

**Florida State University  
College of Nursing  
Research Faculty Profiles**

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**Laurie Abbott**  
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**Keywords** rural, chronic disease, health promotion

**Bio** Laurie Abbott is an Associate Professor and board-certified advanced public health nurse with over 25 years of nursing experience in a variety of settings. She has a broad background in nursing with specific research training in health disparity research and expertise in disease prevention and risk reduction among rural populations. She is certified by the American College of Lifestyle Medicine as a health diplomate in the science of preventing, treating, and reversing chronic disease through evidence-based interventions. Her line of research involves reducing chronic disease risk among rural populations, and she has successfully recruited and retained samples of rural populations. She is the primary investigator of a current study to test an evidence-based chronic disease risk reduction program among people living in underserved rural areas. She has also conducted cluster randomized trials of evidence-based, culturally relevant health promotion and disease risk prevention interventions in rural community settings.

- Recent Publications** Graven, L. J., **Abbott, L. S.**, Boel-Studt, S., Grant, J. S., & Buck, H. G. (2023). Classifying Heart Failure Caregivers as Adequately or Inadequately Resourced to Care: A Latent Class Analysis. *Journal of Palliative Care*, 38(1), 62-70. doi:10.1177/08258597221079244
- Abbott, L. S.**, Killian, M. O., Graven, L. J., & Williams, K. J. (2022). Latent Profile Analysis of Stress and Resilience among Rural Women: A Cross-sectional Study. *Public Health Nursing*, 39(3), 536-544.
- Abbott, L. S.**, Graven, L. J., & Schluck, G. (2022). Factors associated with diabetes outcomes among rural African Americans. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 33(2), 751-766.



**Jessica Bahorski**  
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**Keywords** Children, Infant Feeding Practices, Infant Growth, Breastfeeding, Eating Behaviors (in Infants and Young Children), Health Disparities in Maternal-Child Health, Childhood Obesity Prevention

**Bio** Jessica S. Bahorski, PhD, APRN is a clinician, educator, and researcher. She has worked in primary care and school health as a pediatric nurse practitioner, as an educator in acute care pediatric settings, and a researcher on numerous studies. Dr. Bahorski's research program studies the developmental origins of childhood obesity with a particular focus on infant feeding practices and infant weight gain. Her research examines maternal decisions regarding infant feeding practices, factors that influence those decisions, and infant growth. Dr. Bahorski leads a team of multidisciplinary research to test a behavioral intervention to promote responsive feeding in diverse populations. She is also collaborating with a team at the University of Florida to identify research priorities during the 4<sup>th</sup> trimester (3 months after birth) and a team at FSU to examine pesticide exposure on children living in rural farmworker communities. She is also passionate about finding ways to help nurses understand best practices and translate research into clinical practice.

**Recent Publications** **Bahorski J**, Romano M, McDougal JM, Kiratzis E, Pocchio K, Paek I. Development of an Individualized Responsive Feeding Intervention-Learning Early Infant Feeding Cues: Protocol for a Nonrandomized Study. *JMIR Res Protoc*. 2023 Feb 28;12:e44329. doi: 10.2196/44329. PubMed PMID: 36853761; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10015354.

**Bahorski JS**, Pocchio KE, Pledger KA, Schluck G. Exploratory analysis of factors that influence maternal deviation from prenatal infant feeding plans: A research brief. *Appl Nurs Res*. 2023 Feb;69:151663. doi: 10.1016/j.apnr.2022.151663. Epub 2022 Dec 14. PubMed PMID: 36635017.

Schneider-Worthington CR, Fouts A, Chandler-Laney PC, **Bahorski JS**. Infant temperament is associated with maternal feeding behaviors in early infancy. *Appetite*. 2022 Jan 1;168:105686. doi: 10.1016/j.appet.2021.105686. Epub 2021 Sep 7. PubMed PMID: 34500015; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8671203.



**Mandy Denise Bamber**

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**Keywords** Informal Caregivers, Parents, Children with Special Healthcare Needs, mHealth, Self-Care, Well-being, Distress, Caregiver Burden, Caregiver Inflammation, Mindfulness-based Interventions.

**Bio** Through her broad background in nursing, Dr. Mandy Bamber's clinical nursing, academic, and research experience have given her the expertise to better understand the complex effects of environment on psychological and physical health and wellbeing of caregivers. As a clinical bedside nurse, she worked with families in obstetrics, which sparked an interest in the psychological wellbeing of caregivers. As a nurse educator, she observed nursing students, future caregivers, experience psychological distress, and frequently, their inability to cope. Working as a nurse educator directed her research into exploring mental health and wellbeing of caregivers and potentially effective self-care measures. From this, her program of research has become focused on parent caregivers of children with special healthcare needs to better understand caregiving effects on their mental and physical wellbeing. Currently, she is focused on how the implementation of personal self-care can improve these parents' physical and mental wellbeing and decrease caregiver burden. Currently, she is in the process of preparing a research proposal that will build upon a mobile health application for that includes self-care activities, social support, disease and parenting education, and physical and psychological health monitoring. Once fully developed, they are planning to test the usability, feasibility, and acceptability of this mobile health application in parent caregivers. Her research goal is to improve the lives of parent caregivers of children with special healthcare needs.

- Recent Publications**
- Bamber, M. D.,** Solatikia, F., Gaillard, P., & Regena Spratling. (2023). The Impact of Caregiving for Children with Special Healthcare Needs on Negative Affect, Quality of Life, and Trait Mindfulness. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*, 45(4), 1096–1106. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10862-023-10081-5>
- Bamber, M. D.,** Solatikia, F., Gaillard, P., & Regena Spratling. (2023). Caregiver Burden and Inflammation in Parents of Children with Special Healthcare Needs. *Discover Psychology*, 3(29), 1-13. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44202-023-00089-z>
- Bamber, M. D.,** Mahoney, H., & Regena Spratling. (2023). Mothers of Children with Special Healthcare Needs; Exploring Caregiver Burden, Resiliency, and Quality of Life. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, 37(6), P643-651. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2023.06.003>
- Bamber, M.,** & Morpeth, E. (2019). Effects of Mindfulness Meditation on College Student Anxiety: A Meta-Analysis. *Mindfulness*, 10(2), 203–214. doi:10.1007/s12671-018-0965-5



## Henna Budhwani

Professor  
PhD, MPH

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**Keywords** interventions; implementation science; global health; health disparities and equity; maternal and child health; community engagement; pragmatic clinical trials

**Bio** Dr. Budhwani is a Professor in the Florida State University (FSU) College of Nursing, Institute on Digital Health and Innovation (IDHI). As an Implementation Scientist and socio behavioral interventionist, Dr. Budhwani conducts studies to address the causes and consequences of disparities among stigmatized populations that experience adverse health outcomes in resource-constrained settings. Dr. Budhwani's research is informed by sociological constructs, guided by human rights frameworks, and adopts a multidimensional view of addressing public health and clinical care gaps. She has methodological expertise in qualitative and mixed-methods research, mHealth and digital health interventions, and pragmatic clinical trial design. As a community-engaged scholar, she has conducted studies with a range of underserved or stigmatized populations in the United States and abroad across Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Budhwani is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT), is a Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) Fellow, and holds adjunct appointments in the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine Division of Adolescent Medicine and School of Public Health Department of Health Policy and Organization.

**Recent Grants** R01MD016834 (Hightow-Weidman, [Budhwani](#)) 04/20/21-01/31/25, \$3,127,086 total costs  
**NIH/NIMHD: A Multidimensional Digital Approach to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Increase COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake among African American Young Adults in the South**  
Role: PI/mPI

R33HD103061 (Tita, Enah, [Budhwani](#)) 09/16/22-08/31/25, \$517,000 total costs  
**NIH/Co-Funded by NICHD and FIC: Phase 2 for the Medical Information Service via Mobile Telephone (m-MIST™) Provider Support to Improve Pregnancy Outcomes**  
Role: PI/mPI

K01MH116737 ([Budhwani](#)) 05/08/19-04/30/24, \$897,157 total costs  
**NIH/NIMH: Adapting and Pilot Testing a Behavioral Intervention to Incorporate Advances in HIV Prevention for Black Young MSM in Alabama**  
Role: PI/mPI

R21MH124083/R21TW011761 ([Budhwani](#), Turan, Paulino) 08/01/20-07/31/23, \$344,855 total costs  
**NIH/Co-Funded by FIC and NIMH: Adapting the Finding Respect and Ending Stigma around HIV (FRESH) Intervention for the Dominican Republic**  
Role: PI/mPI

MISP 60590 ([Budhwani](#) and Simpson) 12/1/20-08/07/22, \$341,847 total costs  
**Merck & Co., Inc.: Exploratory sequential mixed methods cluster randomized controlled implementation science trial to develop a clinic-based HPV and COVID-19 vaccine promoting intervention for African American older adolescents in rural Alabama**  
Role: PI/mPI



**Jie Chen**  
Assistant Professor  
PhD, RN

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**Keywords** Pain and Symptom Management, Gut-Brain Axis, Multi Omics, Healthy Aging, Multiple Chronic Conditions, Heart Failure, Cardio-oncology

**Bio** Dr. Jie Chen is an assistant professor at the Florida State University College of Nursing. His research projects focus on pain and symptom management in older adults with multiple chronic conditions (MCC), i.e., cancer and cardiovascular disease. He is also interested in promoting cardiovascular health of older adults with cancer. His long-term research plan is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the bio-behavioral and multi-omics mechanisms of pain and pain self-management among older adults with MCC. His dissertation titled "Pain Management in Older Adults with Heart Failure" was supported by the American Nurses Foundation from the Virginia Stone Fund, the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS)/CANS dissertation award, and the STTI Mu Chapter research award.

- Recent Publications** Yang J, Zhou WJ, Zhou SC, Luo D, Liu Q, Wang AL, Yu SH, Zhu XP, He XY, Hu F, Yang BX, **Chen J**. Integrated virtual simulation and face-to-face simulation for clinical judgment training among undergraduate nursing students: a mixed-methods study. *BMC Med Educ*. 2024 Jan 5;24(1):32. doi: 10.1186/s12909-023-04988-6. PubMed PMID: 38183036; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10768231.
- Ao MQ, Xia L, Wang XQ, Fang S, Yang BX, Liu Q, **Chen J**, Zhou SC, Li XY, Sun T, Lu B, Bao A, Luo D, Ruan J. Help-Seeking Intentions for Depression from Mental Health Professionals Among Community-Dwelling Persons in Central China. *Adm Policy Ment Health*. 2023 Nov;50(6):901-911. doi: 10.1007/s10488-023-01277-8. Epub 2023 Jun 5. PubMed PMID: 37277690.
- Feng M, Wang F, Liu Q, Yang BX, Hao J, Yu S, Hu F, Luo D, **Chen J**. Validation of the Simplified Chinese Palliative Care Nursing Self-Competence Scale: Two Cross-sectional Studies. *West J Nurs Res*. 2023 Nov;45(11):1043-1052. doi: 10.1177/01939459231201616. Epub 2023 Sep 26. PubMed PMID: 37752762.
- Chen J**, Wang Z, Starkweather A, Chen MH, McCauley P, Miao H, Ahn H, Cong X. Pain sensation and gut microbiota profiles in older adults with heart failure. *Interdiscip Nurs Res*. 2023 May;2(2):83-91. doi: 10.1097/NR9.000000000000024. eCollection 2023 May. PubMed PMID: 37645375; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10461724.
- Xing Y, Zhao W, Duan C, Zheng J, Zhao X, Yang J, Sun N, **Chen J**. Developing a visual model for predicting depression in patients with lung cancer. *J Clin Nurs*. 2023 Aug;32(15-16):4614-4625. doi: 10.1111/jocn.16487. Epub 2022 Aug 10. PubMed PMID: 35949178.



**Sabrina Dickey**  
Associate Professor  
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**Keywords** prostate cancer, colorectal cancer, Black men, African Americans, vaccine hesitancy, family and cancer communication

**Bio** Dr. Sabrina L. Dickey is an associate professor at the Florida State University College of Nursing. As a registered nurse for over 27 years and a health disparity researcher, she has worked in a variety of diverse settings. Her PhD in Family Relations and master's in nursing education, has allowed her to become proficient in educating and interacting with diverse populations. In community/public and college health. Her platform of research is focused on prostate and colorectal cancer screening behaviors among Black men, family and cancer communication, and vaccine hesitancy. Some of her research collaborations with various organizations include federally qualified health centers, faith-based organizations, and community centers to name a few. The methodologies used in her research consist of mixed methods approaches, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and systematic and integrative reviews. Dr. Dickey has acquired internal and external funding as well as established local, state, and national collaborations among other researchers. Her work is disseminated at local, regional, national, and international conferences and in peer-reviewed scholarly journals.

**Recent Publications** **Dickey, S.L.**, Noel, L.T., & Ai, A. (In-press). Depressive Symptoms in Black and White Volunteers: Six-month Post Deadly Natural Hazard Hurricane: Does Race Identity Matter? *International.Journal.of.Higher.Education*.

Li, W., Ai, A., & **Dickey, S.** (2023). Disaster Stressors and Coping with the Traumatization of Deadliest Hurricane in U.S. Mainland: A follow-up Study. *Natural.Hazards.Research*, 3(1), 42-48.

**Dickey, S. L.**, Clark, I., Hawkins, C., Wedenoja, M., Moon, A., Boone, K., Raney, A., & Ai, A. (2023). Psychosocial and Physical Challenges from a Natural Disaster: Implications for Resilience in the Black Community. *Natural.Hazards.Review*, 24(2), 1-13.

