Dear NHS Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

We hope that you had a good Spring semester! In this edition of our newsletter, we pay a special remembrance to Dr. Donald McCormick, who played a pivotal role in the establishment of the NHS program. As always, we will highlight recent NHS achievements, opportunities, and events. We also feature a new faculty member, Dr. Sheela Sinharoy, who is an NHS alumnus!

Congratulations to our recent graduates: Reshma Roshania, Larelle High-Bookhart, Miranda Alonna Cook, Natalia Elvira Poveda Rey, and Jithin Sam Varghese.

In Fall 2022, we will welcome a new NHS cohort: Aishat Gambari, Erica Kocher, Su Yeon Oh, and Sarah Qabazard. Congratulations to the current first years for nearing the end of the academic year – all the best of luck as you prepare for the comprehensive exams in June!

We love reading and filling others in about all of your accomplishments, so please feel free to email us with any accomplishments or feedback! Finally, we hope that you are able to take some time off to celebrate your wins and spend time with family and friends!

Cheers,
Ben and Wilhemina
NHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Recent graduates
We had five graduates between Summer 2021 and Spring 2022:

- Dr. Reshma Roshania – Class of Summer 2021
- Dr. Larelle High-Bookhart – Class of Fall 2021
- Dr. Miranda Aionna Cook – Class of Fall 2021
- Dr. Natalia Elvira Poveda Rey – Class of Spring 2022
- Dr. Jithin Sam Varghese – Class of Spring 2022

Congratulations to you all and we wish you the best of luck in your careers!

(From left to right: Dr. Shivani Patel, Dr. Natalia Elvira Poveda Rey, Dr. Jithin Sam Varghese, Dr. Aryeh Stein, Dr. Usha Ramakrishnan, Dr. Reshma Roshania, and Dr. Melissa Young)

James (Jiada) Zhan, 1st year
James has been selected to be the Communications Director on the American Diabetes Association’s Public Health & Epidemiology Interest Group. It is a 2-year term position, with responsibilities including leading group engagement on the DiabetesPro Forum; updating community page with relevant articles, webcasts, and other resources; sending announcements to group members; working with ADA staff on email communications; and promoting Interest Group and ADA activities and resources to networks.

Moses Ekwueme, 1st year
Moses had an abstract published recently:

**Melissa Chapnick, 2nd year**

Melissa got accepted as a pre-doctoral fellow in the Multidisciplinary Research Training to Reduce Inequalities in Cardiovascular Health (METRIC T32) program and also had four papers published recently:


**Wilhemina Quarpong, 2nd year**

Wilhemina had an abstract accepted to ASN Nutrition 2022:

**Wilhemina Quarpong**, Aileen Rivell, Katelyn V. Chiang, Terri McFadden, Belise Livingston-Burns, Jean A. Welsh. Fruit Juice and Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Related Knowledge and Feeding Practices Among Parents of Infants and Young Toddlers.

**Brigitte Pfluger, 3rd year**

Brigitte had a paper published recently:


**Euisun (Irene) Pyo, 3rd year**
Irene had a paper published recently:


Yara Beyh, 3rd year

Yara had two book chapters published and a poster presentation at a conference in April:


Poster presentation at the AWSOM (Atlanta Workshop on Single-cell Omics) Conference, Georgia Tech: **Yara S Beyh** and Manoj K Bhasin, 2022, “Deciphering the systems levels dysregulations in Gestational Diabetes by studying single cell communication networks”.

Sonia Tandon, 4th year

Sonia was awarded an NIH NRSA F31 fellowship by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for her project "Maternal and offspring FADS polymorphisms, dietary LC-PUFAs, and adolescent cardiometabolic health"

Natalia Elvira Poveda Rey, Spring 2022 graduate

Natalia received the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Associate Award from the Laney Graduate School

