



# Arnold School of Public Health

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior NEWS AND KUDOS ~ December 2023 Edition



### **Message from the Chair**

Congratulations to everyone on completing the Fall 2023 semester! You have likely experienced some uncertainty and steep learning curves along the way, and you did not shy away from them. That is success right there and you should be very proud.

Some of you know that I enjoy the music of Reba McEntire and may have seen her in concert just a few (!) times. In her recent book, *Not That Fancy*, she includes this line: “*The flip side of fear isn’t fearlessness. It’s curiosity. There’s no magic switch to make you unafraid, but curiosity has a way of pushing us past our fears to say ‘yes’ to the things that could be good for us.*” I was drawn to this line because I strive to be curious about learning - and learning about others’ interests - each and every day. The quote also reminds me of the advice my late mother gave me: “*Never be afraid to be adventurous and curious and happy.*” Interesting framing.

However, if I may take the liberty to modify Reba’s writing, I recommend we expand upon her idea to the following: “*Curiosity has a way of pushing us past our fears to say ‘yes’ to the things that could be good for us AND to say ‘no’ to things that may not be a good fit for us at this time. Learning how to say ‘no’ without closing the door to future opportunities is the key.*”

Perhaps you did not need the expansion of Reba’s idea, but I believe it is important to be explicit about this. I recognize it is difficult to say ‘NO’ to added work even when you are already up to your ears in it. Some of you have reached out to me this semester for tips on if and how to say no. As we discussed, more often than not, it may be very appropriate to say no. I do not, however, recommend turning down an opportunity immediately without thinking it through. If we can help it, the decision-making process should be thoughtful and meaningful and not quick and reactive. There may not be a lot of time to make decisions so I urge you to consult close mentors in situations like these. It has become so clear to me over time that the complicated piece of this is not simply the act of agreeing or declining. It is figuring out how to evaluate the immediate- and long-term benefits of the opportunity and ensuring we consider ourselves and our health and well-being in the process.

I know it can be difficult to communicate such a message to collaborators, advisors, and colleagues. I still consult with peer mentors, and they turn to me in some sticky situations. As Reba also said – and I do not see a need to tweak her words on this one – “*It’s very important to surround yourself with people you can learn from.*”

Thank you for the continued opportunity for me to do so in HPEB.  
Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season. – Daniela Friedman

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Gene Brown, HPEB Grant and Account Manager, on her December 2023 retirement. Gene, thank you for sharing your kindness and expertise with us. We wish you the very best on your next adventures!

Congratulations to Joni Zwemer, for 20 incredible years in her Coordinator role with Dr. Xiaoming Li and his research teams and centers! Here's to another 20 years, Joni!

Erin Looney, HPEB MPH student, is the Fall 2023 recipient of the Ann Cassady Endowed Fellowship.

Morgan Boncyk, HPEB PhD student, is the Fall 2023 recipient of the Butterfoss Community-Based Research Endowed Fellowship.

Congratulations to Kimanh Le, HPEB PhD student, for completing the Preparing Future Faculty certificate from the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Google User Experience Design & Research Certificate.

Congratulations to Keren Herrán, HPEB PhD student, who earned the Preparing Future Faculty certificate from the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. Xueying Yang was selected to serve on the 2024 South Carolina HIV, STD, and Viral Hepatitis Conference Planning Committee.

Frances Ashe-Goins, HPEB affiliate, was appointed to the Richland Memorial Hospital Board.

Dr. Jennifer Mandelbaum, HPEB alum, received the Early Career Award from the American Public Health Association's Public Health Education and Health Promotion section.

Dr. Heather Brandt, HPEB alum and faculty affiliate, received the Friend of the LGBTQ Health Caucus award from the American Public Health Association.

