

PhD Program News

Summer 2018

FROM THE DIRECTOR

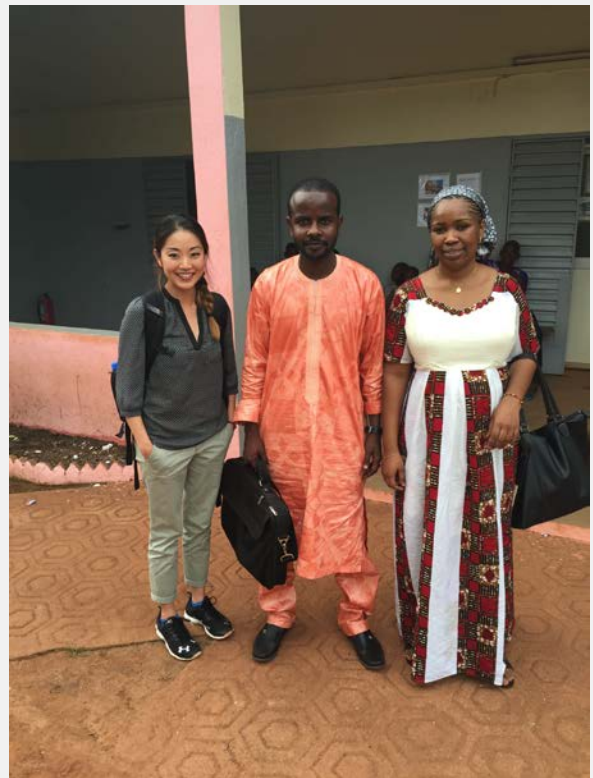
The PhD program had a terrifically busy spring. This year concluded our 8th academic year. With the graduation of Drs. Engmann, Tai, Ray, and Aiemjoy, we now have 17 alumni. Alyssa Mooney and Sarah Ackley will finish in the coming weeks. This puts a lot of pressure on Josh Demb to graduate as scheduled in December and bring us to 20 graduates before 2019.

Lest you worry that our ranks will be too small, we are welcoming an incoming class of 10 new students in the fall. This exceptional group is our largest incoming class ever due to a substantial increase in applications and higher than usual take-up rates for accepted students. We anticipate the boomer class of 2018 will be a great and lively addition to Mission Hall, even if we are considering installing double-decker-cubicles so everyone has a place to sit.

This year's Society for Epidemiologic Research annual conference was especially fun because so many of our students presented their research. First year students Crystal Langlais and Adrienne Epstein were both selected for oral presentations of the projects they completed as part of 1st year PhD seminar. Assistant Prof Jackie Torres, my co-instructor for the seminar, and I enjoyed watching the projects develop over the course of the year. Kudos are due to Drs. June Chan and Sheri Weiser, who have been generous and effective mentors for Crystal and Adrienne.

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UCSF MEI-
MRTC field visit.
Pictured:
Michelle Roh
(left),
Almahamoudou
Mahamar, and
Halimatou
Diawara (right).



Efficacy and safety of primaquine and methylene blue for prevention of Plasmodium falciparum transmission in Mali: a phase 2, single-blind randomized controlled trial

Michelle Roh, who just completed her third-year as a PhD student, published a paper in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* in February. Michelle, along with researchers at the UCSF Malaria Elimination Initiative, University of Bamako, Mali, Radboud University at Nijmegen, and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, showed that two compounds, primaquine and methylene blue, can be safely and effectively added to current antimalarial treatment regimens to block transmission of the most common and deadliest form of malaria in Africa, *P. falciparum*.

Remarkable progress has been made in reducing malaria morbidity and mortality, and currently malaria interventions have helped to reduce the malaria incidence by 50% and death rates by 60%. Yet, an estimated 216 million cases and 450,000 deaths have been documented in 2016 and despite progress, new tools will be needed to control and eliminate malaria.

