

From the
Director's Desk

Newsletter for the
Owens Institute for
Behavioral Research



Happy Thanksgiving



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It has been a challenging semester getting “back to normal,” with a lot of ups and downs along the way. However, the ability to travel, attend conferences and meet people in person has been so wonderful. As I look ahead to Spring semester, I am hopeful for more of these replenishing professional activities.

Closer on the horizon is the OIBR Annual Meeting. I am excited to finally be able to gather outdoors, but in person, on Wednesday, December 8 at 3:30pm at the Lyndon House Arts Center. It's been a long time coming and we have set aside plenty of time for informal conversation, meeting new people and reconnecting with colleagues. As usual we will have awesome food and spirits, as well as a brief update on what has been happening at OIBR. I hope to see you there!

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Owens Institute for
Behavioral Research
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



**DR. EWAN COBRAN, PH.D.,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
CLINICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
PHARMACY**

Interviewed by Andrea Horsman

How did you first get involved with this project?

I began studying prostate cancer disparities at Howard University in 2010. After completing graduate school, I completed a Cancer Health Disparities T32 Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2014 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center under the mentorship of Dr. Eugenia Eng and Dr. Paul A. Godley. As a Postdoctoral Fellow, I received a pilot grant award to evaluate racial differences in morbidity, disease control, survival, and use of Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), for prostate cancer using the Surveillance, Epidemiologic and End Results (SEER)-Medicare Linked Database. Using data collected during the early years of IMRT diffusion from the SEER-Medicare Linked Claims Database (cohort of 10,975 prostate cancer patients), I found a significant geographic variation in the diffusion of IMRT, including differential use by SEER region, race, urban/rural residence, and residence in areas with varied regional educational attainment. The use of SEER-Medicare Linked Claims Database sparked an interest in precision oncology and genetic literacy. In 2019, with immense support from the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance, I was awarded a Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. This project focused on evaluating facilitators and barriers to the comprehension for the application of genomic technology for prognostic testing among rural white and African American men with localized prostate cancer. The specific aims of the project were (1) to develop a genomic literacy education video for the comprehension of common genomic terminology for prognostic genetic testing in patients with localized prostate cancer; and (2) to examine facilitators and barriers to the comprehension for the application of genomic technology for prognostic testing among patients with localized prostate cancer. This project served as the preliminary study for the current funded project.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Grant Title/Research Project:
**Genetic Literacy and Patient-Caregiver
Communication of Prognostic Genetic
Technology for Localized Prostate Cancer**

Funding Source and Amount:
**National Cancer Institute Mentored
Research Scientist Development K01
Award - \$862,985.00**

Grant Timeline:
09/10/2020 to 08/31/2025

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT Cont.

Tell me about this project and why it is important:

Precision oncology is rapidly expanding, specifically for prostate cancer.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), in 2016, recommends patients and clinicians consider tissue-based genetic tests for localized prostate cancer to help patients make more informed treatment decisions at the time of diagnosis.

Specifically, Oncotype DX, Prolaris, Confirm MDx, Promark, ProMark, and Decipher multi-gene mRNA expression panels offer new approaches for categorizing patients according to their levels of risk for biochemical recurrence or metastasis. With this greater certainty regarding prognosis, men with prostate cancer are now equipped to make more informed decision about the appropriateness of conservative management with active surveillance versus immediate treatment. However, while much enthusiasm currently exists for the burgeoning field of genomic medicine, the use of multi-gene mRNA expression panels raises the potential for further divergence in prostate cancer treatment outcomes by race and low socioeconomic status. We know that health disparities persist in low-income groups despite the existence of evidence-based guidelines and that adoption of state-of-the-art methods often lag behind in these groups. We posit that if common barriers to adoption, such as lack of understanding of genetic testing (e.g., genomic comprehension), low levels of formal education, and lack of knowledge regarding prostate cancer persist, systemic disparities with regard to prostate cancer treatment will be perpetuated even with the availability of good treatment options.

