

CENTER FOR Medicine
FOR Health &
Society

Talking Health in a Changing Media Landscape
DISARMED: Art and Firearms
Students Take on Toxic War

Spring 2019 - No. 06



CENTER FOR HEALTH & SOCIETY



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MHS

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Vanderbilt Center for Medicine, Health, and Society (MHS) annual report. The volume is a collaborative project of the faculty, staff, and students at our Center, and represents our annual means of spreading the word about our accomplishments, goals, and future plans. I particularly wish to thank Professors Ken MacLeish and Lauren Gaydosh for their tremendous efforts in crafting and editing the content that appears within these pages.

MHS continues to flourish! The Center is an ever-evolving hub of cutting-edge research, teaching, and immersion that boasts a growing cohort of world-class scholars, expanding and innovative undergraduate and graduate curricula, and a number of vital projects and initiatives that cumulatively and creatively address major challenges relating to health, health care, and health care solutions in the US and the world.

The past six years have seen dramatic expansion. We now offer over 70 MHS courses and support nearly 600 undergraduate majors and a substantial number of minors. Over 200 students will graduate with the MHS major in May 2019. Success stories abound. As but one example, in 2018, a remarkable 83% of MHS students who applied to medical school were accepted—more than double the national average. Our undergraduate curriculum offers seven important concentration areas, driven by student interest and faculty expertise in areas such as Global Health, Health Policies and Economies, Health Justice, and Medicine, Humanities, and the Arts. We also support a vibrant and growing master's degree program—the MA in Social Foundations of Health. MA students, too, are going on to exciting and diverse careers in a variety of fields, as is highlighted in this publication. We also collaborate with a number of other departments to help support PhD students.

MHS functions as a hub for pioneering research and first rate teaching that focuses on the many, diverse aspects of health care solutions. Our robust cohort of core faculty spans a continuum of expertise including mental health, global health, health policy and health economics, health demography, research ethics, military mental health, men's health and racial disparities, gender and disability studies, literature and medicine, and pre-med curricular innovation, to name but a few!

Over the past year our faculty have published important articles and books, won major grants and awards, and appeared on a host of national media outlets. With the added expertise of more than 90 jointly-appointed and affiliated faculty members, the Center is truly a trans-institutional node bridging Vanderbilt's many intellectual strengths.

We also continue to publish scholarly articles that detail the impact of our curriculum. For instance, a major study in *Social Science and Medicine* detailed the effectiveness of our "new approach to teaching race and health." This is but the latest testament to the ways that MHS students learn to think critically about complex social issues that impact health, health care, and health policy. By teaching students to grapple with monumental questions, the Center is helping develop sophisticated thinkers who are trained to be unsatisfied with the status quo—a generation of students who are prepared to find new solutions out of a complex web of challenges.

Over the past year we've hosted an exciting series of events, including wide-ranging conferences and panels that explored media and medicine, the poetics of the opioid epidemic, health care politics, gender and health, and guns in America. We also continue to collaborate with a number of regional and global partners, from Nashville's Rymer Gallery to an exciting new initiative with the Social Science Research Council in New York.

These and other initiatives are continually updated on our website, www.vanderbilt.edu/mhs, and our doors are always open to students, parents, scholars, community members, and all others. We hope you will visit often, and stay tuned as we grow!

Jonathan M. Metzl

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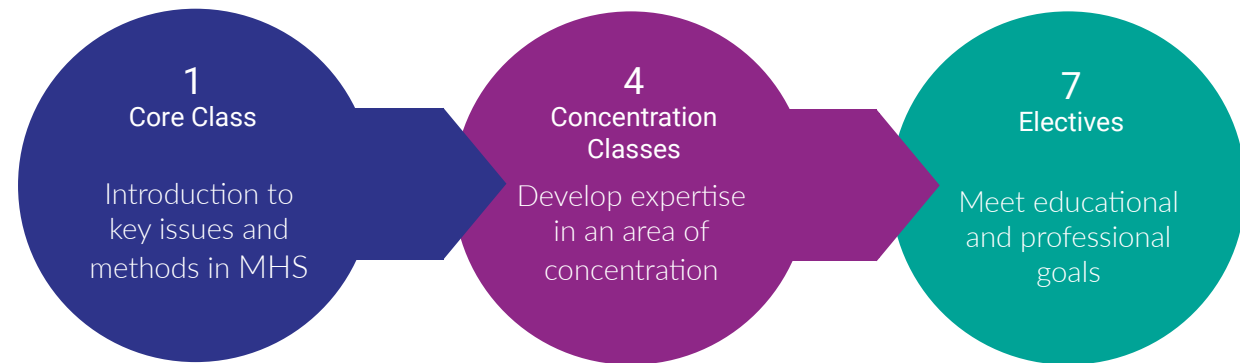
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DISARMED:
Art and the
Politics of Firearms

Medicine, Health, and Society

A unique, flexible undergraduate program



CORE CLASSES

Politics of Health
Racial & Ethnic Health Disparities
Social Dimensions of Health & Illness
Theories of the Body
American Medicine and the World
Masculinity and Men's Health
Biology of Inequality

CONCENTRATIONS

Global Health
Health Behaviors & Health Sciences
Health Policies & Economies
Inequality & Health Justice
Medicine, Humanities & the Arts
Critical Health Studies

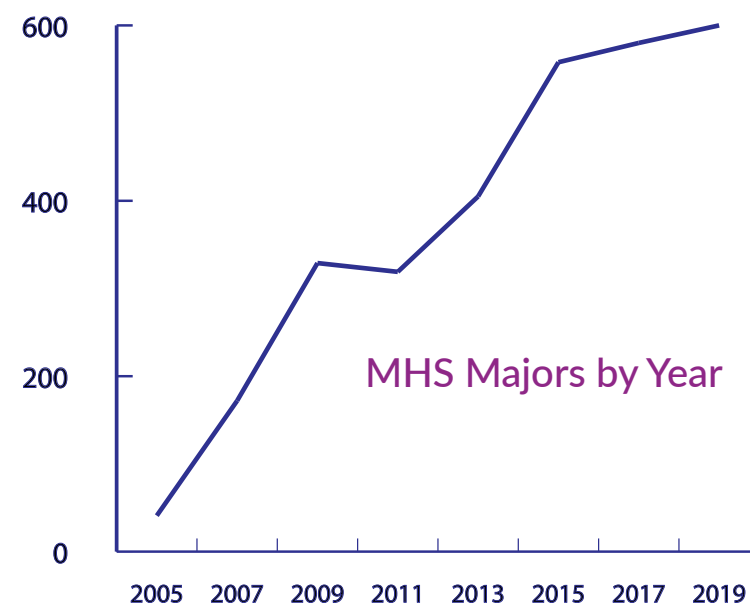
SAMPLE ELECTIVES

Caring & Caregiving
Biochemistry
Medicine & Literature
Methods in Health Disparities Research
Death & Dying in America

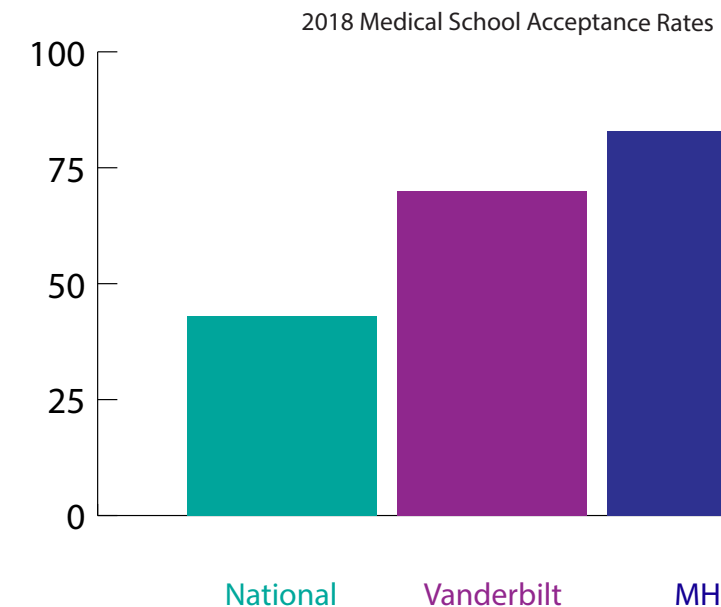
Exploring the relationship between structural factors and health outcomes

Vanderbilt's Center for Medicine, Health, and Society investigates the political, cultural, economic, demographic, and biological factors that impact health. Drawing on a structural competency framework and courses in the medical sciences, humanities, and social sciences, this innovative interdisciplinary program transcends the traditional biomedical approach to understanding health and illness.

The MHS major began with only 40 students in 2005; it now has nearly 600 and is one of the most popular pre-med majors at Vanderbilt. Courses are taught by leading experts in interdisciplinary health approaches from anthropology, sociology, history, gender studies, psychology, neuroscience, public health, disability and design studies, and health humanities.



Deeper understanding and unprecedented results



83% of pre-med MHS majors are admitted to medical school— above Vanderbilt's overall average and nearly double the national average

Interdisciplinary preparation for health careers



Through immersive coursework, collaborative research, service learning, and internships, MHS students connect to real world health problems, learn to think critically about social issues that impact health, and devise effective strategies for targeting health care challenges. The unique, flexible program prepares students for careers in medicine, nursing, public health, global health, health business and administration, and academic health research.

