



Core / Expert Faculty Bios

Summer Institute 2023

CORE / EXPERT FACULTY



Alyce Sophia Adams, PhD, MPP

Stanford Medicine Innovation Professor and Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health and of Medicine (Primary Care and Outcomes Research)

Director of Health Equity and community Engagement, Stanford Cancer Institute

Alyce Adams, PhD is the inaugural Stanford Medicine Innovation Professor and Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health and of Medicine (Primary Care and Outcomes Research), as well as Associate Director for Health Equity and Community Engagement in the Stanford Cancer Institute. Focusing on racial and socioeconomic disparities in chronic disease treatment outcomes, Dr. Adams' interdisciplinary research seeks to evaluate the impact of changes in drug coverage policy on access to essential medications, understand the drivers of disparities in treatment adherence among insured populations, and test strategies for maximizing the benefits of treatment outcomes while minimizing harms through informed decision-making. Prior to joining Stanford School of Medicine, Dr. Adams was Associate Director for Health Care Delivery and Policy and a Research Scientist at the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research, as well as a Professor at the Bernard J. Tyson Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine.

From 2000 to 2008, she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Population Medicine (formerly Ambulatory Care and Prevention) at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health care. She received her PhD in Health Policy and an MPP in Social Policy from Harvard University. She is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for AcademyHealth and a former recipient of the John M. Eisenberg Excellence in Mentoring Award from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and an invited lecturer on racial disparities in health care in the 2014/2015 National Institute of Mental Health Director's Innovation Speaker Series.



Heather Brandt, PhD

Member, St. Jude Faculty

Director, HPV Cancer Prevention Program

Co-associate Director for Outreach, St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center

Heather Brandt, PhD is the Director of the HPV Cancer Prevention Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Co-Associate Director for Outreach at the St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Brandt is a behavioral scientist with expertise in cancer prevention and control. Prior to joining St. Jude, she served as an associate dean and as a professor of Health Promotion, Education and Behavior in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. Her research focuses on working with communities to prevent and control cancer by examining, describing and intervening on cancer-related health disparities through innovative approaches in partnership with the community. She has worked with churches, nonprofit organizations and health care settings in rural areas of South Carolina to increase cervical cancer screening, HPV vaccination and colorectal cancer screening.

Dr. Brandt holds a doctoral degree and a Master of Science degree in public health from University of South Carolina-Columbia, and a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Iowa. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2016 Norman J. Arnold Alumni Medal, 2015 James A. Keith Excellence in Teaching Award, 2014 Crescent Award, 2014 Tribute to Women in Industry Award for Health, and 2013 Early Career Award from the Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section of the American Public Health Association.



Ross Brownson, PhD

Program Co-Director, Institute for Implementation Science Scholars (IS-2)

Lipstein Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis

Ross C. Brownson, PhD, is the Lipstein Distinguished Professor of Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis. A leading expert in chronic disease prevention and an expert in the area of applied epidemiology, Ross C. Brownson is regarded as one of the great intellectual, educational and practice leaders in the field of evidence-based public health. Brownson has a joint appointment with the university's School of Medicine in the Department of Surgery and the Siteman Cancer Center.

Brownson directs the Prevention Research Center, a center that develops innovative approaches to chronic disease prevention through translational research. He leads a large number of other research and training projects funded by a broad array of federal and foundation sources, including the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

He is an associate editor of the Annual Review of Public Health and on the editorial board of six other journals. Brownson is the editor or author of 14 books including: "Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control," "Evidence-Based Public Health," and "Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health: Translating Science to Practice." He is past-president of the American College of Epidemiology and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. Brownson is also active in the American Public Health Association.



Leopoldo Cabassa, PhD

Professor, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

Co-Director, Center for Mental Health Services Research

Leopoldo J. Cabassa, PhD, is a Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Mental Health Services Research at the Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis. His dedication and passion for engaging in health disparities research has been shaped by his social work practice and research experiences in Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland. His work focuses on improving health and mental health care for underserved communities.

His research centers on examining physical and mental health disparities, particularly among racial/ethnic minorities with serious mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression). His research blends quantitative and qualitative methods, community engagement, intervention research and, more recently, implementation science.

Cabassa's findings are making significant contributions in improving depression literacy and reducing stigma towards mental illness in the Hispanic community, identifying and understanding racial/ethnic health disparities in people with serious mental illness, and examining the adaptation and implementation of health interventions aimed at reducing these health inequities.