Malaria has several different forms and transmission of the parasite is perpetuated through a cycle in which it is passed from mosquitoes to humans and back again. When a person is bitten by an infected mosquito, malaria parasites travel through the liver to the bloodstream, where they circulate for several weeks. The

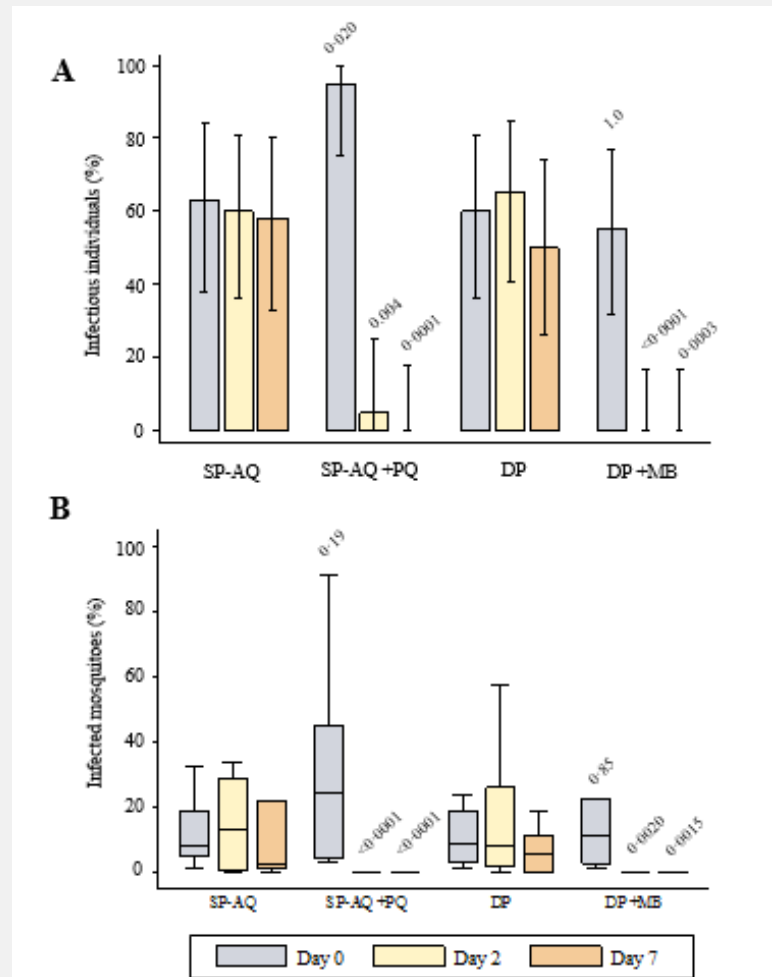
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majority of parasites replicate into asexual forms in red blood cells, which cause the symptoms of malaria when they burst. But a small percentage develop into male and female forms, called gametocytes, which play an important role in transmitting the disease back to mosquitoes. Since these gametocytes are not killed by the current, artemisinin-based combination therapies used to treat *P. falciparum*, people can continue to transmit the infection to mosquitoes for weeks after they've been treated, unless something is added to the treatment regimen to block their transmission.

The study, a phase 2 randomised controlled study conducted in Mali, randomised 80 asymptotically infected *P. falciparum* participants with detectable levels of gametocytes to receive either: sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine and amodiaquine; sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine plus a single dose of primaquine; dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine; or dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine plus a three-day course of methylene blue. Among participants who were infectious at baseline, the study found that by day two, median withinperson mosquito infectivity was reduced by 100% among participants who received primaquine or methylene blue, which was significantly higher than the 10.2% reduction observed with sulfadoxinepyrimethamine plus amodiaquine alone and a 6.0% reduction observed with dihydroartemisininpiperaquine alone. After exclusion of blue urine, which was commonly found among participants who received methylene blue, adverse events were similar between groups.

This study highlights the potential role of primaquine and methylene blue as two potent transmissionblocking drugs which can be safely added to current antimalarial regimens to prevent the spread of *P. falciparum* malaria, including its drug-resistant forms. Countries moving towards malaria elimination could consider adding primaquine or methylene to first-line treatments, as recommended by the World Health Organization, or to community-wide mass drug administration to rapidly reduce population-level malaria transmission and prevent the spread of drug resistance. However, more empirical evidence will be needed to confirm whether the addition of these drugs would have a community-level effect.

Figure. Percent (95% CI) of infectious individuals (A) and percent (median [line], IQR [box], and range [whisker]) of infected mosquitoes among those infectious at baseline (n=54) (B) by group and visit. Percent of infectious individuals defined by percent of individuals who infected at least one mosquito. Percent of infected mosquitoes defined by the number of mosquitoes with oocysts present over the total number of mosquitoes survived up to day of dissection. None of the participants in the SP-AQ +PQ arm were infectious on day 7 and none of the participants were infectious on days 2 and 7 in the DP +MB arm. P-values represent testing for between-group differences.



