

UCLA Department of Epidemiology Quarterly Newsletter

By: *Chelsea Castleberry*



## We are in this Together

COVID-19 continues to impact our day-to-day life.

Luckily we have many experts in our department leading research efforts and providing information to the public. Thank you to our faculty who are actively participating with the media as well as their own studies. Stay up-to-date on the latest news by visiting [FSPH's COVID\\_19 Information Page.](#)

We must also stick together in light of the recent protests. As stated by UCLA Leadership, "We must never let that indifference to human suffering become our own. We must never deaden our hearts to the pain of others. Our fundamental values demand that we care."



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Epi Family:

As the academic year comes to a close we reflect on the major events that have impacted our lives. The incomprehensible and brutal acts of anti-Black racism leave us outraged and saddened. They remind us of how much work we still have to do as society and public health community to eliminate racism, anti-Blackness, and social injustices. We are privileged to be part of the UCLA community where commitment to equity, diversity, respect and justice is a top priority. COVID-19 has affected all of us and will change the way we live for years to come. For us as Department of Epidemiology this pandemic is our calling, our challenge as we contribute to predictions and recommendations for effective public health measures. Although the months ahead will likely remain challenging, I hope all of you will find some time to recharge over the summer.

Best Wishes,  
Karin B. Michels, ScD, PhD  
Professor and Chair

# Congratulations!

Professor Elizabeth Rose Mayeda has been awarded the highly competitive Brian MacMahon Early Career Epidemiologist Award from the Society of Epidemiologic Research, which is awarded annually to recognize early career epidemiologists who have already made substantial contributions to the field and are poised to become future leaders in epidemiology. This award is funded by Harvard University, School of Public Health in honor of Dr. Brian MacMahon, a preeminent epidemiologist.



Professor Roch Nianogo has been awarded a K01 grant, “The SMART-CV Study: Systems Modeling Approaches to Reducing Disparities in Cardiovascular Diseases” by the NIH-National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities!

Congrats to Professor Beate Ritz and her student I-Fan Shih for having their article, “The Roles of Physical Activity and Inflammation for Mortality, Cognition, and Symptoms Among Older Mexican Americans” named as one of the 2019 Articles of the Year by the *American Journal of Epidemiology*!



Society for  
Epidemiologic  
Research

## Welcome!



**Gilma Vaona**  
Senior Fund Manager



**Professor Matthew Mimiaga**  
Joining us July 2020

# Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!

The class of 2020 will celebrate with a virtual commencement on **June 12th at 3:00pm**. La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, will deliver this year's virtual commencement address. Ms. Tabron joined the Kellogg Foundation in 1987 and held positions of increasing responsibility until being named president and CEO in 2014 when she became the first woman and African American to lead the foundation.

The Department of Epidemiology congratulates 24 MPH graduates, 8 MS graduates, 8 PhD graduates, and 1 DrPH graduate! Please join us in celebrating our graduates!

## PHD THESES

**Alvan Bing Jun Cheng** (Anne W. Rimoin, Chair)

*Evaluating Rubella Epidemiology, Vaccine Coverage and Efficacy, and Cost-Effectiveness to Identify Strategies for Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Elimination in the Democratic Republic Of Congo*

**Aline Duarte Folle** (Beate Ritz, Chair)

*Sleep Problems in Parkinson's Disease Patients from a Population-Based Cohort in Central California*

**Angie Ghanem** (Anne W. Rimoin, Chair)

*Identifying Opportunities for Prevention and Control of Yellow Fever in the Democratic Republic Of Congo: Lessons Learned from a Recent Outbreak*

**Diep Bich Nguyen** (Li Li, Chair)

*Methadone Maintenance Treatment Decentralization in Vietnam*

**Kennarey Seang** (Pamina Gorbach, Chair)

*Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) among People Living With HIV (PLWH) in Cambodia*

**Youran Xu** (Roger Detels, Chair)

*Viral Load Test among People Living with HIV on Antiretroviral Therapy in Wenshan Prefecture, Yunnan Province of China*

**Yu Yu** (Beate Ritz, Chair)

*Exposure to Air Pollution and Noise, Metabolic Dysfunction and Late-life Cognitive Impairment - A Cohort Study in Elderly Mexican-Americans in Sacramento Area*

