



# Arnold School of Public Health

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior NEWS AND KUDOS ~ December 2024



### Message from the Chair

Dear HPEB,

Congratulations on your tremendous accomplishments this semester. There have been ups and downs, joyous occasions, and difficult times. Sometimes it feels odd to be keeping up with our workdays as if there are no significant events, changes, or uncertainty around us. But it is exactly during those times when forging ahead collaboratively and brainstorming more creatively can have the most impact. I feel fortunate to be part of a department and school that value diverse ideas, interdisciplinary research, and team science. In this newsletter, we present your remarkable accomplishments. Some of our work may be done solo, but most of it represents partnerships and outcomes that have resulted from kind and effective mentorship and meaningful teamwork, where everybody has a clear role, is open to feedback and improvement, and encouraged and empowered to contribute and/or lead.

As we reflect on 2024 and plan for 2025, what are your goals? How do you want to make a collective impact? I've written to you about Louise Penny, one of my favorite authors. Sometimes I think she can read my mind. An example is this quote which I've shared before: *"Life is change. If you aren't growing and evolving, you're standing still, and the rest of the world is surging ahead."* There will always be change - in our country and the world and even right here this year in our own department. I've learned not to let change paralyze my thoughts and actions. It's not easy to do but there's no expectation that we should go at it alone. That's the beauty of this place and of public health - we have the greatest influence when together we support and build each other up and promote important issues. Let's lean into this even more purposefully in the new year. I'm in and I hope you are too. Congratulations again on your accomplishments and I wish you a beautiful and meaningful holiday season. *-Daniela B. Friedman*

# Congratulations!

Dr. Frances Ashe-Goins, HPEB academic affiliate, received the prestigious South Carolina Nurses Association Daisy Award for extraordinary nurses based on her dedication and outstanding contributions to the nursing profession.

Enid Keseko, PhD student, was recipient of the 2024 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation General Scholarship.

Ally Hucek, PhD student, is the new student liaison for the Aging and Public Health section of the American Public Health Association. She will serve in this role for a one-year term.

Anna Chupak, PhD student, was awarded the Fall 2024 Butterfoss Community-Based Research Endowed Fellowship Award.

Halide Aydin and Antonika Kadiri, PhD students, were awarded the Olga I. Ogoussan Doctoral Research Award.

Cate Jones, MPH student, was awarded the Fall 2024 Ann Cassady Endowed Fellowship Award.

Anni Crook and Anna Torres, MPH students, were selected as 2024-2025 Arnold School of Public Health Office of Access and Collective Engagement Fellows.

Dr. Brie Turner-McGrievy was recognized as a Centennial Scholar at the University of Alabama in celebration of UA's Graduate School turning 100 years. The UA Grad School recognized 100 master's and doctoral alumni who continue to bring distinction to the Capstone and their academic programs through their many professional accomplishments. [LINK](#)

## HPEB in the News

Gitanjali Lall, HPEB doctoral student, was featured on the Arnold School website as a part of the / *Am Public Health* series. [LINK](#)

Deeksha Gupta, HPEB doctoral student, was featured on the Arnold School website as we celebrate her graduation this month. [LINK](#)

Dr. Lauren Fowler's work on multi-level health determinants and mental health inequities was featured on the Arnold School website. [LINK](#)

The CDC-funded Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network's Scholars Program for which Dr. Daniela Friedman served as co-director and Ally Hucek (PhD student) as program co-coordinator was featured as a CDC Prevention Research Center Success Story. [LINK](#)

# Dissertation and Practice Experience Presentations

Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertations:

Deeksha Gupta, *Impact of social determinants of health interventions on diabetes-related health outcomes and health service use*

Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertation proposals:

Indira Gutierrez, *The lived body image experiences of Mexican and Puerto Rican emerging adult Latinas*

Camryn Garrett, *Naloxone sentiments and acceptability expressed on social media and the opioid overdose epidemic*

Congratulations to the following students who presented their applied practice experiences:

Ashanti Cromedy, *Achieving health literacy among food pantry participants at coastal Catholic charities*

Catherine Christian, *Determining interest in incentive-based employee wellness programs among College of Charleston student affairs staff*

## Funding News

Dr. Marta Bornstein was awarded a Prisma Seed Grant to examine fertility care decision making among sexual and gender minorities in South Carolina.