**Recent Grants** Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)  
Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) Health Disparity Research Award  
(August 2024- September 2029)  
Role: Consultant  
**Project: Enhancing Support Services for Black Men Prostate Cancer Survivors: A Qualitative Study**

R16 GM149384-01  
04/01/2023- 2/28/2027  
Role: Co-Investigator  
**Project: Monitoring Community Efforts to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening in African Americans**  
\$150,316



**Lucinda Graven**  
Associate Professor  
PhD, APRN, FAHA, FAAN

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**Keywords** Cardiovascular and Chronic Disease (Patients, Care Partners, Dyads, Families), Heart Failure, Self-Management, Coping, Problem-Solving, Psychosocial Outcomes, Health Disparities (Rural), Palliative Care, Social Determinants of Health

**Bio** Lucinda J. Graven, PhD, APRN, FAHA, FAAN is a family nurse practitioner and Associate Professor whose research focuses on improving cardiovascular disease and symptom management through the development and testing of cognitive-behavioral interventions at both the individual, dyad, and family levels. Dr. Graven has developed and tested a promising telehealth intervention, targeting heart failure disease and symptom management problems in the home. Her research has produced upwards of 50 publications and has been internally and externally funded. Recognizing the importance of family care partners in helping heart failure patients maintain optimal disease and symptom management, Dr. Graven's research also involves family-level research. Dr. Graven has examined predictors of adverse outcomes in heart failure and stroke caregivers and the development of interventions to improve caregiver contribution to heart failure disease management. Combined with her patient research, findings from her caregiver work have been instrumental in the development of a family intervention to improve heart failure disease and symptom management in the home. Additionally, Dr. Graven has served as Co-I on several cardiovascular health promotion interventions conducted in rural populations. Dr. Graven also has expertise in social determinants of health research, with several publications examining the effects of these determinants on heart failure disease management. Dr. Graven is a Fellow of the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Nursing.

**Recent Publications** **Graven, L. J.,** Abbott, L., Boel-Studt, S., Grant, J. S., & Buck, H. G. (2023). Classifying Heart Failure Caregivers as Adequately or Inadequately Resourced to Care: A Latent Class Analysis. *Journal of Palliative Care*, 38(1), 62-70. doi:10.1177/08258597221079244

**Graven, L. J.,** Durante, A., Abbott, L., Bassi, E., Howren, M. B., & Grant, J. S. (2023). Self-Care Problems and Management Strategies Experienced by Rural Patient/Caregiver Dyads Living with Heart Failure: A Qualitative Study. *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, Epub Ahead of Print, 40.

**Graven, L. J.,** Abbott, L. & Schluck, G. (2023) The coping in heart failure (COPE-HF) partnership intervention for heart failure symptoms: Implications for palliative care, *Progress in Palliative Care*, 31:3, 169-178.

**Recent Grants** **Graven, L. J.,** Howren, M. B., Abbott, L., Drwal, K., & Ledermann, T. (Oct 2022–Sep 2024). Supporting Physical & Mental Health in Rural Veterans with Heart Failure (CARE-HF). Funded by Veterans Administration Office of Rural Health – Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-GNV (VRHRC-GNV). Total award \$432,390.

Abbott, L., **Graven, L. J.,** Killian, M., DeLeon, J., Lustria, M., & LeMacks, J. (Sep 2022–Aug 2023). Reducing Chronic Disease Risk Among Rural Adults. Funded by Florida State University Translational Health Research Seed Grant. Total award \$50,000.





**Adam Hanley**  
Associate Professor  
PhD

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**Keywords** Mindfulness, Pain, Opioids, Integrative Medicine, Single-Session Interventions, Self-transcendence, Altered State of Consciousness

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**Bio** Adam Hanley is a Licensed Psychologist and an Associate Professor at the Brain Science and Symptom Management Center in the Florida State University's College of Nursing. The goal of his research program is to develop and refine both brief and intensive mindfulness-based interventions that can be embedded in medical settings to reduce pain and improve quality of life.

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**Recent Publications** **Hanley, A. W.**, Gililand, J., Erickson, J., Pelt, C., Peters, C., Rojas, J., & Garland, E. L. (2021). Brief preoperative mind-body therapies for total joint arthroplasty patients: a randomized controlled trial. *Pain, 162*(6), 1749.

**Hanley, A. W.**, & Garland, E. L. (2022). Self-transcendence predicts better pre-and postoperative outcomes in two randomized clinical trials of brief mindfulness-based interventions. *Mindfulness, 13*(6), 1532-1543

Garland, E. L., **Hanley, A. W.**, Nakamura, Y., Barrett, J. W., Baker, A. K., Reese, S. E., ... & Donaldson, G. W. (2022). Mindfulness-oriented recovery enhancement vs supportive group therapy for co-occurring opioid misuse and chronic pain in primary care: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA internal medicine, 182*(4), 407-417.

Garland, E. L., **Hanley, A. W.**, Hudak, J., Nakamura, Y., & Froeliger, B. (2022). Mindfulness-induced endogenous theta stimulation occasions self-transcendence and inhibits addictive behavior. *Science Advances, 8*(41), eabo4455.

**Hanley, A. W.**, & Garland, E. L. (2022). Self-transcendence predicts better pre-and postoperative outcomes in two randomized clinical trials of brief mindfulness-based interventions. *Mindfulness, 13*(6), 1532-1543.



**Lisa B. Hightow-Weidman**

*Associate Dean for Research  
Distinguished and Endowed McKenzie Professor  
Director, Institute on Digital Health and Innovation  
MD, MPH*

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**Keywords** Stigma reduction, HIV prevention and care continuum, adolescent health, mHealth and Digital Health, Sexual and gender minority populations

**Bio** Lisa B. Hightow-Weidman is a Distinguished and Endowed McKenzie Professor in the College of Nursing at the Florida State University (FSU). She is the founding director of the Institute on Digital Health and Innovation at FSU. Dr. Hightow-Weidman is an expert in the development, implementation and evaluation of digital health interventions (DHIs) to address the HIV Care Continuum for adolescents and young adults, particularly among sexual and gender minority populations. Her research interests include technology-based HIV prevention and treatment interventions for adolescents and emerging adults, specifically interventions that incorporate game-based elements, self-monitoring and tracking and provision of social support to increase engagement and impact health behavior. She has developed technology-based interventions that aim to increase uptake and adherence to biomedical prevention and treatment, to increase HIV diagnosis, linkage and retention in care and to ameliorate stigma and increase resilience. She has published nearly 200 peer-reviewed articles on these topics and has a proven track record of successful funding from the National Institutes of Health, HIV/AIDS Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Select Active Research Awards** UG1 HD113162-01(Charurat, Hightow-Weidman, Adebajo) 09/01/23 – 06/30/28 | Amount: \$5,901,666  
NIH pass thru University of Maryland  
**Resilient HIV Implementation Science with SGM Youths using Evidence (RISE) Clinical Research Center in Africa.**  
Role: m-Principal Investigator

UG3 AI176592-01 (Hightow-Weidman, Gorbach, Young) 05/03/23 – 04/30/25 | Amount: \$552,348  
NIH pass thru University of California, Los Angeles  
**Title: Exploring, Predicting, and Intervening on Long-term Viral suppression Electronically (EPI-LoVE)**  
Role: m-Principal Investigator

3UM2HD111102-01S1 (Hightow-Weidman/Hosek) 09/15/23 - 11/30/29 | Amount: \$1,954,914  
NIH  
**Title: Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) Scientific Leadership Center; Administrative Supplement**  
Role: m-Principal Investigator