**SPECIAL SECTION:**
**REMEMBERING DR. DONALD MCCORMICK**
(Graciously submitted by Dr. Al Merrill with input from Dr. Dean Jones and Dr. Rey Martorell)
We bring you the sad news that Donald B. McCormick, Ph.D., died on April 21, 2022, at age 89. Dr. McCormick was the primary instigator for creation of the graduate program in Nutrition and Health Sciences when he served as the Fuller E. Callaway Professor and Chair of the Department of Biochemistry at Emory. With Dr. McCormick's encouragement, a proposal for the program by faculty at Emory and scientists from the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and other institutions was supported with initial funding from the Deans of the Schools of Medicine and Public Health and approved by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for inclusion in the Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. McCormick was an internationally recognized teacher and expert on diverse aspects of chemistry, biochemistry and nutrition, and particularly about riboflavin, pyridoxine, biotin, lipoate and metals. Findings from his laboratory and trainees provided much of the biochemical foundation for understanding the transport, metabolism and function of several water-soluble vitamins (see "A Trail of Research on Cofactors: An Odyssey with Friends" J. Nutr. 130: 323S–330S, 2000). His basic discoveries also led to a better understanding of deficiencies and genetic disorders involving these nutrients. He proudly classified himself as a "nutritional biochemist" (see "On becoming a nutritional biochemist," Annu. Rev. Nutr. 24:1–11, 2004 and the related video interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4dOYA4GqrA). In truth, he loved all nature and displayed an astounding knowledge about almost every type of living organism, from the molecular composition and physiology to the Latin names.

Dr. McCormick's numerous awards began in high school with winning the Tennessee Academy of Science/Bausch and Lomb Award and being named an honorary member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1947) and the National Westinghouse Science Talent Search (1950). Among those later in his career were: Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1966), the Mead Johnson (1970) and the Osborne and Mendel (1978) awards from the American Society for Nutrition, ASN (then named the American Institute of Nutrition), multiple visiting professorships in the US and abroad, the Bristol-Myers Squibb/ Mead Johnson Award for Distinguished Achievement in Nutrition Research (1999), election as an ASN Fellow in 2000 and designation as Distinguished Professor Emeritus by Emory University (2010).

Dr. McCormick's over 500 publications span 64 years, with the last in Present Knowledge in Nutrition, 11th edition (2020). He served as editor for multiple volumes of Methods in Enzymology, Vitamins and Hormones, the Handbook of Vitamins, and the Annual Review of Nutrition as well as on editorial
boards, review panels and as an advisor for academic, governmental, industrial and foundation laboratories that conduct nutrition and pharmaceutical research. Dr. McCormick served in numerous capacities for the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Sciences and worked on the development of national and international guidelines for micronutrients. He was very active in the ASN, serving as its President in 1991.

Dr. McCormick was the direct mentor for over 65 students, postdoctoral associates, and sabbatical colleagues in nutritional biochemistry, and the indirect mentor for countless others who sought his advice regarding specific scientific questions or about their careers. Upon Dr. McCormick’s retirement in 1997, his former trainees and colleagues set up an endowment for a yearly “McCormick Award” for NHS students, and when he learned about it, he personally increased the amount.

Dr. McCormick was always appreciative of his training and mentors. He received a BA in chemistry (1954) and Ph.D. in biochemistry (1958) from Vanderbilt University, and spoke highly of his doctoral thesis advisor, Dr. Oscar Touster, and of Dr. William J. Darby, who profoundly influenced his nutrition career. Likewise, his postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Esmond E. Snell, at the University of California, Berkeley (1959-60), anchored his position as a solid nutritional biochemist by accomplishment of one of the most sought-after objectives of that period—the first purification and enzymological characterization of an enzyme, in this case, pyridoxal kinase, an essential enzyme for the utilization of vitamin B6.

His career as an independent investigator began at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, as one of the original faculty members of the Division of Nutritional Sciences, and also a member of the graduate program in Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology. Dr. McCormick thrived in this environment because it enabled him to conduct research on anything that captured his interest, from relatively esoteric chemistry to very practical investigations, such as identification and quantitation of the metabolites of riboflavin in human urine. He advanced to the Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor before leaving for Emory in 1979.

At Emory, Dr. McCormick not only built the Department of Biochemistry into one respected worldwide, but in his capacity also as Executive Associate Dean for Science for the School of Medicine, was a critical catalyst to improved quality and scope of research as Emory expanded its biomedical research enterprise in the late 20th century. In retirement, he and his wife Jean were instrumental in launching Emory’s Emeritus College, and supported the Highlands–Cashiers Land Trust and the Highlands-Cashiers Humane Society.

Dr. McCormick is survived by his wife Jean, daughter Sue and sons Don and Allen.