3rd Year PhD students hanging out. Shown here L-R: Cecilia Rodriguez with Paula, Vignesh Arasu and

his wife, Michelle Roh, Rae Wannier with Leo and Luis Rodriguez with Samantha.

Our students and post-docs had so many presentations at SER that I couldn't attend them all (check out the list on page 6) and it was gratifying when I realized the students had formed a UCSF support posse providing for impromptu last minute practices and showing up at one another's sessions.

Last year, we had a few curriculum changes, including Dr. Justin White's new class on econometric methods for epidemiologic research. This was a great success and provides a toolset that I see as increasingly essential for epidemiologists. Although few econometric methods were formally taught in epidemiology programs until recently, these tools are invaluable for more rigorous and policy relevant research in many domains. In the coming year, Dr. Chiung-Yu Huang will lead a new class to provide richer mathematical foundations for our ongoing biostatistics classes. Dr. Huang's own research emphasis focuses on handling truncated or censored data for survival analyses or analyses of recurrent events. Her class will run concurrently with the core biostatistics courses to provide students more in depth understanding and extensions to the core applications discussed in the primary biostatistics courses. We are very excited about this new class and wonder if it is open to faculty.

There's more news but fortunately some of it is now provided in our wonderful departmental newsletter (<https://epibiostat.ucsf.edu/department-newsletter>). Enjoy the summer and get ready for a great 2018/2019 academic year events (page 8), perhaps by reading The Book of Why for fall book club!

Maria Glymour, S.D.

Professor and Director, Doctoral Program in Epidemiology and Translational Sciences

2nd and 3rd year PhD students presenting their research at seminar. Shown here: Sarah Rae Wannier, Ekland Abdiwahab, Amanda Irish, Chloe Eng, Kristina Dang and Luis Rodriguez.



Kristen Aiemjoy (2018 graduate) doing research in Ethiopia on a trial on interventions to reduce smellflies in latrines. Shown here with a colleague, measuring fly density near latrines with a scudder fly grill.



Faculty feature: Peggy Cawthon, PhD, MPH

This fall, Dr. Peggy Cawthon will assume leadership for the post-doctoral program of the T32 Training in Epidemiology and Translational Research for Aging and Chronic Diseases (TE-TRAC). Dr. Cawthon's research focuses on musculoskeletal disease and healthy aging. We asked her to tell us a little about her recent work in sarcopenia, a leading cause of disability in older adults and an area where Dr. Cawthon is leading foundational research. Read more about her work at: <https://profiles.ucsf.edu/peggy.cawthon>

Sarcopenia research to understand disability risk in older adults

Sarcopenia, or the age-related loss of muscle mass and its accompanying decline in strength and physical performance, has been gaining attention in recent years. In fact, the condition of sarcopenia was recently assigned an ICD-10 code, which is a critical step in the ability to diagnose and bill for this condition, particularly in the US. Despite this recent attention, there are many important outstanding issues to resolve in sarcopenia including: how to operationalize and reach consensus for a single definition of sarcopenia for research and clinical use; how to best measure muscle mass; and the identification of the precise biological pathways in muscle that predispose individuals to mobility loss in old age. Here I highlight ways in which our research group is addressing all of these issues.



First, to operationalize the definition of sarcopenia, we have collated and analyzed data from dozens of cohort studies of older adults and smaller randomized trials of particular patient populations (such as HIV positive individuals and those recovering from hip fracture). Our early efforts resulted in the first data-based definition of sarcopenia, which was published as a series of papers in the Journals of Gerontology Medical Sciences in 2014. Since then, we have complete additional analyses to refine our work. The major results of these papers, and the implications of the results, will be discussed at a Position Development Conference in the Fall of 2018. This conference will involve an Expert Panel reviewing and voting on a series of statements about defining sarcopenia that should clearly identify areas of consensus to move the field forward, and highlight any outstanding controversies that merit additional attention to resolve.