The goals of this project are to (1) explore how men with localized prostate cancer and their caregivers comprehend prognostic genetic technology, and (2) examine how an educational video about genetics impacts patient-caregiver communication of prognostic genetic technology. The study rationale is that without direct attention to genomic comprehension, the enthusiasm that exists in the rapidly increasing field of prostate cancer genomic medicine may not translate into health benefits for men with localized prostate cancer. The central hypotheses are (1) men and caregivers with lower levels of education will demonstrate a severe lack of genomic

comprehension of tissue-based genetic tests for localized prostate cancer; and (2) tailored prostate cancer education, communication coaching, and a genomic literacy educational video will significantly improve patient-caregiver communication in underserved population.

Where can people go if they want to learn more?

[The National Cancer Institute and the Precision Medicine Initiative](#)

Tell me about someone who has influenced your decision to work in Cancer Disparities:

In 2008, I lost my maternal grandparents to cancer. My grandparents died 5-months apart. Coping with late diagnoses, consecutive deaths, and funerals of my grandparents provoked me to dig into the cyclical process of late diagnosis, lack of prevention, lack of treatment, and lack of support, which results in death for the underserved. After the second funeral, I realized that I wanted my scholarship to actively help eliminate barriers to early cancer diagnosis and prevention.

What do you find most challenging about the research you are doing?

Research can be exhausting, and you often experience lots of failures. There is a certain level of determination, grit, and persistence that is required.

What do you find most rewarding about the research you are doing?

I love community-based participatory research. The impact of community partnerships in helping to shape the direction of the research project is priceless.

What direction would you like to see your research to take in the next five years?

I am planning to conduct a R01 randomized community-based participatory research study, to evaluate prostate cancer patients' and caregivers use of predictive genetic technology and treatment decision.

Go [here](#) for more information about Dr. Cobran's research.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS, AFFILIATES and GDP'S

Welcome to the Grant Development Program (GDP) Class of 2021-2023



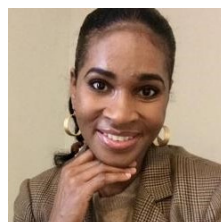
Dr. Daniel Jung

Health Policy & Management
Assistant Professor
Research Interests: Quality of Care; Long-Term Care/Post-Acute Care; Medicare/Medicaid Policy; Unnecessary Health Care Utilization; Health Disparities; Machine learning methods.



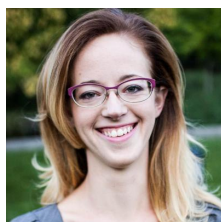
Dr. Jessica Knight

Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Assistant Professor
Research Interests: Long-term health implications of chronic conditions that originate in childhood; Impact of congenital heart disease across the lifespan of patients.



Dr. Soroya McFarlane

Communication Studies
Assistant Professor
Research Interests: Health Communication; Health Disparities; Culture; Community & Preventive Interventions; New Biomedical Prevention Technologies; Clinical Trial.



Dr. Chelsea Ratcliff

Communication Studies
Assistant Professor
Research Interests: Health, Science, and Risk Communication; News Coverage of Biomedical Research; Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Health Research.



Dr. Emily Rosenzweig

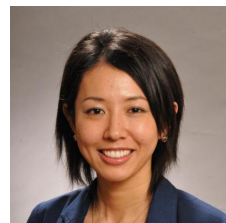
Educational Psychology
Assistant Professor
Research Interests: Achievement motivation; STEM learning; motivational interventions; values & cost of learning; adolescence; college student learning

We would like to welcome the following new faculty Affiliates of the Institute



Dr. Vanessa Gonlin

Sociology
Assistant Professor
Research Interests: Race and Ethnicity; Inequality



Dr. Sachiko Terui

Communication Studies
Assistant Professor
Research Interests: Health Literacy, HIV, Homeless, Immigrant, Intervention

Congratulations to Upcoming Grant Development Program Graduate



Dr. Allison Skinner-Dorkenoo

Psychology
Assistant Professor
GDP Class of 2019-2021
Research Interests: Transmission of social bias and prejudice among both children and adults

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS, AFFILIATES and GDPs Cont.