Gloria Diane Coronado, PhD

Distinguished Investigator, Mitch Greenlick Endowed Scientist for Health Disparities, Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research

Gloria Coronado, PhD, is an epidemiologist and the Mitch Greenlick Endowed Distinguished Investigator in Health Disparities Research at Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research. She completed her training at Stanford University (BA 1994, Psychology) and the University of Washington (MS 1998, PhD 2001, Epidemiology). Through her practice-based research, Dr. Coronado champions affordable, long-term solutions to health disparities issues. She leads a well-funded portfolio of research that inspires health system leaders to make sensible, evidence-informed choices to successfully engage hard-to-reach populations in life-saving preventive behaviors. Dr. Coronado has developed several innovative and cost-effective interventions to improve rates of participation in cancer screening among patients served by community health centers. Her innovative work has led to successful partnerships with large health plans, state institutions, and community clinics. She currently directs or co-directs three programs that use systems-based approaches to raise the rates of colorectal cancer screening and follow-up care in health plans and clinics in Washington, Oregon and California. Over the course of her career, Dr. Coronado has served as a PI or co-I on over 35 federally funded grants; she has co-authored over 170 peer-reviewed manuscripts. She currently serves as a Committee member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on Improving the Representation of Women and Underrepresented Minorities in Clinical Trials and Research.



Geoffrey M. Curran, PhD, MA

Director, Center for Implementation Research,
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, College
of Pharmacy; Department of Psychiatry, College of
Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Research Health Scientist, Central Arkansas Veterans
Healthcare System

Dr. Geoffrey Curran's broad research area has been health services research, with focus areas in 1) diffusion of innovation in a variety of health care settings (e.g., pharmacy, specialty care, primary care, and community settings); and 2) predictors of treatment engagement and outcomes for mental health and substance use disorders. Dr. Curran is a medical sociologist. He is a Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

For the past 20 years he has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health (US), the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and other funders to develop and test a range of implementation strategies designed to support the uptake and sustainment of evidence-based practices. Dr. Curran also has written widely on research design and methodology in implementation science. He is the Director of the Center for Implementation Research, which is supported by the Translational Research Institute (TRI, UL1 TR003107), through the US National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the US National Institutes of Health (US NIH). The Center is devoted to developing and testing implementation strategies across a wide range of service contexts, assisting with the implementation of practices within community practices, and training the next generation of implementation scientists.



Debra Haire-Joshu, PhD

Program Co-Director, Institute for Implementation Science Scholars (IS-2)

Joyce and Chauncy Buchheit Professorship in Public Health and Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis

Debra Haire-Joshu, PhD, holds the Joyce and Chauncy Buchheit Professorship in Public Health and Medicine at Washington University. Haire-Joshu is an internationally renowned scholar of health behavior who develops population-wide interventions to reduce obesity and prevent diabetes among underserved women and children. She holds a joint appointment in the Washington University School of Medicine, and directs the Center for Obesity Prevention and Policy Research (COPPR) and the Washington University Center for Diabetes Translation Research (WU-CDTR).

COPPR aims to discover and integrate new science into policies designed to prevent obesity. The WU-CDTR, funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, supports over 80 investigators across the country conducting studies to eliminate the root causes of obesity and disparities in Type 2 diabetes.

Haire-Joshu has served on several National Academy of Medicine (and Institute of Medicine) committees on early childhood obesity and is a current member of the National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council. She has published extensively in peer reviewed literature, authored an award-winning textbook on diabetes management across the lifespan, and has been an active contributor to health policy at national and state levels.



Michele Heisler, MD, MPA

Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Michigan Medical School; Department of Health Behavior & Health Education, Michigan School of Public Health

Co-Director, National Clinician Scholars Program

Co-Director, Michigan Center for Diabetes Translation Research

Research Scientist, VA Center for Clinical Management Research

Michele Heisler, MD, MPA is a Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School and Professor of Public Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She is a Research Scientist of the Ann Arbor VA's Center for Clinical Management Research. From 2008-2019 she served as a co-Director of the National Clinician Scholars Program (formerly Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program) and teaches a one-semester course on Behavioral and Social Determinants of Health for the Master's Program affiliated with that program. In her role as a Co-Director of the NIDDK-funded Michigan Center for Diabetes Translational Research and a core Director of the Peer Support core, she provides regular mentorship and consultation for junior researchers and trainees. She has won multiple mentorship awards, including the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research Distinguished Clinical and Translational Research Mentor Award, University of Michigan and a nationwide VA HSR&D Daniel Deykin Award for Outstanding Mentorship. Dr. Heisler's research has applied rigorous health services research approaches to investigate and improve health equity, health, and human rights among vulnerable populations with type 2 diabetes. With over \$35M of continuous funding from federal donors such as NIH, VA, AHRQ, PCORI, and CDC funding, she has pioneered methods, programs, and evaluation tools that enhance health by developing and evaluating innovative health system approaches to activate and support low-income individuals to effectively manage their health and health care, thereby improving diabetes outcomes. She has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed studies in medical and public health journals and is an elected member of the Association of American Physicians. Dr. Heisler received her MD degree from Harvard University and MPA degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. She completed residency training in internal medicine and health services research training as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Clinical Scholar at the University of Michigan.



