

Melinda A. Merrell, PhD, MPH

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803-445-7237

EDUCATION

- PhD, Health Services Policy & Management August 2019
University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health
Dissertation Topic: *The Association of Rural Hospital Closures with In-Hospital and 30-day Post Hospital Discharge Mortality from Emergency Care Sensitive Conditions*
- MPH, Health Behavior May 2008
University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Public Health
Master's Research Project: *Assessing the Cultural Competency Training Needs of Tuberculosis Program Staff*
- BS with Honors in Biology, Minors in Chemistry and Social Psychology May 2004
University of Alabama at Birmingham | *magna cum laude*
Honors Research Project: *A Preliminary Look at the Role of TLR9 in Bisphosphonate Mediated Action in Breast Cancer Cells*

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Department of Health Services Policy & Management, Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina
- Clinical Assistant Professor** January 2022 – current
MHA Program Director January 2022 – current
Acting MHA Program Manager May 2021 – December 2021
Instructor January 2020 – December 2021
- Rural & Minority Health Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina
- Core Faculty** January 2022 – current
Research Assistant Professor July 2019 – December 2021
- South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare
University of South Carolina School of Medicine
- Lead Evaluator** January 2021 – May 2021
- South Carolina Office of Rural Health
- Senior Program Director** July 2014 – June 2019
Director of Quality Innovation July 2012 – June 2014
Director of Hospital Programs July 2010 – June 2012

Senior management official of a statewide non-profit committed to improving health and health access for rural South Carolina residents. My most recent role included the following duties:

- supervised 7 direct reports and provided oversight of all programs for a total team of 19;
- ensured deliverables on 20+ grants/contracts were met, totaling \$3M+ recurring annually;
- developed and staffed new program efforts;
- wrote grants and associated evaluation reports and marketing materials;
- represented the Office and rural South Carolina at state/national events and committees;
- provided technical assistance, including consultation, strategic planning, and meeting facilitation services, for rural South Carolina health care providers and communities.

Northeastern Rural Health Network, Chesterfield County Coordinating Council

Network Coordinator

April 2008 – June 2010

First full-time staff of a private non-profit organization committed to improving health access in three counties in rural South Carolina. Primary duties of the role included writing and implementing Federal grant awards representing over \$2.3M in health services funding for the region during my tenure and completing required organizational documents for 501(c)3 status.

Lung Health Center – School of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine | University of Alabama at Birmingham

Graduate Assistant

September 2007 – December 2007

Intern

April 2007 – August 2007

O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center – School of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology University of Alabama at Birmingham

Research Assistant/Research Technician

May 2004 – August 2007

Student Research Assistant

January 2001 – April 2004

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

| | |
|--|------|
| National Rural Health Association Rural Health Fellow | 2020 |
| Cindy Babb Moore Excellence in Rural Health Management Fellowship | 2018 |
| National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Emerging Leader | 2015 |
| Federal Office of Rural Health Policy “Rural Voices” Leader | 2011 |
| Outstanding Master’s Student of the Year | 2008 |
| Dean’s Award | 2008 |
| Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society, Upsilon Chapter | 2008 |
| Distinguished Service Award, Church of the Nazarene | 2003 |
| Phi Sigma Biology Honor Society | 2002 |
| Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society | 2001 |
| Provost’s Award (Scholarship) | 2000 |
| University Scholars Award (Scholarship) | 2000 |

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Harrison S, Brown MJ, Brown T, Pearson WS. Identifying the Need for and Availability of Evidence-Based Care for Sexually Transmitted Infections in Rural Primary Care Clinics. Accepted in *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. 6 November 2023.
2. Li Z, **Merrell MA**, Eberth JM, Wu D, Hung P. Successes and Barriers of Health Information Exchange Participation Across Hospitals in South Carolina, 2014 to 2020: Longitudinal Observational Study. Accepted in *JMIR Medical Informatics*. 29 August 2023.
3. Brown MJ, Amoatika D, Addo PN, Kaur A, Haider MR, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E. Childhood Sexual Trauma and Subjective Cognitive Decline: An Assessment of Racial/Ethnic and Sexual Orientation Disparities. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*. 2023 May 22:07334648231175299.
4. Zahnd WE, Silverman AF, Self S, Hung P, Natafqi N, Adams SA, **Merrell MA**, Owens OL, Crouch EL, Eberth JM. The COVID-19 pandemic impact on independent and provider-based rural health clinics' operations and cancer prevention and screening provision in the United States. *The Journal of Rural Health*. 2023 Mar 3.
5. Crouch E, Probst JC, Shi S, McLain A, Eberth JM, Brown MJ, **Merrell M**, Bennett KJ. Examining the association between rurality and positive childhood experiences among a national sample. *The Journal of Rural Health*. 2023 Jan;39(1):105-12.
6. Bell N, Hung P, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Eberth JM. Changes in access to community health services among rural areas affected and unaffected by hospital closures between 2006 and 2018: A comparative interrupted time series study. *The Journal of Rural Health*. 2023 Jan;39(1):291-301.
7. Giannouchos TV, Crouch E, **Merrell MA**, Brown MJ, Harrison SE, Pearson WS. Racial, Ethnic, and Rural/Urban Disparities in HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections in South Carolina. *Journal of Community Health*. 2022 Nov 4:1-8.
8. Crouch E, Nelson J, Radcliff E, **Merrell MA**, Martin A. Safe, supportive neighborhoods: Are they associated with childhood oral health?. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*. 2022 Oct 18.
9. Zahnd WE, Hung P, Shi SK, Zgodic A, **Merrell MA**, Crouch EL, Probst JC, Eberth JM. Availability of hospital-based cancer services before and after rural hospital closure, 2008-2017. *The Journal of Rural Health*. 2022 Sep 21.
10. Crouch E, Radcliff E, **Merrell MA**, Brown MJ, Bennett KJ. A national examination of poverty and interactive caregiving practices among parents of young children. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. 2022 Aug;31(8):2266-74.

11. Crouch E, Radcliff E, **Merrell MA**, Bennett KJ, Wilson MJ. Examining Racial-Ethnic Differences in Positive Childhood Experiences among Rural Children. *Journal of Rural Mental Health*. 2022 Apr;46(2):128.
12. Hung P, Shi K, Probst JC, Zahnd WE, Zgodic A, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Eberth JM. Trends in cancer treatment service availability across critical access hospitals and prospective payment system hospitals. *Medical care*. 2022 Mar 24;60(3):196-205.
13. Eberth JM, Hung P, Benavidez GA, Probst JC, Zahnd WE, McNatt MK, Toussaint E, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Oyesode OJ, Yell N. The Problem Of The Color Line: Spatial Access To Hospital Services For Minoritized Racial And Ethnic Groups: Study examines spatial access to hospital services for minoritized racial and ethnic groups. *Health Affairs*. 2022 Feb 1;41(2):237-46.
14. Crouch E, Radcliff E, Kelly K, **Merrell MA**, Bennett KJ. Examining the influence of positive childhood experiences on childhood overweight and obesity using a national sample. *Preventive medicine*. 2022 Jan 1; 154: 106907.
15. Crouch E, Nelson J, **Merrell MA**, Martin A. The oral health status of America's rural children: An opportunity for policy change. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*. 2021 Dec;81(4):251-60.
16. Crouch E, Radcliff E, **Merrell MA**, Hung P, Bennett KJ. Positive Childhood Experiences Promote School Success. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 2021 Oct;25(10):1646-54.
17. White AL, **Merrell MA**. Exploring contraceptive care practices at Rural Health Clinics in the southern United States. *Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare*. 2021. 100629.
18. **Merrell MA**, Betley C, Crouch E, Hung P, Stockwell I, Middleton A, Pearson WS. Screening and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections among Medicaid Populations-A Two-State Analysis. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. 2021 Aug 1;48(8):572-7.
19. **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Browder J, Workman L, Wilson M, Malbouf A, Silverman A. Home visiting caregiver satisfaction and engagement in South Carolina. *Journal of Health Visiting*. 2021; 9(6), 253-259.
20. Crouch E, Radcliff E, **Merrell MA**, Brown MJ, Ingram LA, Probst J. Racial/ethnic differences in positive childhood experiences across a national sample. *Child abuse & neglect*. 2021; 115, 105012.
21. Zahnd WE, Murphy C, Knoll M, Benavidez GA, Day KR, Ranganathan R, Luke P, Zgodic A, Shi K, **Merrell MA**, Crouch EL, Brandt HM, Eberth JM. The intersection of rural residence and minority race/ethnicity in cancer disparities in the United States. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2021; 18(4), 1384.

