2018 Summer Public Health Scholars Program

Summary of Research Opportunities

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Benjamin Ansa, MD, MSCR
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Research Interest:

I. Chronic disease and cancer epidemiology, prevention and control
II. Health disparities (inequities)
III. Health outcomes and Health services utilization

List of Potential Projects:

I. Health care utilization patterns among adults with chronic conditions
II. Colorectal cancer survival among clinical and socio-demographic groups

Expectation for Summer Scholar:

Scholars are expected to participate in following activities:

I. Literature review
II. Analysis of secondary data sets
III. Poster presentation of results of data analyses
IV. Manuscript preparation for publication

Other Information:

Scholars are expected to meet once weekly to discuss the progress of assigned work

Recent Publications:

- Trends in HIV Testing among Adults in Georgia: Analysis of the 2011–2015 BRFSS Data
- TEACH Kitchen: A Chronological Review of Accomplishments
- The Eating and Cooking Healthy (TEACH) Kitchen: A Research Protocol
- Paranasal sinus squamous cell carcinoma incidence and survival based on Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results data, 1973 to 2009
Madison L. Gates, PhD
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Link to Faculty Research Profile

Research Interest: Aging/Older Adults, Behavior and Health, Correctional Health, Health Informatics, Health Services Research, Incarceration, Longitudinal Analysis, and Social Determinants of Health

List of Potential Projects:

- Health profile (i.e., multimorbidity: medical, mental health, and history of substance use disorders) for aging offenders who gain and lose weight during imprisonment

Expectation for Summer Scholar:

- Short-term: Abstract submission to national conference
- Long-term: manuscript submission

Other information:

Preference will be given to medical and public health students with population-based clinical interests or obesity-related research in regard to medicine

Link to Recent Publications:

Research Interest:

Dr. Johnson’s research is focused on the implementation of evidence-based practices for substance abuse prevention and treatment. Recently, this work has incorporated technology as a means of enacting behavior change within this field. His current projects include training health professional students to identify and address unhealthy alcohol and drug use in their patients and a new project focused on improving health literacy and health outcomes (including substance use) in correctional populations.

List of Potential Projects:

a) The impact of alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention training on health professional students
   • Project Aim: The aim of this project is analyze data collected from health professional students who receive training in alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention to determine the impact of this training on student confidence in and attitudes toward addressing unhealthy alcohol and drug use in patients.
   • Project-specific Outcomes: The student scholar will assist with the analysis of data collected before and after student training as well as data from a web-based simulated patient.

b) Promoting health literacy and improved self-care management of incarcerated populations using secure tablet technology
   • Project Aim: The aim of this project is to design health literacy modules that can be loaded onto tablets and made available to incarcerated populations.
   • Project-specific Outcomes: The student scholar will assist with analysis of health needs assessment data collected from incarcerated population as well as the development of health literacy modules that will be made available to this population through secure tablet technology.
Expectation for Summer Scholar:

a) Students will prepare a poster for presentation describing the project with the following sections: abstract, background, methods, findings/results, and conclusions.
b) Students will draft a manuscript with the mentor based on the project with a goal of submitting the manuscript for publication.

Other Information:

During the summer, I will be in the office on most days from 8:30AM to 5PM with the exception of about 10 days conference travel in mid-June and a vacation week in late July.

Recent Publications:


Research Interest: Bioethics; End of life issues / Palliative care; Love; Moral dimensions of medicine

List of Potential Projects:

A. Creating a researchable database of Clinical activities / consults by the Center for Bioethics and Health Policy’s Consultative Service

B. Palliative Performance Scale’s ability to predict prognosis in seriously ill patients to the Family Medicine Inpatient Service

C. Expressing Gratitude in Clinic: Does having patients express what they are grateful for in written form and sharing with their provider improve their blood pressure and increase their satisfaction with the visit?

D. Help perform the surveys of patients for the Advance Directive study

E. See Table 1 for complete list of potential studies

Expectation for Summer Scholar:

Presentation for (a); for (b) – (d), it will depend. Possibly formulate an IRB proposal, submit and plan to conduct participate in the study once approved under mentorship.

Recent Publications:

