



NHS Student Newsletter

Fall 2020

Dear NHS Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

Congratulations on making it through another semester during this difficult and unique time! We want to thank everyone for the collaborative input of this newsletter and ask that you join us in celebrating our students' achievements and milestones, while exploring opportunities and getting more acquainted with members of our NHS faculty.

This fall we did have one program graduate, Kristine Dennis. Congratulations Kristine! We wish you the best and hope you will keep in touch!

While 2020 proved to be an incredibly challenging year, there is hope that 2021 will bring some return to normalcy. We hope that you and your loved ones have stayed healthy and safe throughout the holiday season and continue to in the new year.

Cheers,

Jane and Ben

NHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kristine Dennis (5th year)

Kristine successfully defended her dissertation: “Health benefits of plant-based diets: effects of dietary phytochelatins on toxic metal absorption”. She received a student poster award at the National Nutrient Databank Conference 2020 and was a poster award finalist (Emerging Leaders in Nutrition Sciences) at ASN Nutrition 2020.

Additionally, Kristine had the following manuscript published:

- Dennis KK, Liu KH, Uppal K, Go YM, Jones DP. (2021). **Distribution of phytochelatins, metal-binding compounds, in plant foods: a survey of commonly consumed fruits, vegetables, grains and legumes.** Food Chemistry. doi: 10.1016/j.foodchem.2020.128051. PMID: 32950899.

For a link to the manuscript click [here](#).

Kristine has received a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women’s Hospital that she will be starting in January.

Shruthi Cyriac (5th year)

Shruthi had two manuscripts published this past semester:

- Shruthi Cyriac, Regine Haardörfer, Lynnette M Neufeld, Amy Webb Girard, Usha Ramakrishnan, Reynaldo Martorell, Mduduzi N N Mbuya, **High Coverage and Low Utilization of the Double Fortified Salt Program in Uttar Pradesh, India: Implications for Program Implementation and Evaluation**, Current Developments in Nutrition, Volume 4, Issue 9, September 2020, nzaa133, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzaa133>

For a link to the manuscript click [here](#).

- Shivani Kachwaha, Phuong Hong Nguyen, Michelle DeFreese, Rasmi Avula, Shruthi Cyriac, Amy Girard, Purnima Menon, **Assessing the Economic Feasibility of Assuring Nutritionally**

Adequate Diets for Vulnerable Populations in Uttar Pradesh, India: Findings from a “Cost of the Diet” Analysis, Current Developments in Nutrition, Volume 4, Issue 12, December 2020, nzaa169, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzaa169>

For a link to the manuscript click [here](#).

Additionally, Shruthi was a guest speaker at a Learning Centre hosted by the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition, during the Micronutrient Forum’s CONNECTED conference this past semester. Talk title: “Making programs worth their salt: Assessing the context, fidelity and outcomes of implementation of the Double Fortified Salt Program in Uttar Pradesh, India”

Ahlia Sekkarie (5th year)

Ahlia had the following manuscript published this past semester:

- Sekkarie, Ahlia, et al. **"ALT Trends through Childhood and Adolescence Associated with Hepatic Steatosis at 24 Years: A Population-Based UK Cohort Study."** Children 7.9 (2020): 117.

For a link to the manuscript click [here](#).

Priya Gupta (3rd year)

Priya was selected to receive a doctoral fellowship from Emory’s Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Education, Science and Practice. The fellowship provides students with an interdisciplinary forum that is designed to enhance one’s leadership and cultural competency when working with diverse MCH populations.

Additionally, Priya had two manuscripts accepted/published this past semester:

- Bates M, Gupta PM, Cogswell ME, Hamner HC, Perrine CG. **Iron Content of Commercially Available Infant and Toddler Foods in the United States**, 2015. Nutrients. 2020 Aug 13;12(8):2439. doi: 10.3390/nu12082439. PMID: 32823695; PMCID: PMC7469030.

For a link to the manuscript click [here](#).

- Gupta PM, Wieck E, Conkle J, Betters KA, Cooley A, Yamasaki S, Laibhen-Parkes N, Suchdev PS. **Improving assessment of child growth in a pediatric hospital setting**. BMC Pediatr. 2020 Sep 3;20(1):419. doi: 10.1186/s12887-020-02289-1. PMID: 32883257; PMCID: PMC7469098.