22. Crouch E, Radcliff E, **Merrell MA**, Bennett KJ. Rural-urban differences in positive childhood experiences across a national sample. *The Journal of Rural Health*. 2021; 37(3), 495-503.
23. **Merrell MA**, Probst JC, Crouch E, Abshire DA, McKinney SH, Haynes EE. A National Survey of RN-to-BSN Programs: Are They Reaching Rural Students? *Journal of Nursing Education*. 2020; 59(10), 557-65.
24. Probst JC, Zahnd WE, Hung P, Eberth JM, Crouch EL, **Merrell MA**. Rural-urban mortality disparities: variations across causes of death and race/ethnicity, 2013-2017. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2020; 110(9), 1325-1327.
25. Bennett KJ, Yuen MW, **Merrell MA**. Community paramedicine applied in a rural community. *The Journal of Rural Health*. 2018; 34, s39-s47.
26. Ilvesaro JM, **Merrell MA**, Li L, Wakchoure S, Graves D, Brooks S, Rahko E, Jukkola-Vuorinen A, Vuopala KS, Harris KW, Selander KS. Toll-like receptor 9 mediates CpG oligonucleotide-induced cellular invasion. *Mol Cancer Res*. 2008 Oct;6(10):1534-43.
27. **Merrell MA**, Wakchoure S, Lehenkari PP, Harris KW, Selander KS. Inhibition of the mevalonate pathway and activation of p38 MAP kinase are independently regulated by nitrogen-containing bisphosphonates in breast cancer cells. *Eur J Pharmacol*. 2007 Sep 10;570(1-3):27-37.
28. Ilvesaro JI, **Merrell MA**, Davidson J, Millender-Swain T, Zayzafoon M, Harris KW, Selander KS. Toll like receptor -9 agonists stimulate prostate cancer invasion in vitro. *Prostate*. 2007 May 15;67(7):774-81.
29. **Merrell MA**, Wakchoure S, Ilvesaro JM, Zinn K, Gehrs B, Lehenkari PP, Harris KW, Selander KS. Differential effects of Ca(2+) on bisphosphonate-induced growth inhibition in breast cancer and mesothelioma cells. *Eur J Pharmacol*. 2007 Mar 15;559(1):21-31.
30. **Merrell MA**, Ilvesaro JM, Lehtonen N, Sorsa T, Gehrs B, Rosenthal E, Chen D, Shackley B, Harris KW, Selander KS. Toll-like receptor 9 agonists promote cellular invasion by increasing matrix metalloproteinase activity. *Mol Cancer Res*. 2006 Jul;4(7):437-47.
31. Wakchoure S, **Merrell MA**, Aldrich W, Millender-Swain T, Harris KW, Triozzi P, Selander KS. Bisphosphonates inhibit the growth of mesothelioma cells in vitro and in vivo. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2006 May 1;12(9):2862-8.
32. Suarez-Cuervo C, **Merrell MA**, Watson L, Harris KW, Rosenthal EL, Vaananen HK, Selander KS. Breast cancer cells with inhibition of p38alpha have decreased MMP-9 activity and exhibit decreased bone metastasis in mice. *Clin Exp Metastasis*. 2004;21(6):525-33.

33. Selander KS, Li L, Watson L, **Merrell M**, Dahmen H, Heinrich PC, Muller-Newen G, Harris KW. Inhibition of gp130 signaling in breast cancer blocks constitutive activation of Stat3 and inhibits in vivo malignancy. *Cancer Res.* 2004 Oct 1;64(19):6924-33.
34. **Merrell M**, Suarez-Cuervo C, Harris KW, Vaananen HK, Selander KS. Bisphosphonate induced growth inhibition of breast cancer cells is augmented by p38 inhibition. *Breast Cancer Res Treat.* 2003 Oct;81(3):231-41.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 714 – Perspectives in Community Health Organizations, Fall 2023 semester
- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 500 – Introduction to Health Care Management, Fall 2023 semester
- Co-instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 797 – Management Residency (professional track capstone), Summer 2023 semester
- Co-instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 797 – Management Residency, Spring 2023 semester
- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 500 – Introduction to Health Care Management, Spring 2023 semester
- Faculty: University of South Carolina PUBH 678 – Transforming Health Care for the Future (Dr. Betsy Blake), Spring 2023 semester
- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 714 – Perspectives in Community Health Organizations, Fall 2022 semester
- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 500 – Introduction to Health Care Management, Fall 2022 semester
- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 500 – Introduction to Health Care Management, Summer 2022 semester
- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 797 – Management Residency, Summer 2022 semester
- Co-instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 797 – Management Residency, Spring 2022 semester
- Co-instructor of record: University of South Carolina PUBH 735 – Public Health Program Planning (MPH Core), Spring 2022 semester
- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 500 – Introduction to Health Care Management, Spring 2022 semester
- Facilitator: University of South Carolina PUBH 678 – Transforming Health Care for the Future (Dr. Betsy Blake), Spring 2022 semester
- Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 716 – “Tableau Demonstration” (Dr. Jan Ostermann), March 5, 2022
- Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 709 – “Rural hospital closures” (Dr. Elizabeth Crouch), February 9, 2022
- Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 716 – “Introduction to Tableau” (Dr. Jan Ostermann), January 8, 2022
- Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 500 – Introduction to Health Care Management, Fall 2021 semester

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 775 – “Epidemiology & Leadership: Adverse Childhood Experiences” (Dr. Nabil Natafqi), October 25, 2021

Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 500 – Introduction to Health Care Management, Summer 2021 semester

Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 500 – Introduction to Health Care Management, Spring 2021 semester

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 709 – “Rural hospital closures” (Dr. Elizabeth Crouch), February 3, 2021

Guest lecture: Prisma Health-Midlands University of South Carolina Preventive Medicine Residency Program – “Rural America: What, where, who & health” (Dr. Malgorzata Hasek), September 4, 2020

Instructor of record: University of South Carolina HSPM 716 – Quantitative Methods in Health Administration, Spring 2020 semester

Facilitator: University of South Carolina PUBH 678 – Transforming Health Care for the Future (Dr. Betsy Blake), Spring 2020 semester

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 709 – “Rural hospital closures” (Dr. Elizabeth Crouch), February 5, 2020

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina SCHC 426 – “Rural America: What, where, who & health” (Dr. Kevin Bennett), October 22, 2019

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 769 – “Consumerism & Ethics” (Dr. Bankole Olatosi), October 17, 2019

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HPEB 702 – “South Carolina Rural Health Action Plan: Development Process” (Drs. Lee Pearson & Megan Weis), January 23, 2018

GRAD701: Teaching Assistant Development, Completed Fall 2017

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 715 – “South Carolina Rural Health Action Plan: Development Process” (Dr. Kelli Kenison & Janet Place, MPH), June 7, 2017

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HPEB 702 – Planning Applied (Dr. Lee Pearson), November 29, 2016

Guest lecture: University of South Carolina HSPM 709 – Rural Hospitals (Dr. Graham Adams), July 8, 2015

Webinar lecture: SCHA/MUSC Medical Practice Management Certificate – “Patient Centered Homes” (Lilia Correa, MPA), February 20, 2014

ADVISING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina CLARION Case Competition Team – Faculty Advisor, April 2023-current

University of South Carolina Healthcare Leadership Association – Faculty Advisor, January 2022-current

University of South Carolina UAB Case Competition Team – Faculty Advisor, February 2022 & February 2023

University of South Carolina NAHSE Case Competition Team – Faculty Advisor, October 2022

Individual Students:

- Zixiao Nan – University of South Carolina PhD 2024: Committee Member
- Peyton Moore – University of South Carolina MHA 2024: MCH Certificate Program Faculty Advisor

- Cassidy Bunting – University of South Carolina Honors College 2024: Thesis Director
- Laura Singletary – University of South Carolina Honors College TBD: Thesis Second Reader
- Daniel Bishop – University of South Carolina MHA 2023: Residency Advisor
- Anna Dunbar – University of South Carolina MHA 2023: Residency Advisor
- Abby Edwards – University of South Carolina MHA 2023: Residency Advisor
- Andy Phillips – University of South Carolina MHA 2023: Residency Advisor
- AJ Pillow – University of South Carolina MHA 2023: Residency Advisor
- Nick Shiver – University of South Carolina MHA 2023: Residency Advisor
- Jeffrey Gerstenberger – University of South Carolina MHA TBD: Residency Advisor
- Alyssa Blickensderfer – University of South Carolina MHA 2022: Residency Advisor
- Landon Blair – University of South Carolina MHA 2022: Residency Advisor
- Dylan Doceti – University of South Carolina MHA 2022: Second Reader
- Bradford Lemmons – University of South Carolina MHA 2022: Second Reader
- Aisha Noor – University of South Carolina MHA 2022: Second Reader
- Oyeleye Oyesode – University of South Carolina MPH 2022: Preceptor, 2022
- Kenisha McClenningham – University of South Carolina MPH 2022: Preceptor, 2022
- Lauren Ervin – University of South Carolina Honors College 2022: Thesis Director, 2021-2022
- Vivian Ho – University of South Carolina Honors College 2022: Thesis Second Reader
- Allyson Malbouf – University of South Carolina MPH 2021: Preceptor & Mentor, 2020-2021
- Gabriel Benavidez – University of South Carolina PhD ABD: The Behavioral-Biomedical Interface Program Lab Rotation Secondary Advisor, 2020
- Allison Hoelker – University of South Carolina Honors College 2020: Thesis Second Reader, 2020
- Allie Silverman – University of South Carolina MPH/MSW 2021: Preceptor, 2020
- Farren Allen – University of South Carolina MPH 2020: Residency Second Reader, 2020
- Sarah Miller (Cockrell) – University of South Carolina MPH 2019: Faculty Advisor, 2019
- Shelby Thornhill (Rubio) – University of South Carolina MSW 2019: Mentor, 2019
- Brandon Martin – University of South Carolina MHA 2020: Preceptor, 2018-2019
- Britton Herbert – University of South Carolina MHA 2019: Preceptor, 2017-2019
- Gabrielle Young – University of South Carolina MPH 2018: Preceptor & Mentor, 2017-2018
- Teresa Brooks – University of South Carolina MPA 2017: Preceptor & Mentor, 2016-2017
- Cassie Odahowski – University of South Carolina PhD 2019: Independent Study Mentor, 2017
- Anna Lewis Matson (Jackson) – University of South Carolina MHA 2017: Preceptor, 2015-2016
- Katherine Carter – University of South Carolina MHA 2016: Preceptor, 2014-2015
- Will Camp – University of South Carolina MHA 2014: Preceptor & Mentor, 2014

- Sarah (Craig) Mathis – University of South Carolina MHA 2013: Preceptor & Mentor, 2013
- Ashley Hoffman (Lucas) – University of South Carolina MHA 2012: Preceptor, 2011
- Stormi Chadwick – Duke University BS 2014: Preceptor, 2009
- Nancy Yang – Duke University BS 2012: Preceptor, 2009

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Merrell MA, Zahnd WE, Benavidez GA, Hung P, Oyesode OJ, Yell N, Crouch E, Eberth JM, Probst JC. *Availability of Primary Care Safety Net Providers in Minoritized Racial/Ethnic Group Areas*. [Policy Brief]

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/primarycaresafetynetbrief2023.pdf.

Zahnd WE, Silverman AF, Self S, Hung P, Natafgi N, Adams SA, **Merrell MA**, Owens OS, Crouch E, Eberth JM. *The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Rural Health Clinics' Operations and Cancer Prevention and Control Efforts*. [Policy Brief]

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/cancerrhstudy.pdf. November 2022.

Natafgi N, Hung P, Zahnd WE, **Merrell MA**, Benavidez GA, Oyesode OJ, Yell N, Babalola O, Crouch E, Probst JC, Eberth JM. *Availability Of Hospital-Based Emergency Department and Trauma Services in Minoritized Racial/Ethnic Group Areas*. [Policy Brief]

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/emergencydeptbrief2022.pdf. September 2022.

Owens OL, Benavidez GA, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Eberth JM, Probst JC. *Availability of Nursing Homes in Minoritized Racial / Ethnic Group Areas*. [Policy Brief]

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/nursinghomesbrief2022.pdf. September 2022.

Negoro SND, Benavidez GA, Andrews CM, Hung P, **Merrell MA**, Hinds OM, Eberth JM, Probst JC. *Availability of Substance Use Disorder Treatment in Minoritized Racial/Ethnic Group Areas*. [Policy Brief]

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/sudbrief2022.pdf. September 2022.

Probst JC, Benavidez GA, Yell N, Eberth JM, **Merrell MA**. *Availability of Home Health Services in Minoritized Racial/Ethnic Group Areas*. [Policy Brief]

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/homehealthmrgprobst81922.pdf. August 2022.

Probst JC, Yell N, Benavidez GA, Eberth JM, **Merrell MA**. *Availability of Medicare-Certified Hospice Services in Minoritized Racial / Ethnic Group Areas*. [Policy Brief]

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/mrghospice81922.pdf. August 2022.