More Distinguished Scholar and Affiliate Kudos.....



Dr. Jody Clay-Warner has been selected for the SEC Academic Leadership Program. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Laura German has been named as new Director for the Center for Integrative Conservation Research. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Jamie Cooper was named interim Associate Dean in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Paula Lemons was appointed Associate Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences in Franklin College. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Lillian Eby has been inducted as 2021 Academy of Management Fellow. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Anne Shaffer has been named Associate Dean of the UGA Graduate school. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Kerstin Emerson was named Director of Online Learning for the College of Public Health. [Read more.](#)

FUNDING NEWS

Congratulations to our Distinguished Scholars and Affiliates! They have been very busy with new research projects funded since last spring.



Dr. Grace Ahn (Advertising and Public Relations), Distinguished Scholar, received an award from NOAA for her project entitled, "Salient, Interactive, Relevant, Confidence, and Action (SIRCA): Using Virtual Reality Storm Surge Simulations to Increase Risk Perception and Prevention Behaviors" in the amount of \$320,624. This project uses VR to better communicate and educate the risks of storm surge and climate change among coastal residents of Georgia and South Carolina. Project period: 8/1/2021-7/31/2023.



Dr. Brett Clementz (Psychology), Distinguished Scholar, received a R01 award from NIH for his project entitled, "1/2: B-SNIP: Algorithmic Diagnostics for Efficient Prescription of Treatments (ADEPT)" in the amount of \$302,000. This project aims to develop a means for improving "treatment targeting" so that psychosis patients may receive the treatment that may work best for them. Project period: 7/1/2021-6/30/2023.



Dr. Erin Dolan (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), Distinguished Scholar, received an award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute entitled, "Evaluation of Effective and Inclusive Teaching" in the amount of \$30,000. This project will support evaluating teaching in ways that align with national models and teaching evaluation policy at UGA and creating inclusive classroom climates in undergraduate STEM courses and majors. Project period: 4/1/2021-3/31/2023.



Dr. Logan Fiorella (Educational Psychology), Distinguished Scholar, and co-PI, Dr. Paula Lemons, (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), Distinguished Scholar, received an award from NSF for their project entitled, "Advancing the Cognitive Science of Instruction: Testing the Role of Pedagogical Sequences, Scaffolding, and Prior Knowledge" in the amount of \$681,542. This project will improve teaching, training, and learning by pinpointing specific ways to support maximum transfer of scientific concepts. Project period: 10/1/2021-9/30/2024.



Dr. Anne Shaffer (Psychology), Distinguished Scholar, is mentoring a graduate student, Violeta Rodriguez, who received a dissertation award (R36) from NIH entitled, "Revision and Validation of the Multidimensional Assessment of Parenting Scale (MAPS) in a Racially and Ethnically Diverse National Sample" in the amount of \$86,017. This project addresses the limited inclusion of racial and ethnic diversity in measure development of parenting practices which hampers the validity, reliability, and equity of parenting assessment. Project period: 9/1/2021-8/31/2023.



Dr. Greg Strauss (Psychology), Distinguished Scholar, is mentoring a graduate student, Lisa Bartolomeo, who received a F31 award from NIH entitled, "The Neural Basis of the Positivity Offset as a Mechanism of Avolition in Schizophrenia" in the amount of \$80,476. This study will examine the neural basis of emotional abnormalities as a mechanism contributing to negative symptoms in schizophrenia. Findings have the potential to inform novel targets for intervention. Project period: 8/1/2021 -7/31/2023.



