr. Viola Vaccarino
Professor, Department of Epidemiology

Describe your academic path to your current position? How long have you been at Emory? I received an MD degree from the University of Milano, Italy, and a few years after I came to the US in 1989 where I received a PhD in Epidemiology at Yale. I started my academic career at Yale as assistant professor and then I joined the Emory faculty in the School of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, in 2000.

What is your particular area of research and how did you become interested in it? My initial work focused on sex differences in the outcome and clinical management of myocardial infarction using population samples and large clinical databases. As my work progressed, I became increasingly interested in the link between psychosocial and behavioral factors and the risk of coronary heart disease, in the underlying mechanisms and potential pathways that contribute to cardiovascular risk.
pathophysiological mechanisms, and in the role of these factors in explaining sex- and race-based disparities in CHD risk and outcomes.

**What did you enjoy the most about your graduate school experience?** I loved the freedom of just focusing on learning, and the creativity associated with research: that is, formulating and addressing new questions to solve problems. I also loved being in a multicultural environment during my graduate training and meeting people from around the world. And I very much enjoyed working with my mentors and learning from them.

**Do you have any professional development advice for NHS students?** Stick with your passion. Graduate school can be hard and you may think that the journey ahead is insurmountable – but nothing is impossible if you do what you really love. Always do “the right thing” even if that choice may be, sometimes, less easy or less practical. And don’t forget to carve regular time for yourself, engaging in other things you like to do outside graduate work.

**Describe any challenging and exciting parts of your current position?** The main challenge in my position is finding the right balance of time, as academic work essentially never ends. However, this is compensated by the constant learning of new things, and the excitement of discovery associated with research work. I also very much like working with young people and helping them succeed. I love seeing students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty grow and develop - there is a lot of satisfaction in this.

**What do you like to do in your free time?** I like to read, to cook, to travel and to walk or bike in nature trails.

**Describe any potential rotation opportunities?** For NHS students, in a number of existing and ongoing studies we have data on dietary assessments in conjunction with many other measures (behavioral assessments, stressful exposures, social determinants, blood biomarkers, metabolomic data, epigenetic data...) that could be analyzed to answer many novel questions.

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**NHS ACTIVITIES**

COVID restrictions are easing up and we’re slowly returning to in-person conferences. We had a great NHS representation at the just ended 2022 IUNS International Congress of Nutrition which happened in-person in Japan, Tokyo. Congratulations to all the NHS presenters!
Have a wonderful and relaxing Winter break!

Join our Alumni and Student Group on LinkedIn!

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*|Dec 2022 Newsletter|*

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