Second, we have recently used a novel, non-invasive method to assess muscle mass in older adults, and examined this measure with adverse health outcomes in older adults, called d3-creatine dilution. Older methods to approximate muscle mass rely on relatively limited and expensive imaging devices (such as computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA)). The newer d3-creatine dilution method does not require participants to travel to a clinical center for assessment and is easier to use in the field. In addition, other approximations of muscle mass (by CT, MRI or DXA) are only weakly associated with poor outcomes in older adults (such as falls, mobility limitation and disability) while our preliminary data suggested that muscle mass assessed by d3-creatine dilution is strongly related to these outcomes. Thus, this new measure may have important uses in clinical and research settings.

Finally, we are about to embark on the development of a new cohort study of older men and women at risk of mobility limitation called SOMMA, the study of mobility, muscle and aging. Lead by a team of outstanding Principal Investigators (Steve Cummings, CPMC; Steve Kritchevsky, Wake Forest; Anne Newman, University of Pittsburgh; and Russ Hepple, University of Florida), SOMMA will be run by the San Francisco Coordinating Center. This study will recruit about 1000 older men and women for complete characterization of physical performance and changes in mobility, and these participants will all undergo a muscle biopsy. We will then investigate the link between key biological properties and pathways in muscle tissue (such as autophagy, oxidative stress, and mitochondrial function) to declining performance and disability. Our hope is that the SOMMA study will identify new therapeutic targets that will ultimately prevent mobility problems in older adults.

Roh, Michelle

Dicko A, **Roh ME**, Diawara H, Mahamar A, Soumare HM, Lanke K, Bradley J, Sanogo K, Kone DT, Diarra K, Keita S. Efficacy and safety of primaquine and methylene blue for prevention of *Plasmodium falciparum* transmission in Mali: a phase 2, single-blind, randomised controlled trial. *The Lancet infectious diseases*. 2018 Feb 6.

Chen I, Diawara H, Mahamar A, Sanogo K, Keita S, Kone D, Diarra K, Djimde M, Keita M, Brown J, **Roh ME**. Safety of single dose primaquine in G6PD-deficient and G6PD-normal males in Mali without malaria: an open-label, phase 1, dose-adjustment trial. *The Journal of infectious diseases*. 2018 Jan 12.

Rodriguez, Luis

Barquera S, Schillinger D, Aguilar-Salinas CA, Schenker M, **Rodriguez LA**, Hernández-Alcaraz C, Sepúlveda-Amor, J. Type 2 Diabetes in People of Mexican Origin: The Need for Collaborative Research and Action on Both Sides of the US-Mexico Border. In review, *Globalization & Health*, 2018.

Jin Y, Kanaya, A, Kandula, N, **Rodriguez, LA**, Talegawkar, S. Vegetarian diet and cardiometabolic health among middle-older aged South Asians in the United States. Under Review.

Kelly, Dan

Kelly JD, Richardson ET, Drasher M, Barrie MB, Karku S, Kamara M, Hann K, Dierberg K, Hubbard A, Lindan CP, Farmer PE, Rutherford GW, Weiser SD. Food Insecurity as a Risk Factor for Outcomes Related to Ebola Virus Disease in Kono District, Sierra Leon: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Am J Trop Med Hyg*. 2018 Mar 19. doi: 10.4269/ajtmh.17-0820.

Kelly JD, Barrie MB, Mesman AW, Karku S, Quiwa K, Drasher M, Schlough GW, Dierberg K, Koedoyoma S, Lindan CP, Jones JH, Chamie G, Worden L, Greenhouse B, Weiser SD, Porco TC, Rutherford GW, Richardson ET. Anatomy of a Hotspot: Chain and Seroepidemiology of Ebola Virus Transmission, Sukudu, Sierra Leon, 2015-16. *J Infect Dis*. 2018 Mar 28;217(8):1214-1221. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiy004. PMID: 29325149.

Richardson ET, **Kelly JD**, Sesay O, Drasher MD, Desai IK, Frankfurter R, Farmer PE, Barrie MB. The symbolic violence of 'outbreak': A mixed methods, quasi-experimental impact evaluation of social protection on Ebola survivor wellbeing. *Soc Sci Med*. 2017 Dec;195:77-82

Mehrotra, Megha

Jotwani V, Scherzer R, Glidden D, **Mehrotra M**, Defechereux P, Liu A, Gandhi M, Bennett M, Coca S, Parikh C, Grant R, Shlipak M. Original Article: Pre-exposure prophylaxis with tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine and kidney tubular dysfunction in HIV-uninfected individuals. *JAIDS*. February 16, 2018.

