Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, welcome to the fall 2022 semester! We are thrilled you have chosen HPEB! I've been nostalgic the past few weeks thinking back to when I was a graduate student. The first class for which I was a teaching assistant and then instructor was an Introductory Social Psychology course. In the class, we spoke a lot about perceptions and social influences and interactions. I loved the course. There was a section on how people may look at the same image (like the one to the right) differently or may receive the same information and interpret it or react to it in completely different ways. Recently a distant cousin reached out to me via email. She had moved to the United States a few years before we did. She wrote that she didn’t think we had seen each other since I was 12. (So … just a few years have passed – ha!). She was interested in knowing how I had “turned out as an adult.” We had a lovely Zoom reunion the other week. She looked the same as I remembered her, and she said I looked the same but more like my mother. I always take that as a compliment. It was interesting to hear how she remembered me and our interactions. While I can be outgoing and loud, I was shy as a child unless I was in a play or concert and “on”. The cousin didn’t remember me ever being quiet. I remember participating in holiday events and being altogether, but I was intimidated by the cool, smart older cousins and I kept to myself. She said I held my own. Well … maybe the truth lies somewhere in the middle. This reunion got me thinking about how we see ourselves and others and how others see us. Sometimes it may be aligned (e.g., I am not sporty and you know I am not sporty) but often it is not. It is natural to compare ourselves to others, especially in academia. You may think you are doing more or less than someone else and/or that they are doing it in the “right way”. There is no one right way. Instead, let’s focus on doing things in a healthy way. Let’s work with people who inspire us, and challenge and support us in reaching our goals. And we should all have fun doing so. We want you to leave our program knowing more than we do … and you will. And I guess I was more outgoing and knew a tiny bit more than I thought I did while hanging out with the older cousins back in the day … maybe!

-Daniela Friedman
Congratulations are in Order!

Congratulations to Dr. Xueying Yang and family on the birth of baby Lydia AND Congratulations to Dr. George Tam and family on the birth of baby Riley! Welcome to the HPEB family.

Congratulations to Fanghui Shi, PhD candidate, who was one of six recipients of the IAS/ANRS Lange/van Tongeren Prize for Young Investigators from the International AIDS Society for her research on racial disparities in South Carolina. [LINK]

Congratulations to Nkechi Okpara, PhD candidate, who was recently awarded the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetic Foundation’s Commission on Dietetic Registration Doctoral Scholarship for $10,000. Only 10 registered dietitians who are pursuing doctoral-level training in the United States are awarded this scholarship each year.

Jennifer Mandelbaum, PhD candidate, was elected as Governing Councilor for the American Public Health Association. Jennifer also received a Public Health Scholarship and the Malcolm U. Dantzler Scholarship from the South Carolina Public Health Association.

Dr. Shan Qiao was elected as Secretary of the American Public Health Association’s HIV/AIDS Section.

Dr. Lucy Ingram was invited to serve as a Pearce Faculty Fellow for the South Carolina Honors College for her teaching and mentorship.

HPEB in the News!

Dr. Ed Frongillo and Dr. Alex McLain (EPID/BIOS) were featured on the Arnold School webpage for their research focused on estimating childhood stunting and overweight trends. Their innovative modeling to predict prevalence estimates for countries and years where data has been missing was featured in an editorial in the *Journal of Nutrition* and the American Society of Nutrition featured the editorial and the study. [LINK]

Funding News

Dr. Xueying Yang and colleagues received funding from the NIH/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study Covid-19 vaccine efficacy among people living with and without HIV. [LINK]

Dr. Leila Larson received funding from the UofSC Big Data Health Science Center to conduct research that will determine a functional hemoglobin threshold to define anemia in children and women.

Dr. Andy Kaczynski received funding from the UofSC Big Data Health Science Center to examine socioeconomic and racial/ethnic disparities in pedestrian and bicycle crashes across South Carolina.

Dr. Shan Qiao and team (including Dr. Xiaoming Li, HPEB, Dr. Bankole Olatosi, HSPM, and Dr. Sara Wilcox, EXSC) received funding from CDC to assess challenges and lessons learned to enhance public health emergency preparedness for women and families.
With Dr. Jason Yang (EXSC) as principal investigator, Dr. Caroline Rudisill and Dr. Daniela Friedman from HPEB, Dr. Jingkai Wei (EPID/BIOS), and Dr. Jean Neils-Strunjas (COMD) have been awarded funding from CDC to establish a Dementia Risk Reduction Research Network Collaborating Center.

Dissertation and Practice Experience Presentations

Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertations:

Tianyue Mi “HIV-related stigma, sexual and gender minority-related stigma, and health outcomes among MSM living with HIV: Measurement, impact, and intersectionality”

Maryam Suliman Alhabas “Food insecurity resilience of refugee families in the United States: A qualitative study”

Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertation proposals:

Abdullah Nurus Salam Khan “Perinatal depressive symptoms and hemoglobin status during pregnancy, their risk factors, and association with birth and postnatal outcomes”

Victoria Lambert “Social network attributes associated with conversations about smoking and cessation and differences by socioeconomic status”

Publications & Presentations


Photo Gallery

Fanghui Shi and Dr. Xiaoming Li at AIDS 2022 meeting in Montreal where Fanghui received her award!

Dr. Rachel Davis holding her ASPH Teaching Award and Bella Alonso, MPH, with her ASPH and HPEB Student Awards!
Wedding of Deeksha Gupta and Mayank Sahuja, HPEB Doctoral Candidates
Celebrating the growing families of Drs. Xueying Yang and George Tam!
Graduation may have been in May 2022 but we still love sharing photos.

Dr. Friedman and Akeen Hamilton &
Group Photo of Center for Healthcare Quality graduates and faculty members.
Bella Alonso and Dr. Rachel Davis speaking with students at the 2022 HPEB Peer Mentor Luncheon

HPEB Birthday Celebrations!

Dr. Shan Qiao, Maria, and Krista
2022 HPEB Back-to-School Picnic
Amazing Group Photo

The McGrievy’s hanging out at the HPEB picnic
Please send submissions for *News and Kudos* to Krista Russell so that we can share and celebrate your work!

HPEB Discovery I 915 Greene Street Suite 563
Columbia SC, 29208
krussell@sc.edu

Soon-to-be HPEB graduates and alumni, please continue to keep in touch with us! Please also ensure your contact information is current with the Arnold School by updating your information here: [Link](#)