Rotation Opportunities

(Aggregated here so you don’t have to search through hundreds of archived emails)

Opportunities for research rotations with investigators from Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University

Investigators from Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory University are starting a small
randomized diet trial which will test whether replacement of dietary oxysterols with a plant-based diet will improve insulin production among African American adults. Opportunities for research rotations include meal planning using nutrition software, lipidomics analysis of meals, and other elements of trial implementation. Doctoral students with applied dietetics experiences are particularly encouraged to reach out. For more information, please reach out to Lisa Staimez, lisa.staimez@emory.edu.

**Summer rotation on NAFLD and Diet as drivers of liver cancer**
Dr. Vos and Dr. McCullough have an opportunity for a nutrition PhD student to work with them on the topic of **NAFLD and Diet as drivers of liver cancer**. The rotation could consist of a systematic review of the literature in this area or a systematic assessment of several large cancer databases with relevant variables (part of a grant application) and a descriptive summary. Please contact Dr. Vos for more details: mvos@emory.edu

**Obesity trends among children**
Rotation opportunity with Dr. Welsh and collaborators to coauthor (and possibly first author) a manuscript based on a secondary analysis of NHANES data to document the trends in obesity and related practices among children living in rural vs. urban communities. Rotation deliverables would include an abstract and manuscript ready tables and figures summarizing the results. If interested, please contact Dr. Welsh for more information.

**Qualitative data collection opportunity**
A qualitative primary data collection rotation opportunity is available with Dr. Welsh. This is part of an effort to expand/improve an early feeding intervention centered in pediatric primary healthcare facilities and would involve participating/facilitating in-depth interviews with pediatric healthcare providers, transcribing the 30-minute interviews (using available software), and summarizing key themes. Deliverables would include a summary report. Lead authorship on a manuscript is a possibility.

---

**Call for Proposals: Food and Health Research Using the Consumer Food Data System**
RWJF and ERS seek to develop a cohort of researchers from diverse academic disciplines and institutions who will produce policy-relevant research on food policy; food retail markets; consumer behaviors related to food purchases and diet; and USDA nutrition assistance programs.
Application Deadline: Monday, May 16, 2022

**Maternal & Infant Health Award, Lever for Change (with ICONIQ Impact and the Patchwork Collective)**
This Award seeks bold solutions that will improve and accelerate equitable maternal and infant health outcomes among marginalized communities across the globe.
Application Deadline: Thursday, June 2, 2022
More information: [https://www.maternalinfanthealthaward.org/](https://www.maternalinfanthealthaward.org/)

**The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) - Produce Prescription Program**
The primary goal and objective of the GusNIP Produce Prescription Program is to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of projects on: the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables; the reduction of individual and household food insecurity; and the reduction in healthcare use and associated costs.
Application Deadline: Thursday, June 30, 2022
Request for Proposal: Improving Maternal and Child Health, Anthem Foundation
Grant Program Goals include: reducing preterm birth rate; reducing maternal morbidity and mortality; and reducing primary C-section rates.
Proposal Deadline: Wednesday, August 31, 2022

National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program
This program provides the opportunity for mentored, multidisciplinary research in cancer prevention.
Deadline for applications: Monday, August 1, 2022
Deadline for supporting documentation: Monday, August 15, 2022
For more information, please visit the NCI website or email: mailto:cpfpcordinator@mail.nih.gov

2023 AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship
The purpose of this fellowship is to enhance the training of postdoctoral applicants who are not yet independent. The applicant must be embedded in an appropriate investigative group with the mentorship, support, and relevant scientific guidance of a research mentor. The trainee and sponsor should collaboratively provide a thoughtfully planned, systematic proposal aimed at clearly answering an investigative question in cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or brain health research.
Proposal Deadline: Thursday, September 8, 2022
More information: https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/application-information/postdoctoral-fellowship

2023 AHA Predoctoral Fellowship
The purpose of the 2023 AHA Predoctoral Fellowship is to enhance the integrated research and clinical training of promising students who are matriculated in pre-doctoral or clinical health professional degree training programs and who intend careers as scientists, physician-scientists or other clinician-scientists, or related careers aimed at improving global cardiovascular, cerebrovascular and brain health.
Proposal Deadline: Wednesday, September 7, 2022
More information: https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/application-information/postdoctoral-fellowship

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences - Post-Doctoral Fellow:
Location: Little Rock, AK
About: The postdoctoral trainee will work as part of an interdisciplinary and translational team, with access to state-of-the-art facilities and resources to carry on both clinical and basic studies. Candidates will be actively involved in clinical projects aimed at understanding dietary needs in children, and the role of physical activity and nutrition in growth and development. The position offers opportunity for training in pediatric nutrition and exercise physiology research, including stable isotope techniques to characterize energy expenditure and substrate metabolism. The candidate will take part in the ACNC’s mentor-ship program which will provide formal structure to support the career development and goals of the candidate.
Application Deadline: Monday, June 6, 2022
More information here.

USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Collaborative Research Fellowship in Human Nutrition with Six Research Centers
Location: Beltsville, MD
About: The objective of this project will be to identify specific themes/research areas common to all six USDA nutrition centers, then to facilitate the development/implementation of a specific project that capitalizes on the strengths and abilities at each center, while collaborating as a team to achieve the objective. Of particular importance will be a focus on the capabilities of the various centers to conduct studies with human subjects.
Application Deadline: Monday, June 13, 2022

Cochrane US Mentoring Program:
Location: Virtual
The mentoring program is a 12-month commitment and will include group and one-on-one mentoring, networking events, trainings, and the opportunity to work on or complete a project or product in collaboration with Cochrane researchers. Additional events and involvement within Cochrane will be offered.
Application Deadline: Monday, May 23, 2022
More information: https://us.cochrane.org/news/mentoring

---

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

https://mailchi.mp/a419071d8c3e/nhs-newsletter-may-6045596
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN):

About: We are looking for a consultant to undertake a systematic review on the available digital technologies for data collection, synthesis, analysis, and visualization which focus on large-scale food fortification and biofortification. I wanted to share the RFP with you in case you know any PhD students/students with systematic review methodology experience at Emory who might be looking for a summer job between mid-May and end of July.

For more information here.

Assistant Scientist Position, Johns Hopkins University: Bloomberg School of Public Health: Department of International Health

Location: Baltimore, MD, 21205

About: The Program in Human Nutrition engages in efforts to improve the nutritional status of women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women, and infants and children in underserved areas through a variety of approaches, including improved diets, biofortified foods, fortified food products, and vitamin and mineral supplements. To support these studies, we run a state-of-the-art Micronutrient Research laboratory which has developed a variety of assays across different methodological platforms for vitamin and mineral status assessment and run thousands of serum/plasma, human milk, urine and stool biospecimens from affiliated study sites in South Asia and Africa.

Please contact Dr. Kerry Schulze (kschulz1@jhu.edu) with the subject line Assistant Scientist Position including a cover letter and CV.

More information: https://apply.interfolio.com/105946

Corus International: Senior Technical Advisor – Social Behavior Change (SBC)

Location: Baltimore, MD or Washington, DC

About: The Senior Technical Advisor for Social and Behavior Change (SBC) is a member of the Health and Nutrition department within the Program Strategy & Technical Excellence (PSTE) Team. The Advisor serves as a technical expert on SBC programming, and provides technical assistance to programs and the field, and support effective design, implementation, and management of projects. The Advisor interacts with a wide range of stakeholders including technical counterparts, policy experts, senior leaders, other donors, multilateral organizations, private sector entities, and implementing partners. The individual must develop a strong working knowledge of USAID, and other high priority donor technical strategies, priorities, policies, and guidelines.

More information: https://corus.applicantpro.com/jobs/2334504.html
HER NOPREN COVID-19 Weekly digest
To learn about public health nutrition events, jobs, and fellowships, please email Jessica (jessica6@live.unc.edu) to be added to the HER NOPREN COVID-19 weekly digest listserv.

System dynamics summer school
This Summer School provides a unique opportunity to learn (or review) the basics of System Dynamics and get exposed to real-world applications of the method. See the website for more details: https://systemdynamics.org/learning/summer-school/

FIELD-RELATED CONFERENCES

The Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Conference
When: May 18-21, 2022
Where: Athens, Ga
More information here.

NIH Workshop: The Social Component of Diabetes Health Disparities: New Directions in Analyses and Interventions Through Social Networks and Structures
When: May 19-20, 2022
Where: Bethesda, MD
More information here.

Nutrition 2022 (American Society for Nutrition)
When: June 14-16, 2022
Where: Virtual
More information here.

SNEB 2022 (Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior)
When: July 29-Aug 1, 2022
Where: Atlanta, Ga
More information here.