Hojilla JC, Vlahov D, Glidden DV, Amico KR, **Mehrotra M**, Hance R, Grant RM, Carrico AW. J Skating on thin ice: stimulant use and sub-optimal adherence to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis. *Int AIDS Soc*. 2018 Mar;21

J. Carlo Hojilla, **Megha Mehrotra**, Hong-Ha M. Truong, David V. Glidden, K. Rivet Amico, Vanessa McMahan, David Vlahov, Suwat Chariyalertsak, Juan Vicente Guanira, Robert M. Grant & for the iPrEx study team. HIV sero disclosure among men who have sex with men and transgender women on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis. *AIDS Care*. 28 Oct 2017

Mascarenhas, Maya

Mascarenhas MN, Chan JM, Vittinghoff E, Van Blarigan E, Hecht F. Increasing Physical Activity in Mothers Using Video Exercise Groups and Exercise Mobile Apps: Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR Publications*. May 2018

Demb, Joshua

Braithwaite D, Miglioretti D, Zhu W, **Demb J**, Trentham Dietz A, Sprague B, Jeffrey A, Tice JA, Onega M, Henderson LM, Buist DS, Ziv E, Walter L, Kerlikowske K, Family History and Breast Cancer Risk Among Older Women in the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium Cohort. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2018

Gussous Y, Theologis AA, **Demb JB**, Tangtiphaiboonana J, Berven S. Correlation Between Lumbopelvic and Sagittal Parameters and Health-Related Quality of Life in Adults With Lumbosacral Spondylolisthesis. *Global Spine Journal*. 2017

Akinyemiju TF, **Demb J**, Izano MA, Rehkopf DH, Fang ML, Hiatt RA, Braithwaite D. The association of early life socioeconomic position on breast cancer incidence and mortality: a systematic review. *Int J Public Health*. 2017.

Ackley, Sarah

Grantz K, Chabaari W, Kagiso Ramolotja KS, Gershon B, Blum L, Worden L, **Ackley S**, Liu F, Lietman TM, Galvani AP, Prajna L and Porco TC. Spatial distribution of leprosy in India: an ecological study. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*. 2018

Aiemjoy, Kristen

Aiemjoy K, Aragie S, Gebresillasie S, Fry DM, Dagnaw A, Hailu D, Chanyavale M, Tadesse Z, Stewart A, Callahan K, Freeman M, Neuhaus J, Arnold B and Keenan J. Defining Diarrhea: A Population-Based Validation Study of Caregiver-Reported Stool Consistency in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 26 February 2018

Tai, Caroline

Gauderman WJ, Mukherjee B, Aschard H, Hsu L, Lewinger JP, Patel CJ, Witte JS, Amos C, **Tai CG**, Conti D, Torgerson DG, Lee S, Chatterjee N. Update on the State of the Science for Analytical Methods for Gene-Environment Interactions. *Am J Epidemiol* 2017 Oct 1

Ray, Kathryn

Ray K, Prajna V, Lalitha P, Rajaraman R, Krishnan T, Patel S, Das M, Shah R, Dhakhwa K, McLeod S, Zegans M, Acharya N, Lietman T, And Rose-Nussbaumer J, The Significance of Repeat Cultures in the Treatment of Severe Fungal Keratitis. *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. February 2018.

Keenan J, Bailey R, West S, Arzika A, Hard J, Weaver J, Kalua K, Mrongo Z, **Ray K**, Cook C, Lebas E, O'Brien, K, Azithromycin to Reduce Childhood Mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa. *N Engl J Med* 2018

Mooney, Alyssa

Mooney, A.C., Giannella, E., Glymour, M.M., Neilands, T.B., Morris, M.D., Tulsy, J., Sudhinaraset, M. (2018). Racial Disparities in Arrests for Drug Possession after California Proposition 47, 2011-2016. *American Journal of Public Health*.

Arasu, Vignesh

Arasu VA, Kannan N, Krishnarao PM, Kuehner G, Kuan MC, Kim JC, Joe BN, Lee AY. Imaging the Breast in Pregnant or Lactating Women. *Curr Radiol Rep* (2018) 6: 10.