UM2HD111102-01 (Hightow-Weidman/Hosek) 01/25/23 - 11/30/29 | Amount: \$73,690,720  
NIH  
**Title: Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) Scientific Leadership Center**  
Role: m-Principal Investigator

UG3AI169631 (Hightow-Weidman/Hosek/French) 05/19/22 - 04/30/27 | Amount: \$2,942,605  
NIH pass thru John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County  
**Title: Keeping it LITE 2: Exploring HIV Risk in Vulnerable Youth with Limited Interaction and Digital Health Intervention (LITE-2)**  
Role: m-Principal Investigator



## Umedjon Ibragimov

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**Keywords** substance use, HIV, people who use drugs, implementation science, syringe service programs, stigma as a barrier to services, men who have sex with men, structural determinants, peer-led hospital-based interventions, Central Asia

**Bio** Umedjon Ibragimov, PhD, MPH, MD, combines his programmatic expertise and academic scholarship to advance the health of people who use drugs and other populations disproportionately affected by HIV. He applies rigorous quantitative and qualitative methods and community-based participatory research methods to study stigma and other social and structural determinants of drug- and HIV-related outcomes and utilizes implementation science approaches to improve access to HIV and drug-related services in the US and globally. Dr. Ibragimov's past work focused on exploring the role of such structural determinants as structural racism and economic policies in epidemics of HIV and sexually transmitted infections in large US metropolitan areas. He also studied HIV prevention interventions among people who inject drugs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, explored the role of stigma and violence as barriers to services among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Tajikistan and advanced methodology of HIV and substance use research among MSM in China. His current projects involve addressing barriers to implementation of syringe service programs for people who inject drugs and peer-led interventions for emergency department patients with substance use disorders in the US.

- Recent Publications**
- Ibragimov, U.,** Livingston, M.D., Young, A.M., Feinberg, J., Korthuis, P.T., Akhtar, W.Z. ... & Cooper, H.L.F. (2023). Correlates of recent HIV testing among people who inject drugs in rural areas: A multi-site cross-sectional study, 2018-2020. *AIDS and Behavior*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-023-04140-x>
- Ibragimov, U,** Mansfield, R.W., Yarbrough, C.R., Cummings, J.R., Livingston, M.D., Haardoefer, R., Beane, S., Fadanelli, M.M., Haley, D.F., Cooper H.L.F. (2022). Medicaid Expansion and opioid overdose mortality among socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the US: a difference in differences analysis. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. 233, 109381. DOI: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2022.109381
- Ibragimov, U.,** Cooper, K.E., Batty E., Ballard, A.M., Fadanelli, M., Gross, S.B., Klein, E.M., Lockard, A.S., Young, A.M. & Cooper, H.L.F. (2021). Factors that influence enrollment in syringe services programs in rural areas: a qualitative study among program clients in Appalachian Kentucky. *Harm Reduction Journal*, 18(1), 1-15.
- Ibragimov, U.,** Beane, S., Friedman, S.R., Adimora, A.A., Williams, L., Tempalski, B., Stall, R.D., Wingood, G., McKetta, S., Hall, H.I., Satcher Johnson, A. & Cooper, H.L.F. (2021). Evidence for HIV transmission across key populations: A longitudinal analysis of HIV and AIDS rates among black people who inject drugs and black heterosexuals in 84 large US metropolitan areas, 2008-2016. *Annals of Epidemiology*. 55, 69-77. e5. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annepidem.2020.10.003>
- Ibragimov, U.,** Young, A.M. & Cooper, H.L.F. (2020). Understanding rural risk environments for drug-related harms: Progress, challenges, and steps forward. Editorial for the special issue of *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 85,102926 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2020.102926>



**Brittany Lane**  
*Post-Doctoral Scholar*  
PhD

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**Keywords** HIV, Sexual Health, Women, Youth

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**Bio** Dr. Brittany Lane is committed to reducing health disparities among women of color. Her research interests include HIV prevention among adolescents and young people assigned female at birth, relationship dynamics and sexual health, and designing and implementing behavioral and multi-level interventions to engage PLWHIV in care. Dr. Lane is skilled in community-engaged research and has successfully led projects studying the barriers to Hepatitis C care engagement, the development of heroin use among homeless youth, and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among an American Indian Tribe in Arizona. Her experience extends internationally, where she has worked on various HIV-related projects in Nigeria, The Gambia, and Botswana.



**Tingting Liu**  
Associate Professor  
PhD, RN, FAAN

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**Keywords** Behavioral Science, Aging, Integrating genomics/epigenetics into studying how exercise may improve cognition among people with type 2 diabetes

**Bio** Dr. Liu has acquired distinction in her research program focusing on integrating genomics/epigenetics into studying how exercise may improve cognition among people with type 2 diabetes. Notably, her research program has been funded by the NIH/National Institute of Nursing Research (R15NR019691; Feasibility Testing a Randomized Controlled Trial of An Exercise Program to Improve Cognition for T2DM Patients. \$446,268, 2020-2023). In addition, as a Principal Investigator, she has also secured extramural and intramural grants from the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (\$64,485) and University of Arkansas (\$10,000), totaling more than \$500,000. Furthermore, Dr. Liu has published 34 peer-reviewed journal articles to date. Most of these articles are published in top-tier nursing journals, including *Research in Nursing & Health*, *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, *Biological Research for Nursing*, *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, and *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*.

- Recent Publications**
- Liu, T.,** Li, H., Conley, Y. P., Primack, B. A., Wang, J., & Li, C. (2022). The BDNF functional polymorphism and hand grip strength impact the association between BDNF levels and cognition in older adults in the United States. *Biological Research for Nursing*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10998004211065151>
- Liu, T.,** Hettish, L., Lo, W. J., Gray, M., & Li, C. (2021). FEASibility Testing a randomized controlled trial of an exercise program to improve cognition for T2DM patients (the FEAST trial): A study protocol. *Research in Nursing & Health*, 44(5), 746-757 <https://doi.org/10.1002/nur.22174>
- Liu, T.,** Canon, M. D., Shen, L., Marples, B. A., Colton, J. P., Lo, W. J., Gray, M., & Li, C. (2021). The influence of the BDNF Val66Met polymorphism on the association of regular physical activity with cognition among individuals with diabetes. *Biological Research for Nursing*, 23(3), 318-330. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1099800420966648>
- Li, H., **Liu, T.,** Heinsberg, L. W., Lockwood, M. B., Wainwright, D. A., Jang, M. K., & Doorenbos, A. Z. (2020). Systematic review of the kynurenine pathway and psychoneurological symptoms among adult cancer survivors. *Biological Research for Nursing*, 22(4), 472-484. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1099800420938141>
- Liu, T.,** Li, H., Colton, J. P., Ge, S., & Li, C. (2020). The BDNF Val66Met polymorphism, regular exercise, and cognition: A systematic review. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 42(8), 660-673. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0193945920907308>



## Geraldine Martorella

Associate Professor

Co-Director of Brain Science & Symptom Management Center

PhD, RN, FAAN

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**Keywords** Pain, postoperative pain, chronic pain, Non-Pharmacological Intervention, Mindfulness, CBT, CAM, Self-Management

**Bio** Dr Martorella focuses on the development and evaluation of innovative and patient-centered nursing interventions for the management of pain and the prevention of chronic pain. Dr. Martorella conducts research on the effects of Web-based and tailored non-pharmacological interventions facilitating the self-management of postoperative pain. Using experimental and mixed method designs, she has been targeting psychosocial risk and protective factors of pain across clinical settings. Her interventions include CBT, mindfulness, neuromodulation (non-invasive brain stimulation), and complementary and alternative therapies, such as massage.