**Yanglu Zhao** (Nathan D. Wong, Co-Chair, Zuo-Feng Zhang, Co-Chair)

*Cardiovascular Disease Risk Assessment in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus*

**Mahmoud Abdalgader M Gaddoury DrPH** (Haroutune K. Armenian, Chair)

*Epidemiology of Hajj Pilgrimage Mortality: Analysis for Potential Intervention*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

Pornchanan Duriyaprapa

Drake Anthony Edgett

Hunter Robinson Green

Shu-Haur Hsieh

Riley Olivia Mummah

Phatharajit Phatharodom

Thinh Toan Vu

Fan Zhao

## MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Emmanuel Aguilar-Posada,

Akilah Rasha Ali

Roxanne Victoria Archer

Youssef Aref

James Beekley

Kelly Birch

Rachel Miranda Borthwell

Snowie Cheng

Erin Kimberly Collier

Alexander Martin Crossley

Lia D'Addario

Bonnie Lien Dao

Shuyi Fan

Tina Javanbakht

Nehaa Khadka

Ji Hye Kim

I-Chun Lin

Katherine Lin

Erica Nicole Manriquez

Christian Palacios

Allison Marie Power

Jianya Xi

Karen Yeh

Shichen Zheng

# AY 2019-20 Epi Student Awards

## **Abdelmonem A Afifi Fellowship**

Catherine Psaras

## **Alex's Lemonade Stand Pediatric Oncology Student Training Fellowship**

Shiraya Thompson

## **Amazon Web Service/Computation Medicine Award**

Kosuke Inoue

## **Andrew B. Fielding Fellowship for Mental Health**

Stephen Ma

## **Best Student Poster Award, Session 1; Society of Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting 2019**

Melissa Soohoo

## **Burroughs Wellcome Fund Inter-School Training Program in Chronic Diseases**

Kosuke Inoue

Qi Yan

## **Celia and Joseph Blann Fellowship**

Melissa Soohoo

## **Dean's Global Health Fellowship**

Pornchanan Duriyaprapan

## **Dean's Leadership Grant**

Rachel Borthwell

Kelly Birch

Tina Javanbakht

Haesoo Kim

Haley Surmeian

## **Deans Outstanding Student Award, Epidemiology**

Katherine Lin

## **Dissertation Year Fellowship**

Qi Yan

## **Dr. Ursula Mandel Fellowship**

Anna Bratcher

## **Eugene and Sallyann Fama Fellowship**

Shiraya Thompson

## **Graduate Research Mentorship**

Allison Rosen

Melissa Soohoo

## **Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program**

Megan Halbrook

Sihao Han

Jiemin Yao

## **Medical Research Program - California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act**

Di He

## ★ **Mimi and Roger Detels Fellowship**

Lokachet Tanasugarn

Mingyan Zhang

## ★ **Outstanding Abstract Award: ENDO 2020**

Kosuke Inoue

## **Summer Research Fellowship Award: The Endocrine Society**

Kosuke Inoue

## **The Hiroshi Wagatsuma Fellowship at UCLA Asian Pacific Center**

Yusuke Okubo

## **Toffler Scholars Award**

Kosuke Inoue

Keren Zhang

## ★ **Travel Grant: Society for Epidemiologic Research 52st Annual Meeting**

Kosuke Inoue

# Epidemiology Student Association Spring Updates

By: Ryan Assaf & Christian Palacios, ESA Co-Presidents



## Message to Students:

The ESA would like to acknowledge the hard work of the 2019-2020 board members who are graduating or stepping down. We truly appreciate all that you have done to support ESA, the student body, and the Department of Epidemiology.

We would also like to congratulate all of the graduating MPH, MS, and PhD students.

Finally, ESA would like to recognize that Spring 2020 has been a challenging quarter for all students given the current COVID-19 situation. If you are in need of any resources or would like to bring up any concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know by emailing us at [uclaesa@gmail.com](mailto:uclaesa@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Ryan Assaf ([rassaf@ucla.edu](mailto:rassaf@ucla.edu)),  
Christian Palacios ([cpalacios30@g.ucla.edu](mailto:cpalacios30@g.ucla.edu)),  
& Julia Koerber ([juliajkoerber@g.ucla.edu](mailto:juliajkoerber@g.ucla.edu)).