Dr. Kandauda Wickrama (Human Development and Family Science), Distinguished Scholar, received a NIH subcontract award from FSU for a R01 project, "The Health for Hearts United Collaborative" in the amount of \$296,125. This proposed project will determine the effectiveness of HHUC implementation strategies in relation to process outcomes and reducing CVD risk in African Americans, examining two possible strategies. Project period: 5/6/2021-1/31/2022.

POLICY, REGULATIONS & COMPLIANCE

National Institutes of Health:

1. NIH has updated their templates for Biosketches and Other Support documents per [NOT-OD-073/NOT-OD-21-110](#). These new forms are required for submissions due on and after January 25, 2022, however, NIH expects applicants to have begun using the forms as of May 25, 2021.

2. Applicants applying to funding opportunities with due dates on or after January 25, 2022 must use updated application forms and instructions identified with a Competition ID of "FORMS-G." Key changes in the FORMS-G update include, but are not limited to:

- Transition from DUNS to a unique entity identifier (UEI) issued by SAM.gov as the official identifier for doing business with the federal government ([NOT-OD-21-170](#)).
- Updated biosketch and other support format pages (see above).
- Expanded requirement for a Commons ID to all senior/key personnel, not just PI/PDs ([NOT-OD-21-109](#)). If you will be working with a community agency Key Person (or similar) who is not likely to have a Commons ID or institutional affiliation, you must keep this in mind and begin working with your grants coordinator 6-8 weeks in advance of the due date.
- Added "Childcare Costs" section to Fellowship Supplemental Form ([NOT-OD-21-074](#)).

National Science Foundation:

1. The new NSF Proposal and Awards Policies and Procedures Guide is effective as of October 4, 2021 ([NSF 22-1](#)). For a full list or further information, contact Roberta Cooper or Kim Cherewick. Some of the significant changes to the PAPPG are:

- **Requests for Reasonable and Accessibility Accommodations**, is an entirely new section which provides guidance on the process for submitting requests for reasonable accommodations regarding the proposal process or requests for accessibility accommodations to access NSF's electronic systems, websites, and other digital content.
- **Biographical Sketches**, has been revised to increase the page limit for biographical sketch(es) to three pages (see <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/biosketch.jsp>).
- **Current and Pending Support**, has been updated to require that information on objectives and overlap with other projects be provided, to help NSF and reviewers assess overlap/duplication (see <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/cps.jsp>). A new table entitled [NSF Pre-award and Post-award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support](#) has been developed to assist users in completion of these sections of the proposal.
- **Career-Life Balance (CLB) Supplemental Funding Requests**, has been added as a new "Other Proposal Type". This section includes guidance on submission of such requests.
- **Grant Closeout**, incorporates new requirements specified in 2 CFR §200.344(i). If a grantee does not submit all required reports within one year of the period of performance end date, NSF must report the grantee's material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the award with the OMB-designated integrity and performance system.

Federal COVID-19 Requirements for UGA Covered Employees:

[Executive Order 14042](#), "Ensuring Adequate COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors," was signed on September 9, 2021. The Executive Order requires most federal contractors, including UGA, to comply with guidance from the [Safer Federal Workforce Task Force](#). The guidance requires that federal contracts and amendments entered into on or after October 15, 2021, include language mandating full vaccination of all federal contractors' covered employees by January 4, 2022. Guidance from the University detailing compliance with these requirements will be forthcoming.

Contact OIBR grants staff **Roberta Cooper**, Grants Coordinator, or **Kim Cherewick**, Assistant Director, with questions or if you are interested in submitting a research proposal. Both Kim and Roberta have Decentralized Limited Signatory Authority (DLSA) for the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.



The Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA) is an inter-institutional magnet that concentrates basic, translational, and clinical research investigators, community clinicians, professional societies, and industry collaborators in dynamic clinical and translational research projects. **Emory, Morehouse, Georgia Tech, and UGA** form the **Georgia CTSA**. This partnership, a strategic multi- institutional alliance, offers compelling, unique, and synergistic advantages to researchers and community members statewide. The Georgia CTSA leverages their complementary strengths to accelerate clinical and translational education, research, and community engagement to impact health in Georgia and beyond.

There are many excellent resources on the Georgia CTSA website, including a Team Science Toolkit. This toolkit provides resources, guides, and connections that will provide insight and help you explore the translational impact of your research. Check it out!

Georgia CTSA Opportunities:

Southeast Regional Clinical & Translational Science Conference to be held March 3 – March 4, 2022 at Callaway Resort & Gardens. The goal of the conference is to bring together cross-disciplinary researchers from across the southeast region to present the best new health-related preclinical, clinical, implementation, and population-based research and build collaborative relationships.



COSSA is an advocate for the research community, educating policy makers on the need for federal funding for research in the social and behavioral sciences. To read their bi-monthly update click here.

COSSA Launches New Website.

Bill Riley to Retire as Director of NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. Read more.

COSSA to Co-Sponsor University of Maryland Workshop in April 2022 on University-Industry Partnerships in the Social Sciences. This workshop aims to bring together a wide variety of experts from within academia, government, non-profits, and the private sector to consider the potential of cross-sector partnerships to advance social and behavioral science and to benefit society. More Info.

INSTITUTE NEWS

Staff Updates



We would like to welcome [Stacie Isbell](#) to the OIBR staff. She joined us at the beginning of November and is our new Senior Accountant. She brings 14 years of experience at UGA most recently as a Research Professional in CVIOG. Stacie's primary responsibilities will include performing grant-related post-award functions, including: serving as payroll coordinator for all positions managed by OIBR; initiating payment and purchase requests; and monitoring sub-award & consulting agreements. She serves as departmental p-card cardholder and petty cash coordinator for externally and internally funded projects. Stacie can be reached at sisbell@uga.edu.



[Jenny Claire Carey](#)
has been promoted to Grants
Manager II



[Renee Moore](#)
has been promoted to Grants
Manager

We are currently hiring for a Grants Manager position. More details [here](#). If you know anyone that might be interested, please direct them to the link or have them contact [Kim Cherewick](#) at ksilvis@uga.edu.



Owens Institute for
Behavioral Research
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



**Jere W. Morehead, President
University of Georgia**
*Expresses his congratulations on
the 50th Anniversary of the
Institute. View video [here](#).*

INSTITUTE EVENTS

OIBR Events



This year we are hosting our **Annual Meeting** in person on Wednesday, **December 8th**, from **3:30pm – 5:30pm** at the Lyndon House Arts Center in downtown Athens. Come spend time mingling with old (and new) friends in an outdoor venue while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. We will be presenting some awards and Lillian will share the State of the Institute. RSVP by 12/1 [HERE](#).

Save these Dates

We are excited to welcome **Dr. Fred Oswald**, professor and Herbert S. Autrey chair of Social Sciences with Rice University for our annual William A. Owens lecture. Dr. Oswald will be presenting, “The Practice, Culture, and Future of Open Science in the Social Sciences.” This event will be held in person on February 22, 2022, from 2:00-3:30pm with a reception to follow.

Dr. Kim Noble, Professor of Neuroscience and Education with Columbia University, Teachers College, will be our guest speaker for the Virtual Gene Brody Lecture on March 2, 2022. More details to follow.

As part of the mission for OIBR, we strive to provide beneficial networking opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and we hope that you enjoy these events. We realize it is sometimes hard to take time from your busy day to attend an event. We do our best to ensure our events are well worth your time, and if you ask attendees, you will find the feedback is consistently positive! If you have any event ideas, please feel free to share them with [Andrea Horsman](#), OIBR Outreach and Communications Manager.

Have something to share?

Do you have an interesting project that you are working on? Did you recently publish your work? Did you receive an award? Let us help promote you and your research. We love sharing the accomplishments and successes of our faculty! Please contact **Andrea Horsman** at ahorsman@uga.edu with anything that you would like to share.