**Recent Publications** **Martorella, G.,** Hanley, A., Tong, H., Miao, H., Worts, P., Bellamy, D., & Ahn, H. (2024, in press). Online Brief Mindfulness-based intervention for subacute pain after total hip or knee replacement: A pilot randomized controlled trial. *Mindfulness*.

**Martorella, G.,** Miao, H., Wang, D., Parl, L., Mathis, K., Park, J., Sheffler, J., Granville, L., Teixeira, A., Schulz, P., & Ahn, H. (2023). Feasibility, acceptability, and efficacy of home-based transcranial direct current stimulation on pain in older adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias: A randomized sham-controlled pilot clinical trial. *Journal Of Clinical Medicine*. Retrieved from <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0383/12/2/401> doi:10.3390/jcm12020401

**Martorella, G.,** Park, H., & Schluck, G. (2022). The Relationship between electronic health literacy and individual factors among adults with chronic pain. *International Health Trends and Perspectives*. Retrieved from <https://journals.library.torontomu.ca/index.php/ihttp/article/view/1671>

**Recent Grants** **R01NR019051.** Ahn (PI). Role: Co-I. *Combination Therapy of Home-based Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation and Mindfulness-based Meditation for Self-management of Clinical Pain and Symptoms in Older Adults with Knee Osteoarthritis*. 2021-2023

**R01NR019051-03S1.** Ahn (PI). Role: Co-I. *Pain-related Brain Mechanisms for Pain Catastrophizing Behavior in Response to Home-based Mindfulness-based Meditation Paired with Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation*. 2022-2023.



## Hongyu Miao

Professor

Director of Brain Science & Symptom Management Center

PhD

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**Keywords** biostatistics, data science, artificial intelligence, mobile sensor signal, clinical trial, neuroimaging, digital health, mental health, pain, diabetes, cancer, infectious disease

**Bio** Dr. Miao is tenured Professor of College of Nursing (CON), Professor of Statistics (adjunct), Co-Director of Brain Science and Symptom Management Center (BSSMC), and the Director of Data Science and Digital Intelligence for the Center of Population Science for Health Equity (CPSHE) at Florida State University College of Nursing (2022-present). With PhD in engineering and MS in biostatistics, his expertise has been primarily developed in clinical trial, neuroimaging, network analysis, time series, and big complex sensor data with applications in digital health, mental health, cancer, diabetes, pain management, neural development and disorders, and infectious diseases. He has led or been leading 9 research projects as PI or Co-PI, including both NSF and NIH funded programs. He has collaborated with many biomedical/clinical investigators on 20+ NIH funded projects, including multiple R01 awards and research center awards (a total budget over \$35 million dollars). He has published 100+ peer-reviewed research articles on both prestigious statistical, artificial intelligence, and biomedical journals (e.g., JASA, AOS, SIAM REV, IEEE TPAMI, and Science Journals). He is also leading a national training program on clinical trial design under an official agreement with top pharmaceutical companies like Abbvie.

**Recent Grants** DOD, TP220192  
Miao (Co-I), 2023 – 2028  
**Personalized Dosing of Non-invasive Brain Stimulation Using fNIRS-TMS Technology**

NIH/NINR 3R01NR019051-03S1

Miao (MPI), 2022 – 2023

**Pain-related Brain Mechanisms for Pain Catastrophizing Behavior in Response to Home-based Mindfulness-based Meditation Paired with Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation**

NSF/ECCS 2133106

Miao (Co-PI), 2021 – 2025

**ASCENT: Multimodal chest e-tattoo with customized IC and deep learning algorithm for tracking and predicting progressive pneumonia**

NIH/NINR R01NR019051

Miao (Co-I), 2020 – 2025

**Combination Therapy of Home-Based Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation and Mindfulness-Based Meditation for Self-Management of Clinical Pain and Symptoms in Older Adults with Knee Osteoarthritis**

NSF/DMS 1620957

Miao (PI), 2016 – 2020

**Analysis of Longitudinal Multiscale Data in Immunological Bioinformatics - Feature Selection, Graphical Models, and Structure Identification**



## Eugenia Flores Millender

Assistant Dean for Research

Associate Professor, Co-Founder

Co-Director, Center of Population Sciences for Health Equity

PhD, RN, MS, PMHNP-BC, CDE, FAAN

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**Keywords** Mental Health Equity, Socio-cultural Stressors, Transgenerational Psychological Impact, Vulnerable Populations, Community-Based Interventions

**Bio** Dr. Flores Millender's program of research investigates ways to reduce mental health disparities by exploring how socio-cultural stressors and trauma influence transgenerational psychological and co-occurring physical illness through gene-environment interaction among vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized populations nationally and internationally. She brings together academia and the community as equal partners in research initiatives. Dr. Millender, a certified psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner, dedicates her expertise to serving the homeless, recently released from prison or jail, and immigrant populations. She consistently integrates research into her practice, aiming to enhance both practice and teaching while developing interventions. As an experienced community-based program developer and researcher, Dr. Millender has received over \$26 million in extramural funding as principal investigator and multiple PI to decrease health disparities among underserved populations. Dr. Millender is an indigenous (Guna) Afro-Latina from the Republic of Panama. Fluent in both Spanish and English.

**Recent Publications** Radey, M., Wu, Q., McWey, L., & **Millender, E. I.** (in press). Instrumental Safety Net Configurations and Changes Over Time Among Low-Income, Vulnerable Families. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*.

Gabster, A., Yu, A., Xavier-Hall, C., **Millender, E. I.**, Wong, F., & Pascale, J. (2022). Dating violence prevalence and risk factors among adolescents (14-19 years) in urban settings in Panama. *The Lancet Regional Health*.

Joiner, T. E., Robinson, M., Robertson, L., Keel, P., Daurio, A. M., Mehra, L. M., & **Millender, E.** (2022). Ethnoracial Status, Intersectionality with Gender, and Psychotherapy Utilization, Retention, and Outcomes. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. doi:10.1037/ccp0000726

**Recent Grants** Millender, Eugenia Isabel (PI), Wong, Frankie (Co-PI), & Xavier Hall, Casey Daniel (Co-PI). Jun 2023–May 2024

**Elevating Community Voices by Developing a User-centered Approach to Enable Self-testing and Remote Data Collection among Underrepresented Populations (Project Elevate).**

Funded by Food and Drug Administration. (1U01FD007976-01).

