

# The Division of Public Health Sciences

## Director's Message



Dear Colleagues: This is an exciting time for Wake Forest Baptist Health as we learned just weeks ago that Wake Forest and Atrium Health (formerly Carolinas Healthcare System) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to negotiate how to come together and create a next-generation academic health system. Their stated goals are to (1) provide the best care for all people throughout NC and this region; (2) develop a medical school campus in Charlotte; and (3) accelerate patient-centered research and innovation. From what I have heard so far, this should have significant positive impact on what we do in Public Health Sciences. In fact, the talking points shared by the leadership of both institutions called out PHS directly in stating “We can further the research currently taking place at the Division of Public Health Sciences of the Wake Forest School of Medicine, including over 250 advanced researchers leading large scale studies and multi-site trials throughout the U.S.” PHS was the only academic unit specifically called out in these documents and in the press conference held on April 10! In addition, the press release proposes the creation of a new center - Translational Research and Population Health Center - to be established in Winston-Salem. This dovetails nicely with our interest in supporting population health efforts in our academic medical center. While there is much more to be learned in the coming months, I am very optimistic about the role that our faculty and staff will have in contributing to this “next-generation academic health system.” Learn more by following the links on [www.wakehealth.edu](http://www.wakehealth.edu).

*Lynne*

**Wake Forest School of Medicine  
Division of Public Health Sciences  
30th Anniversary Celebration  
Thursday, September 19, 2019**

**Scientific Symposium 10 am–4 pm, Biotech Place  
Celebration 6 pm–9 pm, The Millennium Center**



## Institutional Updates

### Spring 2019 Regulatory Safety Trainings and Required Education

To: All Staff, Faculty, Trainees, Students and Contractors

- WFBHS-Infection Prevention and Blood-borne Pathogens 2019
- WFBHS-TJC/OSHA FY2019 Spring Assignment
- WFBHS-Active Shooter Preparedness-2019
- WFBHS-Workplace Violence-2019
- WFBHS-Bariatric Sensitivity Education 2019.

**Must be completed by June 1, 2019**



### PHS DASH Suite Lottery Winner

PHS has won the WFBHS for the Dash Sponsorship Suite Lottery! We have received 16 suite tickets to the July 4th Dash baseball game. Start time is 6:30 pm. Any PHS faculty or staff interested in going please contact Nancy Buchheimer 3-5067.

## In The News



**Edward Ip, PhD, Professor BDS**, has been appointed the Editor of the Journal Psychometrika, Application Overview and Case Study (ARCS) section on January 1, 2019. The journal is the official journal of the Psychometric Society, which was founded by Louis Thurstone in 1935.



**Lynne Wagner, PhD, Professor SSHP**, has been recognized for her achievements as a NCORP Research Base Principal Investigator in the NCI celebration of The International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, 2019.



**Mark Hall, JD, Professor SSHP and WFU School of Law**, has been appointed to lead American Law Institute project on medical liability. He has been named lead reporter of the medical liability sections of the Restatement Third of Torts. He will lead the effort to develop official test that informs all U.S. courts on the legal principles governing medical liability



**Chandysten Nightingale, PhD, Assistant Professor SSHP**, has been selected as a 2019-2021 Clinical and Translational Science Institute KL2 Scholar. Her award winning thesis is titled: *CONNECTing Caregivers to Supportive Services (CONNECT): A Technology-Based Intervention to Connect Cancer Caregivers with Supportive Care Resources*



**Jamy Ard, MD, Professor EPI**, co-medical director at the Weight Management Center, has been appointed to the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee for the U.S. Dept of Agriculture. He is one of 20 nutrition and health experts across the country who will help establish guidelines for 2020-2025.

## Clinical and Population Translational Sciences (CPTS) Program



**Dr. Muhammad Imtiaz Ahmad** successfully defended his thesis on April 22, 2019 titled “Association of Obesity Phenotypes with Electrocardiographic Markers of Poor Outcomes in the General Population”.

Muhammad is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Section on Hospital Medicine. His Thesis Advisor is Dr. Elsayed Z. Soliman. Other committee members include Drs. Morgana Mongraw-Chaffin and Haiying Chen. Dr. Kristina Henderson Lewis served as Examination Chair. Dr. Ahmad is expected to graduate in May 2019.



**Dr. Jason Stopyra** successfully defended his thesis on April 16, 2019 titled “Pre-Hospital Use of the HEART Score and Point-of-Care Troponin to Predict Cardiovascular Events (PARA-HEART)”.

Jason is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine. His Thesis Advisor is Dr. Simon Mahler. Other committee members include Drs. Chad Miller and Anna Snavely. Dr. John Salsman served as Examination Chair. Dr. Stopyra is expected to graduate in May 2019.



**Dr. Parag Chevli** successfully defended his thesis on April 23, 2019 titled “Alcohol Consumption and Subclinical Atherosclerosis among South Asians: Findings from the Mediator of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America (MASALA) Study”.

Parag is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Section on Hospital Medicine. His Thesis Advisor is Dr. David Herrington. Other committee members include Drs. Iris Leng and Bharathi Upadhy. Dr. Mark Wolfson served as Examination Chair. Dr. Chevli is expected to graduate in May 2019.



**Dr. Amer Aladin** successfully defended his thesis on April 24, 2019 titled “Carotid Intima-Media Thickness and Its Relationship with Incident Heart Failure with Reduced and Preserved Ejection Fraction: The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)”.

