

Christine Mackay

RN and PhD Student, University of Kansas Medical Center

I have been involved in clinical trials research for over 20 years. I have a well-rounded drug development background having worked for various clinical research organizations, a biopharmaceutical company and currently at the University of Kansas Cancer Center. I have conducted data management functions, conducted site visits and audits as a Clinical Research Associate and managed the conduct of local and global clinical trials as a Project Director. My current research focus through my PhD program is evaluating health inequities that affect cancer clinical trial enrollment, such as health insurance coverage for participation.

Joseph Lightner

Health Commission Liaison, City of Kansas City, Missouri Health Department

Dr. Lightner has been involved in the link between the built environment and health during his tenure as Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the City of Manhattan, KS and while completing his MPH and PhD at Kansas State University. Dr. Lightner has published several peer-reviewed manuscripts on the topics of built environment, social determinants, and inequality. In his current position, Dr. Lightner provides staff support on legislative actions to combat inequities in health.

Araba Kuofie

Student, University of Kansas

Araba Kuofie is a graduate student in the clinical psychology program at the University of Kansas. Prior to University of Kansas, she received her B.A. in Psychology at the University of Missouri - Kansas City then served as an Evaluation Coordinator on two federal grants (SAMHSA & HRSA) and a research assistant on an NIMDH grant. Her research interests are in health disparities, and evaluating facilitators and barriers to health care accessibility. Other interests include examining the influence of cultural and societal factors on mental health stigma, and health promotion and awareness.

Darlingtina Atakere

Ms., University of Kansas

Darlingtina Atakere is a Doctoral student in the Department of Psychology and Gerontology at the University of Kansas. Atakere's research examines social determinants of health and health outcomes among older minorities. In addition, an emerging area of interest for her is the examination of cultural ecological variations in eldercare, specifically looking at filial/felt obligation towards elderly parents with chronic illness.

Jaime Perales

PhD, MPH, University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center

Jaime Perales Puchalt is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center (KU ADC). The KU ADC is devoted to addressing health disparities among ethnic minority groups. Dr. Perales' long term goal is to become an independent Alzheimer's disease disparities researcher. Dr. Perales has been recently involved in Envejecimiento Digno, a curriculum to increase Alzheimer's disease awareness among different layers of the Latino community. He is also involved in efforts to increase Alzheimer's awareness among the African American community. He plans to develop life modification interventions to prevent Alzheimer's among Latinos.

Katherine Gwynn

Research Assistant , KU Medical Center

Katherine Gwynn is a Research Assistant at the University of Kansas Medical Center working with the Sexual Health Empowerment Project (S.H.E. Project) and UKanQuit. She graduated in 2015 with a B.A. in English and a B.A. in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Gwynn been engaged in Reproductive Justice community health organizing and activism for a number of years, including developing a creative writing therapy rape culture curriculum for youth at The Care Center in Lawrence, and writing for the Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity as student journalist fellow. Currently, she also is a Co-Director for Project Pride, a theatre initiative for queer and trans and allied youth, based at the Coterie Theatre in Kansas City.

Amanda Grimes

Associate Teaching Professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City

My research interests include active transportation, specifically bicycling, as well as an interest in health and social issues related to aging. I am actively involved in the national and local cycling community. I am Board Co-Chair for BikeWalkKC, member of the local Women Bike KC committee, a League of American Bicyclist Certified Instructor (LCI), and have volunteer experiences teaching youth bicycling skills through the Camp WIN program. Nationally, I've attended the National Bike Summit, the National Bicycle Advocacy Day in Washington D.C, and am a member of the League of National Bicyclists. My involvement in the bicycling community has provided many opportunities to learn about innovative programs and impacts upon the local community. I have been a member of the UMKC Aging Consortium since 2013, an 11-school collaborative organization focused on improving the quality of life among aging individuals in the community.

Bailee Lutz

MS3, University of Kansas School of Medicine

Bailee Lutz is an MS3 at the University of Kansas. She desires to complete a family medicine with an emphasis in OB/Women's Health, and then care for underserved populations, both domestically and abroad. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Bulldoc Clinic at Wyandotte High School and on the Family Medicine Interest Group Executive Board.

Mariana Ramirez

LMSW, University of Kansas Medical Center

Mariana Ramirez, LSMW is Juntos Project Director. She oversees a growing number of programs in partnership with several departments at the University of Kansas Medical Center and other health-care and community-based partner organizations. She has served as a smoking cessation counselor at the University of Kansas Hospital inpatient program and has provided counseling support and supervision for electronic smoking cessation case management. She is experienced in the implementation of binational initiatives between KUMC and Mexico through the Ventanilla de Salud program and NIH-funded research studies in partnership with the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) in Mexico.

Jean Hall

Professor, University of Kansas Medical Center

Jean Hall, PhD is the director of the Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies at the University of Kansas and a professor in the University of Kansas Medical Center, Department of Health Policy and Management. Dr. Hall received her PhD in Disability Studies and has an extensive background in the evaluation of health care programs, especially for people with disabilities or chronic illnesses. A priority of her research is to give voice to people with disabilities and their experiences with the health care system.

Alissa Rankin

Public Health Initiatives Project Manager, Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute

Alissa is a Project Manager for the Center for Public Health Initiatives at the Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute. She works on the statewide Community Health Worker workforce and initiatives surrounding its development. Previously, Alissa worked at the Sedgwick County Health Department managing several programs including the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and the Oral Health Education Programs. Over her 12 years in public health, Alissa has been employed by the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She's also spent significant time volunteering for the

American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Due to her time while studying abroad in Quito, Ecuador in 2003, she has developed deep passion for disparate populations and addressing health inequities. Alissa earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2004 from Southwestern College in Winfield, KS and a Master of Public Health from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO in 2006.