Hung P, Benavidez GA, **Merrell MA**, Zahnd WE, Crouch E, Eberth JM. *Spatial access to hospital-based obstetric units in minoritized racial/ethnic areas*. [Policy Brief]
https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/mrg_obstetrics_hung_forhp_8.8.22.pdf. August 2022.

Crouch E, Shi S, Kelly K, McLain A, Eberth JM, Probst JC, Brown MJ, **Merrell MA**, Bennett KJ. *Rural children with 4+ adverse childhood experiences often lack positive experiences*. [Fact Sheet]
https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/pces-fact-sheet_final_6.29.22.pdf. July 2022.

Hung P, Shi S, Probst JC, Zahnd WE, Zgodic A, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Eberth JM. *Comparison of cancer treatment services across hospitals*. [Fact Sheet]
https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/cancertreatmentserviceshospitals.pdf. May 2022.

Crouch E, Shi S, Kelly K, McLain A, Eberth JM, Probst JC, Brown MJ, **Merrell MA**, Bennett KJ. *Racial/Ethnic Differences in Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences Across Rural Communities: Results from the National Survey of Children's Health*. [Policy Brief]
https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/forhpcebrie2.pdf. May 2022.

Eberth JM, Benavidez GA, Hung P, Zahnd WE, **Merrell MA**, Probst JC, Toussaint E, Oyesode O, Crouch E, McNatt MK, Yell N. *StoryMap: The Problem Of The Color Line*.
<https://www.healthaffairs.org/racism-and-health/storymap-the-problem-of-the-color-line>. February 2022.

Eberth JM, Zahnd WE, Kirksey V, Workman L, Brandt HM, Probst JC, Crouch E, Knoll M, Silverman AF, **Merrell MA**, Benavidez GA. *Colorectal and cervical cancer prevention in Rural Health Clinics in South Carolina*. [Fact Sheet]
https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/factsheetccprhpcsc.pdf. February 2022.

Eberth JM, Zahnd WE, Galloway C, Workman L, Crouch E, Probst JC, Silverman AF, Knoll M, **Merrell MA**, Benavidez GA, Brandt HM. *Perceptions and practices for colorectal and cervical cancer prevention and control in Rural Health Clinics in South Carolina*. [Fact Sheet]
https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/factsheetppccprhpcsc.pdf. February 2022.

Crouch E, Shi S, Kelly K, McLain A, Eberth JM, Probst JC, Brown MJ, **Merrell MA**, Bennett KJ. *Rural-Urban Differences in Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences: Results from the National Survey of Children's Health*. [Policy Brief]
https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/crouchacepce1.pdf. January 2022.

Bell N, Hung P, Shi K, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Eberth JM. *Changes in Socioeconomic Mix and Health Outcomes in Rural Counties with Hospital Closures, 2005-2018*. [Policy Brief] https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/research/research_centers/sc_rural_health_research_center/documents/impactsofrhc9821.pdf. September 2021.

Barter C, **Merrell MA**, Watzak B. *HRSA Rural Health Community-Based Division (CBD) Funding: Success Stories and Meaningful Impact*. [National Rural Health Association Policy Brief] https://www.ruralhealthweb.org/NRHA/media/Emerge_NRHA/Advocacy/Policy%20documents/NRHA-Policy-Brief-Community-Health-Initiative-Success-Stories-Impact.pdf. February 2021.

Merrell MA, Malbouf A, Benavidez GA, Phillips CA, Waites D. *South Carolina: Structural Factors Associated with Poverty*. [Research Brief Report] <https://sistersofcharitysc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FINAL-South-Carolina-Structural-Factors-Associated-with-Poverty-Research-Brief-November-2020-FINAL.pdf>. November 2020.

Crouch E, **Merrell MA**. *Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences: A Primer for SORH*. [Fact Sheet] https://nosorh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ACE-CoBranded-Fact-Sheet_FNL.pdf. November 2020.

Merrell MA, McClam M, Workman L, Silverman AF, Browder J, Crouch E. *South Carolina Home Visiting Needs Assessment Update*. [Report] https://scchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/SC_Home_Visiting_Needs_Assessment_2020.pdf. October 1, 2020.

Merrell MA, McClam M, Workman L, Silverman AF, Browder J, Crouch E. *South Carolina Home Visiting Needs Assessment Update 2020*. [Executive Summary] https://scchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/SC_Home_Visiting_Needs_Assessment_2020_Summary.pdf. October 1, 2020.

Merrell MA, McClam M, Workman L, Silverman AF, Browder J, Crouch E. *South Carolina Home Visiting Needs Assessment 2020 Update*. [Infographic] https://scchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/SC_Home_Visiting_Needs_Assessment_2020_Infographic.pdf. October 1, 2020.

Hung P, Crouch E, **Merrell MA**. *Participation of South Carolina Public Health Clinics in Collaborative for Reproductive Education and Wellness (CREW)*. [Findings Brief] June 2020.

Contributor to: South Carolina Rural Health Action Plan Task Force. *South Carolina's Rural Health Action Plan*. 2017.

Merrell, MA. *Leaders' Views of Health in Rural South Carolina Communities*, 2017.

Contributor to: Boynes SG, Davis L, Adams G, Mills M, Deutchman M. *MORE Care: Narrowing the Rural Interprofessional Oral Health Care Gap*. https://www.dentaquestinstitute.org/sites/default/files/Initiating-Rural-IPOHNs_Closing-the-Gap_42717_v3.pdf. April 2017.

Contributor to: National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health. State Office of Rural Health Roadmap for Working with Vulnerable Hospitals. <https://nosorh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/SORH-Roadmap.pdf>. October 2016.

Contributor to: South Carolina COPD Strategic Plan. Eds. Winston Liao, Roy Pleasants, Charlie Strange, Khosrow Heidari. https://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/21131/DHEC_SC_COPD_Strategic_Plan_2016-04.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y. April 2016.

Craig (Mathis) S, **Merrell M.** Blueprint for Community Paramedicine Programs Especially for EMS Agencies, Version 1: The Abbeville Experience. March 11, 2014.

Contributor to: John A. Gale. Developing Regional STEMI Systems of Care: A Review of the Evidence and the Role of the Flex Program. Flex Monitoring Team Briefing Paper No. 29. <http://www.flexmonitoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/bp29.pdf>. October 2011.

Contributor to: Joan M. Mangan, Kristina Ottenwess, Donna H. Wegener, Katie Rowan, Karen Simpson, Lynn B. Gerald, and Michael Lauzardo. Cultural Competency and Tuberculosis Control: Country Specific Guides for Health Professionals Working with Foreign-born Clients. The University of Florida, Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center Web site: <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/countrysnapshots.aspx>. 2008.