Lisa Klesges, PhD

Professor of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine

Lisa Klesges, PhD, has specialty training in Behavioral Epidemiology and her current work involves family-based obesity prevention interventions in children, behavioral and environmental risk factor assessment related to childhood obesity, and in translational methods for behavioral interventions. Her published work has primarily focused on behavioral interventions, psychosocial predictors of smoking and obesity related behaviors, and epidemiologic research related to women's and children's health. Dr. Klesges has served as a principal investigator or co-investigator on over 40 research projects supported by NIH, national philanthropic and local agencies. While appointed at UTHSC, she served as a Co-Director of the Memphis Alliance for Public Health Research and built a program of community-based research to promote women's and children's health improvement. Dr. Klesges has served on numerous review panels for CDC, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and NIH, including serving as a charter member of the Community Influences on Health Behavior Study Section. She has participated in national advisory groups including NIH workshops, NIDDK and Institute of Medicine planning meetings, Robert Wood Johnson initiatives, and CDC panels based on her work in childhood obesity prevention and translational research methods.



Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH

Research Professor, Department of Community Health & Prevention, Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University

Founding Chair, the Council on Black Health

Core Lead, Solutions to Diabetes in Black Americans Core, Washington University Center for Diabetes Translation Research

Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH, joined the Dornsife School faculty as a Research Professor in the fall of 2015. She is Founder and Chair of the Council on Black Health (formerly the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN)). The Council on Black Health (CBH) national office is hosted by the Department of Community Health and Prevention; CBH is a national network that seeks to have a significant impact on health in Black communities through collaboration, discovery, and innovation. In addition to her Drexel affiliation, Dr. Kumanyika retains an appointment as an Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn). She was the founding director of Penn's Master of Public Health program.

Dr. Kumanyika's research has focused on identifying effective strategies to reduce nutrition-related chronic disease risks, with a particular emphasis on achieving health equity for black Americans. Over more than three decades, she led or collaborated on single- or multi-center randomized clinical trials or observational studies related to obesity, sodium intake, and other aspects of diet and lifestyle. Several of these studies evaluated interventions to promote healthy eating and physical activity in black children or adults in clinical or community-based settings. Her recent research with Council on Black Health colleagues has included studies of the targeted marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages to black children and adults and food price influences on food purchases of black household food shoppers.



Byron Powell, PhD, LCSW

Associate Professor, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis

Co-Director, Center for Mental Health Services Research

Associate Director, Center for Dissemination and Implementation, Institute for Public Health

Byron Powell, PhD, LCSW, is an Associate Professor at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. His research focuses on efforts to improve the quality of behavioral health and social services. He is Co-Director of the Brown School's Center for Mental Health Services Research and Associate Director of the Institute for Public Health's Center for Dissemination & Implementation, for which he leads the Methods & Metascience Initiative.

Dr. Powell's scholarship has focused on barriers and facilitators to implementing evidence-based practices; designing, tailoring and assessing the effectiveness of implementation strategies, and advancing implementation research methods.

Dr. Powell has taught graduate courses on social work practice and implementation science, and he has served as an expert faculty member for several national training initiatives including the Implementation Research Institute, Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (TIDIRH), TIDIRH-Ireland, TIDIRH-Australia, and the Knowledge Translation Canada Summer Institute.

Powell serves as president of the Society for Implementation Research Collaboration and co-chair of the Society for Social Work and Research's Implementation Special Interest Group. He is on the editorial board of *Implementation Science*, *Implementation Research and Practice*, and *Social Work Research*.



Enola Proctor, PhD

Shanti K. Khinduka Distinguished Professor Emeritus,
Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis

Director, Implementation Research Institute

Enola Proctor, PhD, is the Shanti K. Khinduka Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research is motivated by the question, how do we ensure that people receive the very best possible care? She has studied this question in a variety of social work, public health, and health care settings, ranging from hospitals to community agencies. She has contributed to the intellectual capital for the rapidly growing field of dissemination and implementation science, leading teams to distinguish, clearly define, develop taxonomies, and stimulate more systematic work to advance the conceptual, linguistic, and methodological clarity in the field.

Proctor's research has been funded by the NIA, AHRQ, and the NIMH for 26 consecutive years. She directs the Implementation Research Institute, a training program in implementation science funded by the National Institute for Mental Health. She led the establishment of several university-wide centers and cores in implementation science, including the Center for Dissemination and Implementation for the Washington University Institute for Public Health and the Dissemination and Implementation Research Core for Washington University's CTSA program.

Proctor's awards include Washington University's Arthur Compton Holly Distinguished Faculty Award, the Society for Social Work and Research's Distinguished Research Award, and the American Public Health Association Stephen M. Banks Award for Outstanding Mentoring in mental health services.



