

2017 Project L/EARN mentor projects

Dr. Stacy Davis (Ph.D., Temple University; M.P.H., UMDNJ/Rutgers) is Instructor at the School of Public Health. **Dr. Shawna Hudson** (Ph.D., Rutgers University), medical sociologist, is an Associate Professor and Research Division Chief for the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. Dr. Davis's research seeks to gain an understanding of cancer screening in the context of behavior, social determinants of health, and disparities. Her past research projects merged diverse communication modalities ranging from print brochures to electronic health (eHealth)/mobile health (mHealth) and examination of socioeconomic and racial disparities to develop multi-level interventions designed to improve cancer screening and cancer survivorship outcomes in diverse populations. Dr. Hudson studies organizational factors in primary care settings that facilitate increased use of evidence based care practices and interventions to enhance preventive health care seeking behaviors of patients. Projects available to Project L/EARN interns include 1) the efficacy of a mobile health intervention to promote adherence to annual colorectal cancer screening in healthy medically underserved populations, 2) the role of health literacy in the use of eHealth intervention to manage symptoms and care plans among diverse cancer survivors, and 3) survivors' motivation and decision making in regards to seeking cancer follow-up care and their preferences for care delivery from cancer and cancer-related specialists vs. primary care physicians.

Dr. Antoinette Y. Farmer (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh) is Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the School of Social Work. Her research focuses on examining the social and interpersonal factors that affect parenting as well as how parenting practices influence adolescent high risk behaviors, such as delinquency and substance use. Her current research examines the effects of religion/spirituality and parenting practices on adolescent high risk behaviors, such as delinquency, sexual activity, and substance use. She is also interested in looking at how parenting stress and maternal mental health affect parenting practices.

Dr. Tobias Gerhard (Ph.D., University of Florida) and **Dr. Daniel Horton** (M.D., Harvard Medical School; MSCE, University of Pennsylvania) are Associate Professor of Pharmacy and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, respectively. Both are core members of the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research. Their research focuses on the use, safety, and effectiveness of psychotropic medications and immunosuppressive drugs in various large populations (pharmacoepidemiology) using clinical and administrative datasets. The topics for Project L/EARN 2017 could include patterns, trends, and disparities of prescription drug utilization in the United States or the United Kingdom.

Dr. Michael K. Gusmano (Ph.D., University of Maryland at College Park) is an Associate Professor of Health Policy in the Rutgers University School of Public Health and a core member of the Institute for Health, Health Care and Aging Research. In addition to his appointments at Rutgers, Dr. Gusmano is a research scholar at the Hastings Center. His research focuses on health and health care inequalities, the politics of health care reform and comparative health systems. He has written two books and several articles comparing the health systems in Hong Kong, Montreal, New York City, London, Paris and Tokyo. He is expanding this research to cities in middle income countries (Moscow, New Delhi, Saõ Paulo, and Shanghai). His research on these cities uses mortality, health survey and census data to explore individual and neighborhood level inequalities in health and access to health care.

Dr. Thomas Mackie (Ph.D., Brandeis University) and **Mr. Erick Rojas, Esq.** (Project L/EARN alumnus, M.P.H., Columbia University; J.D., Rutgers University) are Assistant Professor and Research Project Assistant at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, respectively. Their current work investigates policy and programmatic interventions that aim to improve the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents from underserved communities within the United States. They are currently engaged in multiple projects that document state- and county-level variation in mental health policy and programmatic innovation and then evaluate whether or not these policies are effective in improving access and quality of care, and reducing cost. Their work has a particular focus on those children and youth who are living in poverty or engaged in the child welfare system. They are particularly interested in examining both (1) the patterns of Autism Spectrum Disorder nationally and associated disparities in service use among socially and economically disadvantaged families, as well as (2) the disproportionate burden placed on socially and economically disadvantaged families in raising children with special health care needs.

Dr. Jane E. Miller (Ph.D., Pennsylvania) is a Professor at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Her research interests include relationships between poverty, child health, health insurance, and access to health care. Dr. Miller's current research investigates risk factors for financial and time impacts on families of children with chronic health conditions. Specifically, she is studying the roles of family structure, socioeconomic status, health status (stability and severity of health care needs; type of health condition), and health system factors (insurance and presence of medical home) on the amount of time family members spend providing health care for the child at home, or arranging/coordinating their health care. In another project, she is investigating the association between access to needed health care services (e.g., home health care, respite care) and family time burden.

Dr. Dawne M. Mouzon (M.P.H., UMDNJ; M.A., Ph.D., Rutgers University) is a sociologist and Assistant Professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public. Her work largely focuses on physical and mental health disparities facing low-income communities and communities of color. Dr. Mouzon has also written a series of papers on the "Black-White paradox in mental health," or the unexpected finding that Black Americans typically exhibit better mental health outcomes than Whites despite their lower socioeconomic standing and greater exposure to racial discrimination. Dr. Mouzon currently leads projects investigating: 1) the roles of racial discrimination, racism-related coping, and resilience on the mental and physical health of African Americans; and 2) the role of the marriage decline on women's family formation opportunities and health. Her work largely addresses important intersections of race, gender, and social class.

Dr. Lenna Nepomnyaschy (Ph.D., Columbia University) is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work. Her research interests are broadly focused on how poverty, inequality, and social welfare policies impact all areas of child and family health and well-being. **Dr. Julie Phillips** (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania) is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and faculty affiliate at the Health Institute. Her research broadly investigates how structural and cultural features of society influence behavior and produce inequality. The research project they will be co-mentoring for the Project L/EARN summer intern will focus on exploring whether father involvement is associated with reducing disparities in well-being between children in higher and lower-income families.