FUNDING

SC Poverty Study 2023. (9/11/2023-3/31/2024); Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. (\$49,843) – **Role: Investigator; PI: Workman**

Improving STD Prevention and Care Through Partnerships (1/3/2022-12/31/2022); National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Inc. (\$308,744) – **Role: Co-Investigator; Co-PI: Crouch**

Environmental Scan of South Carolina Healthcare Providers' Adoption and Use of Certified Electronic Health Records (EHR) Technology (11/1/2021 – 3/1/2022); SC DHHS (\$75,000) – **Role: Investigator; PI: Hung**

Continuing the Examination of SC MIECHV Client and Staff Attrition and the Organizational Factors that Promote Retention (09/30/2020 – 12/31/2021); HRSA/Children's Trust of SC (\$371,110) – **Role: Investigator; PI: Crouch**

Examining SC MIECHV Client and Staff Attrition and the Organizational Factors that Promote Retention (09/30/2019 – 09/29/2021); HRSA/Children's Trust of SC (\$382,061) – **Role: Investigator; PI: Crouch**

Rural Health Research Center Cooperative Agreement (09/01/2020 – 08/31/2021); HRSA/HHS (\$700,000) – **Role: Investigator; PI: Eberth**

Piloting Implementation of Family Engagement Strategies within School Mental Health Services in Rural Elementary Schools (07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021); South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare (\$99,980) – **Role: Co-PI**

SC Poverty Brief 2020 (04/01/2020 – 11/30/2020); Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina (\$40,309) – **Role: PI**

MIECHV Needs Assessment (01/01/2019 – 09/30/2020); HRSA/Children’s Trust of SC (\$98,839) – **Role: Investigator**; PI: Crouch

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program Expanded Workforce Evaluation Part III (Client Survey) (10/01/2018 – 09/30/2020); HRSA/Children’s Trust of SC (\$359,976) – **Role: Investigator**; PI: Crouch

Rural Health Research Center Cooperative Agreement 2019-2020 – NCI Project (09/01/2019 – 08/31/2020); HRSA/HHS (\$329,775) – **Role: Investigator**; PI: Eberth

Collaborative for Reproductive Education & Wellness ROI (4/15/2019 – 12/31/2019); Fact Forward/BCBS Foundation of SC (\$64,952) – **Role: Investigator**; PI: Crouch

Medicaid STD Emergency Department Data Review (03/01/2019 – 12/31/2019); National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Inc. (\$75,000) – **Role: Investigator**; PI: Crouch

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

**denotes student mentee on project*

Wilson K, Zahnd WE, **Merrell MA**. *Preparing Emerging Health Care Leaders for Rural Health Spaces*. Oral Presentation at Association of University Programs in Health Administration Annual Meeting. National Harbor, MD. July 1, 2023.

Merrell MA, Wilson K, Zahnd WE. *Preparing Emerging Administrative Leaders for Rural Health Roles*. Oral Presentation at National Rural Health Association Annual Conference. San Diego, CA. May 18, 2023.

Merrell MA, Crouch E, Harrison S, Brown MJ, Brown T, Pearson WS. *Providing STI Care in Rural Primary Care Clinics*. Poster Presentation at National Rural Health Association Annual Conference. San Diego, CA. May 18, 2023.

Zahnd WE, Silverman AF, Self S, Hung P, Natafngi N, Adams SA, **Merrell MA**, Owens S, Crouch E, Eberth JM. *Cancer prevention activities in RHCs: Impacts of COVID-19*. Oral Presentation at National Rural Health Association Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM. May 12, 2022.

Giannouchos T, Crouch E, **Merrell MA**, Brown MJ, Harrison S, Pearson WS. *Rural-Urban and Racial Disparities in STIs in South Carolina*. Poster Presentation at National Rural Health Association Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM. May 11-13, 2022.

Hung P, Probst JC, Zahnd W, Zgodic A, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Eberth J. *Trends in Cancer Treatment Service Availability across Critical Access Hospitals and Prospective Payment System Hospitals*. Poster Presentation at Academy Health Annual Research Meeting. Virtual. June 14, 2021.

Merrell MA, Crouch E, Hung P, Brown MJ. *Rural STI Treatment: Where Do Residents Go?* Poster Presentation at National Rural Health Association Annual Meeting. Virtual. May 5, 2021.

Workman L, McClam M, **Merrell MA**, Crouch E, Browder J. *Reaching Rural Communities with Home Visiting and the Impact of COVID-19 on Family Engagement*. Poster Presentation at National Rural Health Association Health Equity Conference. Virtual. May 4, 2021.

Malbouf A*, **Merrell MA**. *Examining Racial and Ethnic Group Composition and Availability of Grocery Store Outlets by Geography in South Carolina*. Poster Presentation at University of South Carolina Nutrition Consortium Symposium. Virtual. April 9, 2021. (*student author)

Merrell MA, Crouch E, Workman L, Browder J. *Defining Home Visiting Deserts in South Carolina*. Oral Presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Virtual. October 27, 2020.

Merrell MA, Probst J, Bennett K, Olatosi B, Hall J. *The Association of a Rural Hospital Closure with 30-Day Post Hospital Discharge Mortality from Selected Conditions*. Poster Presentation at National Rural Health Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. May 8, 2019.

Merrell MA, Olatosi B, Bennett K, Probst JC. *Rural Hospital Closures: Impact on Mortality from Emergency Care Sensitive Conditions*. Oral Presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 12, 2018.

White AL, **Merrell MA**. *Understanding Contraceptive Care Practices in South Carolina Rural Health Clinics*. Poster Presentation at National Rural Health Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. May 10, 2018.

Merrell MA, Iruhiriye E, Probst JC, Blake CE. *Rural Community Leaders' Perceptions of Prejudice and Discrimination*. Poster Presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. November 6, 2017.

Merrell MA, Haider MR, Qureshi ZQ. *Association of Financial Incentives with Patient-Centered Medical Home Adoption Among Primary Care Physicians*. Poster Presentation at International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. May 24, 2017.

Merrell MA, Iruhiriye E, Probst JC, Blake C. *Perceptions of Health Among Southern Rural Community Leaders*. Oral Presentation at National Rural Health Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. May 11, 2017.

Bennett KJ, Yuen MW, **Merrell MA**. *Community Paramedicine in Rural Abbeville County*. Poster Presentation at South Carolina Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Charleston, SC. February 18, 2016.

Martin AB, Bhavsar G, **Merrell MA**. *Beyond Experiential Learning: Evaluation of the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program through a Graduate-Level Health Services Management Course*. Poster Presentation at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. November 17, 2014.

De Idiaquez DA, Branam D, Selander KS, Chen D, Teng L, **Merrell M**, Rose-John S, Sheehan J, Harris KW. *Cytokine Receptor gp130 Signaling Stimulates Secretion of Tissue Factor-Expressing Tumor Microparticles from Cancer Cells*. Poster Presentation at American Federation for Medical Research Southern Regional Meeting. New Orleans, LA. February 8, 2007.

Merrell MA, Wakchoure S, Harris KW, Selander KS. *Bisphosphonate Effects on Breast Cancer Cells in Vitro are Independent of Estrogen Receptor Expression*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2006 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 30, 2006.

De Idiaquez DA, Branam D, **Merrell MA**, Harris KW, Selander KS. *Cytokine Receptor gp130 is a Novel Regulator of Tissue Factor Expression, Microvesicle Secretion, and Invasion in MDA-231 Breast Cancer Cells*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2006 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 30, 2006.

Ilvesaro JI, **Merrell MA**, Branam D, Rosenthal E, Graves D, Harris KW, Selander KS. *DNA from Dying Cancer Cells Induce Invasion in Viable Breast Cancer Cells – A Possible Role for TLR9*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2006 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 30, 2006.

Merrell MA, Lehtonen N, Sorsa T, Gehrs, B, Rosenthal E, Chen D, Shackley B, Harris KW, Selander KS. *Toll Like Receptor-9 Agonists Promote Invasion of Human Breast Cancer Cells by Increasing Matrix Metalloproteinase-13 Activity*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2005 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 24, 2005.

