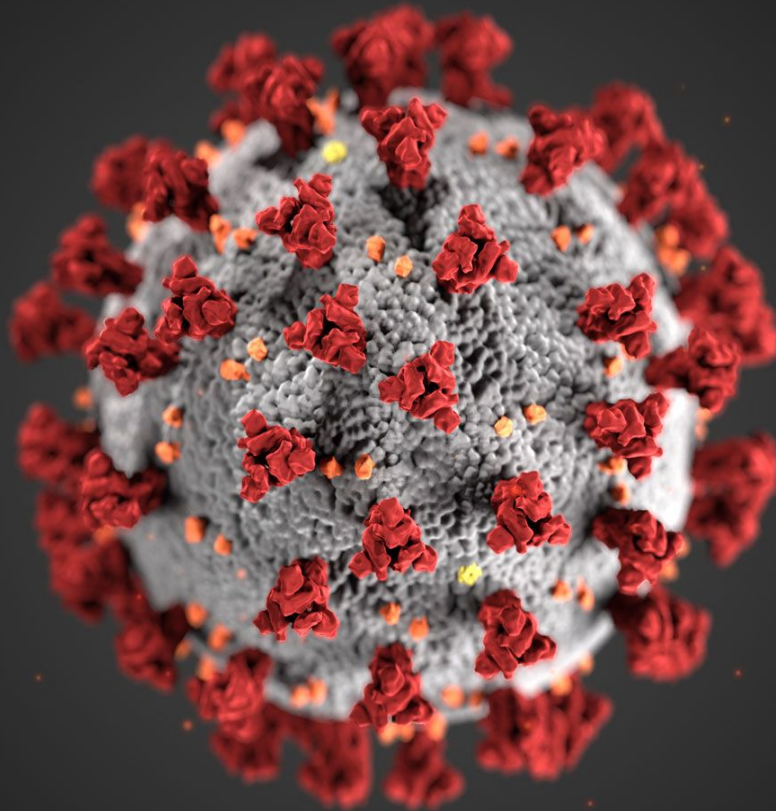


Issue 17 | 2021



FIU | Robert Stempel College
of Public Health
& Social Work

Department of Epidemiology
Newsletter Issue 17 | 2021

A Note From Our Chair

Welcome to the Department of Epidemiology at the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work! We would like to share the outstanding achievements of our students and faculty with you in this newsletter.

We also invite you to explore our masters and doctoral programs at <https://stempel.fiu.edu/academics/public-health/epidemiology/>. Through our academic programs, we prepare our students to become public health professionals that can lead our local, national and global communities in addressing public health challenges of the 21st Century.

Mary Jo Trepka, MD, MSPH
Professor and Chair
Department of Epidemiology



Departmental Achievements

Student Achievements



Semiu Gbadamosi

Doctoral Candidate, **Semiu Gbadamosi**, was accepted into Merck's PhD/SCiD Co-Operative Program to provide analytical and technical support to fulfill the company's commercial objectives. He graduated with honors from the 5-month Correlation One Data Science (DS4A) Fellowship and was named the City of Miami DS4A/Empowerment Endowed Scholar. He also received the Stempel Travel Award for Fall 2021.

Doctoral candidate, **Prem Gautam**, presented posters at several conferences including the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the New England Science Symposium at Harvard, and FIU's Graduate Student Appreciation Week Scholarly Forum, where he won the Best Poster Presentation Award.



Prem Gautam

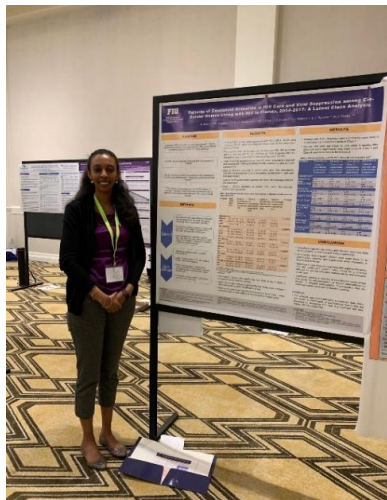


Anny Rodriguez

Doctoral candidate, **Anny Rodriguez**, has been working alongside Dr. Trepka, Dr. Bursac, and Dr. Odom to create weekly updates for current COVID-19 cases in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. She also assisted at FIU's on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