Program evaluations show that MHS majors understand the relationship between structural factors and health outcomes in deeper ways than other pre-med science majors, and MHS students demonstrate greater knowledge of racism, structural inequality, and health disparities. These proficiencies are highly valued by national health professional and educational bodies like the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). MHS students report a great sense of preparation for their planned post-graduation professional careers, and MHS students were accepted to medical school at a rate of 83% in 2018, nearly double the national average of 43%.



What MHS students do....



Photo by Mattigan Kelly

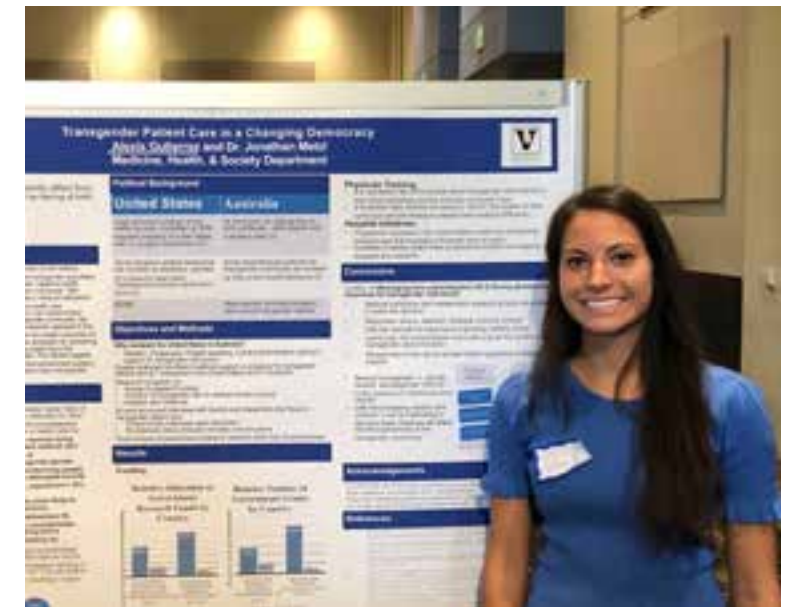
NIA DORSEY ('20)

Nia Dorsey is a Vanderbilt junior, MHS major, and Business minor. During her time at Vanderbilt, Dorsey has balanced starting as a defender on the Commodores soccer team, volunteering at local nonprofit community development organizations, and serving on the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Community Service Team. Her passion for service is complemented by her coursework in MHS. "Choosing MHS as my major has been one of my greatest decisions during my time at Vanderbilt," Dorsey says. "With such a wide array of available courses in different concentrations, I have been able to take incredibly interesting courses about widely varying topics involving health. Every MHS course that I have taken has prompted me to discuss and reflect on what I've learned far beyond the classroom. I am so grateful to have a major that always challenges me to consider new perspectives, teaches me about almost every aspect of health, and contributes to my passion of improving the health of communities in need." With her MHS and business training, Dorsey intends to run her own nonprofit, focused on community health.

ALEXIS GUTIERREZ ('19)

Undergraduate MHS major Alexis Gutierrez completed an immersive undergraduate summer research project with MHS Director Jonathan Metzl, as supported by the [Vanderbilt University Summer Research Program](#). Gutierrez's project sought to better understand how administrative support or opposition of the transgender community affects the health outcomes of these individuals. This relationship was assessed by comparing physician education, access to research funds, and health care initiatives pertaining to the transgender population in the United States and Australia. Over the summer break, Gutierrez conducted interviews and gathered data from medical institutions in Australia and the US. The results suggest that due to the level of demand for change, even without government support, the US continues to set the standard for inclusive care and lead the world in transgender patient care. Gutierrez presented the results of her research at the Undergraduate Research Fair.

...and
where
they go



CHRISTOPHER L. GROSS ('14)

Former MHS major Christopher L. Gross ('14) recently completed a Master of Medical Science degree, and is now enrolled in medical school at the University of Florida. He hopes to specialize in emergency medicine or trauma surgery, and is interested in using technology to expand global medical education, in particular providing supplemental content to medical students and physicians in developing nations. Gross credits his interdisciplinary MHS major with helping prepare him for his career in medicine. "One of the most valuable aspects of a liberal arts education is how it develops flexible thinking. Rapidly evolving markets require this type of thinking and interdisciplinary collaboration, for which I think Vanderbilt prepared me well."



Talking Health in a Changing Media Landscape

In January 2019, MHS hosted journalist Raj Punjabi, the wellness editor for [VICE Media's Tonic](#) website. Punjabi addressed a packed auditorium, discussing the challenges of producing and publicizing rigorous health-related news. Among other topics, she spoke about the relentless pace of the internet- and social media-driven news cycle, and how the proliferation of biased or predatory content pose unique challenges to health journalism. Vanderbilt faculty members Bonnie Dow (Communication Studies and A&S Dean of Academic Initiatives), Aimi Hamraie (MHS), and Ben Tran (English and Asian Studies) rounded out the discussion, and Punjabi encouraged the student audience to imagine themselves as relevant producers of publicly-circulating health knowledge and perspectives.



Tonic Health on VICE Media
“covers wellness, science, and big-picture health issues”





Humanizing Politics: Student Reflections on Race and Gender

MHS majors Deniz Gungor ('20) and Rose Capin ('20) reflected on race, gender, and politics after attending a PBS and OZY Media, "Take on America" event. This town hall series featured 100 voices in "One explosive conversation," with a goal of "exploring the diversity of opinions among groups often pigeonholed for voting as a bloc." Hosted by journalist and OZY co-founder Carlos Watson, the Nashville event examined the politics of white women.

Reflecting on the event, Deniz Gungor noted, "Though I was initially skeptical about attending an event for white women, everyone quickly realized the diversity of opinion and thought held by this assumed voter bloc. As conversations got heated, it became apparent that white women, and Americans as a whole, were ripe for discussions like these, in which opposing ideas could be freely exchanged. But perhaps even more importantly, this forum opened my eyes to see that we are not alone in some of our thoughts, making us feel all the more connected, as opposed to the polarization taking place in greater society.



"The difference in ambiance from when Deniz and I first walked into the venue to when we walked out was as polar as fire and ice," Rose Capin adds. "Throughout those four hours, 100 impassioned women explained their political beliefs on the topics of Brett Kavanaugh's nomination, religion, gun control, and Donald Trump's presidency. The sensitive nature of these topics hit home for many in the crowd; emotions ran incredibly high. In the moment, these reactions felt like understandable, real testimonies. Yet afterwards, I continued to wonder if they would be distorted and portrayed in line with stereotypical feminine behavior. All in all, the event was effective in one thing: humanizing politics."



Caroline Randall Williams
Foregrounds Women of Color,
Talents, and Perspectives in
Attitude: Lucy Negro Redux

Poet and celebrated food writer Caroline Randall Williams joined MHS for the Spring 2019 semester as a lecturer in Medicine and Literature. In February, the Nashville Ballet debuted *Attitude: Lucy Negro Redux*, based on Williams's 2015 book of poems. Both works imagine the relationship between William Shakespeare and the "Dark Lady" featured in many of the Bard's sonnets from the perspective of Lucy Negro, a black English woman who lived in the London of Shakespeare's time, and is believed by scholars to be the real life Dark Lady. The ballet is a unique collaboration between Prof. Williams, ballerina Kayla Rowser, and musician Rhiannon Giddens. Williams, who has lived, worked, and taught all over the US and the world, earned her MFA in writing at the University of Mississippi, and is currently writer-in-residence at Fisk University in Nashville. As she noted to the *New York Times*, "I want to see more women of color in these traditionally white arts—bluegrass, theater—and say 'They belong there, and I do, too.'"





Congratulations, Meagan Artus!

Meagan Leigh Artus, Office Manager for the Center, was awarded the College of Arts & Science Staff Excellence Award in Social Science for 2018. This award recognizes staff who have provided outstanding service to faculty and students, and who have significantly advanced the mission of the college during the previous academic year. Congratulations to Meagan for this much-deserved recognition of her dedication and excellence.



Professor Gilbert Gonzales Joins MHS

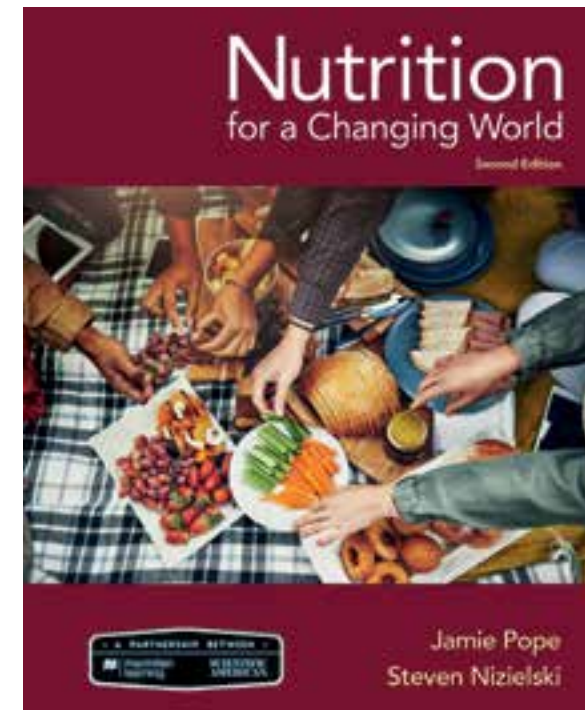
MHS welcomes Professor Gilbert Gonzales. Gonzales' work examines the effect of state-level social policies and health reforms on health and access to medical care. He and MHS professor Tara McKay co-teach a unique and popular undergraduate immersion University Course, Health Policy and Advocacy.



Welcome, Professor Charles Cobb!