Xavier Hall, Casey Daniel (PI), Millender, Eugenia Isabel (MPI), and Wong, Frankie (MPI), Sep 2022–Aug 2024

**Examining Predictors of Vaccine Trial Engagement Outcomes among Sexual and Gender Minority LatinX Communities through an Explanatory Mixed Methods Design.**

Funded by Food and Drug Administration. (1U01FD007784-01).





## Kathryn Muessig

Professor

Associate Director, Institute on Digital Health and Innovation

PhD

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**Keywords** HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, eHealth and mHealth interventions, digital health, health equity, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), medication adherence, LGBTQ health

**Bio** Kate Muessig, PhD (she/her) is a Professor in the College of Nursing and is the founding Associate Director of the Institute on Digital Health and Innovation at FSU. Dr. Muessig received her PhD at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research develops interventions combining digital health tools, behavior-change strategies, and health systems navigation to decrease HIV transmission and improve health care for people living with HIV. She has served as Principal Investigator of multiple NIH research studies, including a six-city pilot trial supporting HIV medication adherence, a national randomized controlled trial testing stigma reduction to improve HIV outcomes, and two implementation studies to increase the availability of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in rural health clinics and community-based settings. She co-leads the Statistical and Data Management Center of the NIH Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV interventions which supports a portfolio of national research studies addressing the HIV prevention and care continuum. Dr. Muessig's methodological focus is on the use of qualitative and mixed-methods research to support the development, implementation and evaluation of multi-component interventions.

**Recent Grants** **Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) Scientific Leadership Center**

Sponsor: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (UM2 HD111102 - 6979)

Role: Statistical and Data Management Center mPI, 01/25/2023 – 11/30/29

**Linking Youth to PrEP Services (LYPS)**

Sponsor: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (UM2 HD111102)

Role: mPI, 01/25/23 – 11/30/27

**Ending the HIV Epidemic with Equity: An All-facility intervention to reduce the Impact of Structural Racism and Discrimination on Patient and Healthcare Worker Wellbeing**

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health (R01NR020583)

Role: Co-I, 07/01/22 – 04/30/27

**Meet me where I am: A multilevel strategy to increase PrEP uptake and persistence among young sexual and gender minority men in rural NC**

Sponsor: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) (R61MH130641)

Role: mPI, 07/01/22 – 06/30/25

**Vuka+ : Testing and Refinement of a Novel Smartphone-Based PrEP Adherence Support Intervention for Adolescent Girls and Youth Women in South Africa**

Sponsor: USAID/CONRAD (7200AA20CA00030)

Role: Co-I, 02/01/2021 – 01/31/2024



**Hyejin Park**  
Associate Professor  
PhD, RN

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**Keywords** Digital Health Literacy, Health literacy, Technology based Intervention, Rural Communities, Underrepresented populations, People with Mild Cognitive Impairment and Caregivers.

**Bio** Dr. Hyejin Park's current research interests focus on utilizing technology to improve care for Alzheimer's patients, their caregivers, and underrepresented populations. One project is aimed at augmenting the capability of existing audio-based voice assistant devices by integrating radio-based RF sensing technologies into them to improve care at home for Alzheimer's patients and caregivers. Another ongoing study is investigating the use of technology as a coping tool for reducing anxiety and depression along with improving resilience and coping mechanisms particularly focusing on underrepresented populations like Korean Americans (KAs) and older adults, with the goal of reducing healthcare disparities. A third ongoing project addresses the need for greater digital knowledge and skills for residents of rural communities by taking combining social network analysis (SNA), digital needs analysis (DNA), and a crosswalk analysis of skills and knowledge across different personal and professional activities.

**Recent Publications** Liu, J., Meyer, K., Glassne, A., Gonzale, M., Ellis, R., **Park, H.**, Song, L., Patel, N., & Wang, J. (in press). Thematic Analysis of Alzheimer's Medication Management Discussion in a Non-Moderated Online Forum. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*.

Park, M., Park, J., Lee, J., Kim, H., & **Park, H.** (2023). Measuring the Impacts of Quantity and Trustworthiness of Information on COVID-19 Vaccination Intent. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 74(7), 846-865.

Martorella, G., **Park, H. J.**, & Schluck, G. (2022). The relationship between electronic health literacy and individual factors among adults with chronic pain: A cross-sectional study. *International Health Trends and Perspectives*, 2(3), 341-351.

**Recent Grants** Dennen, V., Park, H., Dennis, L., & Wyckoff, T. (CO-1) (Jun 2023–Jun 2025). ***SNA-DNA: A Social Network Analysis-Digital Needs Analysis Approach to Rural Community Digital Literacy Skill Development.*** Funded by FSU CRC. Total award \$98,000.

Park, H.J (PI). (Jun 2022–Jun 2023). ***PG:Preliminary Study for Developing and Testing the Feasibility of a Mobile-based Intervention for Asian American Family Caregivers of People with Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease-related Dementia.*** Funded by FSU CRC. (None). Total award \$25,000.



## Setor "Kofi" Sorkpor

Assistant Professor  
PhD, MPH, MSN, RN

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**Keywords** chronic health conditions, chronic pain, wearables, community-based interventions

**Bio** Setor Kofi Sorkpor, PhD, MPH, MSN, RN-BC, is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at Florida State University with an overarching goal to become a leader in research that will reduce health inequalities and advance health equity among underserved and marginalized populations with chronic health conditions such as chronic pain. Dr. Sorkpor's research focuses on health promotion interventions to optimize chronic health conditions like chronic pain among underserved and marginalized populations. He hopes to achieve this by utilizing cutting-edge technology in the form of consumer-facing devices like wearables, smartphone-based mobile apps, and others to deliver community-based interventions aimed at improving the health and well-being of these populations, which are typically at high risk for multiple health problems but face numerous barriers when attempting to access healthcare and public health goods and services. Dr. Sorkpor is also interested in global health, concentrating on pioneering research on identifying and developing programs to mitigate occupational health risks among sub-Saharan African workers, particularly healthcare professionals and maritime crew members on foreign-flagged ships.