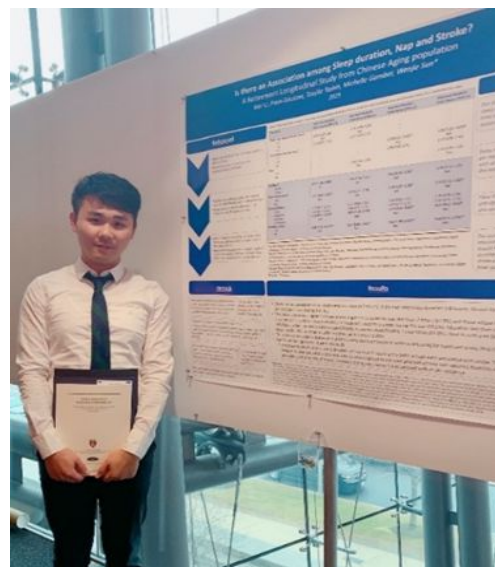
Department of Epidemiology

Student Achievements



Dr. Rahel Dawit

Doctoral candidate, **Wei Li**, presented at the 2021 Society For Research On Nicotine & Tobacco Annual Meeting with a poster presentation titled “Changes in Harm Perception of E-Cigarette Use and the Determinants among US Adolescents and Young Adults: Findings from the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study, 2013-2018”.



Wei Li



Rime Jebai

Doctoral candidate **Rime Jebai** has an abstract accepted for poster presentation to the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco annual conference on March 15-18, 2022. The presentation is titled “Anatomy of tobacco product use among us youth: national youth tobacco survey, 2011-2020.”

Department of Epidemiology

Recent Graduate Achievements



Recent PhD graduate, **Dr. Tanjila Taskin**, is working at Washington State Department of Health as a Dashboard Visualization Supervisor.



Recent PhD graduate, **Dr. Sandra Kigpalat**, is working as a PHI/CDC Global Epidemiology fellow with the Global Immunization Safety Team of the Immunization Safety Branch at Global Immunization Division, CDC.



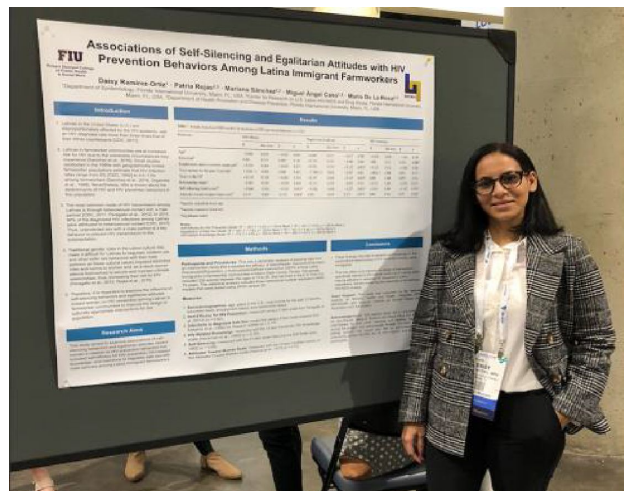
Recent PhD graduate, **Dr. Abir Rahman**, is working at the Cabell-Huntington Health Department as the Director of Epidemiology.



Recent PhD graduate, **Dr. Ebi Kalan** is working as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Department of Epidemiology

Postdoctoral Achievements



Dr. Daisy Ramirez

Dr. Daisy Ramirez-Ortiz was awarded a FIU-RCMI pilot grant in August 2021 to study multilevel barriers to retention and re-engagement in HIV care among Latino immigrants with HIV in Miami-Dade County, Florida. She is also a co-investigator in an administrative supplement awarded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) in September 2021 to identify barriers to COVID-19 vaccination and potential points of intervention to increase COVID-19 vaccination among African American, Hispanic, and Haitian people with HIV. She was also selected to participate in the 2021 Health Disparities Research Institute (HDRI) hosted by NIMHD in August.