Amer is a T32 Fellow in the Cardiovascular Research Fellowship Program of the Section on Cardiovascular Medicine within the Department of Internal Medicine. His Thesis Advisor is Dr. David Herrington. Other committee members include Drs. Iris Leng and Capri Foy. Dr. Tina E. Brinkley served as Examination Chair. Dr. Aladin is expected to graduate in May 2019.

### Wake Forest University Commencement EMERITUS CITATIONS May 20, 2019



#### Gregory W. Evans, MA

For thirty-two years of service to the University and its School of Medicine in the Department of Biostatistics and Data Science; for his leadership in large multi-center clinical trials; for his service directing the ultrasound reading centers, and for his tireless dedication to the running of the department.



#### Larry Douglas Case, PhD

For thirty-eight years of service to the University and its School of Medicine in the Department of Biostatistics and Data Science; for clinical trial and collaborative cancer research; for directing Biostatistics Cores; for teaching within the medical and graduate schools, mentoring fellows, post-doctoral students, staff, and junior faculty; and for representing WFSM on NIH and foundation grant reviews.



#### Timothy M. Morgan, PhD

For thirty-four years of service to the University and its School of Medicine in the Department of Biostatistics and Data Science; for his leadership as the first head of biostatistics; for his service in directing biostatistics cores in the cancer center, the Pepper Center for Aging, and the Department of Comparative Medicine; for leadership in large multi-center clinical trials; for collaborative research in cardiology; and for methodological developments in the analysis of survival data.



## Team Spotlight – MILES Study

The MILES Study (Microbiome and Insulin Longitudinal Evaluation Study) is designed to study the relationship between the diet, bacteria and other microorganisms living in a person's gastro-intestinal system, and how the body uses glucose. Scientists believe that the food you eat affects the organisms living in your gut, and these organisms in turn may play a role in who gets diabetes. The study has just completed recruiting 300 non-Hispanic white and African American men and women between the ages of 40-85 years here in Forsyth County. Gut microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses) will be identified in a stool sample which participants will collect in the convenience of their homes and mail to the analysis center. An oral glucose tolerance test will be administered to obtain measures of insulin, glucose and C-peptide at 30, 60 and 120 minutes after consuming a very sweet beverage. The study is sponsored by the National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Led by Principal Investigator, Alain Bertoni and co-investigator, Elizabeth Jensen, the Wake Forest team includes: Lenore Crago, Mary Kelsey Trumps, Rosalia Arnolda, Katlyn Hodges, Joey Curran. Collaborators from the University of Virginia, Cedars Sinai, Baylor College of Medicine, and the Los Angeles BioMed/Harbor-UCLA are also providing scientific support .

## Recent Grant Awards

### Chandlyen Nightingale, PhD, Assistant Professor SSHP

Caregiver Oncology Needs Evaluation Tool (CONNECT): A Technology-Based Intervention to Connect Lung Cancer Caregivers with Supportive Care Resources  
Originating sponsor: Lung Cancer Research

### Mark Hall, JD, Professor SSHP

Assessing Health Insurers Using Medical Loss Ratio Data, Round 7  
Originating sponsor: Commonwealth Fund

### Scott Rhodes, PhD, Professor SSHP

Improving Engagement in PrEP and HIV Care Services Among MSM and Transgender Women  
Originating sponsor: Cone Health Foundation

### Nancy Avis, PhD, Professor SSHP and Kristie Foley, PhD, Professor IS

T32: Cancer Prevention And Control Training Grant (CAPACITY)  
Originating sponsor: NIH/NCI

### Elsayed Soliman, MD, MSc, MS, Professor EPI

Emotional Stress as a Risk Factor for Arrhythmia: Ischemic and Genetic Mechanisms

### David Reboussin, PhD, Professor BDS

SPRINT-MIND 2.0  
Originating sponsor: Alzheimer's Association

### Doug Easterliing, PhD, Professor SSHP

Identifying Strategic Priorities and Defining the Foundations Approach for Achieving Impact  
Originating sponsor: 1889 Foundation

### Brian Wells, MD, PhD, Associate Professor BDS

R21: A Direct-to-Patient Alert for Glycated Hemoglobin Screening Using Prediction Modeling and Mobile Health (mHealth)  
Originating sponsor: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

## JOB OPENINGS

**Project Manager II** – Social Sciences and Health Policy, Contact LeeAnn Gleiser, lgleiser@wakehealth.edu, 3-5267

**Project Manager I** – Social Sciences and Health Policy, Contact LeeAnn Gleiser, lgleiser@wakehealth.edu, 3-5267

**Clinical Studies RN IV** – Social Sciences and Health Policy, Contact LeeAnn Gleiser, lgleiser@wakehealth.edu, 3-5267

**Data Collector** –Social Sciences and Health Policy, Contact LeeAnn Gleiser, lgleiser@wakehealth.edu, 3-5267

**Data Collector** –Epidemiology & Prevention, Contact Ha Sprinkle, hsprink@wakehealth.edu , 6-4520

**Programmer/Analyst III** – Biostatistics and Data Science, Contact Margie Troxler, mtroxler@wakehealth.edu, 6-7108

**Programmer/Analyst II** – Biostatistics and Data Science, Contact Margie Troxler, mtroxler@wakehealth.edu, 6-7108

**Web Developer** – Biostatistics and Data Science, Contact Margie Troxler, mtroxler@wakehealth.edu, 6-7108