For a link to the manuscript click [here](#).

Paula Nesbeth (3rd year)

Paula was selected from a very competitive pool of applicants as one of the four Emory students to be nominated for the 2021 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowships.

Paula also presented a poster during the ObesityWeek Conference hosted by The Obesity Society (virtual):

- Nesbeth PD, Pacifici R, Roberts DL, Zrelloff JJ, Ivie EA, Bergquist SH, Ziegler TR, Alvarez JA. **“Associations of Visceral Adipose Tissue with Bone Turnover Biomarkers in Postmenopausal Women”**. ObesityWeek. November 2020.

Sonia Tandon (3rd year)

Sonia received the prestigious honor of being a 2021 Rollins School of Public Health Livingston Fellow this past semester. This fellowship is awarded for outstanding achievements as a doctoral student in the NHS program.

Melissa Chapnick (1st year)

Melissa had two manuscripts accepted/published this past semester:

- Galvin M, Chapnick M, Antenor L, Joseph D, Dulience B, Jean-Louis S, Iannotti, L. **Transnational Education Partnerships: Achieving Public Health Impact Through Cross-Cultural Pedagogical Approaches in Haiti**. International Journal of Health Promotion and Education, 2020 Oct 30. doi: 10.1080/14635240.2020.1843187.

For the manuscript link click [here](#).

- Sibbald C, Chapnick M, Ross N, Gandor P, Waters W, Palacios I, Iannotti L. **Fetal brain ultrasound measures and maternal nutrition: A feasibility study in Ecuador.** American Journal of Human Biology, 2020 Aug 16, e23467. doi: 10.1002/ajhb.23467

For the manuscript link click [here](#).

CONFERENCES

*These conferences are still planning on an in-person meeting as of the release of our newsletter.

2021 Georgia Nutrition Council Conference

When: February 25-26, 2021

Where: Virtual

More information [here](#)

Nutrition 2021 LIVE ONLINE (American Society for Nutrition)

When: June 7-10, 2021

Where: Virtual

Abstracts due February 8, 2021

More information [here](#)

Society for Epidemiologic Research *

When: June 22-25, 2021

Where: San Diego, CA

Abstracts due January 14, 2021

More information [here](#)

American Diabetes Association 81st Scientific Sessions *

When: June 25-29, 2021

Where: Washington, DC

Abstracts due January 11, 2021

More information [here](#)

ANH (Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health) Academy Week

When: June 21-25, 2021 & June 28-July 2, 2021

Where: TBD

More information [here](#)

Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior 2021 *

When: August 7-10, 2021

Where: New Orleans, LA

Abstracts due February 14, 2021

More information [here](#)

Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo 2021 *

When: October 16-19, 2021

Where: New Orleans, LA

Abstracts due February 18, 2021

More information [here](#)

American Public Health Association Annual Conference & Expo

When: October 23-27, 2021

Where: Virtual

More information [here](#)

Obesity Week (The Obesity Society Conference)

When: November 1-5, 2021

Where: TBD

More information [here](#)

UPCOMING VIRTUAL RSPH EVENTS

Coordinated Care Response Training for Spring 2021 RSPH Teaching Assistants

January 27, 2021 from 12:05PM EST – 12:55PM EST

Guided by best practices outlined by professionals at Emory University Counseling and Psychological Services and Student Case Management and Intervention Services, the purpose of this training is to provide RSPH Teaching Assistants with the tools and skills needed to initiate a coordinated care response that will allow students to access university resources, even if a student is experiencing a crisis.

Register here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

POSTDOCTORAL AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

(AGGREGATED HERE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEARCH THROUGH HUNDREDS OF ARCHIVED EMAILS)

Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship: Global Cardiovascular Health Implementation Research

The Northwestern Center for Global Cardiovascular Health, led by Drs. Mark Huffman and Lisa Hirschhorn, is seeking outstanding candidates for a new post-doctoral research fellowship position in global cardiovascular health implementation research. The diverse research training experience offered through this fellowship includes work in projects related to larger-scale, system-based hypertension control and food policy research in Nigeria, as well as FDA-regulated pharmacotherapy blood pressure lowering and community-based participatory action implementation research in Chicago. The main focus will be on applying and strengthening mixed methods implementation research to measure an explain process and implementation outcomes in these projects and developing specific areas where the fellow will lead existing or new analyses and supporting and leading scientific publications.