She presented an e-poster entitled “Barriers and Facilitators to Retention in Care and Treatment Adherence Among Racially/Ethnically Diverse Women with HIV in South Florida” at the Adherence 2021 Conference in September. In addition, she presented an e-poster entitled “Pre- and Post-immigration HIV Testing Behaviors among Young Adult Recent Latino Immigrants in Miami-Dade County, Florida” at the 22nd annual virtual conference of the National Hispanic Science Network in November.

Department of Epidemiology

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Mary Jo Trepka, professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology, was awarded an additional supplement for “Influence of patient-centered HIV care on retention and viral suppression disparities COVID-19 - Vaccination Supplement”. She was also awarded an honorable mention from FIU’s Community Award for her work with the Miami COVID Project as well as a finalist for FIU’s Presidential Excellence Award.



Dr. Miguel Cano, an associate professor at the Department of Epidemiology, was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Award, College of Education and Human Development, from Texas A&M University. He also became Senior Associate Editor for *Behavioral Medicine* as well as became a committee member for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Dr. Wasim Maziak, professor in the Department of Epidemiology, has received several awards from NIH to study e-cigarettes, helping build FIU as a national hub for regulatory and policy research related to e-cigarette use. In partnership with the University of Miami, Dr. Maziak’s team recently received a 5 year \$2.6 million grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) to develop and test health warning labels for e-cigarettes. Additionally, a pending award from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and NIDA totaling \$1.25 million will allow Dr. Maziak’s team to test nicotine reduction strategies to reduce the addiction and health effects of e-cigarettes. Most recently, Dr. Maziak is slated to receive a \$2.4 Million R01 from FDA/NIDA to study the effect of menthol flavor on e-cigarette users' dependence, experience, and exposure to toxicants. Finally, Dr. Maziak received a sub-award on a recent NIH grant to the University of Pennsylvania (PI Andy Tan) to develop and test social media anti-vaping messages to reduce e-cigarette use among sexual and gender minority teens.



Department of Epidemiology

Faculty Achievements



Dr. Nasar Ahmed, an associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology, presented his paper titled “Colorectal cancer screening compliance: A shifting pattern among race-ethnicity, gender and health-seeking behaviors after Obama care” at the APHA Annual Meeting. He was also the keynote speaker at an international workshop training and poster competition and was lead presenter at the Global Health Conference of the Americas: Index-based decision making for large-scale reopening during COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Diana Sheehan, an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology, was nominated and elected as Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee of the Miami-Dade County HIV/AIDS Partnership. The Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership is the official advisory board to the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners for developing a comprehensive response to the county’s HIV epidemic.



Dr. Gladys E. Ibañez, an assistant professor of the Department of Epidemiology, was awarded a COVID-19 supplemental award to examine the impact of cannabis use disorder, cognition, and HIV care continuum among people living with HIV.

Department of Epidemiology

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Melissa K. Ward, joined the faculty of the Department of Epidemiology as an Assistant Professor in August 2021. Previously, she was a Postdoctoral Associate at the Community-Based Research Institute, where she coordinated and managed the Research Infrastructure Core for FIU's Research Center in Minority Institutions (FIU-RCMI). She recently completed a mixed-methods pilot study funded by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) through FIU-RCMI that examined barriers to accessing medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) among women, and currently has a research project, titled the Women-Centered Opioid Recovery Project, under consideration for funding at the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She is also a co-investigator on two NIMHD-funded studies examining patient-centered and women-centered HIV care practices (Principal Investigator: Dr. Mary Jo Trepka).



Dr. Olatokunbo "Ola" Osibogun was a scholar for the Florida Alliances for Graduate Education and Professorate in the summer of 2021. Additionally, Dr. Osibogun successfully transitioned from a NIDA T32 postdoctoral position of 2 years to join the Department of Epidemiology, Stempel College as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in August 2021.

Departmental Engagement in COVID-19 Efforts



From left to right: Dr. Gabriel Odom, Dr. Zoran Bursac, Dr. Mary Jo Trepka, Dr. Emir Veledar, and Roy Williams.

