Welcome to the World of Epidemiology

Issue 15 | 2019
Departmental Achievements

Student Achievements

• Doctoral candidate Daniel E. Mauck received the Stempel Publication Award for the research paper entitled “Role of gay neighborhood status and other neighborhood factors in racial/ethnic disparities in retention in care and viral load suppression among men who have sex with men, Florida, 2015”. The authors of the paper were Mauck DE, Sheehan DM, Fennie KP, Maddox LM, and Trepka MJ.

• Doctoral candidate Adriana Jimenez presented a poster entitled “From the long-term care to the acute care setting: an outbreak of carbapenemase-producing Serratia marcescens in a long-term care facility detected by a nearby hospital in Miami, FL” at the 29th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease that took place in Amsterdam, Netherlands from 13-16 April 2019. Adriana was also a recipient of the Stempel Travel Scholarship Award to present the poster.


• Doctoral student Wei Li had poster presentations entitled "Is there an Association among Sleep Duration, Nap and Stroke? A Retirement Longitudinal Study from Chinese Aging Population" at the eighteenth annual New England Science Symposium, held by The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA and “The association between Pain and Fall among Aging-Chinese Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study” at the 2019 American Public Health Association conference in Philadelphia, PA.
Departmental Achievements

Student Achievements

• Doctoral candidate **Olatokunbo Osibogun** was selected to participate in the oral Three Minute Thesis (3-MT) competition among doctoral students at the FIU Stempel College Research Day that took place in February 2019. She also presented a poster entitled “Sex differences in the association between ideal cardiovascular health and biomarkers of cardiovascular disease: The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis” at the 2019 American Heart Association EPI Lifestyle Conference in Houston, TX. She successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in Spring 2019 and was recognized as a **Worlds Ahead Graduate** by the FIU president, Mark Rosenberg at the 2019 Spring Commencement Ceremony.

• Doctoral candidate **Angel Algarin** participated in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health oral 3-minute thesis (3MT) competition presentation entitled "HIV-related stigma and its effects on HIV maintenance and prevention". He had poster presentations entitled "Intersectionality of Experiencing Enacted HIV-related Stigma among people living with HIV in Florida," at the Florida Community partners, Practitioners, and Researchers Conference hosted by the University of Florida and "The Pre-exposure prophylaxis continuum of care and correlates to initiation among HIV-negative men recruited at Miami Gay Pride 2018," both at the 2019 Eastern Atlantic Student Research Forum hosted by the University of Miami and the 2019 American Public Health Association conference in Philadelphia, PA.

• Doctoral student **Sandra Kiplagat** had poster presentations entitled “HIV Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs among rural pregnant women in Rural Mysore, India” at the 9th International Workshop of HIV& Women, Seattle, WA on March 2, 2019, “Factors influencing antenatal care among pregnant women in rural Mysore District, India” at the New England Science Symposium, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA on April 6, 2019, “How did Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) perform in rural Mysore District, India?” at the Unite for Sight Global Health conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT on April 13, 2019 and “Sexually Transmitted Infections among pregnant women in rural Mysore, India.” at the STI&HIV 2019 World Congress Conference, Vancouver, CA on July 14, 2019. She received the WLGH Travel Scholarship to travel to Kigali Rwanda as a young investigator in the Women Leaders in Global Health Conference on November 9, 2019.
Departmental Achievements

Student Achievements

- Doctoral student **Prem Gautam** had a poster presentation entitled "Is there an Association among Sleep Duration, Nap and Stroke? A Retirement Longitudinal Study from Chinese Aging Population" at the 2019 Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW) Scholarly Forum, conducted by FIU. He also presented a poster entitled “Nepalese Adolescents Cigarette Use and Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS): Implications for Policy Implementation” at the Global Health Conference to be held from May 7-10, 2019 at the InterContinental Miami Hotel in Miami, Florida.