For more information click [here](#).

Assistant Professor in Nutritional Sciences: University of Wisconsin-Madison

This is a full-time, 9-month, tenure track faculty member at the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. This newly created position is supported by the Dairy Innovation Hub in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The Hub is an exciting new initiative at three of the leading UW agricultural schools (UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and UW-River Falls) and fosters dairy research, education, and outreach in the priority areas of Stewarding Land & Water Resources, Ensuring Animal Health & Welfare, Growing Farm Businesses & Communities, and Enriching Human Health and

Nutrition. The position will support the "Enriching Human Health and Nutrition" priority area and will have a tenure home within the Department of Nutritional Sciences. The vision for this priority area is to elucidate novel links between milk components and human health leading to new dairy product(s) for individuals across the human life cycle consistent with "personalized nutrition". The position carries a commitment to the three functions of research, instruction, outreach, and service, as well as professional and university service as appropriate to the position and rank. Additionally, as a Hub-supported position, the faculty member will also have the opportunity to collaborate with other Hub researchers, pursue Hub funding opportunities, and participate in Hub programs.

For more information click [here](#).

ROTATION OPPORTUNITIES

(AGGREGATED HERE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEARCH THROUGH HUNDREDS OF ARCHIVED EMAILS)

Nutrition therapy and inherited metabolic disorders:

PI: Rani H. Singh, PhD RD; Professor, Director of Emory Metabolic Nutrition Program

Location: [Metabolic Nutrition Program within the Department of Human Genetics](#)

Overview: We have many opportunities for clinical, service, data-driven and public health projects that reinforce the relationship between aspects of nutrition and health outcomes. In particular, we focus on inherited metabolic disorders (IMD) that require nutritional therapy. Some of our key projects include our [Annual Metabolic Camp](#), [Medical Nutrition Therapy for Prevention \(MNT4P\)](#), professional continuing education in IMD, analysis of clinical research data, and development of IMD clinical guidelines.

Specific rotation topics available: The following list are project opportunities available for rotation students (rotations have opportunity to lead to thesis work if there is interest).

- Analysis of demographics, socioeconomics, impact and efficacy of MNT4P program on Georgia state families affected by IMD
- Analysis of data collected from prior Metabolic camps. Available data may be analyzed cross-sectionally, as Day 1 vs Day 5 of camp, or longitudinally across several years of prior camps. Data

includes various biomarkers, detailed diet record analysis, measures of compliance, and recent information on demographics and SES.

- Analysis of data collected from a survey of clinicians and dietitians in the field of IMDs regarding experiences in the field and learning/training needs
- Methodological research comparing methods for body composition and biochemical assessment.

If students wish to talk further about a rotation with project please contact Dr. Teresa Douglas via Emory email (tddougl@emory.edu) or Rosalynn Blair (rborlaz@emory.edu).

Food fortification opportunities:

Dr. Helena Pachon works fairly exclusively in the area of food fortification.

She has projects that would lend themselves to a data-analysis rotation. [Here's](#) an example of an analysis she'd like to repeat in countries with nationally representative biomarker and diet data.

They also have a bounty of country-level data on food fortification policies, programs, and health impact that could be triangulated in an ecological analysis to answer questions such as “do countries that follow WHO fortification guidelines tend to have greater health impact after implementing fortification?” The data can be found [here](#) at the Global Fortification Data Exchange website.

For more information contact Helena Pachon, helena.pachon@emory.edu

Evaluation of the associations between dietary supplement intake and child growth patterns:

We are looking for a student with strong quantitative and writing skills to work with our team on an evaluation of the associations between dietary supplement intake and child growth patterns in the U.S. using national data.

The student would co-author or lead a manuscript and would have the opportunity to be involved in subsequent grant proposals if interested.

For more information contact Dr. Solveig Cunningham (sargese@emory.edu) or Rebecca Jones (rejone4@emory.edu).

Nutritional metabolomics analysis:

Dr. Sheela Sinharoy (Assistant Professor, Hubert Department of Global Health) and Dr. Lisa Thompson (Associate Professor, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing) are seeking a student with an interest in nutritional metabolomics. The study involves untargeted metabolomics analysis of breast milk samples, which were collected from 75 women in rural Guatemala (all of whose infants were six months of age) as part of the Household Air Pollution Intervention Network (HAPIN) trial. The breast milk samples were shipped to Emory and have been analyzed by the Jones lab. We are now seeking a student to support analysis of the resulting data and the production of a manuscript for publication.

If interested, please contact Dr. Sheela Sinharoy, sheela.sinharoy@emory.edu

Anemia in women of reproductive age:

Dr. Sheela Sinharoy (Assistant Professor, Hubert Department of Global Health) is seeking a student interested in anemia among women of reproductive age to support analysis of multiple datasets. The first dataset comes from the Household Air Pollution Intervention Network (HAPIN) trial, and the objective of the analysis will be to determine the impact of the HAPIN intervention on hemoglobin concentrations in pregnant women, at multiple time points during pregnancy, in the four study sites (in Guatemala, Peru, India, and Rwanda). The remaining datasets will come from publicly available sources (e.g. DHS, NHANES, etc.), and the analysis will examine associations between factors related to menstruation, hemoglobin concentrations, and (where possible) biomarkers of iron status in women of reproductive age. Each of these analyses will contribute to the production of manuscripts for publication.

If interested, please contact Dr. Sheela Sinharoy, sheela.sinharoy@emory.edu

Nutrition social and behavior change in nutrition-sensitive agriculture projects/programs:

This rotation would include qualitative data collection and analysis as part of a global landscaping of nutrition social and behavior change (SBC) within the context ongoing nutrition-sensitive agriculture projects/programs. Students would have the opportunity to work with 1-3 ongoing projects to understand their approaches to design and implementation of SBC for diet-related behaviors, and identify gaps, resources, and recommendations for implementers. Data collection could include both remote activities (namely, document review and remote interviews with staff) and (covid-willing) travel to the project site(s) for direct observations and in-person interviews/focus groups. Though site selection is ongoing and

subject to change, if travel is possible, it would occur over the summer and Bangladesh is a likely destination for this rotation. We anticipate approximately 6-8 weeks in-country.

Timeline – Students could start remote work in the spring, and plan for travel over the summer. Ideally, interested students would submit a funding request to the Emory Global Health Institute, the deadline for which is February 12. Therefore, interested students should contact Amy or Emily (see below) as soon as possible.

If interested contact Amy Webb Girard at awebb3@emory.edu and/or Emily Faerber at emily.ferber@emory.edu.

Dietary validation and American Cancer Society cohort data opportunities:

- Complete a validation study on a meal timing grid (compared to multiple 24-hr recalls) in a dataset of 750 men and women. Writing and publishing the paper should be achievable, as some of the analysis has already been conducted. Timeline: 10 hrs/week, 3-4 months
- Other ideas welcome for rotations utilizing data for and ACS validation study of 750 people. This includes metabolomics data (Mass spec, NMR, blood and urine), 24-hr recalls, carotenoids, tocopherols, vitamin D, urinary sodium, potassium and protein, two FFQs (1 year apart), and body mass, medical history, income/education, etc.
- Metabolomic and nutrition biomarker correlates of self-reported meal source (or meal timing) in ~677 men and women. 10 hrs/week, 3-4 months.

If interested contact Marji McCullough, American Cancer Society, marji.mccullough@cancer.org

Well-child visit video project:

The goal of this pilot project is to assess the feasibility and preliminary impact on clinician and parent practices when age-specific anticipatory guidance videos on infant feeding are incorporated into the well-child visit protocol. Opportunities for an interested student include helping to prepare for and overseeing data primary collection, data analysis, and manuscript preparation.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jean Welsh, Emory Department of Pediatrics

Timeline: Data collection to begin Jan 2021. The study is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

If interested, please contact Jean Welsh at jwelsh1@emory.edu

Recreational sports and diabetes prevention among minorities:

Researchers at the Emory Rollins School of Public Health recently received a \$100,000 grant from The Sun Life Team Up Against Diabetes grant program to fund the project, Leveraging Soccer to Prevent Diabetes Among Minority Men: Diabetes Prevention Football Club.

Students can be engaged on the IRB and intervention materials refinement, participant recruitment, data collection/analyses/interpretation and using preliminary data to write other grants

Full details of the program can be found [here](#).

If interested, please contact Felipe Lobelo at felipelobelo@emory.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITY

GH 523 – Quantitative Data Analysis – Fall 2021

Course Description: This course introduces the process of addressing research questions using quantitative data. The course emphasizes the technical skills required to transform a quantitative data set (exemplars: NHANES and Demographic and Health Surveys) into a reproducible analysis for global health applications. Students will receive guided, structured experience with quantitatively operationalizing research questions, data acquisition and management, data exploration, formal data description, conceptualization and construction of composite variables, analysis of statistical associations, and addressing common threats to valid inference. Exercises will be completed using SAS software with an emphasis on programming specific to complex survey designs. Students must register for both lectures and lab components. Prerequisites: EPI 530 and BIOS 500. EPI 531, BIOS 501, and GH 503 are strongly recommended.

TA Responsibilities: attending lecture and lab, assisting with the development of labs, addressing student queries via email and meetings, grading labs, grading participation, maintaining the Canvas site.

For more information, please contact Dr. Shivani Patel (s.a.patel@emory.edu)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Erin Poe Ferranti, Ph.D., MPH, RN, CDCES, FAHA, FPCNA, FAAN

Assistant Professor, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University.

Director, Farmworker Family Health Program, School of Nursing, Emory University.

Dr. Ferranti's journey at Emory

I have been at Emory in multiple roles from student to hospital bedside nurse to research assistant to faculty for nearly 20 years. I chose to focus my PhD on nutrition because I recognized that we did a poor job of preparing nurses to adequately address diet and nutrition when caring for patients. Furthermore, in my own clinical practice of caring for patients with hypertension and diabetes, dietary changes were the most challenging for patients to manage so I wanted to identify ways to make this easier for both the patient and their family members.

What is your specific area of research and how did you become interested in it?

As described above, my interest in diet and nutrition stemmed from my clinical experience of wanting to help patients prevent and manage cardiometabolic disease with dietary strategies. During my doctoral program, I became most interested in women who had a pregnancy complicated by gestational diabetes or a hypertensive disorder and following them into the early postpartum time period to assess dietary patterns and cardiometabolic health. Since graduation (in 2013), I have included omics technologies, specifically microbiome, metabolomics, and lipidomics to specifically investigate the underlying mechanisms by which dietary patterns are associated with subclinical cardiometabolic dysregulation.

What did you enjoy the most about your graduate school experience?

Getting to learn and work with the amazing faculty at Emory (NHS, SOM and SON) in a new way.

Do you have any professional development advice for NHS students?

Be open to all opportunities – no experience is a bad experience and can lead you down pathways you may not have considered. My career path has unfolded by both following my passions and being open to opportunities that came available.

Describe any challenging and exciting parts of your current position?

The most exciting parts of being a faculty member is the constant learning and opportunities for stretching outside your comfort zone, including working with awesome students, inter-professional colleagues and knowing that I play a small part in making a difference for student growth and learning and women's health.

The most challenging parts of the job are learning how to effectively manage the multiple roles and competing priorities of researcher, teacher, program manager, and clinician.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I have a horse and riding and spending time at the barn is my total therapy and happy place. I am also a big traveler in non-COVID times and love to explore dietary patterns and food customs wherever I go.

Describe any potential rotation opportunities?

I always welcome students to work with me. My current studies involve in-person clinical data collection, sample preparation and storage. I also have collected data which can be analyzed, so there are opportunities for both clinically focused and data-focused rotations.

Additionally, as Director of the Farmworker Family Health Program in the School of Nursing, I am looking for ways to expand our research to improve the health of migrant farmworkers. We have an ongoing initiative to improve farmworker knowledge of heat-related illness.



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*|May 2020 Newsletter|**

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