STEMPEL COLLEGE FACULTY RECOGNIZED BY THE CITY OF MIAMI FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS **Written by Stephanie Rendon**

Dr. Mary Jo Trepka, chair and professor of epidemiology; Dr. Zoran Bursac, chair and professor of biostatistics; and Dr. Gabriel Odom, assistant professor of biostatistics, have continuously worked with mayors and representatives from across South Florida since the start of the pandemic, helping them translate complex data into clear messages to help communicate the state of the pandemic to their constituents and make policy decisions. The faculty have spent countless hours curating data, giving interviews to local and national media outlets, and writing reports on daily COVID-19 cases, testing, vaccinations, hospitalizations and deaths. Their work was made available to the public through the Miami COVID Project, which was created to inform researchers, scientists, policymakers, and the general public regarding the projected impact of COVID-19 on Miami-Dade County.

Link to full article: [Stempel College faculty recognized by the City of Miami for COVID-19 response efforts – Stempel News \(fiu.edu\)](#)

Faculty & Students

Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

2021

Ahammed T, **Ahmed NU**, Uddin MJ. Changes in prevalence, and factors associated with tobacco use among Bangladeshi school students: evidence from two nationally representative surveys. *BMC Public Health* 2021;21:579.

Caleb-Adepoju SO, Dawit R, Gbadamosi SO, Sheehan DM, Fennie KP, Ladner RA, Brock P, **Trepka MJ**. Factors associated with viral suppression among racial/ethnic minority women in the Miami-Dade County Ryan White Program, 2017. *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses*. 2021 Jun 3. Epub ahead of print.

Cano MA, Marsiglia FF, Meca A, De La Rosa M, **Ramírez-Ortiz D**, Sanchez M, Colón Burgos JF, Alamilla SG, Wuyke G, Parras D, Ali SZ, Forney DJ, Varas-Rodríguez E, Ruvalcaba Y, Contreras A, Ahmed S, Vega-Luna B, Ochoa LG, Cuadra R, Domínguez García MJ. Psychosocial stress, bicultural identity integration, and bicultural self-efficacy among Hispanic emerging adults. *Stress and Health*, 2021; 37: 392-398.

Cano MA, Schwartz SJ, MacKinnon DP, Keum BT, Prado G, Marsiglia FF, Salas-Wright CP, Cobb C, Garcini LM, De La Rosa M, Sanchez M, Rahman A, Acosta L, Roncancio AM, de Dios MA. Exposure to ethnic discrimination in social media and symptoms of anxiety and depression among Hispanic emerging adults: Examining the moderating role of gender. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*. 2021; 77: 571-586.

Dawit R, Trepka MJ, Duncan DT, Li T, Pires S, Brock P, Ladner RA, **Sheehan DM**. Neighborhood factors associated with racial/ethnic disparities in achieving sustained HIV viral suppression among Miami-Dade County Ryan White Program clients. *AIDS patient care and STDs*, 2021; 35(10): 401-410.

Dawit R, Trepka MJ, Gbadamosi SO, Fernandez SB, Caleb-Adepoju SO, Brock P, Ladner RA, **Sheehan DM**. Latent class analysis of syndemic factors associated with sustained viral suppression among Ryan White HIV/AIDS program clients in Miami, 2017. *AIDS and Behavior*. 2021;25(7):2252-2258.

Diaz-Martinez J, Tamargo JA, Delgado-Enciso I, Liu Q, Acuña L, Laverde E, Barbieri MA, **Trepka MJ**, Campa A, Siminski S, Gorbach PM, Baum MK. Resilience, Anxiety, Stress, and Substance Use Patterns During COVID-19 Pandemic in the Miami Adult Studies on HIV (MASH) Cohort. *AIDS Behav*. 2021 Nov 25; 11: 3658-3668. Doi: 10.1007/s1046-021-03292-y.

Faculty & Students

Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

2021

Dobson R, Siddiqi K, **Ferdous T**, Huque R, Lesosky M, Balmes J, Semple S. Diurnal variability of fine-particulate pollution concentrations: data from 14 low-and middle-income countries. *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, 2021; 25(3): 206-214.

Ebrahimi Kalan M, Jebai R, Bursac Z, Popova L, **Gautam P, Li W**, Alqahtani MM, **Taskin T**, Atwell LL, Richards J, Ward KD, Behaleh R, Ben Taleb Z. Trends and Factors Related to Blunt Use in Middle and High School Students, 2010–2020. *Pediatrics*. 2021 June: e2020028159. doi: 10.1542/peds.2020-028159.