## HPEB in the News

Alexis Bell, HPEB PhD student, and Dr. John Bernhart were on a local Augusta news station promoting the NEW Soul Study. [LINK](#)

Dr. Deborah Billings was featured in The State newspaper discussing abortion ban news in South Carolina. [LINK](#)

Dr. Emily Mann was featured on the Arnold School website for her recent grant from the NSF Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences focused on the biomedicalization of advanced maternal age. [LINK](#)

Dr. Shan Qiao and colleagues were featured on the Arnold School website for their research and publication in *AIDS and Behavior* focused on seven lessons regarding health care system resilience learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

Dr. Xueying Yang and colleagues were featured on the Arnold School website in recognition of their new R21 grant from the NIH/National Institute of Nursing Research focused on patterns and predictors of racial and ethnic disparities in the HIV care continuum in the South. [LINK](#)

## Funding News

Victoria Adebisi, HPEB PhD student, was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Nestlé Foundation. The grant will fund her dissertation entitled, *Breastfeeding Decision-making and Practices Among Working Mothers and Role of External Influences in Urban Nigeria*.

Ally Hucek, HPEB PhD student, is recipient of a 2023 Graduate Student Scholarship in Aging from the ASPH Office for the Study of Aging for her research proposal entitled, *Screening for Social Isolation Among Older Adults: An In-Depth Study of Healthcare Providers' Experiences and Practices*.

Dr. Xueying Yang and team have just been awarded a two-year grant from NIH/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for upcoming research entitled, *Transitioning Youth Living with HIV to Adult-Oriented Care: A Statewide Population-based Study*.

## Dissertation and Practice Experience Presentations

Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertations:

Christiana Johnson, *"Lived Experiences of College-Educated Black Women: Contextualizing Gendered Racial Health Disparities"*

Victoria Lambert, *"Social Network Attributes Associated with Conversations about Smoking and Cessation and Differences by Socioeconomic Status"*

Mohammad Masudur Rahman, *"Information exchange through social networks links to adoption of child feeding practices in rural areas of Nepal"*

Mayank Sakhuja, *"No More Loosies: A Mixed-Methods Study on the Implementation and Enforcement of the Loose Cigarette and Bidi Sale Ban in India"*

Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertation proposals:

Jaron King, *"An Examination of Self-Identity in Relation to Smoking and Vaping in South Carolina"*

Charity Ntansah, *"Communicating about a Nicotine Reduction Policy Among People Who Use Little Cigars and Cigarillos"*

Ran Zhang, *"Multilevel Factors Affecting COVID-19 Vaccination Among African American Communities in South Carolina"*

Congratulations to the following students who presented their practice experiences:

Tyra Murray, “Does My Waist Size Matter?”

Lindsey Rubin, “Understanding the Landscape of Diabetes Self-Management in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Uganda (PATH Diabetes CarePak)”

## Publications & Presentations

Aghaei A, Herrán K, Fanaei SA, Khalili M, Jayadev P. Lived experiences of neurofibromatosis type 1 patients: Social life, stigma, and intervention strategies. *Journal of Health Psychology* 2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/13591053231208619>

Au LE, Arnold CD, Ritchie LD, Lin SK, Frongillo EA. Differences in Infant Diet Quality Index by race and ethnicity predict differences in later diet quality. *Journal of Nutrition* 153(12):3498-3505;2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tjn.2023.10.010>

Banerjee T, Frongillo EA, Turan JM, Sheira LA, Adedimeji A, Wilson T, Merenstein D, Cohen M, Adimora AA, Ofotokun I, Metsch L, D’Souza G, Fischl MA, Fisher M, Tien PC, Weiser SD. Lowering dietary acid load through fruit and vegetable intake may slow kidney function decline in women with HIV. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* 94(3):203-210;2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/QAI.0000000000003269>

Blackwell S, Stark Taylor S, Criss S, Kemper K, Friedman DB, Thompson W, Donelle L, MacGilvray P, Natafji N. Improving patient health literacy during telehealth visits through virtual-based teach-back methods training for family medicine residents: A pilot two-arm cluster, non-randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Medical Informatics Research (JMIR) Formative Research* 2023.

<https://doi.org/10.2196/51541>

Brown AD, Liese AD, Shapiro ALB, Frongillo EA, Wilkening G, Fridriksson J, Merchant AT, Henkin L, Jensen ET, Reboussin BA, Shah AS, Marcovina S, Dolan LM, Dabelea D, Pihoker, Mendoza JA, Household Food insecurity and cognitive function in youth and young adults with type 1 or type 2 diabetes mellitus. *Pediatric Diabetes* 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2023/6382663>

Bruno P, Fuller C, Draper C, Keller K, Rose C, Balestracci K, Misyak S, Younginer N (2023, October). Asset framing and ethical storytelling: A practical workshop to advance equity through inclusive narrative. Oral presentation at the annual conference of the American Evaluation Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Chupak A, Hallum S, Thomas K, Witherspoon E, Looney E, Kaczynski A. (2023, November). Identifying geographic disparities in the relationship between neighborhood walkability and pedestrian and cyclist crashes: variations by social vulnerability across census tracts within South Carolina. Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Draper C, Herrstadt Z, Page Bookhart, A (2023, July). Advancing food policy councils through SNAP-Ed: from readiness to capacity for future sustainability. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior, Washington, DC.

Draper C, Younginer N, Young G (2023, July). COVID-19 impact on the financial and food situations of South Carolinians participating in a SNAP-Ed produce box intervention. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior, Washington, DC.

Fishbein EM, Frongillo EA, Samin S, Richards AL, Blake CE, Saunders RP, Shapiro CJ. Understanding commitment of local food banks, faith-based organizations, and schools to provide non-government food programs. *Current Developments in Nutrition* 7:2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cdnut.2023.102005>

Flax VL, Bose, S, Escobar-DeMarco J, Frongillo EA. Changing maternal, infant, and young child nutrition practices through social and behavior change interventions implemented at scale: Lessons learned from Alive & Thrive. *Maternal & Child Nutrition* 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.13559>

Hucek FA, Leonard MS, Owens OL, Olscamp K, Friedman DB. (2023, October). Exploring the transportation needs of older adults aging in place in South Carolina. Poster presentation at the 2023 Center for Healthy Aging Research Symposium hosted by the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC.

Isanovic S, Constantinides SV, Frongillo EA, Bhandari S, Samin S, Kenney E, Wertheim-Heck S, Nordhagen S, Holdsworth M, Dominguez-Salas P, Ambikapathi R, Laar A, Patil CL, Kulkarni B, Bukachi SA, Ngutu M, Blake CE. How perspectives on food safety of vendors and consumers translate into food choice behaviors in six African and Asian countries. *Current Developments in Nutrition* 7:2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cdnut.2022.100015>

Kim SS, Sununtnasuk C, Berhane HY, Walissa TT, Oumer AA, Asrat YT, Sanghvi T, Frongillo EA, Menon P. Feasibility and effectiveness of school-based nutrition education interventions on the diets of adolescent girls in Ethiopia: a cluster-randomized trial. *Lancet Child and Adolescent Health* 2023. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642\(23\)00168-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(23)00168-2)

King Z, Weaver A, Carter N, Brittain B, Viventi V. (2023, November). Food is Medicine SC: Building Relationships between Healthcare Organizations and Food Access Partners to Address Nutrition Insecurity. Oral presentation at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual South Carolina Annual Rural Health Conference, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Looney E, Hallum S, Chupak A, Thomas K, Porter D, Kaczynski A. (2023, November). Exploring disparities in exposure to fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) according to social vulnerability in South Carolina from 2000-2018. Poster presentation for the Student Achievement Poster Award Track at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Monroe CM, Cai B, Edney S, Jake-Schoffman DE, Brazendale K, Bucko A, Armstrong B, Yang CH, Turner-McGrievy G. Harnessing technology and gamification to increase adult physical activity: a cluster randomized controlled trial of the Columbia Moves pilot. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity* 20(1):129;2023. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-023-01530-1>

Nguyen PH, Sununtnasuk S, Christopher A, Ash D, Ireen S, Kabir R, Mahmud Z, Ali M, Forissier T, Escobar-DeMarco J, Frongillo EA, Menon P. Strengthening nutrition interventions during antenatal care improved maternal dietary diversity and child feeding practices in urban Bangladesh: Results of a quasi-experimental evaluation study. *Journal of Nutrition* 2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tjnut.2023.06.023>

Onono MA, Frongillo EA, Sheira L, Odhiambo G, Wekesa P, Conroy A, Cohen CR, Bukusi EA, Weiser SD. Links between household-level income-generating agricultural intervention and the psychological wellbeing of adolescent girls in HIV-affected households in southwestern Kenya: A qualitative inquiry. *Journal of Nutrition* 153(12):3595-3603;2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tjnut.2023.10.008>

Palar K, Sheira LA, Frongillo EA, Kushel M, Wilson TE, Conroy AA, Adedimeji A, Merenstein D, Cohen MH, Wentz EL, Adimora AA, Ofotokun I, Metsch L, Turan JM, Tien PC, Weiser SD. Longitudinal relationship between food insecurity, engagement in care, and ART adherence among US women living with HIV. *AIDS and Behavior* 23;2023. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-023-04053-9>

Pepetone A, Frongillo EA, Dodd KW, Wallace MP, Hammond D, Kirkpatrick SI. Prevalence and severity of food insecurity before and during the COVID-19 pandemic among adults and youth in Australia, Canada, Chile, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States. *Journal of Nutrition* 153(4):1231-1243;2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tjnut.2022.12.031>

Puma J, Quinlan J, Bruno P, Keller K, Franck K, Lim SS, Draper C, Bergling E, Foerster S. First analysis of nationwide trends in use of the SNAP-Ed evaluation framework. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* 55(3):235-244;2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2022.11.008>

Rudisill AC, Eicken MGA, Gupta D, Macaуда M, Self S, Kennedy AB, Thomas D, Kao E, Jeanty M, Hartley J. Patient and care team perspectives on social determinants of health screening in primary care: A qualitative study. *JAMA Network Open* 6(11):e2345444;2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.45444>

Seaman AT, Rowland JH, Werts SJ, Tam RM, Torres TK, Hucek FA, Wickersham KE, Fairman CM, Patel HD, Thomson CA, Hebert JR, Friedman DB. Examining provider perceptions and practices for comprehensive geriatric assessment among cancer survivors: An implementation science focus. *Frontiers in Aging (Interventions in Aging)* 2023. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fragi.2023.1305922>.

Tinago CB, Frongillo EA, Warren AM, Chitiyo V, Jackson TN, Cifarelli AK, Fyalkowski S, Pauline V. Testing the effectiveness of a community-based peer support intervention to mitigate social isolation and stigma of adolescent motherhood in Zimbabwe. *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10995-023-03821-2>

Weaver, A. (2023, October). Scaling and Infrastructure. Invited panelist at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Food is Medicine Symposium - State Policy Workshop at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA.

Young SL, Bethancourt HJ, Cafiero C, Gaitán-Rossi P, Koo-Oshima S, McDonnell R, Melgar-Quíñonez H, Neufeld LM, Oenema S, Pérez-Escamilla R, Viviani S, Frongillo EA. Acknowledging, measuring and acting on the importance of water for food and nutrition. *Nature Water* 2023.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44221-023-00146-w>

Younginer NA, Draper CL. Capacity, communication, and coordination are key to successful implementation of policy, systems, and environmental strategies at SNAP-Ed partner sites in one Southeastern US State: A qualitative approach. Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2023.07.016>

## Photo Gallery

Erin Looney and Gazi Pritom delivered food and toiletries to The Gamecock Pantry on behalf of HPEB.