- Doctoral student **Rahel Dawit** gave a poster presentation entitled "Patterns of Consistent Retention in HIV Care and Viral Suppression among Cis-Gender Women Living with HIV in Florida, 2014-2017: A latent class analysis" at the 2019 annual meeting of the American College of Epidemiology on September 7, 2019 in Pasadena, California.

- Doctoral candidate **Makella Coudray** attended the Society for Epidemiologic Research Dissertation Workshop 2019, Minneapolis, MN. She presented two posters at the STI & HIV World Congress joint meeting of the 23rd ISSTDR and 20th IUSTI, Vancouver, Canada, titled "Partner age difference sociodemographic correlates of HSV-2 seropositivity: a community-based study in South India" and "Effect of Metronidazole Treatment on Recurrent and Persistent Bacterial Vaginosis: A Pilot Study." She presented another poster titled "Viral Suppression among PLHIV in Trinidad: Implications for High-Risk MSM in the Caribbean Region" at the FIU Global Health Conference, Miami, FL. Her abstract titled "HPV Testing among Women in Southern India: Self-collected versus Physician Collected Swabs" was accepted for poster presentation at the upcoming International Papillomavirus Society Conference to be held in Barcelona, Spain.
Departmental Achievements
Student Achievements

• Doctoral student **Semiu Gbadamosi** received a Susser-Stein Travel Award of $1000 to attend the 2019 Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota as the winner of the Department’s essay contest. The Susser-Stein Travel Award was sponsored by Columbia University.

• Doctoral students **Tanjila Taskin**, **Rahel Dawit**, **Merhawi Gebrezgi** and **Sandra Kiplagat** were inducted into the PhiKappaPhi Honors Society in FIU on April 23, 2019.

• Doctoral students **Olatokunbo Osibogun**, **Makella Coudray**, **Daisy Ramirez-Ortiz** and **Abraham Mengist** participated in the 2019 Clemson Doctoral Pathfinder Program at Clemson University, South Carolina and attended academically focused workshops, networking events and presented their research projects.

• Doctoral students **Tanjila Taskin** and **Sandra Kiplagat** got accepted to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2019 Internship Program. The program was of 11-12 weeks in Seattle, WA during the summer 2019.
Departmental Achievements

Student Achievements

- Doctoral candidate Craig Alexander Garmendia’s interview on the topic “Medical Research Metaanalyses Can Contain Corrupted Data” was published on MedicalResearch.com on March 6, 2019.

- Doctoral candidate Christyl Dawson had poster presentations on the topic “The Relationship between Perceived Neighborhood Collective Efficacy and Mental Health Service Utilization among Adolescents” at 32nd Annual Research and Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health, Tampa, FL, March 3-6, 2019 and on the topic “Collective efficacy moderates association between concentrated poverty and adolescent depression” at the 65th Southeastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting Jacksonville, FL, March 20-23, 2019.

- Doctoral candidate Abraham Mengist received the UGS Provost Award for Graduate Student Outstanding Paper on the research paper entitled “Effect of the ABO blood group on susceptibility to severe malaria: A systematic review and meta-analysis”.

- A poster presentation entitled “Cigarette Use, Susceptibility and Effects of Professional Advice on Smoking Cessation among Youth in Bangladesh 2013” got accepted to present at the Global Health Conference to be held from May 7-10, 2019 at the InterContinental Miami Hotel in Miami, Florida. The authors of the abstract are Abir Rahman, Prem Gautam, Sandra Kiplagat, Wei Li, Tanjila Taskin, Rahel Dawit, and Tan Li.

Departmental Achievements
Faculty Achievements

• Dr. Mary Jo Trepka, a professor of the Department of Epidemiology, received the FIU top Scholar Award on April 16, 2019. She received a R01 grant to study the influence of patient-centered HIV care on retention and viral suppression from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). This grant will fund the study for $1.2 million distributed over 5 years.