- Recent Publications**
- Ahn, H., **Sorkpor, S.**, Kim, M., Miao, H., Zhong, C., Wang, J., Debra, L., & Fillingim, R. (2018). The Relationship between acculturation and experimental pain sensitivity in Asian Americans with knee osteoarthritis. *Pain Research and Management*, 9128015. doi: 10.1155/2018/9128015. PMID: 30607217. PMCID: PMC6304828. (Impact Factor = 1.7)
- Sorkpor, S.**, Ahn, H., Pollonini, L., Do, J. (2019). Cortical hemodynamic response to contact thermal stimuli in older adults with knee osteoarthritis: A functional near infrared spectroscopy pilot study. *Journal of Pain*, 20(4), S33. doi: 10.1016/j.jpain.2019.01.155. (Impact Factor = 5.4)
- Ahn, H., Zhong, C., **Sorkpor, S.**, & Miao, H. (2019). Home-based transcranial direct current stimulation and experimental pain sensitivity. *Innovation in Aging*, 3(Supple 1), S338. doi: 10.1093/geroni/igz038.1227
- Ahn, H., **Sorkpor, S.**, Miao, H., Zhong, C., Jorge, R., Park, L., Abdi, S., & Cho, R. (2019). Home-based self-administered transcranial direct current stimulation in older adults with knee osteoarthritis pain: An open-label study. *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience*, 66, 61-65. doi: 10.1016/j.jocn.2019.05.023. PMID: 31153751. (Impact Factor = 1.6)
- Ahn, H., Zhong, C., Miao, H., Chaoul, A., Park, L., Yen, I.H., Vila, M.A., **Sorkpor, S.**, & Abdi, S. (2019). Efficacy of combining home-based transcranial direct current stimulation with mindfulness-based meditation for pain in older adults with knee osteoarthritis: A randomized controlled pilot study. *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience*, 70, 140-145. doi: 10.1016/j.jocn.2019.08.047. PMID: 31421990 (Impact Factor = 1.6)



**Jing Wang**

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*Professor*

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**Keywords** Digital Health, Aging, Clinical Trials, Lifestyle Intervention, Precision Health, Health Equity, Multiple Chronic Conditions

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**Bio** Jing Wang, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN is Dean and Professor of the Florida State University College of Nursing, and Adjunct Professor in Biomedical Informatics and Public Health at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She serves as the Board of Trustee at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and HCA Florida Capitol Hospital. She's committed to nursing workforce development and High Tech High Touch approach in nursing education, research, and collaborative practice. Her interdisciplinary research uses mobile and connected health technologies to optimize multiple-behavior lifestyle interventions and improve patient-centered outcomes among the chronically ill and aging populations with multiple chronic conditions, especially among the rural and underserved populations. She's an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, 2013 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar, 2015 TEDMED Scholar, 2016 Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation Macy Faculty Scholar, and Harvard Macy Scholar where she continues to teach in the "Leading Innovations in Health Care & Education" program in the Harvard Macy Institute. She is also the editorial board member of The Science of Diabetes Self-Management and Care. She was a member of the Steering Committee that updated the American Nurses Association (ANA) Connected Health Principles from the 1998 ANA Core Principles on Telehealth to guide nursing practice on telehealth and connected health. As a Health and Aging Policy Fellow and American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, she was a Senior Scientific Advisor to Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and works with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) as a senior policy advisor. Wang received MSN and PhD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, MPH from its Graduate School of Public Health, and Graduate Certificate in Clinical and Translational Science from its School of Medicine.



**James Whyte, IV**

*Assistant Dean for Research*

*Professor*

*Director, PhD in Nursing Science Program*

*ND, PhD, FNAP, FAAN*

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**Keywords** Skills acquisition, expertise in health disciplines, applied cognition and measurement of cognitive processes, public health, care of persons living with HIV/AIDS, stigma among healthcare workers towards vulnerable persons.

**Bio** James Whyte IV is currently a Professor of Nursing at the Florida State University College of Nursing in Tallahassee Florida. He began his professional career in the Marines and was later selected for a commissioning program during which he selected Nurse Corps option. He served in a variety of nursing roles during his Navy career, until he retired after 22 years of service. Throughout his academic career he has maintained an active clinical practice as a nurse practitioner. He holds a doctorate in Nursing from the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. His research has two primary foci. The first is focused on the development of expert performance in nurses and other healthcare professionals. The second is in the care of people living with HIV/AIDS. His work has resulted in advances in measurement and cultivation of expert performance in nurses, the classification of novice clinical behaviors and cognitions and through novel approaches to the care of people living with HIV/AIDS.

- Recent Publications** **Whyte, J.,** Whyte, M., & Hires, K. (2015). A Study of HIV Positive Undocumented African Migrants' Access to Health Services in the UK. *Aids Care*. Epub ahead of print.
- Cuervo, M., & **Whyte, J.** (2015). The effect of relationship characteristics on HIV risk behaviors and prevention strategies in young gay and bisexual men. *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*.
- Whyte, J.,** & Cormier, E. (2014). A deliberate-practice based training protocol for student nurses. *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, 10(12), 617-625.
- Whyte, J.,** Pickett-Hauber, R., Ward, P. (2014). The effect of a Critical Care internship experience on the clinical performance of novice nurses: Closing the gap with experienced nurses? *Journal of Nurse Education and Practice*. 4(11), 74-81
- Harris, K., Bradshaw, G., & **Whyte, J.** (2014). A prescription for misunderstanding. *Journal of Nurse Education and Practice*, 4(5). 1-6.



## Frankie Wong

McKenzie Endowed Professor Health Equity Research  
Founding Director, Center of Population Sciences for Health Equity  
PhD

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**Keywords** HIV Disease Progression and Management, Migration and Health, Mental and Sexual Health among Sexual Minorities, Substance Misuse, Integration of Innovative Behavioral/Social Science and Clinical Methodologies for Studying the above Topics

**Bio** Dr. Wong has expertise in community-based research targeting racial/ethnic and underserved populations with a history of or who are currently using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) and engaging in HIV-related risk practices. His NIH-funded research (since 2001) focuses on the social epidemiology of ATOD, HIV, and other non-HIV sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among these populations in the China, Panamá, South Africa, Tajikistan, U.S., Việt Nam, and Russia.

Dr. Wong is one of the handful of behavioral and social sciences researchers who conduct NIH-funded research addressing the sexual health and substance use/abuse as well as other health disparities among AAPIs in the United States. In addition, he is one of the first Western investigators to examine HIV-related risks (including ATOD) among men who have sex with men in China, where they now have the highest incidence and prevalence of HIV and other non-HIV STIs such as syphilis. Collectively, these two sets of work have informed others in the field how to conduct research with these hard-to-reach and hard-to-engage populations.

Dr. Wong is also known for his work in capacity building for research infrastructure. Before returning to academia full-time in 2000, he spent 7 years of his professional career delivering social and health prevention services that targeted under-served and vulnerable populations such as immigrants and refugees (in Boston) and ex-offenders (in New York City).

**Recent Publications** Wang L\*, Hong C\*, Simoni JM, He N, Hall CDX\*\*, **Wong FY**. Depression as mediator between intimate partner violence (IPV) and CD4 cell count among men who have sex with men. *AIDS Care*, in press.

Hall CDX\*\*, Harris R\*, Burns PA\*\*, Girod C, Yount K, **Wong FY**. The impact of multiple forms of discrimination on perceived stress and depressive symptoms in sexual minority, Black, Indigenous, and other women of color. *LGBT Health*, in press.