Lee AY, Nguyen VT, **Arasu VA**, Greenwood HI, Ray KM, Joe BN, Price ER. Verification of sonographic-MRI correlation after percutaneous sampling of targeted breast ultrasound lesions: Initial experiences with a limited sequence non-contrast MRI for post-procedural Roentgenology 2018 Apr;210(4):927-934.

Accomplishments: Conference Presentations

Langlais, Crystal

Langlais CS, Cowan JE, Broering JM, Kenfield SA, Van Blarigan EL, Cooperberg MR, Carroll PR, Chan JM. Obesity and prostate cancer recurrence following radical prostatectomy. Society for Epidemiologic Research, Baltimore, MD, June, 2018.

Rodriguez, Luis

Design of a Cluster-Randomized Trial of the Effectiveness and Cost-effectiveness of Metformin on Diabetes Prevention among Prediabetic Mexican Adults (the PRuDENTE Initiative of Mexico City). University of California Global Health Institute. Global Health Day, San Diego, CA. April, 2018.

Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Among Women with and without Breast Cancer. Society for Epidemiologic Research 51st Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. June, 2018.

Eng, Chloe

Memory change after stroke: has the relationship weakened in recent years? Society for Epidemiology Research Meeting. Baltimore, MD. June 2017

Engmann, Natalie

Engmann NJ, Scott CG, Jensen MR, Winham SJ, Ma, et al. Longitudinal changes in volumetric breast density in healthy women across the menopausal transition. *Presented at the American Society of Preventive Oncology Annual Meeting, New York, NY, March 2018.*

Cara Smith Gueye, Gretchen Newby, **Engmann NJ**, Scott CG, Jensen MR, et al. Overweight and obese women with high volumetric breast density at high breast cancer risk. *Presented at American*

Association of Cancer Research Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2018.

Irish, Amanda

Use of remote sensing data and machine learning to predict roof type for indoor residual spraying campaigns. Society of Epidemiology Research Meeting, Baltimore, MD, June 2018

Mooney, Alyssa

Did Reducing Criminal Penalties for Drug Possession in California Affect Racial Disparities in Drug Arrests? Presenting at the Population Association of America conference on April 2018.

Epstein, Adrienne

Epstein A, Torres JM, Glymour MM Drought and Undernutrition Among Children Under 5 in Uganda. Society for Epidemiologic Research Meeting. Baltimore, MD. June 2018.

Abdiwahab, Ekland

Abdiwahab, EA; Tahir, P; Hiatt, RA. Social Gradient in Cancer Incidence and Mortality: A Systematic Review. Poster presentation at: American Society for Preventive Oncology Annual Meeting; 2018 March 12; New York, NY.

Abdiwahab, EA; Ospina-Romero, M; Filshtein, T; Brenowitz, WD; Kobayashi, LC; Mayeda, ER; Glymour, MM. Association Between Cognitive Change and Cancer Incidence: findings from the Health and Retirement Study. Poster presentation at: Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting; 2018 June 21; Baltimore, MD

Abdiwahab, EA; Tahir, P; Hiatt, RA. Social Gradient in Cancer Incidence and Mortality: A Systematic Review. Poster presentation at: American Society for Preventive Oncology Annual Meeting; 2018 March 12; New York, NY.

Demb, Joshua

Oral Presentation: Cumulative incidence of breast cancer and mortality by comorbidity are-linked Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium cohort study. American Society of Preventive Oncology Conference, New York, NY.

Multi-level impact of the Great Recession on screening mammography utilization in the United States. Society for Epidemiology Research Meeting. Baltimore, MD. June 2018.

Wannier, Rae

Modelling the Impact of Trachoma MDA on GU Chlamydia Using Transmission Model. Society for Epidemiology Research Meeting. Baltimore, MD. June 2018.

Dang, Kristina Van

Does exposure to organophosphate pesticides modify the association of low neighborhood socioeconomic position with greater cognitive decline? Society for Epidemiology Research Meeting. Baltimore, MD. June 2018.

Ackley, Sarah

Multiple exposures, reinfection, and risk of progression to active tuberculosis. Society for Epidemiology Research Meeting. Baltimore, MD. June 2018.

Mehrotra, Megha

Practical transportability: a virtual twins approach for variable selection. Society for Epidemiology Research Meeting. Baltimore, MD. June 2018.