Ebrahimi Kalan M, Bahelah R, Bursac Z, Ward KD, Ben Taleb Z, Tleis M, **Jebai R**, Asfar T, Eissenberg T, **Maziak W**. A Group-based Modeling Approach to Identify Developmental Trajectories of Nicotine Dependence Among Lebanese Adolescents Waterpipe Smokers. *Nicotine Tob Res*. Published online June 14, 2021. doi:10.1093/ntr/ntab128

Ebrahimi Kalan M, Bursac Z, Behaleh R, **Jebai R, Osibogun O, Gautam P, Li W**, Anderson T, Rahman A, Ward KD, Ben Taleb Z. Nicotine-naïve adolescents who live with tobacco products users, 2018 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey. *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, 2021; 39(2): 265–269. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10550887.2020.1856299>.

Ebrahimi Kalan M, Rahman A, Gautam P, Ben Taleb Z. Hookah home delivery: an emerging public health issue. *Tobacco Control*, 2021; 30(1): 114–115.

Fernandez SB, Sheehan D, Dawit R, Trepka MJ. Identifying patterns of housing and household characteristics among women living with HIV in Florida 2017 and its impact on sustained viral suppression using Latent Class Analysis. *AIDS Behav*. 2021; 25: 2252-2258 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-03153-0>.

Fernandez SB, Clarke RD, Sheehan DM, Trepka MJ, Rose SM. Perceptual facilitators for and Barriers to Career Progression: A Qualitative Study with Female Early Stage Investigators in Health Sciences. *Acad Med*. 2021 Apr 1; 96(4): 576-584. doi: 10.1097/ACM.0000000000003902.

Gbadamosi SO, Trepka MJ, Dawit R, Jebai R, Sheehan DM. A systematic review and meta-analysis to estimate the time from HIV infection to diagnosis for people with HIV. *AIDS Reviews*. 2021 Jun 2. Epub ahead of print.

Faculty & Students

Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

2021

Gebrezgi MT, Trepka MJ, Gbadamosi SO, Fennie KP, Ramirez-Ortiz D, Li T, Fernandez S, Brock P, Ladner RA, Sheehan DM. Development and validation of vulnerable and enabling indices for HIV viral suppression among people with HIV enrolled in the Ryan White Program. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2021 Jul 1;18(13):7048.

Gebrezgi MT, Fennie KP, Sheehan DM, Ibrahimou B, Jones SG, Brock P, Ladner RA, Trepka MJ. Predictors of chlamydia or gonorrhea among people with HIV in Miami-Dade County Ryan White Program in 2017. *AIDS Care*. 2021 Feb 12; 1-6. Doi: 10.1080/09540121.2021.1883510. Online ahead of print.

Jebai R, Asfar T, Nakkash R, Chehab S, Ben Romdhane H, Maziak W. Examining the effect of waterpipe specific pictorial health warning labels among young adults in Lebanon and Tunisia: Protocol of a factorial experiment study design. *Contemp Clin Trials Commun*. Published online June 8, 2021: 100797. doi:10.1016/j.conctc.2021.100797

Jebai R, Ebrahimi Kalan M, Vargas-Rivera M, Osibogun O, Li W, Gautam P, Chao MR, Hu CW, Bursac Z, Maziak W. Markers of Oxidative Stress and Toxicant Exposure among Young Waterpipe Smokers in the USA. *Environ Sci Pollut Res Int*. 2021 Jan 25. doi: 10.1007/s11356-021-12520-w. Epub ahead of print.

Jimenez A, Fennie K, Munoz-Price LS, Ibrahimou B, Pekovic V, Abbo LM, Martinez O, Rosello G, Sposato K, Doi Y, Trepka MJ. Duration of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriales carriage among ICU patients in Miami, FL: a retrospective cohort study. *Am J Infect Control*. 2021 Jun 16:S0196-6553(21)00404-1. doi: 10.1016/j.ajic.2021.06.006. Epub ahead of print.