Wakchoure S, **Merrell MA**, Aldrich W, Millender-Swain T, Harris KW, Triozzi P, Selander KS. *Bisphosphonates Inhibit Mesothelioma Growth in Vitro and in Vivo*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2005 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 24, 2005.

Merrell MA, Harris KW, Rosenthal E, Millender-Swain T, Gehrs B, Selander KS. *Toll-like Receptor 9 Agonists Induce Invasion of Breast Cancer Cells in Vitro*. Poster Presentation at Era of Hope Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. June 8-11, 2005.

Merrell MA, Wakchoure S, Harris KW, Selander KS. *Bisphosphonates Exhibit Opposing Effects on Breast Cancer Growth by Activating p38 and Inhibiting the Mevalonate Pathway in Vitro*. Poster Presentation at Era of Hope Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. June 8-11, 2005.

Merrell MA, Watson L, Li L, Harris KW, Selander KS. *A Preliminary Look at the Role of TLR9 in Bisphosphonate Mediated Action in Breast Cancer Cells*. Poster Presentation at UAB Department of Biology Awards Program for Honors Research. Birmingham, AL. April 2004.

Selander KS, Li L, Watson L, **Merrell M**, Teng L, Muller-Newen G, Harris KW. *The Cytokine Receptor gp130 Acts As an Angiogenic Switch in Breast Cancer*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2003 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 27, 2003.

Watson L, **Merrell M**, Li L, Harris K, Jhala D, Salminen E, Feng X, Bauskin A, Breit S, Selander KS. *MIC-1 is a Potential New Mediator of Osteosclerosis in Prostate Cancer*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2003 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 27, 2003.

Merrell M, Li L, Watson L, Harris KW, Selander KS. *Opposing Effects of Bisphosphonates in Breast Cancer Cells are Mediated via the p38 and Mevalonate Pathways*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2003 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 27, 2003.

Merrell M, Suarez-Cuervo C, Harris KW, Kallman L, Vaananen HK, Selander KS. *Resistance of Breast Cancer Cells to Growth Inhibition by Nitrogen-Containing Bisphosphonates is Mediated by Activation of the p38 Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase*. Abstract in *Oncology*. 2003 April;17(4); supplement no 3: 52-53.

Li L, Watson L, **Merrell M**, Selander KS, Harris KW. *Inhibition of Cytokine Receptor gp130 Signaling in Breast Cancer Cells Results in Decreased Constitutive Stat3 Activation via Inhibition of EGF Receptor Family Members*. Presentation at American Federation for Medical Research Southern Regional Meeting. New Orleans, LA. February 20-22, 2003.

Harris KW, Li L, Watson L, **Merrell M**, Selander KS. *Inhibition of Cytokine Receptor gp130 Signaling in Breast Cancer Cells Results in Decreased Constitutive Stat3 Activation via Inhibition of EGF Receptor Family Members*. Poster Presentation at UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center 2002 Annual Research Retreat. Birmingham, AL. October 28, 2002.

Selander KS, Harris KW, Kallman L, **Merrell M**, Vaananen K. *Bisphosphonates Activate p38 Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase in Human Breast Cancer Cells*. Poster Presentation at The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research. Phoenix, AZ. October 12-16, 2001.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Merrell MA. *Presentation to SC CRPH Fellows*. Oral Presentation at South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare. Columbia, SC. July 12, 2023.

Merrell MA, Crouch E, Harrison SE, Brown MJ, Brown T, Oyesode O, Pearson WS. *A Quality Improvement Initiative Addressing Sexually Transmitted Infection Services Provided in Rural South Carolina Primary Care Clinics*. Oral Presentation at AcademyHealth/CDC Foundation's Improving STD Prevention and Care through Partnerships with State Legislators and Policy Makers. Atlanta, GA. April 27, 2023.

Merrell MA, Betley C, Crouch E, Hung P, Stockwell I, Middleton A, Pearson WS. *Screening and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Medicaid Populations-A 2-State Analysis*. Oral Presentation at AcademyHealth/CDC Foundation's Improving STD Prevention and Care through Partnerships with State Legislators and Policy Makers. Atlanta, GA. April 27, 2023.

Crouch E, **Merrell MA**, Giannouchos T. *Roles of Race and Residence on the Incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections in South Carolina*. CDC Division of STD Prevention Learning Hour (Clinical, Economic, and Health Services Research Branch). December 1, 2022.

Harrison S, **Merrell MA**. *A Quality Improvement Initiative Addressing STI Services Provided in Rural South Carolina Primary Care Clinics*. South Carolina Office of Rural Health Annual Conference. October 19, 2022.

Merrell MA. *Adverse & Positive Childhood Experiences*. University of South Carolina Maternal Child Health LEAP Trainees Dinner Seminar. Columbia, SC. December 2, 2021.

Merrell MA. *Reaching Priority Populations: Rural South Carolina*. South Carolina SNAP-Ed Conference Series. Virtual Presentation. July 9, 2021.

Merrell MA, Crouch E, Browder J, Workman L, Silverman AF. *Home Visiting Client Satisfaction and Engagement: Findings from a South Carolina MIECHV Evaluation*. Poster Presentation at MIECHV Program All Grantee Meeting. Virtual. June 7, 2021.

Ramage C, Artz J, **Merrell MA**, McClam M, Bost K, Bellamy E. *Understanding the South Carolina Home Visiting Needs Assessment*. Children's Trust of South Carolina Webinar. Virtual Presentation. April 27, 2021.

Merrell MA. *SC Poverty Brief 2020*. South Carolina State Data Team. Virtual Presentation. March 31, 2021.

Phillips C, **Merrell MA**. *The Ripple Effects of Poverty*. Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina Board Education. Virtual Presentation. March 29, 2021.

Merrell MA (Facilitator). *Home Visiting Intensive Session*. Children's Trust of South Carolina Building Hope for Children Conference. Virtual Presentation. March 25, 2021.

Phillips C, **Merrell MA**. *Poverty by Design*. Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina Screen Side Chat Webinar Series. Virtual Presentation. January 27, 2021.

Merrell MA, Crouch E, Browder J, Silverman A. *South Carolina MIECHV Program—2019 Client Satisfaction and Engagement Survey: Findings*. Children's Trust of South Carolina All Sites Assembly. Virtual Presentation. October 28, 2020.

Merrell MA, Zubizarreta M, Workman L, Silverman A, Browder J, Crouch E. *South Carolina Home Visiting Needs Assessment Update*. South Carolina Home Visiting Consortium Quarterly Meeting. Virtual Presentation. October 1, 2020.

Merrell MA, Crouch E. *Adverse Childhood Experiences in Rural Communities*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Region D Meeting. Virtual Presentation. August 27, 2020.

Merrell MA, Crouch E. *Adverse Childhood Experiences in Rural Communities*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Region C Meeting. Virtual Presentation. July 30, 2020.

Merrell MA, Penney P. *Adverse Childhood Experiences in Rural Populations: How common are they and what can be done to address them?* Upper Midlands Rural Health Network School Health Workshop: Trauma, Triage, and Treatments. Richburg, SC. October 21, 2019.

McCormack M, Croft J, Paulin L, Drummond B, **Merrell MA**, Doyle D. *Rurality in COPD: Defining the problem and deploying novel care delivery approaches*. Oral Presentation at American Thoracic Society International Conference. Dallas, TX. May 22, 2019.