Vanderbilt-trained biophysicist and molecular physiologist Professor Charles Cobb, who has taught human physiology and related courses across the university for over 25 years, joined MHS in 2018. Cobb teaches the two semester, Human Anatomy and Physiology course, which was officially added to the MHS curriculum beginning this year.

Cobb researches the structure and function of blood and cardiac muscle cell membranes, and served as the long-time head of Vanderbilt's Molecular Physiology and Biophysics graduate program. He also shares his passion for biomedical research by welcoming high school students to tour his and colleagues' labs and providing mentorship for pre-college students interested in health sciences careers.



Professor Jamie Pope Publishes Second Edition of Successful Introductory Nutrition Textbook

Dietician Professor Jamie Pope and her wildly popular course Nutrition and Health for a Changing World officially became a part of MHS in 2018. Pope's nutrition knowledge and approach are reflected in her textbook, *Nutrition for a Changing World*, co-authored with Professor Steven Nizielski of Grand Valley State University. Macmillan Learning and *Scientific American* first published the book in 2015, targeted to an audience of students (like those in MHS) bound for health-related professions. The text immerses students in nutrition science through engaging journalistic descriptions of practical application. The first edition won STEM Product of the Year for Macmillan Learning in 2018, and has been adopted by over 80 universities across the country. Along with her co-author and editorial team, Pope spent more than a year researching, updating, and revising for the 2019 Second Edition.

Pope's nutrition course typically attracts over 150 students per semester. She has also offered it as one of Vanderbilt's first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), where over 175,000 people around the world took it for free. "The experience really influenced my teaching style and appreciation for global perspectives on nutrition," Pope says.

Structural Competency: Training Future Physicians to See Health Inequalities

Congratulations to Professor JuLeigh Petty, who was promoted to Principal Senior Lecturer this year. Petty is the Assistant Director and Director of Graduate Studies at the Center for Medicine, Health, and Society, and her teaching and research focus on the political factors underlying inequalities in areas like HIV and health law.

As part of a new graduate seminar on the structural foundations of health, Petty and her students are developing structural competency modules for medical students and residents at Vanderbilt and beyond. Based on Petty's own scholarship and her work with Professor Jonathan Metzl, structural competency trains health professionals in understanding how upstream social and political conditions that clinicians may never see shape downstream health effects in their patients. Structural competency training emphasizes that individual behaviors and genetic predispositions are not solely responsible for negative health outcomes. Integrating structural competency into current medical training curriculums helps providers interpret the entire narrative of a patient's illness, better empathize with patients, and make meaningful health care system changes through a social justice lens.





From the Classroom to the Community: MHS Student Sloane Chmara Launches Nutrition and Lifestyle E-book

Sloane Chmara ('19) is a Vanderbilt senior majoring in MHS and minoring in Corporate Strategy and French. Aside from her studies, Chmara is a serial entrepreneur who has created an online health and wellness brand, [Kale & Kravings](#). She runs an Instagram account with over 14,300 followers where she shares healthy and nutritious recipes, tips on stress management in college, inspiration for a positive mindset, fitness workouts, and more. In addition, Chmara runs a blog and a YouTube channel. Having been a one-on-one wellness coach and business mentor for almost two years, she



recently launched her first ebook, *Kollege Kravings: Balancing Assignments, Avocados & Alcohol*.

Chmara credits the idea of turning her passion for health and wellness into a career to MHS Professor Jamie Pope. During Chmara's sophomore year, when first enrolled in Pope's nutrition class, Kale & Kravings had fewer than 2,000 followers. Professor Pope provided Chmara with the tools, guidance, and resources to fuel her pursuit into the professional field of nutrition and dietetics. "Professor Pope has served as an extraordinary mentor and teacher to me in my years as an undergraduate student," Sloane explains. "As graduation nears, I am extremely

grateful for my connections at Vanderbilt. I have been inspired and guided by brilliant professors. I have been encouraged and mentored by faculty. I would not be where I am today without the experiences that I have had in MHS and at Vanderbilt, both in and out of the classroom."

Chmara has collaborated with over 100 companies, won an episode of Food Network's *Chopped University*, sells her own product, and coaches over 40 clients on health and wellness goals. Sloane intends to continue to grow her health and wellness business, and continue her studies of nutrition in a graduate program.

Kale AND Kravings





"Home in a Box," an assignment from Hamraie's course in which students curate collections of objects that people with dementia can use to create home-like spaces.



Designing Inclusive Cities

Professor Aimi Hamraie's research and teaching emphasize the importance of inclusive and accessible design, particularly for disabled users. Hamraie's 2017 book, *Building Access: Universal Design and the Politics of Disability*, which details the history of the Universal Design movement, has received acclaim in journals such as *Disability Studies Quarterly* and the *Journal of Design History*, in addition to being featured in media outlets such as *Bitch Magazine*, *Design*Sponge*, *Inside Higher Ed*, the New Books Network, and the *Imagine Otherwise* podcast. Hamraie has also been invited to give keynote talks related to the book at conferences in Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Canada, in addition to invited lectures at MIT, the University of Michigan, and New York University.

Hamraie is currently developing a second book manuscript on the "livable cities" movement, titled *Enlivened City*. This book draws on three years of ethnographic field work, as well as archival research, to explore the tensions between disability access and cities that are designed to promote walking, biking, and other forms of exercise in public space. Hamraie has explored similar concerns on Vanderbilt's own campus through the Mapping Access project, which collected data about campus amenities and designed maps for use by the Vanderbilt community. Hamraie highlighted findings from these projects in a highly-circulated piece in *The Atlantic*, "A Smart City is an Accessible City," which addresses the accessibility of digital technologies designed for urban navigation.

Hamraie's teaching emphasizes immersion experiences, project-based learning, and student-produced knowledge. In courses like Theories of the Body and Designing Healthy Publics, students become immersed in inclusive design practices by participating in accessibility mapping and design charrettes, media and photography projects, attending community meetings to study urban planning, and incorporating design thinking according to the objectives of the Design as an Immersive Vanderbilt Experience (DIVE) program. In May, students in Hamraie's graduate core course will produce the first issue of a new, open access student journal, *Situated: graduate journal of medicine, health & society*.

CRITICAL DESIGN LAB

How can design and innovation become more inclusive of disabled users? And how can the perspectives of disabled designers enrich our built and technological environments? Professor Hamraie's Critical Design Lab offers a unique immersion opportunity for Vanderbilt undergraduate and graduate students to work closely with designers on projects related to disability. The Lab's immersion-based projects include accessibility mapping, the development of teaching materials, designing care boxes for people with memory loss, sensory-inclusive DJing and night life, theater performance informed by ethnographic research, participatory collaborations with campus planning and facilities management, inclusive sustainable design, and [Contra*](#), a podcast featuring conversations with disabled designers. Lab members have published their research in top journals, including *American Quarterly*, and presented their collaborative research at the 2018 National Women's Studies Association meeting in Atlanta, GA.



Men's Health Inequalities in National and Global Perspective

In 2018, the Center for Research on Men's Health (www.vanderbilt.edu/crmh), home of the Tennessee Men's Health Report Card, continued to grow its national and global impact under Professor Derek Griffith's leadership. Men's health and the flourishing field of health equity have not adequately addressed the health needs and unique challenges of men of color, men with lower incomes and less education, and other men who are socially or politically marginalized while still reaping the economic and social benefits of being male. What makes the Center for Research on Men's Health a thought leader in the field is the way that it integrates the biological, social, cultural, and political factors that influence men's health behaviors and outcomes in ways that highlight the heterogeneity among men.



This year, Griffith published a paper describing how the unique mission and vision of the Center for Research on Men's Health builds on this premise. "Centering the Margins: Moving Equity to the Center of Men's Health Research" highlights how Vanderbilt University and the Center for Research on Men's Health are positioned to be a national and global leader in men's health and health equity. Griffith also contributed to several major national and international collaborations on men's health. He was a member of the American Psychological Association Working Group on Health Disparities in Boys and Men that published a report that surveys critical health disparities and makes recommendations for action that researchers, health care providers, policy makers, and others can take to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable males. Professor Griffith was also an expert reviewer for the report *Masculine Norms and Men's Health: Making the Connections* by global health and advocacy organizations Promundo (www.promundoglobal.org) and Global Action on Men's Health (www.gamh.org). The report provides an overview of the global state of men's health and illustrates key connections between the gendered aspects of men's lives, their health risk behaviors, and their health outcomes. Working with colleagues from New Zealand, he co-authored a paper that explores what motivates indigenous Māori men to become more physically active. This research drew striking parallels between the indigenous men and the ways Griffith has found African American men approach health and physical activity.



Photo by Hédi Benyounes

Mass Incarceration, Substance Use, and the Politics of Masculinity

Students in Professor Jonathan Metzl's Men's Health and the Politics of Masculinity class spent the 2018 fall semester working on community-based immersion projects. Through observation, analysis, and experience, the projects helped students learn how activists, organizations, businesses, and local governments organize around issues that impact the lives and wellbeing of men. Topics included health disparities, binge drinking, dietary health, concussions, and mass incarceration. Final products included videos, websites, and presentations.

One standout student project was *Mass Incarceration and Substance Abuse in the US*, by Zoe Kost, Cody Markel, Mia McConnell, Jessica Petrey, Andrew Yancy, Carina Anderson, and Emma Sterling. Many individuals in the US are caught in a vicious cycle of addiction, incarceration, and recidivism. Through interviews with pre-law students, law students, and current members of the legal field, this project highlighted the disproportionate impact of incarceration upon men of color, and the present failure of the justice system at rehabilitation. Students presented information about this pressing issue, a video of insightful interviews, and links to activist organizations on a project website at <https://emmaksterling.wixsite.com/mhs2230activism>. "Our interviews highlight how marginalized populations often get portrayed as individuals with character flaws and high addiction," the group reported, "yet for middle class, better-off populations, substance abuse is seen as a treatable illness."

"We as a justice system are failing in rehabilitating productive citizens and we are just setting them up on that path to continue reoffending."

—Public Defender's Office Criminal Investigator

REFRAMING

A D D I C T I O N :

Poets & Poetry
on the Opioid Epidemic

A reading and discussion

with poets
William Brewer, *I Know Your Kind* (2017)
Kate Daniels, *Three Syllables Describing Addiction* (2018)
Owen Lewis M.D., *Best Man* (2015)

Monday, November 12, 2018
 208 Light Hall VUMC | 3pm to 4:30pm
 Free & open to the public
 Light refreshments available

Sponsored by
 Vanderbilt Center for Addiction Research
 Vanderbilt Creative Writing
 Center for Medicine, Health, & Society
 Vanderbilt Center for Student Wellbeing

: N O I C T I O N A

REFRAMING

Reframing Addiction

by Kym Weed

How do we measure the human toll of the opioid crisis? In November, MHS co-sponsored a reading by three poets—William Brewer, Kate Daniels, and Owen Lewis—whose most recent collections explore the effects of addiction on individuals, families, and communities.

The reading and panel discussion brought together a range of perspectives that coalesced around feelings of anger, frustration, grief, and hope. Each poet had a personal connection to addiction, whether as friend or family member of an addict, and audience members ranged from students and faculty from across campus, to community members and VUMC clinicians.

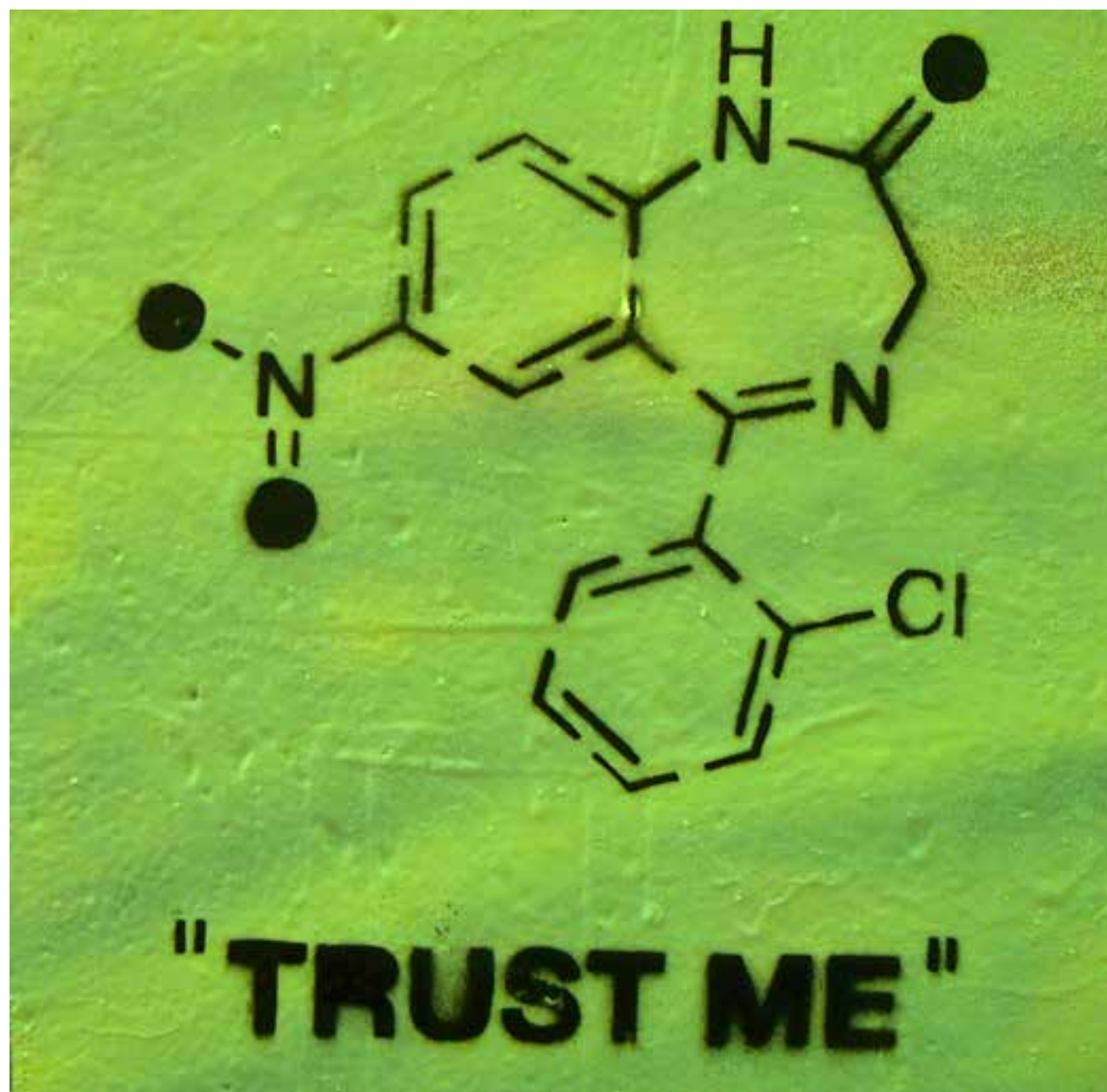
Kate Daniels, the Edwin Mims Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at Vanderbilt, organized the event and read from two collections: [Three Syllables Describing Addiction](#) (Bull City Press, 2018) and [In the Months of My Son's Recovery](#) (LSU Press, 2019). Drawing on her family history of addiction, Daniels framed the condition as a “family illness” in which mothers play a particularly fraught role as helpers who can become dangerous enablers. Many of her poems were told from the perspective of a mother whose son is addicted to opioids, and articulated the immense sorrow caused by addiction. In a poem about a support group, Daniels captured the particularity and universality of suffering: “In the rooms, there was infinite suffering. / It had 3 minutes each to describe itself. [...] One Suffering / Stopped talking. Then the next Suffering started up. / A lot of suffering in the world, is the first clear thought / Most people have when they come here.”

William Brewer, a former Stegner Fellow and current Jones Lecturer at Stanford University, read from [I Know Your Kind](#) (Milkweed Editions, 2017). Motivated to “record a humanitarian crisis,” Brewer composed a collection of lyric poems about Oceana, West Virginia, nicknamed “Oxyana” because of the rates of OxyContin abuse in the town. A West Virginia native, Brewer read from a poem about a high school reunion in which two-thirds of the graduating class was already dead from opioid abuse: “It was held in the gymnasium / which was full of coffins / full of smaller coffins / full of smaller coffins / full of Oxys.” While a deeply personal record of opioid abuse in his homeplace, the collection also tells a structural story about how the lives of West Virginians are valued by the corporations that flooded the town with pills.

While Daniels’ and Brewer’s poetry examines addiction in a contemporary context, Owen Lewis’s poetry reflects on his brother’s addiction from a distance of 30 years. A psychiatrist and professor of narrative medicine at Columbia University, Lewis grappled with long-held feelings of anger with his brother. “I am still mad at you,” one poem begins, “Every week another call / from a pharmacy, a burnt-out Bronx / neighborhood, or Brooklyn. / Percocet, Dexedrine, shopping lists.” Despite his anger, Owen ended his reading with forgiveness, giving the reading a sense of closure rather than despair.

Together, the poets told stories of opioid and substance abuse that defy common beliefs or misconceptions, and work to “reframe addiction.” The complex cause and effects of addiction along with the emotional resonance of the poems lead to a productive conversation about addiction, recovery, and the ongoing effects of the opioid crisis.

"One Suffering
 Stopped talking. Then the next Suffering started up.
 A lot of suffering in the world, is the first clear thought
 Most people have when they come here."



Addiction that Comes from the Clinic

MHS and chemistry major Stefan Marasligiller ('19) is completing his undergraduate studies and plans to attend medical school in the fall, where he hopes to continue exploring the benefits of synthesizing visual art and medicine. His background in chemistry informs his interest in our individual, cultural, and societal relationship to pharmaceuticals and other molecules we allow into our bodies. As part of Professor Kym Weed's course Health Humanities, Marasligiller created a 20-page magazine called *TRUST ME*, which examines iatrogenic benzodiazepine addiction - addiction that originates in the clinic. Utilizing spray-painted stencils and image editing software, *TRUST ME* attempts to portray a specific moment in Porochista Khakpour's memoir, *Sick* (2018), when the author, seeking to get away from benzodiazepines—a class of anti-anxiety drugs to which she was previously addicted—has her fears brushed aside by her physician, who instead writes her a new prescription, asking her to "trust me, as you did last time."