Dr. Leila Larson was awarded a grant from the Iodine Global Network to conduct a meta-analysis of the effects of double fortified salt.

Dr. Jim Thrasher and team were awarded a National Institutes of Health [R01 grant](#) focused on building Stochastic Actor-Oriented Models to investigate social network influences on youth nicotine product use transitions and to simulate different intervention effects across contexts.

# Publications & Presentations

Billings DL, Amutah-Onukagha N, Swartzendruber A, Ingram LA. Editorial: Global perspectives on the health inequities in sexual, reproductive, and maternal health post Roe v. Wade. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 12:1488924, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1488924>

Bose I, Bethancourt HJ, Shamah-Levy T, Mundo-Rosas V, Muñoz-Espinosa A, Ginsberg T, Kadiyala S, Frongillo EA, Gaitán-Rossi P, Young SL. Mental health, water, and food: Relationships between water and food insecurity and probable depression amongst adults in Mexico. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 370:348-355, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2024.10.116>

Chupak AL, Hallum SH, Hesam Shariati F, Looney EN, Kaczynski AT. Mapping the relationship between neighborhood walkability and active transportation crashes: Variations by social vulnerability across South Carolina. *Journal of Transport and Health*, 41, 101960, 2024.

Davis K, Abshire D, Monroe C, Rudisill C, Kaczynski AT. Association between obesogenic environments and childhood overweight/obesity across the United States: Differences by rurality. *Journal of Rural Health*, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jrh.12891>

Ek LC, Hebert JR, Friedman DB, Porter DE. Climate change, racism, and food: Cyclical impacts of stressors exacerbate health disparities. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-024-02202-x>

Escobar-DeMarco J, Nguyen P, Kundu G, Kabir R, Ali M, Ireen S, Ash D, Mahmud Z, Sununtnasuk C, Menon P, Frongillo EA. Disruptions and adaptations of an urban nutrition intervention delivering essential services for women and children during a major health system crisis in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Maternal & Child Nutrition* e13750, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.13750>

Friedman DB, Escoffery C, Morrato EH, Thomson CA, Petagna CN, Hucek FA, Wangen M, Villalobos A, Hebert JR, Noblet S, Sakhuja M, Garcia DO, Cruz JL, Wheeler SB. Evaluation and lessons learned from the dissemination and implementation science scholars program in the national Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*, 8(1), e181, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cts.2024.625>

Hallum SH, Wende M, Hesam Shariati F, Thomas KM, Chupak AL, Witherspoon E, Kaczynski AT. Unearthing inequities in the relationship between multiple sociodemographic factors and diverse elements of park availability and quality in a major Southern metropolitan region. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2024.

Herrán K, Mandujano N, Suarez J, Frongillo EA. (2024, October 27-30). *Lived experiences of farmworkers from five U.S. states during the COVID-19 pandemic* [Poster Presentation]. American Public Health Association 2024 Annual Meeting and Expo, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Hu EA, Turner-McGrievy GM, Wilson MJ, Bailey S, Okpara N, Frongillo EA, Wilcox S. Adherence to a culturally adapted soul food vegan diet among African American adults increases diet quality compared to an omnivorous diet in the NEW Soul Study. *Nutrition Research* 128: 1–13, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nutres.2024.01.010>

Hucek, F.A. (2024, October 27-30). *Evaluation of a dissemination and implementation science training program of a national cancer prevention and control research network* [Poster Presentation]. American Public Health Association 2024 Annual Meeting and Expo, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Kaczynski AT, Wende ME, Eichelberger C, Hesam Shariati F. Disparities in obesogenic environments by income, race/ethnicity, and rurality across all US counties. *Childhood Obesity*, 20(8), 653-657, 2024.