Accomplishments: Awards

Kalapatapu, Rajkumar

Passed the 10-Year Maintenance of Certification Psychiatry Exam in February 2018 administered by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

Rodriguez, Luis

NIH-NIDDK F31 Ruth L Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research. Race/Ethnic Specific Association Between

Anthropometry, Liver Fat and Incident Type 2 Diabetes: Evidence from The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis. Society for Epidemiologic Research Student Dissertation Workshop. Baltimore, MD. June, 2018.

Roh, Michelle

The impact of vector control interventions on adverse birth outcomes. The study uses causal inference methods to assess the public health impact of mass distributions of indoor residual spraying and bed nets in Uganda on malaria-associated adverse birth outcomes. Scored 3rd percentile.

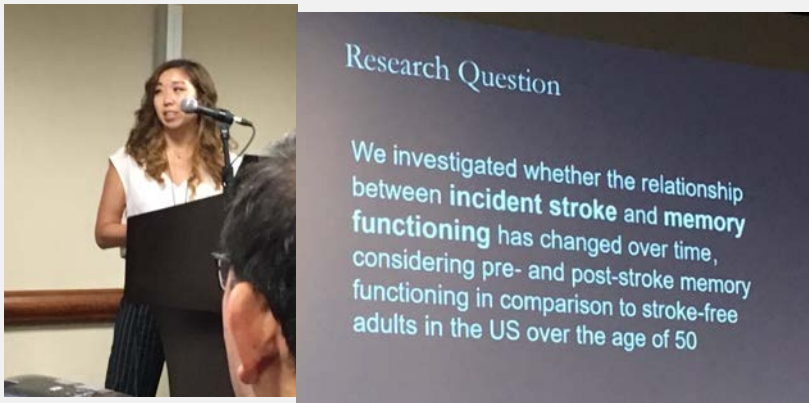
Mooney, Alyssa

Accepted Received a post-doctoral fellowship position with the California Policy Lab at UC Berkeley.

Demb, Joshua

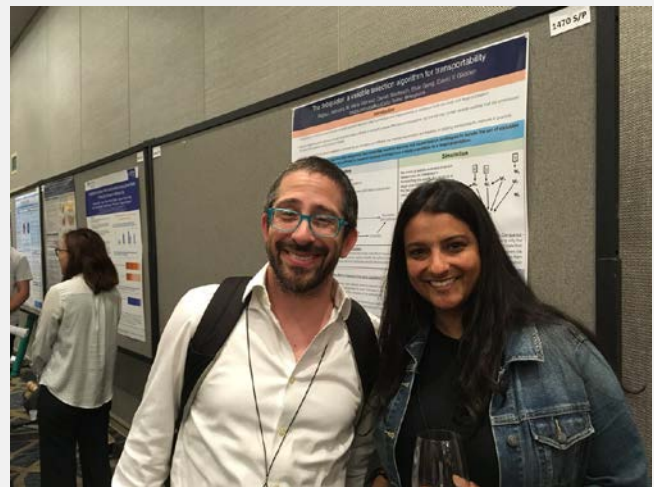
American Society of Preventive Oncology Conference Travel Award, New York, NY. March 2018.

**PhD Student presentations at SER conference,
Baltimore, MD**



Chloe Eng, 2nd year PhD student presenting on “Memory change after stroke: has the relationship weakened in recent years.” Asks if post stroke cognitive change has become less common – if so could this contribute to recent declines on dementia incidence.

Megha Mehrotra, 3rd year PhD student and Dr. Daniel Westreich, Associate Professor at UNC and Megha’s committee member. Megha’s poster was on: “Practical Transportability: a Virtual Twins approach for variable selection.”



Luis Rodriguez, 3rd year PhD student and Dr. Patrick Bradshaw, Assistant Professor at UCB and Luis’ committee member. Luis is presenting his research on “Diabetes and Cardiovascular disease mortality among women with and without breast cancer.”

PhD Student UPDATE



Caroline Tai, PhD presented her dissertation last June on “Integrating Genetics into Population-Based Studies.”

Shown here with her committee members Drs. Thomas Hoffmann, John Witte and Elad Ziv.

After graduation, Dr. Tai took a position as a biostatistician at Evidation Health.

Kristen Aiemjoy, PhD presented her dissertation last June on “Defining Diarrhea: Validating and improving symptoms-based measures of pediatric diarrhea.”