• Dr. Nasar U Ahmed, an associate professor in the department of Epidemiology, along with Dr. Cheryl Brewster led an educational and discussion session with Broward County community leaders on breast and cervical cancer issues among Blacks and Caribbean Women held at Miramar Sports Complex on April 26, 2019.

Dr. Ahmed (middle) during the discussion session with Broward county community leaders
Departmental Achievements
Faculty Achievements

• **Dr. Wasim Maziak**, professor and chair of the Department, was invited to contribute to “Dispatches from a world in turmoil” celebrating the last issue of Nature’s 150-year anniversary. He also published 2 invited editorials/commentaries. The first one was published on the *International Journal of Public Health* by the title “E-cigarettes: harm reduction or rehabilitation of the tobacco industry?” and the second one was published on the journal of *Tobacco Control* by the title “Building the evidence base for waterpipe regulation and policy”.

• **Gladys E. Ibañez**, an assistant professor of the department of Epidemiology, had poster presentations entitled “The Florida Cohort Study: Methodological challenges and lessons learned in the design and implementation of a new cohort of persons living with HIV (PLWH)” at the 2019 Miami Winter Symposium and “Development of a Mind-Body Intervention for Older People Living with HIV (PLHIV): An Exploratory Clinical Trial” at the National Hispanic Science Network Conference in New Orleans, LA, October 2019.

• **Diana Sheehan**, an assistant professor of the department of Epidemiology, received the National Award of Excellence for Research by a New Investigator from the National Hispanic Science Network in 2019.
Faculty & Students
Journal Peer-reviewed Publications 2019


Faculty & Students
Journal Peer-reviewed Publications
2019


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Faculty & Students

Faculties, students and their families during the Spring Potluck on February 9, 2019 at the Alice Wainwright Park organized by Epidemiology Department
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 aspect of research methods and how they can be adapted to deal with different research questions or contexts.

**Epidemiology Innovative Methodology Seminar**
This seminar series aims to bring specialists in epidemiology to share their knowledge and skills in modern and innovative research methods with our students and faculty.

**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.

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**Dr. Daniel Westreich Visited Florida International University!**

On April 12, 2019, Dr. Daniel Westreich, Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health, visited the Epidemiology Department as a part of the SER (Society for Epidemiologic Research) Visits series. He talked on the topic, “Beyond Internal Validity: Field Notes from the Methodological Borderlands.” In this talk, he described the causal impact framework as a way of considering how to translate epidemiologic and scientific findings to decisions about public health policy. He described both conceptual issues – how we can frame questions better, so they are more relevant to public health policy – and statistical issues, driven primarily by examples from the HIV literature.

Dr. Daniel Westreich during presentation (left) and with the Epi students (right)
# Faculty & Students

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<th>MPH</th>
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<td>Carolina Cardenas</td>
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Faculty & Students

Faculty

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

Recent PhD Graduates

Abraham Mengist
Olatokunbo Osibogun
Christyl Dawson
Kristopher Myers
Daniel Mauck
Isabel Griffin

Recent MPH Graduates

Yoselin Garcia
Shabaz Mallick
Maithri Prabhakar
Blas Prieto
Jessica Saintibert
Yanet Manresa
Francis Chu
Jessica Seitchick
Sheri Shillingford
Yazmine De La Cruz
Anny Rodriguez
Ricardo Trochez
Marcos Vargas
Saily Sardinas
Stephanie Martinez
Tamisha Guzman
Arba Khan
Pooran Sewhharack
Maria Salamanca
Crystal Sheffield
Amena Arshad
Syed Ali
Vanessa Vixamar
Sana Adalsha
Amanda Bahamonde
Philande La Bisseng Ntont
Rime Jebai
Complete your Master of Public Health in one year with our new 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.

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Important Links
Areas of Study
stempel.fiu.edu/academics/epidemiology/areas-of-study

Admissions & Procedures
stempel.fiu.edu/students/admissions/

Graduate Calendar
gradschool.fiu.edu/current-students-calendar-deadlines.shtml