Lambert VC, Hackworth EE, Billings DL. Qualitative analysis of anti-abortion discourse used in arguments for a 6-week abortion ban in South Carolina. *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*, 4:1124132, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgwh.2023.1124132>

Maya S, Sheira LA, Frongillo EA, Norcini Pala A, Kempf MC, Konkle-Parker D, Wilson TE, Tien PC, Wingood G, Topper EF, Neilands TB, Johnson MO, Logie CH, Weiser SD, Turan JM, Turan B. Internalized poverty-related stigma and interpersonal violence among women living with HIV in the US. *JAIDS: Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1097/QAI.0000000000003538>

Sakhuja M, Yelton B, Kavarana S, Schaurer L, Rumthao JR, Noblet S, Arent MA, Macaуда MM, Donelle L, Friedman DB. How do scholars conceptualize and conduct health and digital health literacy research? A survey of federally funded scholars. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 26, e57040, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.2196/57040>

Sanghvi TG, Godha D, Frongillo EA. Inequalities in adolescent girls' nutrition, education, and health care in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, and Nigeria. *Journal: International Journal of Adolescence and Youth* 29(1):2387077, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2024.2387077>

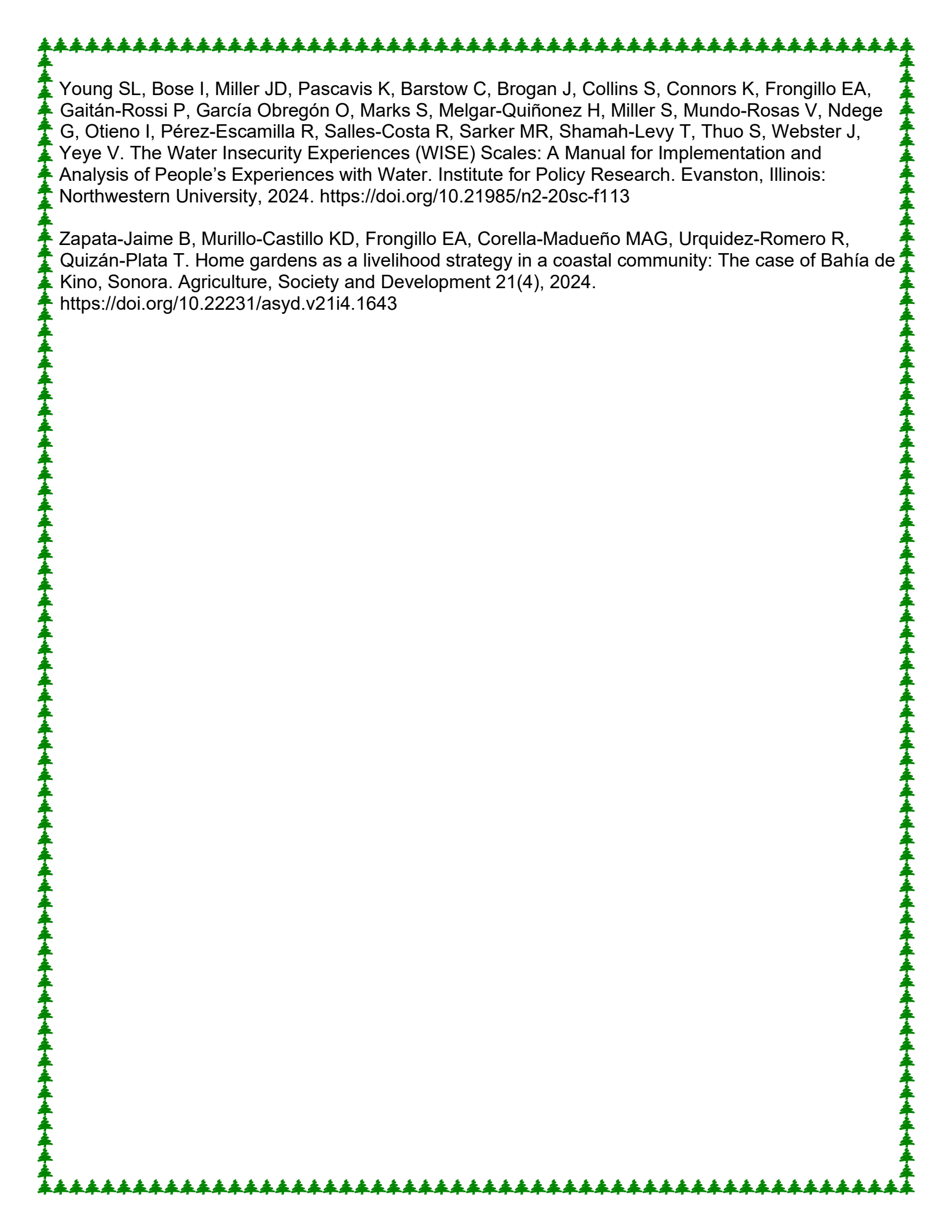
Sevoyan M, Geraci M, Frongillo EA, Liu J, Boghossian NS. Interpregnancy interval and adverse perinatal outcomes: A within-individual comparative method. *Health Science Reports* 7:e2313, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hsr.2.2313>