Gabster A\*\*, Xavier Hall CD\*\*, Pon, AY\*\*, Millender E\*\*, **Wong FY**, Pascale JM. Dating violence prevalence and risk factors among adolescents (14-19 years) in urban setting in Panama. *Lancet Regional-Americas*, 2023; 17: 1000383. doi: 10.1016/j.lana.2022.100383

**Recent Grants** **2021-26** *Fostering Institutional Resources for Science Transformation: The FLORIDA-FIRST Health-science Brigade* (U54CA267730-01); National Institutes of Health: PI (Contact) -- **\$14,593,580**

**2021-26** *The Lotus Project: Improving Trauma-informed Care and Prevention for Asian Children and Families* (1H79SM085087-01); Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration Consultant (PI: TooruNemoto)



## Casey Xavier Hall

Assistant Professor

Assistant Director, Center of Population Sciences for Health Equity

MPH, PhD

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**Keywords** Mental Health, Intersectionality, Sexual Health, Violence, Mixed Methods, Aging, International

**Bio** Dr. Xavier Hall (KAY-see shah-vee-AIR HALL) has expertise in mixed-methods community-based research addressing sexual, gender, and racial health disparities. Broadly speaking his work addresses multilevel influences on sexual health, violence, and mental health. Dr. Xavier Hall's work strives to increase access to culturally appropriate care and interventions especially among sexual and gender minorities, survivors of violence, and people living with HIV. In addition to observational studies examining risk factors for sexual, violence, and mental health disparities, his previous work has included the development and cultural adaptation of measures for intimate partner violence, spousal homicide risk, and intersectional stigma for use in clinical settings. More recently, Dr. Xavier Hall's work has addressed health disparities in aging populations. In addition to his work in the U.S., Dr. Xavier Hall has considerable experience in global health including past projects in Burkina Faso, People's Republic of China, Haiti, India, Uganda, Tanzania, Brazil, Tajikistan, and Panama.

- Recent Publications**
- Xavier Hall, C. D.,** Rider, G. N., Bradford, N., Areba, E. M., & Miller, K. (2024). Victimization and Intentional Injury in Global LGBTQI Populations. In *Global LGBTQ Health: Research, Policy, Practice, and Pathways* (pp. 271-306). Cham: Springer International Publishing. ([https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-36204-0\\_9](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-36204-0_9))
- Xavier Hall, C. D.,** Harris, R., Burns, P., Girod, C., Yount, K. M., & Wong, F. Y. (2023). Utilizing Latent Class Analysis to Assess the Association of Intersectional Stigma on Mental Health Outcomes Among Young Adult Black, Indigenous, and Sexual Minority Women of Color. *LGBT health*.
- Xavier Hall, C. D.,** Feinstein, B. A., Rusie, L., Phillips II, G., & Beach, L. B. (2022). Race and sexual identity differences in PrEP continuum outcomes among Latino men in a large Chicago area healthcare network. *AIDS and Behavior*, 1-13.

- Recent Grants**
- FSU First Year Assistant Professor (FYAP) (PI: Xavier Hall) 5/23-8/23  
**Toward the validation of a scale to measure maltreatment and neglect in sexual and gender minority older adults for use in research and screening**  
This study seeks to validate a novel instrument for measuring maltreatment, abuse, and neglect in older sexual and gender minority adults.
- U01 FD007784-01 FDA Innovation Award: Minority Health and Health Equity (U01) (PI: Xavier Hall) 9/22-8/23  
**Examining Predictors of Vaccine Trial Engagement Outcomes among Sexual and Gender Minority LatinX Communities through an Explanatory Mixed Methods Design**  
This study seeks to identify perspectives on participation in mRNA vaccine trials and campaigns among Latinx LGBT populations in order to develop strategies for increasing clinical trial diversity.



## Yijiong Yang

Post-Doctoral Scholar  
PhD

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**Keywords** dementias, diabetes, chronic diseases, and health economics

**Bio** Dr. Yijiong Yang holds the position of a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Florida State University, working under the supervision of Dr. Jing Wang, the Dean of the College of Nursing. His academic journey includes earning a PhD in Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Over the course of his career, he has amassed considerable experience in research across various domains including public health, nursing, and clinical settings. Dr. Yang's research endeavors have covered a wide array of subjects, with a primary focus on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, diabetes, chronic illnesses, health economics, and public health.

**Recent Publications** Kyle J. Kalkwarf, **Yijiong Yang**, Stephen Mora, Dwayne A. Wolf, Ronald D. Robertson, John B. Holcomb, Stacy A. Drake. The silent killer: Previously undetected pulmonary emboli that result in death after discharge, *Injury*, Volume 54, Issue 11, 2023, 111016, ISSN 0020-1383, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.injury.2023.111016>.

Klutts, G. N., Kalkwarf, K. J., **Yang, Y.**, Gill, J. P., Wade, C. E., Persse, D., ... & Drake, S. (2023). Geospatial Analysis of Prehospital Triage and Early Potential Preventable Traumatic Deaths. *The American Surgeon*, 00031348231157910.

**Yang Y**, Drake SA, Wang J, et al. Comparing survival rates and mortality in operative versus nonoperative treatment for femoral neck fractures among Alzheimer's disease patients: A retrospective cohort study. *Aging Med.* 2023; 00: 1-8. doi:[10.1002/agm2.12279](https://doi.org/10.1002/agm2.12279)





**İbrahim Yiğit**  
Research Faculty  
PhD

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**Keywords** HIV-related stigma; PreP-related stigma; Treatment adherence; Mental health

**Bio** İbrahim Yiğit is a research faculty/statistical consultant at the College of Nursing, specializing in the effects of psychological factors on well-being throughout a person's life. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Dicle University and his master's and doctorate degrees in Clinical Psychology from Ankara University. After completing his doctorate, he served as a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Psychology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, USA. Dr. Yiğit has developed and utilized various psychometric measures to evaluate his research on the mechanisms behind the influence of negative cognitive beliefs on internalizing/externalizing problems among adolescent and adult samples within the schema therapy model. Recently, he has also focused on studying the impact of HIV-related stigma on health outcomes, including viral suppression and treatment adherence in people living with HIV. He is skilled in using advanced statistical analyses, particularly mediation and moderated-mediation models, for larger datasets.

- Recent Publications** Yiğit, İ., Turan, B., Kurt, G., Weiser, S., Johnson, M. O., Mugavero, M. J., Turan, J. M. (2024). Longitudinal Associations of Experienced and Perceived Community Stigma with ART Adherence and Viral Suppression in New-to-care People with HIV: Mediating Roles of Internalized Stigma and Depression Symptoms. *JAIDS: Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 95(3), 231-237.
- Nemli, S. A., Yiğit, İ., Agrali, B., Gokengin, D., & Turan, B. (2023). Living with HIV during COVID-19: knowledge and worry about COVID-19, adherence to COVID-19-related precautions, and HIV health outcomes. *AIDS Care*, 35(5), 639-642.
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**Bio** Dr. Zegers' research interests include health literacy, cultural humility, and health policy in underserved populations. Currently, her research is focused on improving community-based health communication through dissemination and implementation strategies to improve outcomes in Hispanic/Latino populations. Specifically, she focuses on establishing translation procedures with cultural adaptations of health-based materials and interventions to improve the experience of clinicians and patients via communication and cultural humility training. Dr. Zegers also maintains practice as a Nurse Practitioner in the Emergency Department at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare. She is the first nurse to receive the prestigious position in the Florida FIRST U54 program at Florida State University. Previously, Dr. Zegers was the Principal Investigator of KC HealthTracks, an Office of Minority Health National Workforce Development Pipeline grant.

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