## New ESA Board:

*We would like to recognize the new ESA 2020-2021 Board!*

-Co-Presidents: Ryan Assaf and Julia Koerber

-VP of Financial Affairs: Victoria Murray

-VP of Doctoral Affairs: Melissa Soohoo and Angie Barrall

-Outreach/Communications: Stephen Ma, Elizabeth Agredano, Lamia Khan, and Weilu Song

-PHSA Liaisons: Jackie Markt Maloney and Nayelie Benitez Santos

-Mentorship Chairs: Elizabeth Chen and Haesoo Kim

-Seminar Series: Pat Arena, Angie Barrall, Nehaa Khadka, and Xinyue Liu

## Epidemiology COVID-19 Seminar Series:

Given the ever changing nature of COVID-19, the ESA, in conjunction with the Department of Epidemiology, launched the Epidemiology COVID-19 Seminar Series. The goal of this seminar series was to provide Fielding School of Public Health students information about COVID-19 from the various perspectives of Public Health. ESA worked rapidly with Dr. Michels to bring forward the first talk on Epidemiology of COVID-19 on April 22, 2020. Subsequent seminar series included talks on infectious disease modeling, public health policy, and data collection on marginalized communities.





# Publications Hot off the Press!



- Amoon AT, Crespi CM, Nguyen A, Zhao X, **Vergara X, Arah OA, Kheifets L**. The role of dwelling type when estimating the effect of magnetic fields on childhood leukemia in the California Power Line Study (CAPS). *Cancer causes & control* : CCC. 2020;31(6):559-67. Epub 2020/04/12. doi: 10.1007/s10552-020-01299-9. PubMed PMID: 32277327.
- Brix N, Ernst A, Lauridsen LLB, Parner ET, **Arah OA, Olsen J**, Henriksen TB, Ramlau-Hansen CH. Risk of selection bias due to non-participation in a cohort study on pubertal timing. *Paediatric and perinatal epidemiology*. 2020. Epub 2020/04/23. doi: 10.1111/ppe.12679. PubMed PMID: 32319135.
- Brix N, Ernst A, Lauridsen LLB, Parner ET, **Arah OA, Olsen J**, Henriksen TB, Ramlau-Hansena CH. Childhood overweight and obesity and timing of puberty in boys and girls: cohort and sibling-matched analyses. *International journal of epidemiology*. 2020. Epub 2020/05/07. doi: 10.1093/ije/dyaa056. PubMed PMID: 32372073.
- Chavarro JE, Martín-Calvo N, Yuan C, Arvizu M, Rich-Edwards JW, **Michels KB**, Sun Q. Association of Birth by Cesarean Delivery With Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes Among Adult Women. *JAMA network open*. 2020;3(4):e202605. Epub 2020/04/14. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.2605. PubMed PMID: 32282045; PMCID: PMC7154804
- Clark KA, **Cochran SD**, Maiolatesi AJ, Pachankis JE. Prevalence of Bullying Among Youth Classified as LGBTQ Who Died by Suicide as Reported in the National Violent Death Reporting System, 2003-2017. *JAMA pediatrics*. 2020. Epub 2020/05/27. doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2020.0940. PubMed PMID: 32453408.
- Corlier FW, Shaw C, Hayes-Larson E, Mungas D, Tomaszewski Farias S, Glymour MM, Whitmer RA, **Mayeda ER**. Association Between Cognitive Test Performance and Subjective Cognitive Decline in a Diverse Cohort of Older Adults: Findings From the KHANDLE Study. *Alzheimer disease and associated disorders*. 2020. Epub 2020/05/20. doi: 10.1097/wad.0000000000000383. PubMed PMID: 32427599.