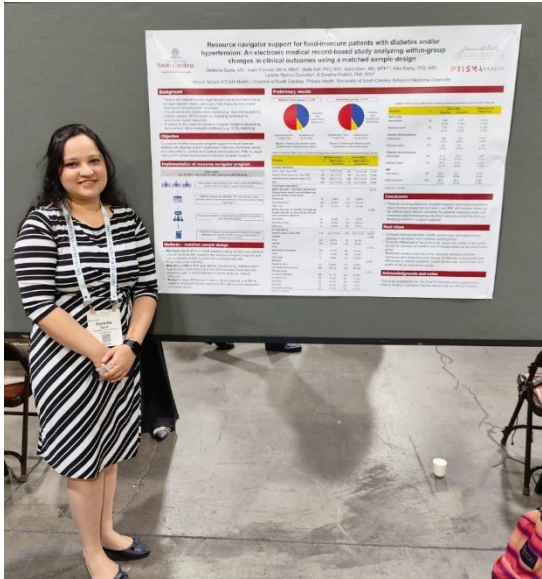
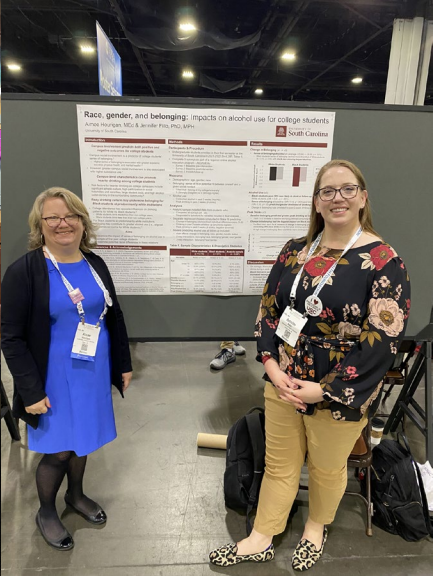


HPEB Rocks the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting! (November 2023)









HPEB and the Center for Healthcare Quality know how to party!

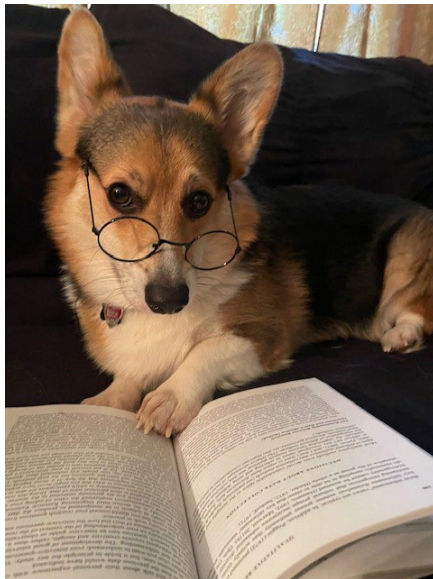


On October 17, Dr. Kaczynski's HPEB 511 honors class hit the road! After learning all about the public transit system in Columbia from Ali Ruegamer with Able South Carolina, including how the Comet plays an integral part in the city's active transportation network, the students rode the bus from campus to downtown Cola before conducting a walking audit of the various walkability and safety improvements on Main Street.

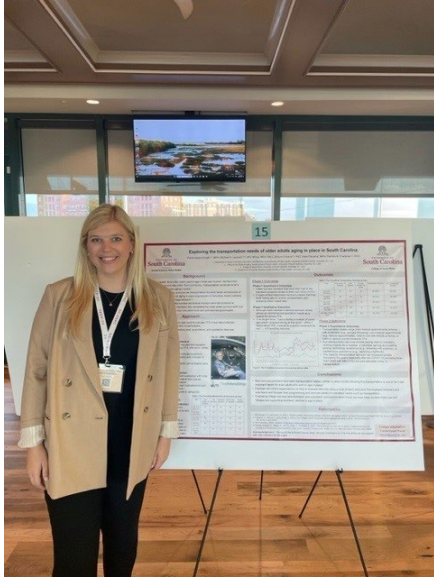
Then On October 31, Dr. Kaczynski dressed up as Andre Agassi for Halloween!



# HPEB Babies and Pets



## More Conference Presentations



## HPEB Picnics

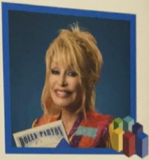


**Please send submissions for *News and Kudos* to Pam Metz so that  
we can share and celebrate your work!**

**HPEB Discovery | 915 Greene Street 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbia SC, 29208  
PMETZ@mailbox.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](#)





**APHA Presidential Citation**  
Dolly Parton  
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



**David P. Rall Award for Advocacy in Public Health**  
Pedro Hallal, PhD, MPH  
Alvin and Ruth Spindler professor of Epidemiology and  
—of the Master of Public Health program  
—of the Minnesota Urbanic Champions