Kafle B, Paudel S, Gautam P, Babu Dhungana R, Sharma D, Pandey J, Parajuli Baral K. Evaluation of in vitro antioxidant activity, phytochemical screening of selected medicinal plants of Nepal and in vitro anti-inflammatory Activity of *Morus alba* L. and *Colebrookea oppositifolia* J.E. Smith. *International Journal of Green Pharmacy*. 2021; 15 (1): 45-53.

Li W, Kondracki A, Sun N, Gautam P, Ebrahimi Kalan M, Jebai R, Gbadamosi SO, Sun W. Nighttime Sleep Duration, Daytime Napping, and Metabolic Syndrome: Findings from the CHARLS Study. *Sleep Breath*. 2021 Nov 3. doi: 10.1007/s11325-021-02487-w. Epub ahead of print.

Faculty & Students

Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

2021

Li W, Sun N, Kondracki A, Sun W. Sex, Sleep Duration, and the Association of Cognition: China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2021 Oct 18(19):10140. doi: 10.3390/ijerph181910140.

Li W, Taskin T, Gautam P, Gamber M, & Sun W. Is there an association among sleep duration, nap, and stroke? Findings from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study. *Sleep & breathing = Schlaf & Atmung*. 2021; 25(1): 315–323. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11325-020-02118-w>.

Li W, Vargas-Rivera M, Ebrahimi Kalan M, Ben Taleb Z, Asfar T, **Osibogun O**, Noar SM, **Maziak W**. The Effect of Graphic Health Warning Labels Placed on the ENDS Device on Young Adult User's Experience, Exposure and Intention to Use: A Pilot Study. *Health Commun*. 2021 Jan 21:1-8. doi: 10.1080/10410236.2021.1872158. Epub ahead of print.

Mdege ND, Fairhurst C, Wang HI, **Ferdous T**, Marshall AM, Hewitt C, MCLASS II trial team. Efficacy and cost-effectiveness of a community-based smoke-free-home intervention with or without indoor-air-quality feedback in Bangladesh (MCLASS II): a three-arm, cluster-randomised, controlled trial. *The Lancet Global Health*, 2021; 9(5), e639-e650.

Oshunbade AA, Lirette ST, Windham BG, Shafi T, Hamid A, **Gbadamosi SO**, Tin A, Yimer WK, Tibuakuu M, Clark D, Kamimura D, Lutz EA, Mentz RJ, Fox ER, Butler J, Butler KR, Garovic VD, Turner ST, Mosley TH, Hall ME. Hypertensive diseases in pregnancy and kidney function later in life: The Genetic Epidemiology Network of Arteriopathy (GENOA) Study. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. 2021 Sep 23:S0025-6196(21)00609-1. Epub ahead of print.

Ramírez-Ortiz D, Seitchick J, Polpitiya M, Algarin A, **Sheehan DM**, Fennie K, Cyrus E, **Trepka MJ**. Post-immigration factors affecting retention in HIV care and viral suppression in Latin American and Caribbean immigrant populations in the United States: A systematic review. *Ethnicity and Health*. 2021; doi: 10.1080/13557858.2021.1990217

Ramírez-Ortiz D, Sheehan DM, Ibañez GE, Ibrahimou B, De La Rosa M, **Cano, MA**. HIV testing intentions and cognitive reappraisal among Latino emerging adults. *AIDS Care*. 2021 ; 33: 548-552.

Sheehan DM, Cano MÁ, Trepka MJ. Measuring race among Latinos to address racism, discrimination, and HIV health inequities: comparing self-reported race and Fitzpatrick Skin Phototype. *J Assoc Nurses AIDS Care*. 2021 Apr 14. doi: 10.1097/JNC.0000000000000260. Epub ahead of print.

Faculty & Students

Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

2021

Sheehan DM, De La Cruz Y, **Ramírez-Ortiz D**, Swendeman D, Muñoz-Laboy M, Duncan DT, **Cano MÁ**, Devieux JG, **Trepka MJ**. A qualitative study of antiretroviral therapy adherence interruptions among young Latino men who have sex with men with HIV: Project D.A.I.L.Y. *AIDS Care*. 2021 Jan 23:1-8. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2021.1874277. Epub ahead of print.

