

First Year Visiting Professors

Shawnika J. Hull, PhD



Dr. Hull is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Prevention and Community Health in the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. Dr. Hull earned her PhD (2010) at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Hull specializes in strategic public health communication research and practice. Her research focuses on the processes through which communication affects social and individual determinants of health, especially in the context of HIV prevention. For example, she led the research behind the strategic development, implementation and evaluation of the Acceptance Journeys social marketing campaign to reduce homophobia in the Black community in Milwaukee, WI. Her current work focuses on

increasing awareness and uptake of PrEP among Black women (BW) who are at risk for HIV exposure. The objective of her CAPS pilot research is to understand the ways drug use facilitates and constrains BW's PrEP use. She will use in-depth interviews to identify the ways drug use shapes women's risk perceptions, their attitudes toward PrEP, willingness and efficacy to use it to and how it relates to critical social-structural barriers to PrEP uptake.

Second Year Visiting Professors

Rasheeta Chandler, PhD, RN



Dr. Chandler is an Assistant Professor at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Her research interests include HIV prevention in adolescents and behavioral health. Her work, focused on young African American women ages 18 to 24, has generated new knowledge and clinically relevant strategies for improving health education within this demographic through social media and emerging technologies. Her CAPS project will explore the efficacy of using smartphones as a primary delivery platform for HIV prevention interventions targeting adolescent and young adult women of color. She has earned many recognitions for her research and leadership in minority health, including, the National Minority Quality Forum's 40 Under 40 Minority Health Leader; the NIH's Early Career Reviewer Award; and the March of Dimes of Georgia's Nurse of the Year Award in Informatics. She earned a

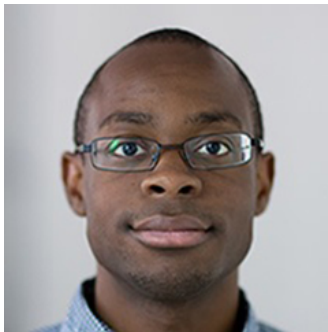
PhD and master's degree in nursing from the University of South Florida.

Kristi E. Gamarel, PhD, EdM



Dr. Gamarel is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She received her PhD in Social Psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2014 and her EdM in Psychological Counseling from Teacher's College, Columbia University in 2009. Her program of research focuses on developing and evaluating community-engaged interventions to promote positive and healthy relationships with and for racial/ethnic, sexual, and gender minority populations. Her current projects focus on developing HIV and substance use interventions for diverse sexual and gender minority communities. Her CAPS pilot study will involve adapting the first CDC endorsed "good" evidence-based couples-based HIV prevention intervention for transgender adults to include a focus on substance use and meet the developmental needs and preferences of young transgender women in Southeastern Michigan.

Jonathan Mathias Lassiter, PhD



Dr. Lassiter is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Muhlenberg College. He earned his PhD in Clinical Psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology-San Francisco in 2014 and then completed a 2-year NIH-funded postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for HIV Educational Studies & Training in New York City. He specializes in clinical psychology, clinical health psychology, spirituality, and multiculturalism. His research investigates culturally-relevant psychological resources endemic to Black men who have sex with men (MSM) and how these resources may be used to achieve or maintain positive health outcomes in the midst of multilevel adversities. His CAPS pilot study, guided by intersectionality theory and stress and coping theory, will examine the moderating role of culturally-specific spirituality on the relationship between multilevel stressors and HIV risk behaviors among Black MSM.

Julia Lechuga, PhD



Dr. Lechuga is an Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology at Lehigh University. Dr. Lechuga earned her doctorate in health psychology from The University of Texas at El Paso. Her research consists of developing and testing HIV prevention interventions for injection and non-injection substance users using community based participatory research methods. Her overarching goal is to contribute to ameliorate the profound ethnic health disparities that substance using populations face by developing, implementing and testing behavior change interventions that are culturally appropriate and meet the needs of substance users residing in medically underserved communities in the U.S. An important piece of her research is to highlight the social, cultural, and psychological factors that interventions should target to maximize their effectiveness. The HIV prevention interventions she designs target multiple levels of influence and hence, aim at exerting change at the individual, interpersonal, familial, and structural level.

Omar Martinez, JD, MPH, MS



Dr. Martinez is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Temple University. He completed his MPH in Health Policy and JD in Health Law at Indiana University in 2011 and 2012, respectively. He later went on to obtain an MS in Biostatistics at Columbia University in 2014. His research interests lie in addressing health disparities affecting Latinos, especially immigrants, men who have sex with men (MSM), and male same-sex couples. His past and current research has pertained to syndemic factors and HIV risk in Latino MSM, development and implementation of HIV prevention programs, and health inequalities research. Dr. Martinez's CAPS pilot study, titled Transhealth Information Project: A Peer-led HIV Prevention Intervention to Promote HIV Protection for Transgender Women, assesses the feasibility and acceptability of a biobehavioral HIV prevention intervention for transgender women.

Omar T. Sims, PhD



Dr. Sims is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Sims received his PhD from the University of Georgia. His program of research is focused on public health management and clinical management of liver disease caused by hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in mono-infected and HIV/HCV co-infected patients. His goal in this arena is to publish clinical and translational research to help health professionals improve health outcomes and extend life of these respective patients. He aims to accomplish this

goal by focusing his research efforts on populations heavily burdened with HCV, but often under-researched or under-represented in liver research: HIV patients living with HCV co-infection, patients with concurrent substance and alcohol use, and psychiatric disorders, African Americans, and older adults aging with HIV/HCV co-infection. His current research is focused on reduction and cessation of concurrent substance and alcohol use among HIV patients living with HCV co-infection to improve their candidacy for HCV treatment and to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with hepatic fibrosis.

Sherry C. Wang, PhD



Dr. Wang is an Assistant Professor at Santa Clara University in the Department of Counseling Psychology. Dr. Wang earned her BA in Psychology from Smith College, and her MA and PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Illinois-Chicago, where she had a rotation opportunity working with survivors of political torture. Most recently, she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she expanded her focus from immigrant and refugee mental health to examine barriers of care for African

Americans living in the Deep South. Her research interests are focused on sociocultural determinants in ethnic minority health disparities, such as the role of acculturation, stigma, and oppression in health outcomes (e.g., hazardous alcohol use, risky sexual behaviors, HIV). To better understand how individual and systemic factors perpetuate oppression, she draws from quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches. Her CAPS pilot study reflects her teaching and research interests in multicultural competency. She intends to work collaboratively with health care staff and providers to address disparities in ethnic minority HIV healthcare access, utilization, and treatment adherence.

Third-Year Visiting Professors

Glenn-Milo Santos, PhD



Dr. Santos is a Senior Research Scientist in the Center for Public Health Research in the San Francisco Department of Public Health and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Systems at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). He obtained his PhD in Epidemiology and Translational Sciences at UCSF and his MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California Berkeley. His research foci involve the development of pharmacologic and behavioral interventions to reduce substance use and HIV-related sexual risk behaviors among key populations at risk for HIV, including men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender individuals, and people who use drugs. In 2014, he was awarded the NIH Director’s Early Independence Award (EIA) to support a five-year study evaluating a medication to reduce heavy episodic drinking, “binge drinking”, and alcohol-related sexual risk behaviors among MSM at risk for HIV. His CAPS pilot study will evaluate the use of ecological momentary assessment among substance-using men who have sex with men, to inform development of a text-based intervention leveraging EMA data.