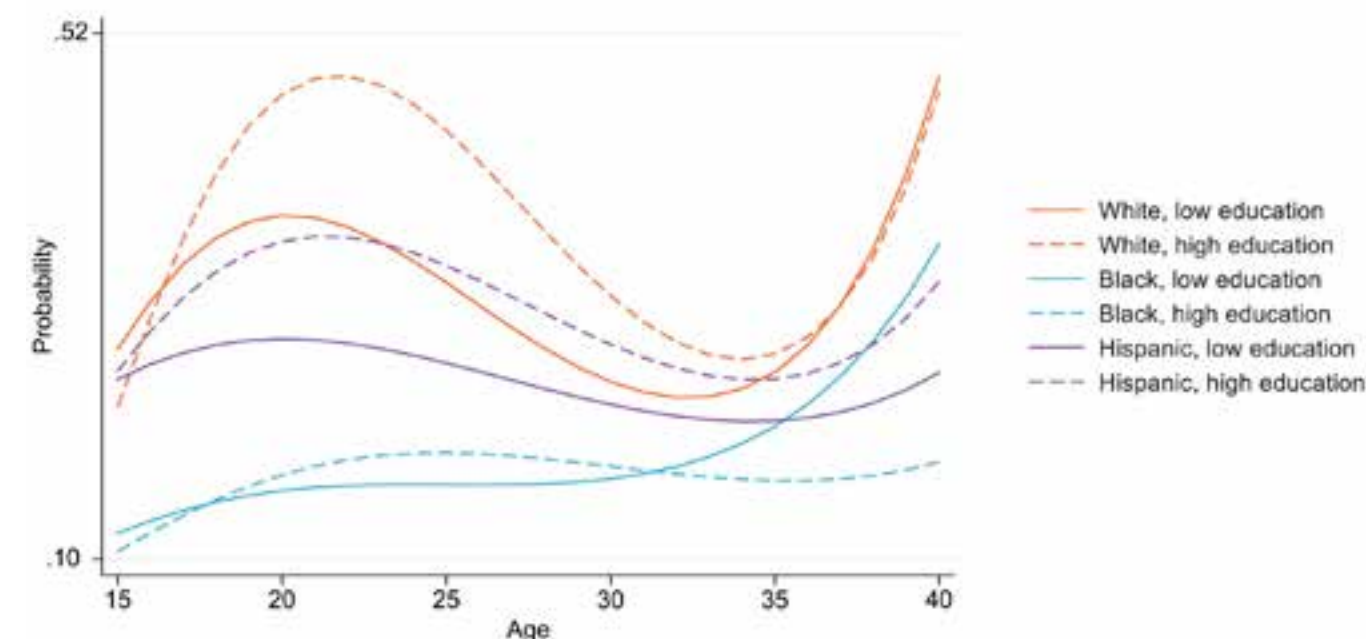


Casting a New Light on Deaths of Despair

Professor Lauren Gaydos's research addresses health equity and health inequality. Her new work, published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, investigates the recent troubling decline in US life expectancy. For the first time since the late 1910s, life expectancy at birth in the US is continuously declining, with Americans' predicted lifespan two months shorter than it was in 2014. Stalling improvements in heart disease and increases in alcohol-related liver disease, drug overdose, and suicide are partly responsible for this trend.

Notably, these rising causes of death seemed to be concentrated among rural, white, high school-educated Americans. The common explanation for this trend looks to the role of 1990s globalization and deindustrialization in making it more difficult for low-educated workers to find stable, well-paying jobs. These factors undermined traditional sources of social support like family formation and religious participation. As a result, individuals felt hopeless and engaged in self-destructive coping behaviors like drinking and substance use, as well as suicidal ideation, leading to so-called "deaths of despair."

Gaydos investigated race, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic disparities in despair in a cohort of American adults born in the late 1970s, using data that allowed her to track indicators of despair from adolescence to mid-adulthood. Gaydos found that the expected concentration of despair in white, rural, lower-educated populations does not hold up. In fact, despair (with high rates of substance use, binge drinking, depression, and suicidal ideation) increased across all race, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic groups as people aged into their 30s, suggesting a generalized epidemic. Gaydos's findings suggest that life expectancy may continue to decline in the near future, and that efforts to improve population health must address high levels of despair across all demographic subgroups.



This figure shows age patterns in indicators of despair from adolescence to adulthood - in this case, heavy drinking. Data from National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health demonstrate generalized patterns of increasing despair across race/ethnic and educational groups. Low education refers to high school degree or less, high education refers to more than a high school degree.

Published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, 2019. 109 (5): 774-780.



Students and Faculty take on Emerging Problems of Toxic War

Last year, Professor Ken MacLeish began a new project on the serious health problems of military service members exposed to the toxic fumes of waste disposal pits on US bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. All manner of materials were burned in these pits—batteries, Styrofoam, paint, ammunition, computers, and medical supplies—potentially exposing over three million US service members, as well as uncounted local civilians and private contractors, to grave health effects. Many affected veterans have fallen through the cracks as the Defense Department, the private contractors who operated the pits, and the Veterans Health Administration debate who is responsible.

This fall, MacLeish expanded his collaboration with Rice University anthropologist Zoë Wool and physicians and scientists at the VA's War Related Injury and Illness Study Center by setting up a team of student researchers to support the work with the help of a Vanderbilt Research Scholar Summer Stipend Grant. "The challenges posed by burn pits are far too vast and complex for any single researcher, or any single field, to address alone," MacLeish says. Even in the space of a semester, motivated student researchers made significant contribution to the understanding of this complex, politically-embedded phenomenon.



After taking MacLeish's War and the Body course, researcher Sarah Whitaker ('20) was fascinated by discussions of the impact of war on the body, and the societal implications of soldiers' and civilians' relationship to war. She was excited to continue working with MacLeish on the burn pit project. As a pre-medical student, she was particularly interested in the clinical effects that burn pit exposure can have on soldiers' bodies.

Whitaker discovered that various institutions' clinical findings (the US Army, Veterans Health Administration, Government Accountability Office, and others) about soldier and veteran exposure-related symptoms often contradicted one other. Some studies conclude that burn pit exposure was likely the cause of illnesses such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, and constrictive bronchiolitis, while others argue that no causal relationship can be established. Whitaker found it especially important to understand how knowledge was produced and shared around this topic. "It was frustrating as a researcher to find that concrete data on the contents of burn pit emissions does not exist," she says. Her findings reveal the way military, civilian, and corporate institutions may work by deliberately withholding or failing to produce important health-related information.



Researcher Axel Broome ('20), another War and the Body student, says he jumped at the chance to work with this student-faculty team. He conducted a policy review of the legislative and regulatory response to military personnel exposed to burn pits. "The project helped me refine my ability to sift through policy information and find actionable steps," he reflects, as he discovered that the gap between proposed policy and meaningful outcomes was often significant. "Establishing causation for an airborne toxin is incredibly taxing, and through this project I gained an appreciation for the struggles that veterans live through after they complete their service, and the constant reminders of trauma they are forced to endure."



Soldiers disposing of waste in and managing the burn pit at Logistical Supply Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq (Department of Defense image)

Connecting MHS to Cutting-Edge Health Policy

Affiliated faculty member Sayeh Nikpay is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. A former member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers in 2010–11, Nikpay's research explores policy issues related to the health care safety net, such as the impact of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion on low-income populations, and the hospitals that serve them. Recently, her work has focused on how the federal government allocates billions of dollars for safety net hospitals, and whether the right approach is being used to make sure those funds support hospitals with large uninsured and low-income populations. Nikpay recently received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to explore safety net targeting and propose new policies to better direct resources to struggling hospitals. Nikpay enjoys incorporating students in her research and is currently working with MHS majors Naomi Forbes ('19) and Natalie Singer ('19) to disseminate findings from her health policy research to State and Federal policymakers through blog posts and explanatory "one-pagers." Last year, she worked with Anjuli Young ('18) on similar projects.



Bruce Promotes New Program for Research on Faith and Health

Professor Marino Bruce is heading up a new virtual research, training, and action enterprise bridging scientific and faith communities to examine and develop approaches integrating religiosity and spirituality into health science. The Program for Research on Faith and Health, housed at the Center for Research on Men's Health, will be launched in late 2019.

Bruce's research team received two research training and mentoring grants in 2018 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The grants support the mentoring of doctoral students and early-career scholars from underrepresented backgrounds whose research includes cardiovascular epidemiology, obesity, and health inequalities. Bruce served as the Science Director for both of these grants, assembling a national team of researcher-mentors and overseeing future publications. Training grants like these are crucial for increasing the diversity of practitioners in health research.



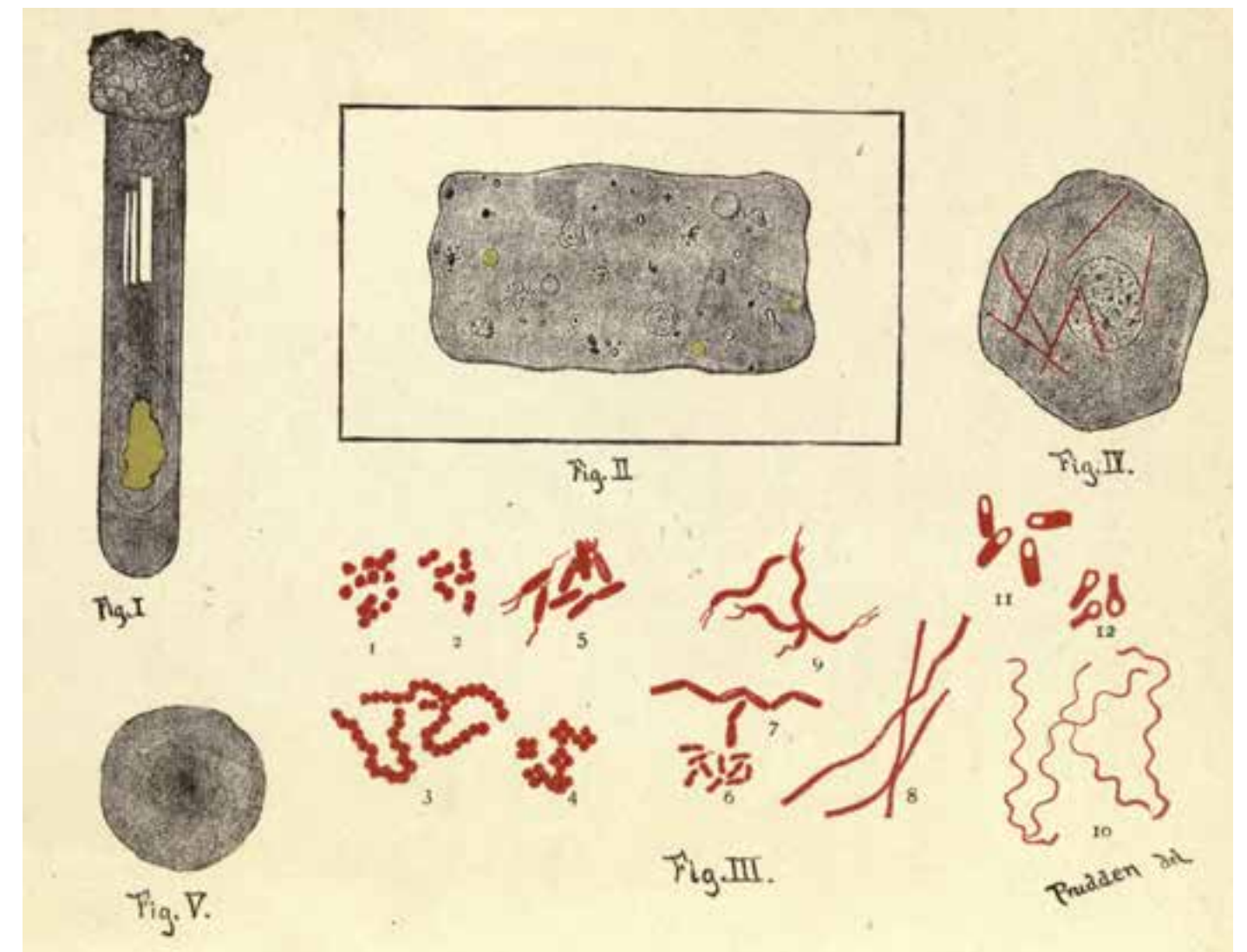
In addition to his editorial responsibilities at the journals *Behavioral Medicine* and *Ethnicity and Disease*, and publishing 13 peer-reviewed manuscripts, Bruce worked with Dr. Darnell Hawkins (University of Illinois-Chicago), one of the nation's foremost experts on violence among vulnerable populations, to edit the new volume *Inequality, Crime, and Health Among African American Males*, recently published by Emerald Insight. With colleagues Dr. Susan Wolf (University of Minnesota) and Mr. Vence Bonham (National Human Genome Research Institute), Bruce also edited a special issue of *Ethnicity and Disease* on "Law, Genomic Medicine, and Health Equity."

The Meaning of Microbes

In recent years, research on the function of the microbiota that live on and in the human body has complicated what it means to be human. Earlier notions of human individuality are being replaced by images of human and microbial cells working collectively in ways that look more like an ecosystem than an individual organism. While this conceptual shift seems like it only recently entered public consciousness, Professor Kym Weed's research shows a history of human-microbe partnerships dating back to the early 20th century. In her study of literary and scientific texts about microbes from the early days of bacteriology, Weed has found striking similarities between that period and our own.

Weed's book manuscript, *Our Microbes: Imagining Human Interdependence with Bacteria in American Literature, Science, and Culture, 1880–1920*, examines literary works by authors like H.G. Wells and Mark Twain, and scientific works by bacteriologists like Herbert W. Conn and T. Mitchell Prudden, to demonstrate that scientists, fiction authors, and the lay public alike understood the immense power of microbes to not only harm but also help human and planetary life. Fiction offered space for authors to explore the connections between human bodies and the living environment, and to challenge assumptions about human dominion over the natural world. Weed hopes that revisiting this imaginative, turn-of-the-century literature can offer ways to think about contemporary problems of interaction with non-human life and non-human scales, from antibiotic resistance to climate change.

This year, Weed gave a talk about ecological thinking in Wells's *The War of the Worlds* and contemporaneous bacteriology as part of the MHS Colloquium series, and delivered a paper about questions of human agency that arose in the face of the newly visible microbial world at the annual meeting of the Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts. A portion of her book project will appear in *Literature and Medicine* later this year.



from T. Mitchell Prudden's *The Story of Bacteria and Their Relations to Health and Disease*, Putnam: 1889



Everyday food preparation in the US-Mexico borderlands.

Anthropological Approaches to Health, National Belonging, and Care

Professor Celina Callahan-Kapoor is a medical anthropologist who researches obesity and Type 2 diabetes in the US/Mexico borderlands, a region where most people identify as both “Mexican” and “American.” People in this region are often described or portrayed in popular media as “the fattest in America,” and this obesity is attributed to both a “genetic Mexican” predisposition to Type 2 diabetes and to a culture of overconsumption of “Mexican food.” In exploring how people respond to these narratives that link health to nationality and ethnicity, Callahan-Kapoor finds that residents’ perspectives are further shaped by ideas about individual responsibility and national belonging: some believe their adherence to eating practices such as calorie counting and carb-cutting will protect them from their genetic predisposition to diabetes, while others feel they need to maintain a visibly overweight body in order to appear “American” and not be targeted by the US Border Patrol. More recently, Callahan-

Kapoor’s research is examining the complex intersection of state funding and family caregiving dynamics in borderlands families.

Callahan-Kapoor teaches two core MHS courses, Politics of Health and Theories of the Body, as well as the Examining Care and Caregiving seminar. She co-leads a Vanderbilt Visions group and teaches a Commons iSeminar as part of the University’s immersion initiative. Students in her classes read from academic disciplines like anthropology, history of medicine, American Studies, epidemiology, and Chicana Studies, as well as popular media sources. She says that her innovative, immersive assessment techniques “are often a relief to students” who are used to final papers and exams. Students develop their own creative final projects in order to demonstrate their command of course material, including video “papers,” board games, poems, and podcasts.

Histories of Human Experimentation

In the middle of the 20th century, the practice of human medical experimentation changed radically. In search of large numbers of healthy bodies on which to test new drugs, materials, and medical techniques, and in order to learn how “normal” human bodies worked, medical research entered prisons and military institutions. At midcentury, healthy people (mostly men) who bore some kind of debt to the US government became fodder for a new large-scale medical research industry.

In the late 1960s, the US government threw a wrench into this research machine. Advocates for prisoner rights pressed for an end to research on incarcerated people. In the early 1970s, the US Congress passed laws for the proper treatment of human subjects, prompted by revelations of the horrific Tuskegee syphilis studies. By the end of the 1970s, the medical research industry could no longer use people rendered “vulnerable” by their socioeconomic position or their institutional location.

*Experimenting on “normal” humans at the NIH Clinical Center
(photo courtesy of Mennonite Central Committee)*

Scholars of medicine have long sought to explain how the American medical research industry not only survived this moment, but carried on without missing a beat. In an article published in *Social History of Medicine* (Dec. 2018), Professor Laura Stark explains how, in the years after World War II, leaders at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) set and expanded a second system to supply healthy people for human experimentation, in addition to government-based arrangements to access people with restricted civil liberties. During the early 1950s, NIH aligned with a set of private religious organizations in the US to create an enduring, large-scale civilian market for healthy human subjects. The government utilized the legal mechanism of procurement contracts, which had been used only to buy hard goods that were restricted from purchase. In February 1954, NIH put this legal tool to the new use of acquiring people, signing contracts with two large religious organizations to supply Voluntary Service workers as “normal controls” for medical experiments. The consequences of this move continue to shape medical research through the present day.





Mural at the Colegio Médico de Perú depicting different healing traditions

The Politics of Universal Health Coverage In Peru by Dominique Béhague

This spring semester, I have been visiting professor at the School of Public Health of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru. With support from colleagues at Cayetano, I am researching efforts by the Peruvian government to increase universal health care coverage since the 1990s, including implementing reforms relating to chronic disease prevention, mental health care, and quality of care. As policy analysts have shown, the health sector recovered relatively quickly following an economic collapse in the late 1980s and early 1990s caused by decades of neoliberal politics, hyperinflation, and warfare between the Peruvian government and guerilla organizations. Since then, the country has been cited as a success story by international policy analysts and the World Health Organization. Recent reforms have also spotlighted issues such as violence, gender inequity, and the role of racial and class-based discrimination in care and health—topics that have been largely neglected in Peru and in the broader context of global health studies.

The path towards implementing commitments to health equity has been by no means smooth, however, and with a month of preliminary fieldwork behind me, I have begun to shift focus toward concerns about these new changes to which my interlocutors in the field are pointing me. In addition to corruption, difficulty coordinating the public and private sector, and significant political upheaval, the past years have witnessed growing influence from civil society actors, environmental activists, and grassroots, student-led groups. As key leaders of these movements argue, health rights cannot be conceptualized or acted upon separately from other rights and necessary reforms—labor rights, land reform, indigenous rights, gender equity, and economic policies entrenched in geopolitics. Changes in health in Peru right now, just as in other countries across the region, may mean the disruption of long-standing colonial and neoliberal power formations that have shaped this country.

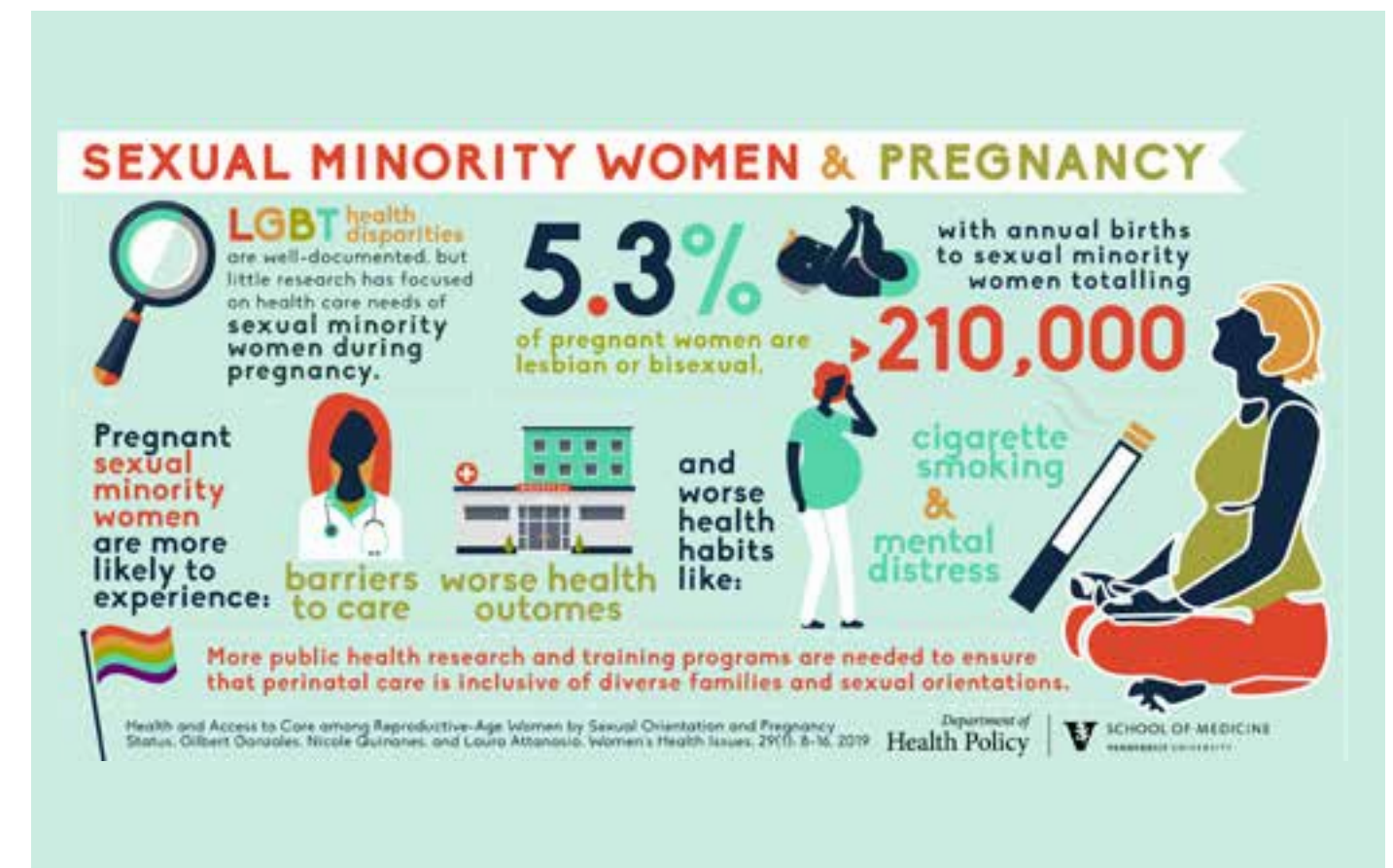
New Research on Sexual Minority Women During Pregnancy

Professor Gilbert Gonzales (Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Medicine, Health, and Society) led a new study examining health disparities among lesbian and bisexual women during pregnancy. A large body of research has documented disparities in health and access to care among sexual minority populations (gay men, lesbians, bisexual individuals, and other non-heterosexual individuals), but very little population-based research has focused on the health care needs of pregnant, sexual minority women.

Using data from the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Gonzales and his colleagues (Laura Attanasio, University of Massachusetts, and Nicole Quinones, a Vanderbilt MPH student) found reproductive-age sexual minority women experience disparities in health and health behaviors compared to heterosexual women. Approximately 5% of all pregnant women were lesbian or bisexual, which translates to more than

210,000 births to sexual minority women annually. Pregnant sexual minority women were more likely to smoke cigarettes compared to other women. About 28% of pregnant sexual minority women reported smoking every day. One out of four pregnant sexual minority women also reported forgoing medical care because of high health care costs. Nearly half (44.8%) of pregnant sexual minority reported lifetime diagnoses for depression.

Not only can pregnancy be a stressful life event, but sexual minority women may also experience discrimination and stigma that heighten stress levels during pregnancy. Much more research and health programming are needed to ensure that perinatal care is inclusive of diverse families and sexual orientations. According to Gonzales, "teaching future health care providers about sexual minority health and ensuring health care offices are safe and welcoming for sexual minorities are two starting points towards achieving health equity."



Writing with Veteran Voices

In October, MHS professor Odie Lindsey was a Visiting Writer at Monmouth University, where he was invited to discuss the creative writing process, the influence of military culture on his writing as well as his own military experience, and his related, MHS work. Alongside a public reading of his fiction, Lindsey met with members of Monmouth's student-veteran population, led a writing workshop in tandem with a veteran-centered arts organization, and spoke with undergraduates whose academic interests bridged literature and arts, health care, and social work.



Professor Odie Lindsey and fellow editors accept an MIAL award for the Mississippi Encyclopedia.

Writing-wise, Professor Lindsey began the year by penning a profile of songwriter Mary Gauthier for the *Oxford American*, and ended it by cheering on her Grammy nomination. He was awarded a second consecutive fellowship for literature to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, where he focused on final edits on his forthcoming novel from W.W. Norton, as well as initial work on a new book of fiction. Last year, Lindsey's previous book, *We Come to Our Senses* (W.W. Norton), was named to *Book Riot's* "100 Must Read Contemporary Short Story Collections." With his co-editors on the [Mississippi Encyclopedia](#) (University Press of Mississippi), Lindsey was honored to receive 2018 awards from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, the Mississippi Historical Society, and the Mississippi Heritage Trust, and to see the volume featured in *U.S. News and World Report*, *Associated Press*, the *Journal of Southern History*, and elsewhere.

At the heart of Lindsey's MHS work is the teaching of writing, literature, cultural studies, and related critical thought. This year, as complement to books by Toni Morrison, Larry Brown, Brad Watson, and others, his classes analyzed works by Vanderbilt-affiliated authors, and/or writers who have recently visited campus, including Carmen Maria Machado, Molly McCully Brown, Kirstin Valdez-Quade, Alice Randall, Lee Connell, Kate Daniels, and fellow MHS faculty member Kenneth MacLeish.

Teaching the Social Dimensions of Mental Health

Professor Courtney S. Peterson, MHS Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Undergraduate Major Advising, celebrated her 11th year of teaching at Vanderbilt this spring, continuing coursework that immerses students in diverse understandings of disease and mental illness. Her Social Foundations of Health and Illness course (MHS 1930) examines illness experiences, the doctor-patient relationship, and barriers to care from a multidisciplinary approach, and brings doctors, patients, and family members into the classroom to speak to students. Peterson's course Mental Illness Narratives (MHS 3450) uses memoir, film, and student guest speakers to better understand conditions like bipolar, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and schizophrenia. Peterson continues to conduct research on factors that contribute to eating disorders in adult women at different stages of life, from their 20s to their 70s, including the impact of age itself.



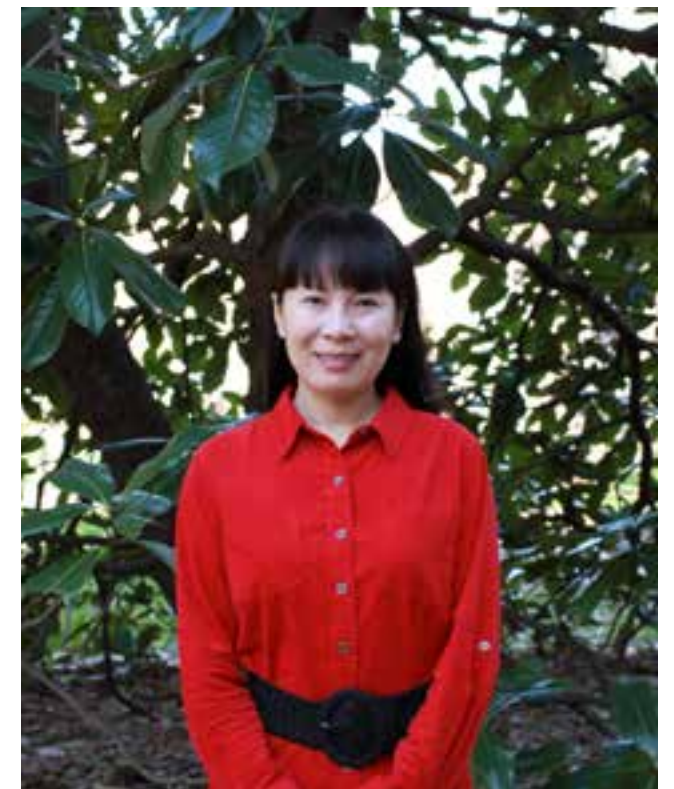
Reconciling Health Disparities with the Promises of Precision Medicine