Shonchoy, AS, Ishtiaq KS, Talukder S, **Ahmed, NU**, Chowdhury R. A novel index-based decision support toolkit for safe reopening following a generalized lockdown in low and middle-income countries. *Nature Scientific Reports*. 2021; 11: 14108. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-93415-1>

Tamargo JA, Martin HR, Diaz-Martinez J, **Trepka MJ**, Delgado-Enciso I, Johnson A, Mandler RN, Baum MK. COVID-19 testing and the impact of the pandemic on The Miami Adult Studies on HIV (MASH) Cohort. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2021 Feb 24. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000002680. Epub ahead of print.

Trepka MJ, Dawit R, Fernandez SB, Sheehan DM, Mengist A, Li T, Maddox LM, & Spencer EC. (2021) Social disorganization and new HIV diagnoses, 2013-2017, Florida: rural-urban differences. *The Journal of Rural Health*. 2021 Dec 3. doi: 10.1111/jrh.12636. Online ahead of print.

Ward, MK, De La Cruz, Y, Fernandez, SB, Ibañez, GE, Jean-Gilles, M, Dévieux, JG, Brock, P, Ladner, R, Beach, MC, **Trepka, MJ**. Provider perceptions of barriers to HIV care among women with HIV in Miami-Dade County, Florida and possible solutions: A qualitative study. *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care*. 2021. doi: 10.1177/23259582211053520

Westrick AC, De La Rosa M, Sanchez M, Colón-Burgos JF, Rojas P, **Cano, M. A**. Associations of objective and perceived neighborhood ethnic density on hazardous alcohol use among Latinx emerging adults. *Substance Use and Misuse*. 2021; 56, 339-344.

Williams R, Bursac Z, **Trepka MJ**, Odom GJ. Lessons learned from Miami-Dade County's COVID-19 Epidemic: making surveillance data accessible for policy makers. *J Public Health Manag Pract*. 2021 May-Jun 01;27(3):310-317. doi: 10.1097/PHH.0000000000001364.

Yanagihara R, Berry MJ, Carson MJ, Chang SP, Corliss H, Cox MB, Haddad G, Hohmann C, Kelley ST, Lee ESY, Link BG, Noel RJ Jr, Pickrel J, Porter JT, Quirk GJ, Samuel T, Stiles JK, Sy AU, Taira DA, **Trepka MJ**, Villalta F, Wiese TE. Building a Diverse Workforce and Thinkforce to Reduce Health Disparities. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2021 Feb 7;18(4):1569. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18041569.

Departmental Activities

Epidemiology Departmental Research Seminars

In these monthly meetings, PhD students and faculty discuss and critically evaluate original research in epidemiology. The purpose is to encourage students to think more about the applied aspects of research methods and how they can be adapted to deal with different research questions or contexts.

FIU-RCMI & Department of Epidemiology Research in Progress Seminars

This monthly seminar is sponsored in partnership with FIU-RCMI and spotlights health disparities researchers throughout FIU. Presenters discuss their work with faculty and students to help develop and refine their research. Lunch is provided.

FIU-RCMI Professional Development Seminars

This series, sponsored by FIU-RCMI, features speakers presenting on topics relevant to professional development for researchers, including best practices for grant writing and strategies for career advancement. Lunch is provided.