Shown here with her committee members Drs. Jeremy Keenan, John Neuhaus and Ben Arnold.

Dr. Aiemjoy is now a post-doc working at Jason Andrews at Stanford on typhoid sero-epidemiology in Nepal.



Kathryn Ray, PhD presented her dissertation last June on “Mass antibiotic interventions – How can we assess the impact on gut microbiome at the community level?”

Shown here with her committee members Drs. Susan Lynch and Tom Lietman.

Dr. Ray is working with the F.I. Proctor Foundation in expanding their Data Coordinating Center for upcoming clinical trials..



PhD Student UPDATE



Natalie Engmann, PhD presented her dissertation last April on “Breast density, body mass index, and breast cancer risk: Implications for clinical and public health settings.”

Shown here with her committee members Dr. Robert Hiatt and Dr. Karla Kerlikowske.

Dr. Engmann is now an Associate Health Economist in the Evidence for Access Group at Genentech.

Joshua Demb receiving the American Society of Preventive Oncology (ASPO) Travel award for having one of the top abstracts at the conference held in New York in March 2018.



PhD students Josh Demb, Kristina Dang, Megha Mehrotra, Luis Rodriguez and Chloe Eng after admiring Josh’s SER poster on the recession and cancer screening behaviors. Joined by alumnus **Elizabeth Rose Mayeda** (now Assistant Professor at UCLA) and MAS student **Monica Ospina**.



PAST EVENTS

May 14, 2018

Guest lecture: Amal Harrati, PhD
Stanford University

**Polygenic Scores and Mendelian
Randomization: Promises and Pitfalls**

May 16, 2018

Guest lecture: Ann Rimon, PhD, UCLA
**Biosurveillance in the Democratic
Republic of Congo**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 20 & 21, 2018

12:00 – 1:00 pm, MH 1407

Guest lecture: Chuck Huber, PhD
Senior Statistician, State Corp. LT
**Missing Data and Multiple
Imputation (8/20) and Multilevel/
Longitudinal Modeling (8/21)**

Friday, September 7, 2018

12:00 – 2:00 pm, MH 2700

Welcome lunch for incoming PhD ETS
students.

Friday, September 14, 2018

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Dissertation research presentation by
Sarah Ackley

**Modeling vaccine preventable
disease in California.**

Monday, October 1, 2018

12:00 – 3:00 pm

Guest lecture by Melinda Power, ScD
George Washington University
TBD re: Marginal Structural Models

Friday, October 19, 2018

9:30 – 12:30 pm

Guest lecture by Tarik Benmarhnia,
PhD, UCSF

TBD re: Attribution Measures

Monday, November 5, 2018

12:00 – 3:00 pm

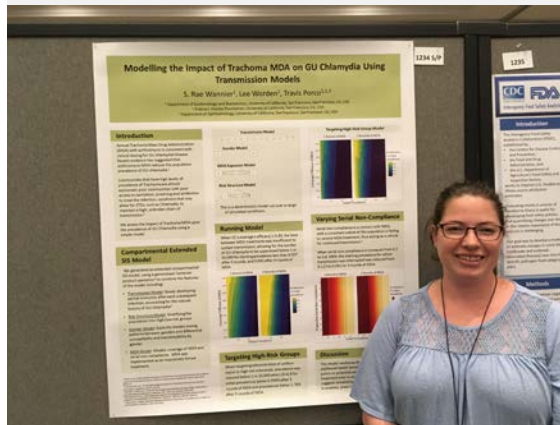
Guest lecture by Susan Athey,
Economist, Stanford University
**TBD: Causal Forests: Integrating
Causal Thinking into Machine
Learning Methods**

Wednesday, January 16, 2018

Guest lecture by Chanelle Howe, PhD,
MPH, Brown University

TBD re: Selection Bias

What
are these
PhD
students
up to?



Answers, from top to bottom

Luis Rodriguez with his wife,
Cecilia and daughters,
Samantha and Paula.

Rae Wannier presenting her
abstract "Modeling the
impact of trachoma MDA on
GU chlamydia using
transmission models" at the
Society of Epidemiologic
Research conference held
in Baltimore, MD.

Alumnus, Dr. Eugenie Poirot
with Thelma Madeline
Roulet born December 7,
2017. Congratulations
Eugenie!