Adams G, **Merrell MA**. *Working with Rural Veterans: SORH Success*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Annual Meeting. Cheyenne, WY. October 18, 2018.

Merrell MA (Facilitator). *Investing in Rural: A SC Funders Panel*. South Carolina's 22nd Annual Rural Health Conference. Myrtle Beach, SC. October 10, 2018.

Merrell MA. *Eyes on the Prize*. SC Thrive Annual Meeting. Columbia, SC. October 2, 2018.

Merrell MA (Facilitator). *South Carolina's 3rd Annual Population Health Summit*. Greenwood, SC. June 8, 2018.

Merrell MA. *South Carolina's Rural Health Action Plan*. TogetherSC Summit. Hilton Head Island, SC. March 5, 2018.

Meyer J, Sauer M, **Merrell MA**, Doyle D. *Panel of Possibilities*. What Works for Rural: From Research to Reality; CDC/HRSA Rural Health Disparities Workshop. Atlanta, GA. December 13, 2017.

Merrell MA. *Ensuring Health Services for Rural Communities in South Carolina*. Caring Connections Conference. Rock Hill, SC. October 6, 2017.

Eisinger T, **Merrell M**, McElligott C. *The Vulnerable Hospitals Toolkit*. Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program Reverse Site Visit. Washington, DC. July 19, 2017.

Merrell MA (*Facilitator*). South Carolina's 2nd Annual Population Health Summit. Beaufort, SC. June 14, 2017.

Adams G, **Merrell MA**, Chandler A. *South Carolina Rural Health Action Plan*. National Rural Health Association Annual Conference. San Diego, CA. May 11, 2017.

Merrell MA. *Working with Vulnerable Hospitals*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Webinar. December 7, 2016.

Merrell MA, Newhouse P, Locklair DD, Schumacher PJ, Lawler S, Isley LL, Adams G. *Rural Hospital Viability: Finding a Way Forward in an Evolving Marketplace*. 16th Annual Small & Rural Hospital Conference. Charlotte, NC. November 11, 2016.

Kirby E, **Merrell MA**, James C. *Blueprint for Health: Promoting Community Level Health Improvement in Rural South Carolina*. South Carolina's 20th Annual Rural Health Conference. Hilton Head Island, SC. October 27, 2016.

Adams G, **Merrell MA**, Kirby T. *South Carolina's Plan to Transform Rural Hospitals*. National Rural Health Association Critical Access Hospital Conference. Kansas City, MO. September 22, 2016.

Adams G, **Merrell MA**. *Sustaining Access to Rural Health Care through Innovation*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. September 7, 2016.

Merrell MA, Craig S. *Community Paramedicine: Lessons Learned from South Carolina*. Georgia Hospital Association Center for Rural Health Annual Meeting. St. Simons Island, GA. August 25, 2016.

Merrell MA. *Hospital Closures & New Models of Care*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Region B Meeting. Nashville, TN. August 3, 2016.

Merrell MA (*Facilitator*). South Carolina's 1st Annual Population Health Summit. Walterboro, SC. May 20, 2016.

Merrell MA, Craig S. *The Health of a Population*. South Carolina EMS Symposium. Myrtle Beach, SC. February 27, 2016.

Barter C, **Merrell MA**. *Quality Improvement in Rural Health Clinics*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health RHC Workshop. Portland, OR. September 3, 2015.

McElligott C, **Merrell MA**, Taylor R. *State Flex Program Panel: Pathways to the Future*. 2015 Flex Program Reverse Site Visit. Bethesda, MD. June 24, 2015.

Merrell MA, Starling S, Ross A, Hill T. *Marcum and Wallace Memorial Hospital's Approach to Developing a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)*. Small Rural Hospital Transition Project Performance Management Group Call. May 22, 2015.

Kupas D, **Merrell MA**, Oscarson J. *Quality in EMS: From the Hospitals to the Field*. National Rural EMS Conference. Cheyenne, WY. May 5, 2015.

Merrell MA. *The Role of a Flex Coordinator*. Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program Workshop. Duluth, MN. April 29, 2015.

Jackson MM, Porter D, Bennett KJ, **Merrell MA**. *Community Paramedicine: Lessons Learned from South Carolina*. National Rural Health Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. April 15, 2015.

Stanek M, **Merrell M**, Mathis S, Williams L, Koutrakos K. *South Carolina Rural PCMH Institute*. [Poster Presentation] 2nd Annual Care Coordination Institute Symposium. Columbia, SC. March 6-7, 2015.

Merrell MA (Facilitator). *Promising Practices – SORH-Led Discussion Groups: Patient Centered Medical Homes*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Annual Meeting. Omaha, NE. October 29, 2014.

Stanek M, **Merrell MA**. *Achieving PCMH Recognition through Practice Transformation*. National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Region B Meeting. Greenville, SC. August 21, 2014.

Probst JC, **Merrell MA**. *Grant Writing 101: Navigating the Grant Proposal Process*. South Carolina Office of Rural Health Grant Writing Workshop. McCormick, SC. August 14, 2014.

Merrell MA. *The Role of Community Paramedicine in South Carolina*. South Carolina Community Paramedicine Stakeholders Summit. Columbia, SC. July 23, 2014.

Bennett KJ, Gamache E, **Merrell MA**, Schnettler E. *Rural Care Transitions: Evidence and Strategies*. National Rural Health Association Annual Conference. Louisville, KY. April 24, 2014.

Porter D, **Merrell MA**. *South Carolina Community Paramedic Program Blueprint: Who, How, & Why*. South Carolina EMS Symposium. Myrtle Beach, SC. March 8, 2014.

Merrell MA. *National Rural Health Day: Your Time to Shine!* South Carolina's 17th Annual Rural Health Conference. Columbia, SC. October 16, 2013.

Merrell MA. *Community Paramedicine Prospective.* 3rd Annual Midlands STEMI & Stroke Forum. Columbia, SC. February 26, 2014.

Merrell MA. *Community Paramedicine Prospective: Innovation to Increase Capacity in Rural Communities.* 4th Annual AccessHealth SC Partnership Meeting. Columbia, SC. November 28, 2012.

Merrell MA. *Community Paramedicine Prospective.* Upstate STEMI Stroke Forum. Greenwood, SC. November 5, 2012.

Womble M, **Merrell MA.** *Community Paramedicine in the Carolinas: An Introduction.* Carolinas Community Paramedicine Summit. Charlotte, NC. February 28, 2012.

Adams G, **Merrell MA,** Spade J, Womble M. *Pre-Conference Session: Critical Access Hospitals – Current and Future Opportunities.* 11th Annual Small & Rural Hospital Conference. Charlotte, NC. November 9, 2011.

Merrell MA, Wilson M. *Grant Writing 101: Navigating the Grant Proposal Process.* South Carolina Office of Rural Health Grant Writing Workshop. Seabrook Island, SC. July 18, 2011.

Merrell MA. *Developing and Sustaining Rural Health Networks.* National Conference of State Flex Programs. Portland, ME. July 13, 2011.

Merrell MA. *Building Coalitions for Preparedness: A Rural Perspective.* SC Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Myrtle Beach, SC. May 26, 2011.