- Blast-related mild traumatic brain injury in the acute phase: acute stress reactions partially mediate the relationship between loss of consciousness and symptoms.
- Patterns and perceptions of supplement use by U.S. Marines deployed to Afghanistan.
- Faces Disappearing: The Implications of Cystic Fibrosis Screening
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Project Title</th>
<th>Research Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creating a researchable Database for Ethics Consults</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Student, Graduate RN and BS/MD Student Interest in a Graduate Certificate or MA in Bioethics</td>
<td>Are MCG, graduate RN and BS/MD students interested in a certificate program or MA in Bioethics / Health Humanities?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of an Innovative Educational Ethics Program for Medical Students</td>
<td>What is the impact of LTE on the members' public health ethics education?</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLA Pilot Study</td>
<td>Does a person's responses on the FLA questionnaire consistently express a specific outlook on life that can be used to predict their stances on ethical issues or their behavior?</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLAs and medical student's attitudes about abortion</td>
<td>Do FLAs predict a medical student's attitudes about abortion?</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLAs and Medical Student's attitudes about Euthanasia</td>
<td>Do FLAs predict a medical student's attitudes about Euthanasia?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient's Understanding of Antenatal Genetic Testing</td>
<td>How well does a pregnant patient understand the relevant issues with antenatal genetic screening?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes of antenatal genetic testing</td>
<td>What are the antenatal outcomes of positive screening tests for Downs and CF at AUMC?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embedded Chaplain on Medical Ward Teams</td>
<td>Does having a chaplain on a ward team improve EoL Outcomes?</td>
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<td>Advance Directive Educational Intervention</td>
<td>Does systematically educating and facilitating the completion of advance directives at MCG result in improved EoL Outcomes?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) and Medical Ward Admissions</td>
<td>Does a patient's PPS at time of admission predict the patient's survival?</td>
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<td>CBHP Consult Staff Satisfaction Survey</td>
<td>Are staff satisfied with the consult provided by the CBHP?</td>
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<td>Self-Inflicted Wounds</td>
<td>What percentage of admissions to a general medical ward are for conditions directly attributable to the patient's health behaviors?</td>
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<td>Moral Distress in Community Chaplains</td>
<td>What is the moral distress of chaplains when counseling patients' life limiting conditions?</td>
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<td>BIOPIT Implementation Project</td>
<td>Does the BIOPIT model in managing End of Life Ethical Issues improve patient, family and healthcare team’s satisfaction / decrease moral distress?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expressing Gratitude in the Clinic</td>
<td>Does having patient express gratitude in written form improve their blood pressure and satisfaction with their patient encounter?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project Title</td>
<td>Research Question</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong> AD completion rates &amp; End of Life (EoL) beliefs amongst community chaplains</td>
<td>What factors effect AD completion rates amongst community chaplains</td>
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<td><strong>18</strong> Religiosity, EoL, and Healthcare</td>
<td>How does religiosity affect healthcare professionals and chaplains perceptions about aggressiveness of treatment at the EoL?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong> Physicians, Love your Patients</td>
<td>An exploratory qualitative study assessing what a physician thinks it means to love his or her patients</td>
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Becky Stone, DrPH  
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[Link to Faculty Research Profile]

**Research Interest:** Epidemiology, quality improvement and infectious disease in high risk populations; in particular bone marrow transplant patients.

**List of Potential Projects:**

- Outcomes related to sepsis using secondary data sets

**Expectation for Summer Scholar:**

- Have a clinical background, interest in the topic or population and some basic research knowledge culminating into poster and publication.

**Other Information:** Dr. Stone will be available to meet with summer scholars by appointment.

**Recent Publications:**

Research Interest: Dr. Webb’s area of expertise is in early childhood education, child development and curriculum and instruction. Her research revolves around environments for young children. Currently, she is studying factors that impact school readiness in Georgia’s Quality Rated Centers by identifying aspects of Georgia child care program most critical to children’s school readiness and those most susceptible to intervention.

List of Potential Projects:

A. A current ongoing study is to better understand group differences between Quality Rated (QR) levels of child care centers on two dependent variables: pediatric health knowledge and family engagement practices of child care providers who are employed in QR centers in Georgia. A secondary purpose of the current study is to consider the distribution of highly rated QR centers across communities stratified by median family income. A 2018 Summer Scholar could participate with the ongoing study team. A 2018 Summer Scholar could also select a subset of the variables in the data, develop a hypothesis and analyze the data.

B. A secondary interested is in the area of nutrition in the context of the meal and snack offerings at child care centers. A 2018 Summer Scholar would have the opportunity to co-develop and conduct with Dr. Webb a survey research project on this topic.

Expectation for Summer Scholar:

The 2018 Summer Scholar will develop a poster of his/her summer research which includes the following sections: a) Abstract; b) Background; c) Methods; d) Results; and e) Conclusions.

Other information:

Dr. Webb will meet on a weekly basis with her 2018 Summer Scholar.
Recent Publications:


Research Interest: My research is mainly focused on developing biostatistics and informatics methodologies that utilize complex and large amount of big data to grasp important information and to predict the risk of chronic and complex human diseases.

List of Potential Projects:

1. Health disparity on breast cancer risk using SEER cancer data
   - We will perform exploratory analysis on surveillance data to examine age-, race-, and regional-specific health disparities by overviewing trends in incidence and mortality of breast cancers. We will closely follow the paper, “Recent trends in racial and regional disparities in cervical cancer incidence and mortality” (Yoo, 2017).

Expectation for Summer Scholar:

The scholar needs to extract the study data from SEER registry data using SEER*Stat software and perform exploratory analysis.

Recent Publications:

- Publications related with this project: