Areas of Faculty Expertise and Interest, and Potential Topics for Professional Papers
Master of Public Health, Department of Public Health

Primary Advisors

Rashmita Basu
- COVID-19 pandemic and the US healthcare system/public health strategies
- Long-term care delivery, costs, and quality of care
- COVID-19 pandemic and the future of US long-term care industry
- Outcomes and reimbursements of long-term care services and supports
- Growth in the long-term care market - how it influences individuals’ care seeking behavior
- Financing, delivery, and public health investment decision-making

Marla Hall
- Patient-provider communication
- Cultural competence academic preparation and continuing education
- Diet and physical activity behaviors among minority and/or rural populations
- Barriers to healthy eating and physical activity among minority and/or rural populations
- Access to and utilization of health services and screenings among minority and/or rural populations
- Health promotion and education activities within community settings

Greg Kearney
- Environmental/Occupational studies
- Climate change
- Respiratory health (COPD and/or asthma)
- Public health surveillance (infectious, chronic diseases, clusters)
- Occupational exposures among Latino tree trimmers
- Toxic Release Inventory and Environmental Justice in ENC
- Medicaid reimbursement for home-based asthma visits – Making a case for caseworkers in N.C.
- Mercury exposure and fish consumption patterns among underserved populations in ENC

Aaron Kipp
- Stigma related to HIV, tuberculosis, and/or substance use
- HIV and substance use (particularly marijuana or opioids)
- Access to and retention in care or treatment (particularly for HIV, TB, substance use)
- COVID-19 prevention, prevalence, and incidence
- Other infectious diseases

Suzanne Lea
- Data from GenX Exposure Study: Human health effects of unregulated chemical substances in public drinking water (multiple topics)
- Qualitative Data Analysis: Disaster recovery and community resilience after H. Matthew and H. Florence
- Descriptive Data Analysis: Preferences for communication after a hurricane
- Quantitative Data Analysis: COVID-19 among young adults (multiple topics)
- Descriptive Data Analysis: chronic kidney disease among Latinx in eastern NC
- Descriptive and Longitudinal Data Analysis: Cancer rates in eastern North Carolina
Ruth Little
- Community Based Diabetes Management Programs
- Palliative Care and Hospice
- Long Term Care Quality
- Quality measures and outcomes across health care settings
- Long Term Care Operation & Delivery: Quality/Staffing/ Survey
- Substance Abuse Prevention/Prescription Drug misuse

Huabin Luo
- Public health system research
- Oral health care access
- Preventive diabetes care access and quality
- Nursing home care quality

Stephanie Pitts
- Examine associations between healthy food access among local residents, and outcomes such as fruit/vegetable purchase and consumption, sugary beverage purchase and consumption, and skin carotenoid status.
- Conduct a mixed-methods study to examine effectiveness of a Produce Prescription Program.

Lok Pokhrel
- Risk Assessment of legacy and emerging contaminants
- Nanotoxicology (Human Toxicology and Ecotoxicology)
- Nano-Technology development to solve real world problems (e.g., Zika, superbugs, drinking water)
- Nano-Bio Interactions
- Water quality assessment in the changing world
- Microbial Resistance
- Environmental Health and Occupational Safety
- Sustainability and Green Chemistry Principles

Sinan Sousan
- Environmental and occupational exposure:
  - Agricultural airborne exposure assessment
  - Electronic cigarette exposure assessment
  - COVID-19 exposure assessment
  - Respirator protection assessment
  - Personal exposure assessment
  - Use of low-cost sensors for airborne exposure assessment
  - Heat exposure assessment
  - UV exposure assessment

Nancy Winterbauer
- Partnership evaluation – African American community engagement in response to COVID-19 - qualitative
- Organization and functions of health educators in NC local health departments - qualitative
- Volunteerism – lit review
Content Advisors

William Irish (Brody School of Medicine)
- Identification of important prognostic factors of disease progression and clinical outcomes, including validation of biomarkers
- Developing statistical models and assessing their clinical utility
- Analysis of non-randomized comparative effectiveness studies using multivariable adjustment methods
- Evaluating factors that affect access to surgical care
- Health-outcomes following kidney transplantation
- Surgical oncology outcomes research using publicly available databases, such as the National Cancer Database and the SEER database

Mark Moss (School of Dental Medicine)
- Strengthening community engagement to improve oral health in CSLC communities
- Tracking the impact of ECU School of Dental Medicine on oral health workforce distribution and access to care in NC
- Collaborative research between primary care physicians and dentists to improve health in high-risk populations. Specific interests: diabetes/prediabetes; pregnancy; and young children with high blood lead levels.
- Addressing sugar-sweetened beverage consumption in general - what works for public health

Wanda Wright (School of Dental Medicine)
- Tobacco cessation
- Oral health related quality of life
- Cultural competency training for health professionals
- Access to care
- Health disparities