Current Faculty and Students

Academic Year 2021-2022

MPH

Chiamaka Achonwa	Mariah Hamalainen-Taylor	Andrea Quinones
Melika Adhanom	Briana Harris	Elda Ramos
Charles Arana Asencio	Michelle Hernandez Ortiz	Jessica Ramos
Sebastian Arenas	Laura Huertas	Alejandro Rodriguez Leon
Mariolga Aymat	Adolfo Izique	Joseph Rodriguez
Amber Balda	Vanise Jean-Baptiste	Nicole Rojas
Alessandra Barahona	Nathalie Jean	Adam Schomer
Endy Barnes	Homere Joseph	Stephen Schomer
Frank Blanco	Bhavya Karkera	Gaitree Seepersaud
Nerming Briones	Sheida Khosravaniardakani	Kenya Simmons
Germith Cadelien	Micaela Lembo	Marianella Siria
Kelsie Campbell	Amelia Leon	Sydney Spector
Stephanie Carrillo	Isabel Maldonado	Rebecca Ubeda
Yolcar Chamorro	Valery Mardini Cespedes	Nickolas Valencia
Liset Cruz Carrillo	Rachel McDougal	Jennifer Vargas
Nelhil Del Valle	Regina Mcpherson	Rachel Voltaire
Anne-Leila Descollines	Brenda Melendrez	Jennah Wallen
Ketaki Dhurve	Tashana Minnis	Jing Zeng
Shirley Dolce	Lorell Morales-Vergara	
Jordan Dragon	Joseph Muller	
Safoura Eskandari	Thuy-Thuong Nguyen	
Gabriela Espejo	Rachna Niwas	
Cloris Falcon	Joshua Noreiga	
Kassandra Fernandez	Daniel Ochu	
Daniel Flores	Simisola Olowodola	
Diamond Garard	Olga Ospina	
Tiara Glasgow	Veronica Palacios	
Elizabeth Gomez	Arpita Paul	
Ashley Gray	Vickie Perez-Marrero	

PhD

Shyfuiddin Ahmed
 Rahel Dawit
 Prem Gautam
 Semiu Gbadamosi
 Tendai Gwanzura
 Rime Jebai
 Wei Li
 Lea Nehme
 Robert Meek
 Ekpereka Nawfal
 Lea Nehme
 Deidre Okeke
 Anny Rodriguez

Current Faculty and Students

Academic Year 2021-2022

Faculty & Staff

Nasar Ahmed, PhD
Miguel Cano, PhD, MPH
Gladys Ibañez, PhD
Wasim Maziak, MD, PhD
Olatokunbo Osibogun, MBBS, MPH, PhD
Vukosava Pekovic, MD, PhD
Diana M. Sheehan, PhD, MPH
Mary Jo Trepka, MD, MSPH
Melissa Ward, PhD, MPH

Post-Doctoral Associates

Daisy Ramirez-Ortiz, PhD, MPH

2021 PhD Graduates

Mohammad Ebrahimi Kalan, PhD
Sandra Kigpalat, PhD, M.S.
Abir Rahman, PhD
Tanjila Taskin, PhD

2021 MPH Graduates

Alida Acosta, MPH
Samantha Baudin, MPH
Thomas Boulos, MPH
Ethan Cabrera, MPH
Chaveli Concepcion, MPH
Andrea Contreras, MPH
India Dunning, MPH
Annette Flores, MPH
Ashley Garcia, MPH
Kamelah Jones, MPH
Victoria Martinez, MPH
Lea Nehme, MPH
Alejandro Nunez, MPH
William Phillips IX, MPH
Karen Pineda, MPH
Salman Raja, MPH
Carolina Rivera, MPH
Maria Rivera Martinez, MPH
Maria Celeste Sanchez Mora, MPH
Franklin Saumell, MPH
Eduardo Villoch, MPH

Accelerated, 1-Year, Master of Public Health with a Specialization in Epidemiology

Complete your Master of Public Health in one year with our accelerated track. This track is well suited for pre-med students and professionals looking to obtain a degree in less time.

Applicants to the MPH program (EPI, HPDP, EOH, HPM) at or above the 75 percentile of GRE (in both verbal and quantitative) will be given an option to apply for the 1-year accelerated track at admission.

Applicants eligible for an exemption of GRE (e.g. U.S. Medical graduates) will be given the 1-year accelerated track option as well. Such requests will be evaluated by the admission committees for the final decision.

Office Specialist for Epidemiology

Caridad Mesa, MSc

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Website

[Epidemiology | Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work | Florida International University \(fiu.edu\)](#)

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Fax: 305-348-0289

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Practical Field coordinator

Florence Greer, MPH, MPA

Office: AHC5 420

Email: fgreer@fiu.edu

Phone: 305-348-4544

Important Links

Degrees and Programs

[Degrees & Programs | Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work | Florida International University \(fiu.edu\)](#)

Admissions & Procedures

[Apply | Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work | Florida International University \(fiu.edu\)](#)

Graduate Calendar

[Calendar & Deadlines - University Graduate School \(fiu.edu\)](#)