Day SE, **Merrell MA.** *SC Office of Rural Health – Services Tailored to Meet Your Unique Rural Needs.* South Carolina's 15th Annual Rural Health Conference. Myrtle Beach, SC. April 13, 2011.

Merrell MA. *Northeastern Rural Health Network.* National Cooperative of Health Networks Annual Meeting. Charleston, SC. April 20, 2009.

LEADERSHIP

Chairperson: SScaleDown (South Carolina's Obesity Plan) Community Workgroup, 2015-2017

Regional Representative: National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Board of Directors, 2014-2017

Co-Lead: Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Flex Quality Improvement Strategic Planning Workgroup, 2013-2014

Co-Chair: National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Board of Directors Education Exchange Committee, 2012-2013

Vice-Chair: Marlboro County Inter-Agency Council Board of Directors, 2009-2010

Team Lead: Marlboro County Place Matters Team, 2009-2010

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

- Member: Association of University Programs in Health Administration Practitioner Faculty Forum, 2023-current
- Member: RHIMHub Rural Health Leadership and Management Advisory Board, 2023-current
- Member: Wholespire Richland County Coalition, 2023-current
- Member: Association of University Programs in Health Administration Bachrach Scholarship Committee, 2023-2026
- Member: American College of Healthcare Executives, South Carolina Chapter Board, 2022-current
- Member: Prisma Health WellFest Planning Committee, 2022
- Member: Columbia Food Policy Committee Research & Evaluation Subcommittee, 2021-current
- Member: University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies Project: “Growth and Sustainability of the U.S. Community Paramedic Workforce to Address Unmet Healthcare Needs” Advisory Committee, 2020
- Member: James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture Awards Committee, 2019
- Member: South Carolina Grantmakers in Health Census 2020 Leadership Team, 2019
- Member: South Carolina Leadership Academy for Tobacco Free Recovery: Provider Education & Engagement Strategy Committee, 2018-2019
- Member: PASOs Board of Advisors Strategic Visioning Committee, 2016-2019
- Member: National Rural Health Resource Center, Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC) Advisory Committee, 2015-2019
- Member: South Carolina Diabetes Advisory Council Executive and Pillar 1 Committees, 2015-2019
- Member: Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina Operations Committee/Alignment Team, 2014-2019
- Member: SScaleDown (South Carolina’s Obesity Plan) Leadership Action Team, 2014-2019
- Member: Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina Coverage & Access Taskforce, 2018
- Member: LiveHealthy SC Healthcare Transformation Workgroup, 2018
- Member: The Palmetto Palace Mobile Medical Advisory Council, 2017-2019
- Member: South Carolina Leadership Summit for Healthy Communities Planning Committee, 2017
- Member: South Carolina Population Health Summit Planning Committee, 2016-2017
- Member: National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Annual Meeting Planning Committee, 2011 & 2017
- Member: National Rural Health Resource Center, Technical Assistance and Services Center Flex Reverse Site Visit Planning Committee, 2016
- Member: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Trauma Advisory Committee, 2010-2015
- Member: Flex Monitoring Team EMS Performance Measures Expert Panel, 2014
- Member: South Carolina Heart & Stroke Care Alliance Leadership Team, 2011-2014
- Member: South Carolina Health Coordinating Council Governance, Nominating, and Institute for Healthcare Improvement Triple Aim Improvement Committees, 2013
- Member: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Community Preparedness and Planning Subcommittee, 2012
- Member: Southeastern Critical Access Hospital Conference Planning Committee, 2011-2013

Member: American Heart Association Learning Networks, Heart Failure & Stroke, 2010-2013

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Healthcare Executives, 2022-current
Association of University Programs in Health Administration, 2022-current
Medical Group Management Association, 2022-current
South Carolina Public Health Association, 2017-2022
American Public Health Association, 2006-2008, 2017-2022
National Rural Health Association, 2010-current
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, 2010-2019

CERTIFICATIONS

University of South Carolina, New Faculty Academy, 2019-2020
National Committee for Quality Assurance, Patient Centered Medical Home Certified Content Expert, 2013-2015
Best on Board Essentials of Healthcare Governance, 2014
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, Rural Health Grant Writing Institute, 2010

SERVICE

University of South Carolina HSPM Clinical Faculty Search Committee, 2023-current
University of South Carolina MHA Program Committee, 2022-current
University of South Carolina MHA Program Advisory Board, 2022-current
Manuscript Reviewer: *The Journal of Rural Health*, *American Journal of Managed Care*, *BMC Health Services Research*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*
Abstract Reviewer: National Rural Health Association Annual Conference, 2021
Grant Reviewer: Health Resources & Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau. July 23-24, 2020.
Grant Reviewer: APHA Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge. March 2020.
Grant Reviewer: BUILD Health Challenge. Summer 2019.
Presenter: HopeHealth Community Relations Departmental Retreat. *Audiences of Focus – Urban versus Rural*. June 7, 2019.
Presenter: Kiwanis Club of Columbia, SC Monthly Meeting. *South Carolina Office of Rural Health*. February 14, 2019.
Grant Reviewer: The Duke Endowment Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas. Summer 2018.
Co-Host: Rural Health Information Hub Twitter #RuralHealthChat: Community Paramedicine. July 11, 2018.
Panelist: 2nd Annual University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, Voices in Leadership Panel Discussion. *Improving the Health of South Carolinians: Issues of Public Health Concern*. February 2, 2018.
Organizer: South Carolina's 21st Annual Rural Health Conference Poster Competition. October 10-12, 2017.

Panelist: University of South Carolina Presidential Fellows Forum. *Non-Profit Leadership*. April 7, 2017.

Grant Reviewer: The Duke Endowment Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas. Spring 2017.

Participant: National Rural Health Resource Center 2016 Rural Provider Leadership Summit. May 23-24, 2016.

Participant: Wisconsin Office of Rural Health Future of the Flex Program Summit. July 28, 2014.

Presenter: University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Public Health, Department of Health Behavior Lunch & Learn. *Internships in Health Behavior*. September 19, 2007.

IN THE MEDIA

Wilson K.D., Vonk H. (2023, June 7.) “Changing the Narrative — Rural Healthcare Opportunities and the Role of Emerging Leaders.” *The Rural Monitor*.

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/rural-monitor/rural-healthcare-emerging-leaders>

Dennis, Jr. RC. (2021, February 6.) “‘Poverty By Design’ study by SC nonprofit examines disparities in Palmetto State.” *The Post & Courier*.

https://www.postandcourier.com/features/poverty-by-design-study-by-sc-nonprofit-examines-disparities-in-palmetto-state/article_4f47a932-60c2-11eb-aa93-03f571ec534c.html

Moore L. (2021, January 27.) “Local charity working to end poverty in South Carolina.” WCBD

– TV. https://www.counton2.com/news/latest-news/local-charity-working-to-end-poverty-in-south-carolina/?fbclid=IwAR3_cTwe7DbQP1kGT0zCzBSTE12jB2jsfS9DggtAzGcUJ-4moM537fVXFA

Russo A. (2021, January 27.) “Report: South Carolina poverty rate ranks among highest in

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SKILLS

Technical skills: Stata, SAS, SPSS, nVivo, Microsoft Office suite, survey software (e.g., SurveyMonkey, Qualtrics), Adobe Creative suite, Quick Base, ArcGIS (beginner proficiency), Tableau (beginner proficiency)