Turner-McGrievy GM, Wilcox S, Frongillo EA, Murphy EA, Kim Y, Hu EA, Okpara N, Baily S. Impact of diet adherence on weight and lipids among African American participants randomized to vegan or omnivorous diets. *Obesity Science and Practice* e70009, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1002/osp4.70009>

Turner-McGrievy GM, Wirth MD, Okpara N, Jones MJ, Kim Y, Wilcox S, Friedman DB, Sarzynski MA, Liese AD. Similar changes in diet quality indices, but not nutrients, among African American participants randomized to follow one of the three dietary patterns of the US Dietary Guidelines: A secondary analysis. *Nutrition Research*, 131, 27-38, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nutres.2024.09.005>

Wende ME, Hughey SM, McLain AC, Hallum SH, Hipp JA, Schipperijn J, Stowe EW, Kaczynski AT. Identifying multilevel predictors of behavioral outcomes like park use: A comparison of conditional and marginal modeling approaches. *PLOS One*, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0301549>

Yelton B, Sakhuja M, Kavarana S, Schaurer L, Arent MA, Donelle L, Macaуда MM, Noblet S, Friedman DB. How has health literacy and digital health literacy scholarship evolved? A global, qualitative study. *Health Promotion International*, 39(5), daae123, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daae123>

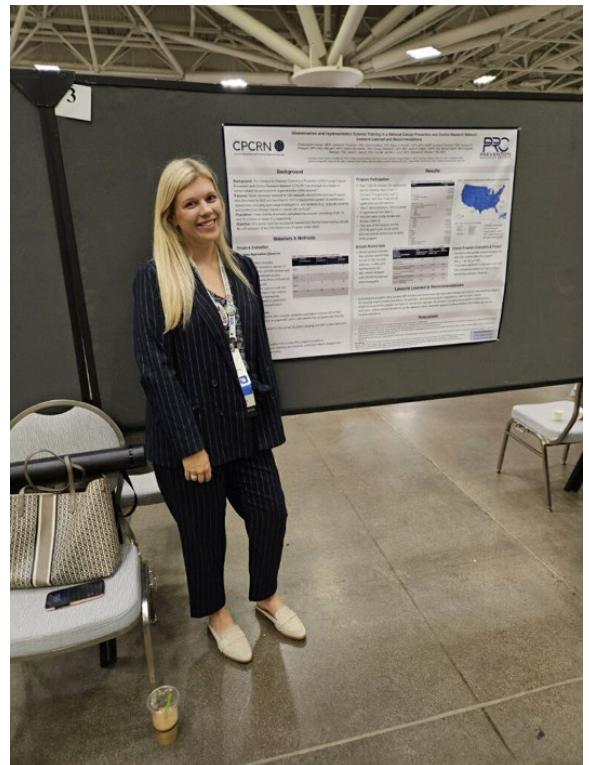
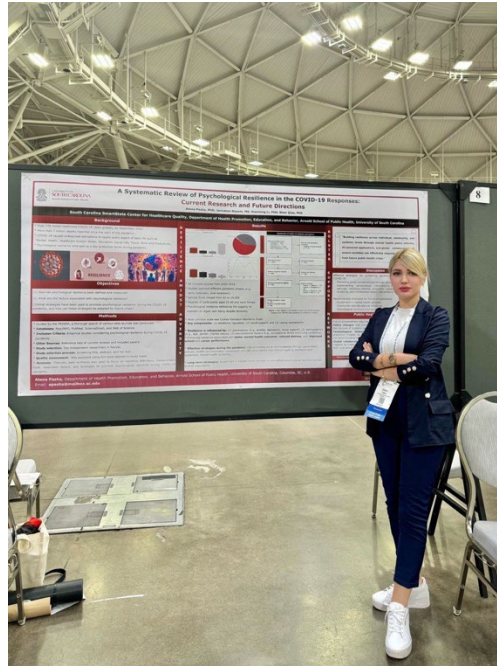