- Gimbel RW, Rennert LM, Crawford P, Little JR, Truong K, Williams JE, Griffin SF, Shi L, **Chen L**, Zhang L, Moss JB, Marshall RC, Edwards KW, Crawford KJ, Hing M, Schmeltz A, Lumsden B, Ashby M, Haas E, Palazzo K. Enhancing Patient Activation and Self-Management Activities in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes Using the US Department of Defense Mobile Health Care Environment: Feasibility Study. *Journal of medical Internet research*. 2020;22(5):e17968. Epub 2020/04/25. doi: 10.2196/17968. PubMed PMID: 32329438.
- **Heck JE**, Lee PC, Wu CK, Li CY, He D, Federman N, Yu F, **Olsen J, Ritz B, Arah OA**, Hansen J. Spina bifida and pediatric cancers. *Pediatric hematology and oncology*. 2020:1-7. Epub 2020/05/05. doi: 10.1080/08880018.2020.1760409. PubMed PMID: 32364426.
- Inoue K, **Mayeda ER**, Paul KC, Shih IF, Yan Q, Yu Y, Haan M, **Ritz BR**. The Association of Physical Activity with Cardiovascular Events and Mortality Mediated by Diabetes in Older Mexican Americans. *American journal of epidemiology*. 2020. Epub 2020/05/10. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwaa068. PubMed PMID: 32383448.
- Iwamoto SK, Alexander M, Torres M, Irwin MR, Christakis NA, **Nishi A**. Mindfulness Meditation Activates Altruism. *Scientific reports*. 2020;10(1):6511. Epub 2020/04/18. doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-62652-1. PubMed PMID: 32300129; PMCID: PMC7162971.
- Kelly JD, Wannier SR, Sinai C, Moe CA, **Hoff NA**, Blumberg S, Selo B, Mossoko M, Chowell-Puente G, Jones JH, Okitolonda-Wemakoy E, Rutherford GW, Lietman TM, Muyembe-Tamfum JJ, **Rimo AW**, Porco TC, Richardson ET. The impact of different types of violence on Ebola virus disease transmission during the 2018-2020 outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. *The Journal of infectious diseases*. 2020. Epub 2020/04/08. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiaa163. PubMed PMID: 32255180.
- Liew Z, Luo J, Nohr EA, Bech BH, Bossi R, **Arah OA, Olsen J**. Maternal Plasma Perfluoroalkyl Substances and Miscarriage: A Nested Case-Control Study in the Danish National Birth Cohort. *Environmental health perspectives*. 2020;128(4):47007. Epub 2020/04/23. doi: 10.1289/ehp6202. PubMed PMID: 32319790; PMCID: PMC7228130.
- Schalet BD, Janulis P, Kipke MD, Mustanski B, Shoptaw S, Moore R, Baum M, Kim S, Siminski S, Ragsdale A, **Gorbach PM**. Psychometric Data Linking Across HIV and Substance Use Cohorts. *AIDS and behavior*. 2020. Epub 2020/05/21. doi: 10.1007/s10461-020-02883-5. PubMed PMID: 32430605.
- Simpson K, Heymann D, Brown CS, Edmunds WJ, Elsgaard J, Fine P, Hochrein H, **Hoff NA**, Green A, Ihekweazu C, Jones TC, Lule S, MacLennan J, McCollum A, Mühlemann B, Nightingale E, Ogoina D, Ogunleye A, Petersen B, Powell J, Quantick O, **Rimo AW**, Ulaeato D, Wapling A. Human monkeypox - After 40 years, an unintended consequence of smallpox eradication. *Vaccine*. 2020. Epub 2020/05/18. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2020.04.062. PubMed PMID: 32417140.
- Stiemsma LT, Nakamura RE, Nguyen JG, **Michels KB**. Does Consumption of Fermented Foods Modify the Human Gut Microbiota? *The Journal of nutrition*. 2020. Epub 2020/04/02. doi: 10.1093/jn/nxaa077. PubMed PMID: 32232406.
- Wing SE, Larson TV, Hudda N, Boonyarattaphan S, Fruin S, **Ritz B**. Preterm Birth among Infants Exposed to in Utero Ultrafine Particles from Aircraft Emissions. *Environmental health perspectives*. 2020;128(4):47002. Epub 2020/04/03. doi: 10.1289/ehp5732. PubMed PMID: 32238012; PMCID: PMC7228090.