

Research Roundup



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SPRING '26



ACADEMIA GLOBAL & PUBLIC HEALTH

HIV prevention via social media with sex workers in Cameroon

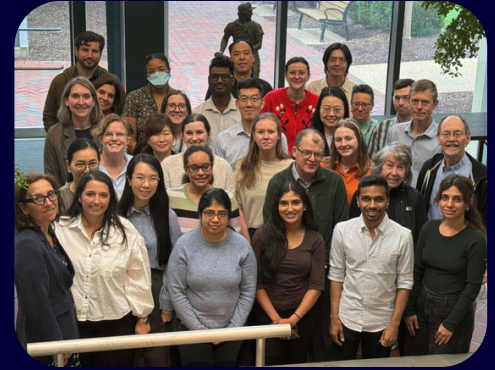
Hassanatu Blake, PhD



JAMA NETWORK OPEN

Comparison of pregnancy- and abortion-related mortality in U.S.

Maria Steenland, PhD



PLOS PATHOGENS

How flu spreads through the air between naturally infected people and uninfected people

EMIT-2 Team

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY

The impact of enrollment in Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) on drug and non-drug Medicare payments made by older people with Alzheimer's and dementia related diseases - those enrolled in ACOs had significantly lower payments.

Jie Chen, PhD

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY

Adults with Alzheimer's and related dementias are twice as likely to receive housing assistance. To build resilience in dementia care, researchers recommend integrating housing, health and social support.

Jie Chen, PhD

ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Study investigating the utilization of a new billing code for complex care management introduced in 2024, exploring how actual utilization is tracking with projected utilization; in partnership with University of Maryland Medical System.

Nate Apathy, PhD

JAMA HEALTH FORUM

Study finds Medicaid continuous coverage requirement (CCR) reduces postpartum hospitalization rate for mothers with Medicaid-paid deliveries in states with higher postpartum uninsurance rates before CCR implementation.

Maria Steenland, PhD

JAMA NETWORK OPEN

Invited commentary on the ongoing pandemic of violence against transgender people, including the significance of a 2026 systematic review on the prevalence of this violence, situating the findings in current events.

Sarah Peitzmeier, PhD

JOURNAL OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES

Study exploring digital health behavior of Black adults who use smartphones, showing that within this group, certain groups, such as older Black adults, will need additional resources to use digital health tools to their full capacity.

Devlon Jackson, PhD

JOURNAL OF TECHNOLOGY IN BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Study provides first evidence of smokers' willingness to use mobile smoking cessation support in Nigeria, with more willingness based on higher education, smartphone ownership and positive attitudes to dentist involvement.

Ebbie Kalan, PhD

RESEARCH

MILBANK QUARTERLY

Extended postpartum Medicaid eligibility (beyond the usual 60 days postpartum) during the COVID-19 pandemic saw increases in postpartum Medicaid enrollment, improved continuity of coverage and increases in emergency department visits and mental and behavioral health diagnoses.

Rebecca Gourevitch, PhD + Maria Steenland, PhD

SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Society for Research in Child Development policy brief: Anti-transgender legislation poses mental health and safety risks for transgender and gender diverse (TGD) youth and their families.

M. Bishop, PhD

APHA Disability Justice Advisory Board Member



Hassanatu Blake, PhD

The Board helps advise on the APHA Policy Center's work at the intersection of disability justice and public health.

Best of the 2025 IDSA Journals



Kristen Coleman, PhD

The paper, Avian Influenza Virus Infections in Felines: A Systematic Review of Two Decades of Literature, won Best of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Journals 2025.

Nature and Health Alliance Chair



Jennifer D. Roberts, PhD

Dr. Roberts is appointed Chair of the Nature and Health Alliance, a national research and practice group working to enhance understanding of and foster evidence for the relationships between nature and health.

Watkins-Saunders Award



Stephen B. Thomas, PhD

Award from the Baltimore & Greater Maryland American Heart Association recognizes leadership and lasting impact on advancing equitable health.

Donna Hamilton Award



James Butler III, PhD

Dr. Butler received UMD's prestigious Donna B. Hamilton Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Studies.

Eta Sigma Gamma



Tracy Zeeger, PhD

Eta Sigma Gamma Appoints Dr. Zeeger as vice president of this national public health education society with 40+ student chapters across the United States.

AWARDS + MEMBERSHIPS

GRAND CHALLENGES 2.0 GRANTS

The Women's Health Interdisciplinary Research Collaborative (WHIRC), led by Marie Thoma, will advance translational research, workforce development and evidence-based policy to close critical knowledge gaps in women's health across the lifespan, leveraging AI and community-engaged approaches.



Don Milton leads The Air We Share, A Public Health Revolution for the 21st Century, aiming to revolutionize indoor air safety by advancing the science of airborne infection transmission, demonstrating clean air interventions and building research infrastructure and leadership. Kate McPhaul and Huang Lin are among the co-PIs.



One Institutional Award includes two SPH co-PIs, Jennifer Roberts and Noah Triplett, who will collaborate on IN-PLACE: Interdisciplinary Network for Place-Based Learning, Action, & Community-Engaged EnvironMental Health.



MPOWER EARLY SCHOLARS GRANT



This grant examines how early life adversity impacts cancer screening behaviors and attitudes: Expanding the Concept of Adverse Childhood Experiences to Understand Cancer-Related Behaviors.

Héctor E. Alcalá, PhD

MPOWER BRIDGE INITIATIVE GRANT



Grant to examine whether AI mental health tools provide equitable support for marginalized adolescents and young adults, including LGBTQ+ youth and racial and ethnic minoritized groups navigating mental health concerns, substance use and suicidal ideation.

Ebbie Kalan, PhD

FULLBRIGHT SPECIALIST AWARD



This U.S. Department of State Fulbright award will support a month-long visit to Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand, where Liu will teach courses, mentor junior faculty and collaborate on research.

Hongjie Liu, PhD

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE



This grant will fund research exploring how to integrate substance use treatment into rural schools in Maryland, aiming to expand access to needed treatment and improving health outcomes.

Noah Triplett, PhD