LOCAL EVENTS HAPPENING THIS SUMMER

Popular attractions and festivals:

- Spring River Canoe Trip on Chattahoochee: Multiple days until 05/29/2022
- Atlanta Jazz Festival: May 28-30, 2022
- Candler Park Music Festival: June 3-4, 2022
- Cocktails in the Garden: Multiple days until 09/30/2022
- Atlanta Underground Film Festival: August, 19-21, 2022
• Piedmont Park Summer Arts Festival: August, 20-21, 2022

Additional events to check out:

1. Music and performing art: https://discoveratlanta.com/events/music/
2. Food and wine: https://discoveratlanta.com/events/food-wine/
3. Outdoor: https://discoveratlanta.com/events/outdoor/
4. Grady Fresh Food Cart volunteer opportunities: https://volunteer.handsonatlanta.org

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Sheela S Sinharoy
Assistant Professor, Hubert Department of Global Health
(Jointly appointed: Gagnerosa Department of Environmental Health)

Describe your academic path to your current position? How long have you been at Emory? I have been at Emory for almost nine years: four years as a PhD student in the NHS program, almost three years as a post-doctoral fellow in the Environmental Health department, and the remainder as faculty. My academic path also includes dual BA degrees in Sociology and Latin American Studies from Penn State, as well as an MPH from the Department of Maternal and Child Health at UNC-Chapel Hill.

What is your particular area of research and how did you become interested in it? My research is at the intersection of nutrition, environmental health, and gender. I’m interested in studying underlying causes of poor nutrition in low- and middle-income countries. These causes can include poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) conditions, factors related to the food systems, and harmful gender norms. I believe that exposure to air pollution can also influence nutrition outcomes, though this is less well researched than other environmental factors.

What did you enjoy the most about your graduate school experience? I enjoyed being able to take advantage of both the breadth and depth of expertise at Emory. During my PhD, I was able to work not only with the fantastic NHS faculty, but also with preeminent experts in Environmental Health, Sociology, and other fields. I felt like this gave me a very interdisciplinary experience that I really enjoyed.

Do you have any professional development advice for NHS students? Yes! I’ve advised students in the past to treat graduate school like a job, and then I heard Cal Newport give a variation on this advice: he said to treat graduate school like a job that you are really bad at. Nobody is good at this job when they start, and that is fine! Think about what you need to do to get better at this job. This can include learning new knowledge and skills, but it can also involve improving processes (e.g., time management) to make yourself more efficient and productive. This is something that I’m still working on, as there is always room for improvement.

Describe any challenging and exciting parts of your current position?
The most challenging part is management – managing time, projects, and people – and aligning my time with my priorities. The most exciting part is seeing my mentees be successful. A student’s success, whether finishing an MPH thesis or getting a publication, is much more exciting to me than my own.

**What do you like to do in your free time?** I like spending time with family and friends, being outside, and reading. Our family loves watching The Great British Bake Off together. I also enjoy shopping!

**Describe any potential rotation opportunities?** I am supposed to be writing several papers using data from the Household Air Pollution Intervention Network (HAPIN) trial. I’ve made a start on several of these, but one that I haven’t started yet is on functional outcomes of hemoglobin concentrations by altitude in pregnant women and infants in HAPIN. The HAPIN trial was done in four countries (Guatemala, India, Peru, Rwanda) and the sites range in altitude from sea level in India to one of the highest permanently inhabited settlements in the world, in Puno, Peru. The objective for this paper would be to examine the associations between hemoglobin concentrations and outcomes such as pre-term birth and low birth weight by different altitudes across the HAPIN trial. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact me!

---

**NHS ACTIVITIES**

---

On April 1st, the NHS Club hosted an alumni panel and social event that was well attended by NHS students. Six alumni of the NHS program participated in the panel discussion, giving an overview of their current positions and discussing how the NHS program supported them to achieve their career goals. Be on the lookout for other upcoming professional development events hosted by the NHS Club!

---

This spring several NHS students participated in the “Run In The Cold For Those Who Sleep In The Cold 5k” hosted by the Atlanta Mission organization. Proceeds from the race helps serve meals and
provides beds to those experiencing homelessness.

And of course NHS wouldn't be NHS without delicious food! We are all thankful to have some more opportunities to gather and share meals together this semester.

Have a wonderful, safe, and relaxing summer!