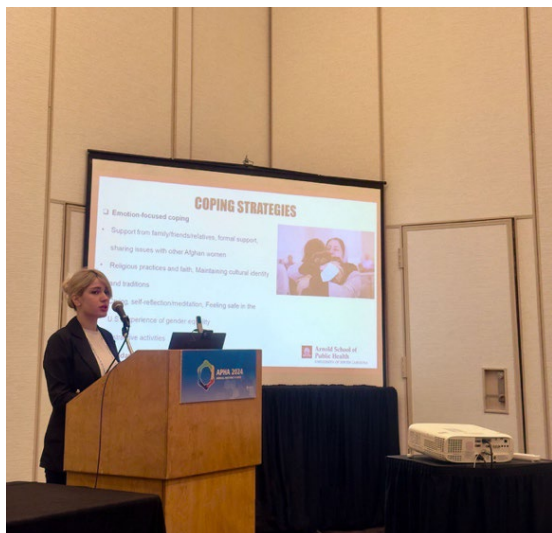
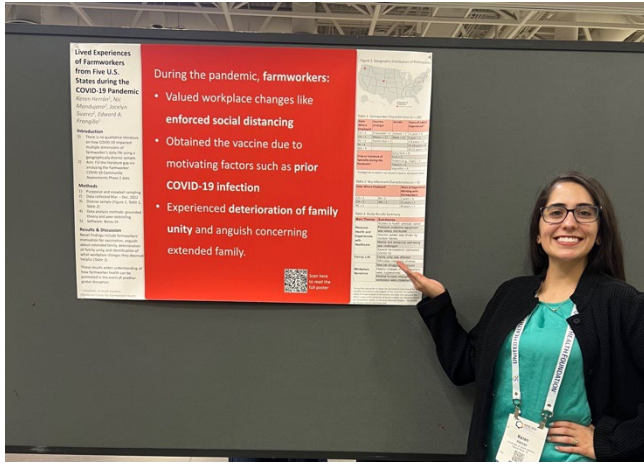
Young SL, Bose I, Miller JD, Pascavis K, Barstow C, Brogan J, Collins S, Connors K, Frongillo EA, Gaitán-Rossi P, García Obregón O, Marks S, Melgar-Quiñonez H, Miller S, Mundo-Rosas V, Ndege G, Otieno I, Pérez-Escamilla R, Salles-Costa R, Sarker MR, Shamah-Levy T, Thuo S, Webster J, Yeye V. The Water Insecurity Experiences (WISE) Scales: A Manual for Implementation and Analysis of People's Experiences with Water. Institute for Policy Research. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.21985/n2-20sc-f113>

Zapata-Jaime B, Murillo-Castillo KD, Frongillo EA, Corella-Madueño MAG, Urquidez-Romero R, Quizán-Plata T. Home gardens as a livelihood strategy in a coastal community: The case of Bahía de Kino, Sonora. *Agriculture, Society and Development* 21(4), 2024. <https://doi.org/10.22231/asyd.v21i4.1643>

# Photo Gallery

2024 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo







Dr. Leila Larson and Dr. Ruth Saunders (HPEB Professor Emerita) meeting for the first time



HPEB Doctoral Student Panelists Sharing their Summer Research & Fieldwork Experiences



Just Another Friday AND Celebrating Maria Sophocleous' Retirement – Congratulations Maria!



**Please send submissions for *News and Kudos* to Pam Metz so that we can share and celebrate your work!**

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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](#)

**Who to Contact in HPEB:**

[Daniela Friedman, PhD](#) – Department Chair

[Andy Kaczynski, PhD](#) – Interim Associate Chair

[Christine Blake, PhD](#) – Doctoral Graduate Director

[Edena Guimaraes, PhD](#) – MPH Program Director

[Casey Giraudy, PhD](#) – Academic Programs Coordinator

[Pam Metz](#) – Office Manager

[Wendy Clemmer](#) – Grants Administrator