Robert Schnoll, PhD

Associate Director for Population Science, Abramson Cancer Center

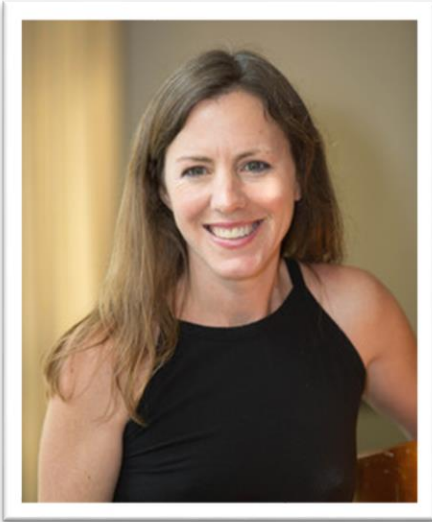
Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine

Program Leader and Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Nicotine Addiction, Department of Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine

Co-Leader, Tobacco and Environmental Carcinogenesis Program, Abramson Cancer Center

Robert Schnoll, PhD, is Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Nicotine Addiction, a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, the Associate Director for Population Science and co-leader of the Tobacco and Environmental Carcinogenesis Program at the Abramson Cancer Center, and a Senior Fellow at Penn's Center for Public Health Initiatives, where he teaches core courses for the Penn MPH program. Dr. Schnoll's research focuses on the study of new methods for treating nicotine dependence, the examination of novel ways to use existing treatments for nicotine dependence to improve their efficacy, and the study of methods to improve the use of smoking cessation treatments, particularly in under-served or vulnerable populations. Dr. Schnoll has conducted behavioral, physician-based, and pharmacological clinical trials for smoking cessation, and conducted tobacco control research in India and Russia.

After receiving his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Rhode Island in 1998, Dr. Schnoll completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Cancer Prevention and Control at Fox Chase Cancer Center and remained there as a faculty member in the Division of Population Science until September 2005, when he moved to his current position at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Schnoll has published over 120 peer-reviewed papers, received 13 NIH grants as Principal Investigator, has served as a scientific advisor for the NCI and the ACS, chaired or served on close to 75 NIH study sections, and served as program chair/co-chair for three annual meetings of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.



Rachel Shelton, ScD, MPH

Associate Professor, Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Associate Director of Research, Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion

Associate Director, Community Engagement Core Resource, Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

Rachel Shelton, ScD, MPH is a social and behavioral scientist with training in cancer and social epidemiology, and expertise in implementation science, sustainability, health equity, and community-based participatory research. She is an Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, where she is Co-Director of the Community Engagement Core Resource at the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (CTSA) and Director of a university-wide Implementation Science Initiative that provides mentorship, training, and research capacity building in the field.

Dr. Shelton developed and has taught a course on foundations in implementation science for 10 years and has been a mentor and core faculty for 10 implementation science training programs globally, including programs in Australia, Nigeria, Ireland, Mozambique, and Thailand. She currently leads implementation science cores for multiple NIH-funded Centers that are focused on applying implementation science to address health inequities. Dr. Shelton has 15 years of experience conducting and leading mixed-methods, community-engaged research on advancing the science of implementation and sustainability of evidence-based interventions in community and clinical settings to reduce health inequities, particularly in the context of cancer prevention/control. Her expertise includes a focus on the sustainability, community engagement, and capacity-building in relation to delivering community health worker and lay health advisor programs nationally; her research program is funded by NIH institutions and foundations, including NIA, NCI, NIMHD, NCATs and American Cancer Society.



Rachel Tabak, PhD, RD

Research Associate Professor, Brown School at
Washington University in St. Louis

Rachel Tabak, PhD, RD is a part of the Prevention Research Center and the Center for Diabetes Translation Research and works in obesity prevention and community-based physical activity and nutrition strategies. She is also interested in dissemination and implementation research, and is involved in research studies examining interventions to promote healthy nutrition and activity behaviors in families, particularly in the home environment. She also evaluates the effect of worksite policies and environments on worker health behaviors. Tabak's work includes translation and evaluation of evidence-based obesity prevention interventions that allow for broad reach. She examines how key stakeholders, including researchers, advocates, and policymakers, affect how research evidence is transformed into programs and policies.



Bryan Weiner, PhD

Professor, University of Washington

Bryan Weiner, PhD, is Professor in the Departments of Global Health and Health Services at the University of Washington. Dr. Weiner's research focuses on the implementation of innovations and evidence-based practices in healthcare. Over the past 24 years, he has examined a wide range of innovations including quality improvement practices, care management practices, and patient safety practices; as well evidence-based clinical practices in cancer and cardiovascular disease. His research has advanced implementation science by creating knowledge about the organizational determinants of effective implementation, developing new theories of implementation, and improving the state of measurement in the field