

Research Roundup



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

SPRING '25

CLICK ITEMS FOR MORE INFO



EBIOMEDICINE

Study of 20K brain MRIs finds heart-healthy lifestyles can also delay brain aging

Tianzhou (Charles) Ma, PhD



MEDICAL CARE

Examining adoption of AI-assisted care coordination across hospitals, impact of underuse of AI in low income + rural hospitals

Jie Chen, PhD + Seyeon Jang, MS



PLOS WATER

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria detected in Baltimore homes impacted by sewage

Rachel Rosenberg Goldstein, PhD

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

AIDS + BEHAVIOR

This pilot study tested the feasibility, safety and preliminary effects of an integrated sexual risk reduction intervention for African American couples.

Mona Mittal, PhD

ALZHEIMERS + DEMENTION

Study examining the effects of Accountable Care Organizations enrollment on Medicare total payments for individuals newly diagnosed with Alzheimers and related dementias, focusing on neighborhood social vulnerability.

Jie Chen, PhD + Seyeon Jang, MS

CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY, BIOMARKERS + PREVENTION

Study of neighborhood factors on cancer control behaviors of African Americans by informing multilevel analytic models with the lived experiences of those impacted.

Cheryl Knott, PhD, Bhumika Desai, PhD + Asli McCullers, MPH

CONTEMPORARY CLINICAL TRIALS COMMUNICATIONS

Bridging the gap: Understanding Latino willingness to participate in public health and clinical trials research across diverse subgroups.

Stephen B. Thomas, PhD

HEALTH AFFAIRS

This study examines abortion benefits in the Medicaid program and finds state-funded abortion care improves reproductive health care.

Michel Boudreaux, PhD

HEALTH AFFAIRS

Pregnant/parenting adolescents have under-addressed mental health needs, with expected rise in teen pregnancy after state-level restrictions in contraception and abortion.

Amy Lewin, PhD

JAMA HEALTH FORUM

Study shows that Black, Hispanic and Asian people with private insurance tend to pay more out-of-pocket for maternity care than white people.

Rebecca Gourevitch, PhD

RESEARCH

JAMA
NETWORK
OPEN

Nuanced assessment of disparities in U.S. homicide rates, that identifies several populations and places where rates are high but awareness and violence prevention remains limited.

Paula Strassle, PhD

MEDICAL
CARE

Study finds top-rated healthcare and ease of getting medications linked to lower Medicare costs, including for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias patients.

Jie Chen, PhD

NICOTENE +
TOBACCO
RESEARCH

Study that developed the first-ever scale to measure "uncontrolled vaping" (when a user vapes more than they want to) among young people and adults.

Ebbie Kalan, PhD

AWARDS + MEMBERSHIPS



Distinguished University
Professor

UMD bestowed on Dr. Milton this exceptional honor, a first in the School of Public Health history and one in a handful of such titles given to tenured faculty across the university.

Donald Milton, PhD



National
Academies of
Practice

*Distinguished Fellow,
Founding Member*

**Sylvette La
Touche-Howard,
PhD**



National
Academies of
Practice

*Distinguished Fellow,
Founding Member*

**Tracy Zeeger,
PhD**



National
Academy of
Kinesiology

*Fellow, Class of
2024*

**J. Carson Smith,
PhD**

2025 Maryland Research Excellence Awards

Special Recognition Jie Chen

Awardees Nate Apathy ~ Ali Hurtado Choque

Craig Fryer ~ Rodolphe Gentili

Rebecca Gourevitch ~ Xin He

Kathleen McPhaul ~ Min Qi Wang

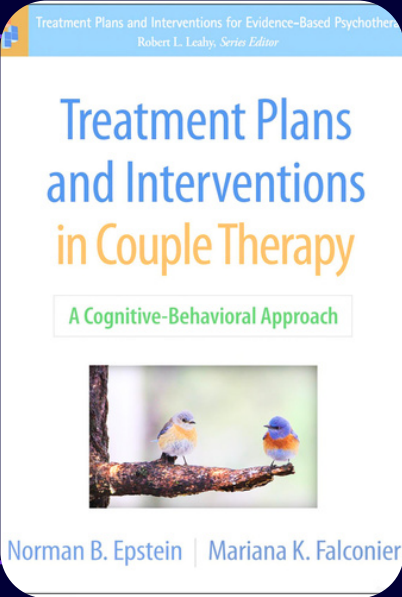
Amir Sapkota ~ Carson Smith

Kirsten Stoebenau

BOOKS

Mariana K. Falconier, PhD

Co-authored with Norman Epstein and drawing on decades of clinical experience and research, the authors demonstrate ways to tailor CBT for couples struggling with a wide variety of issues including partner aggression, infidelity, sexual problems, financial issues; parenting conflicts and depression.



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION HEALTH DATA FOR ACTION



This grant funds research exploring “ghost networks” in Medicare Advantage, where advertised lists of “in-network” providers do not match the network of providers delivering care to patients.

Mika Hamer, PhD

ENOUGH GRANT

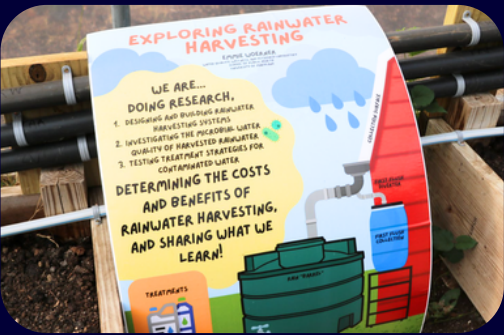


A multi-partner grant, in which SPH is the research partner of Identity Inc, awarded as part of Maryland state effort to address concentrated child poverty.

Amy Lewin, PsyD

GRANTS + FUNDING

HUGHES CENTER FOR AGRO-ECOLOGY



Dr. Goldstein, along with multiple UMD and external collaborators, will receive funding (\$132,963) from the Hughes Center to advance work on rainwater harvesting in urban agriculture.

Rachel Rosenberg Goldstein, PhD

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities



\$100,000 grant to plan for academic research center blending social and biological sciences with community knowledge to understand and promote epidemic control strategies. Dr. Thomas is co-principal investigator of the grant, led by Johns Hopkins University.

Stephen Thomas, PhD