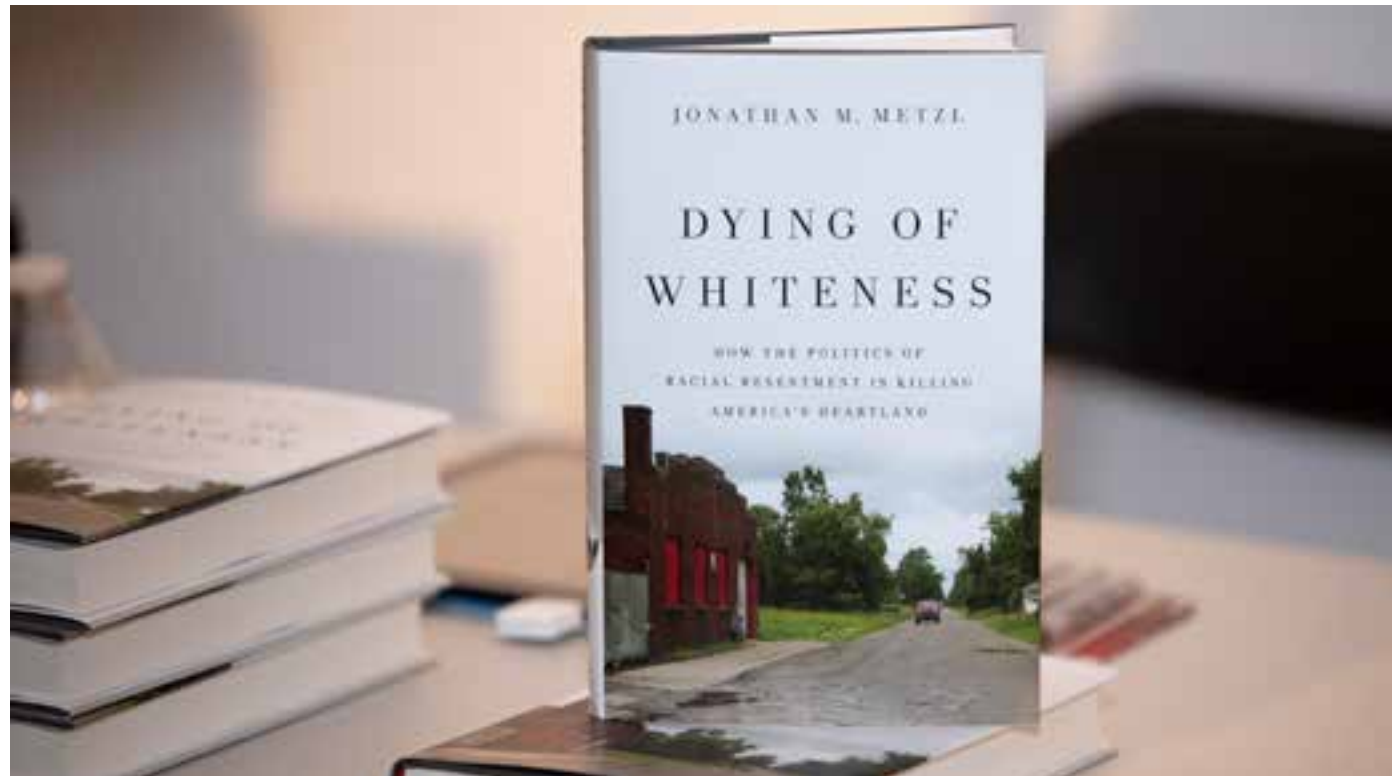
Precision and personalized medicine use high tech methods to produce interventions tailored to individual patients' genes and biology, offering potentially massive benefits to overall health and well-being. At the same time, studies of the social determinants of health models show that factors like race, social class, health care quality and access, and environmental hazards, stresses, and resources shape the health trajectories of entire populations, not just of individuals and their cells and organs. In 2018, Professor Hector Myers was part of a team of researchers working with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities' Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center for Precision Medicine & Health Disparities (PMHDC) to reconcile the tension between these two approaches. The Center's goal of improving the quality and efficacy of high tech health care while addressing the social contexts and social structures that contribute to population health differences poses major theoretical and practical challenges. Myers has supported this initiative by consulting with junior researchers about the role of social determinants in genomic research, surveying health researchers' attitudes toward precision medicine, and leading a collaborative team to develop a framework for future work focused specifically on health disparities affecting African American and Latino populations.

Who You Know Affects Your Health

Does the power or status of the people you know affect how disruptive health problems might be to your life? Does that disruption vary by which society you live in? These were the questions explored in Professor Lijun Song's 2018 article in *Social Science & Medicine*, co-authored with graduate student Philip J. Pettis. After analyzing data from the United States, urban China, and Taiwan, Song and Pettis theorized that connections in social networks can have both protective and detrimental health effects. Their research suggests that inequality and the advantages and disadvantages of collectivist societies may all play a role across different national contexts.

In addition to the article, Song presented her research in invited talks at Academia Sinica and National Taipei University in Taiwan, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in Hong Kong, and Nanjing University and Sun Yat-sen University mainland China, and at conferences in Greece and the Netherlands.





MHS Director Publishes New Book, *Dying of Whiteness*

MHS Director Dr. Jonathan Metzl continues his work as a national expert on the politics of guns and gun violence in the United States. His writing and research show how Americans might better understand one another across political divides about highly charged matters of gun-related life and death. Metzl's new book, *Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland* (Basic Books, 2019), details extended conversations with gun owners in the Midwest about the roles guns play in their daily lives. Metzl is also the editor of a forthcoming special issue of Palgrave Communications that explores the symbolic meanings of firearms in different social, political, and geographical locales. The collection pulls together leading scholarship about the diverse meanings of guns beyond simply shooting bullets or causing injuries. "What stories do people tell about their weapons?" Metzl asks. "Why do some people feel they need guns in their homes or neighborhoods, while others reject guns out of hand?"

Metzl is a frequent voice on national media about gun politics and the racial politics of American health. Over the past year he has appeared on such diverse outlets as NPR, FOX News, PBS, and the BBC, and has written columns for *Politico*, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Washington Post*. Metzl also serves as the Research Director of The Safe Tennessee Project, a non-partisan, volunteer-based organization that is concerned with gun-related injuries and fatalities in Tennessee.

Being a gun violence expert, a professor, and a psychiatrist is a unique combination that allows Metzl to speak and write about stereotypes that link guns with race or that blame mental illness for mass shootings and other gun crimes.

As he writes, "I care deeply about reducing gun violence and eliminating the stigma of mental illness. It is my hope that my work will contribute to efforts for well-intentioned people on all sides of the gun debate to push for reasonable middle ground, common-sense solutions that lessen rates of injury and death."



DISARMED: Art and Firearms

In February and March 2019, MHS joined with Nashville's [Rymer Gallery](#) to host DISARMED, a pathbreaking exhibition using art to explore the tensions surrounding guns, gun violence, and gun politics in US society.



The group exhibition featured local and national artists, including Alex Lockwood, Herb Williams, Sam Dunson, Diedrick Kraajeveld, Natalie Baxter, Dan Crumine, Susanne Slavick, and Michael Murphy. A series of gallery events over the six-week exhibition explored such vital questions as: How can the creative community have an impact on matters of gun violence?, How does art highlight the influences of history, politics, geography, economy, media, and culture through ways the powerful visual symbols of firearms?, and Can art help us find common ground in the search for safety for people, families, and communities?

These events brought together artists, scholars, activists, community leaders, and students from the Nashville community. MHS Director Jonathan Metzl's gallery talk at the opening reception explored connections between art and public policy.

Artwork by Alex Lockwood (above left and below) and Herb Williams, courtesy of Rymer Gallery. Photo by Celina Callahan-Kapoor.





Students Examine Caregiving through Creative Expression

Students in Professor Celina Callahan-Kapoor's fall 2018 MHS seminar, Examining Care & Caregiving, spent the semester developing final projects that critically examined an instance of caregiving. Through the course, students learned about the care policy landscape in the US and honed their critical thinking skills while learning how social scientists make sense of caregiving. Finally, the class focused on how medical and legal institutions interact around care and reinforce societal norms—how a “good” victim should act in the case of rape evidence collection, for instance, and what constitutes the “best interest” of a child in the case of foster care.

In their final projects, students' explored the topics such as: motherhood and the “good mother” myth; care of incarcerated women; gay conversion therapy; literature as care; eating disorder treatment; care of a mentally ill partner, in college relationships and in marriage; and the care of Korean “parachute kids.”



Student created board game about the care of a mentally ill spouse and how to achieve remission



Lansden's mobile

ELIZABETH LANSDEN ('20)

Through two comparative baby mobiles, I explore the dynamic role of marriage in caregiving in Mark Lukach's memoir *My Lovely Wife In the Psych Ward*, as well as his wife Giulia's first and third psychotic breaks and institutionalization. Both the mobile structures and the objects hanging from them represent concepts from caregiving such as: moral imaginings (imagination of what constitutes “a good life”), reciprocity between caregiver and care receiver, logic of care, networks of care, and standardization of care. Giulia's first and third psychotic break were managed quite differently by her husband, her professional care providers, and even Giulia herself. The first episode was treated by following treatment protocol; the third was managed in a less standardized way, using a concept from the anti-psychiatry movement, “Map Maps.” The goal of the mobiles is to prompt the audience to examine the multiple components of care.

Through this project, I learned how to take academic concepts and theories learned from class and apply them to a new caregiving case, a memoir. The application of these theories allowed me to expand how I understand them in order to reveal how they differ and are unique to each caregiving scenario. I also learned how to creatively represent an academic argument.

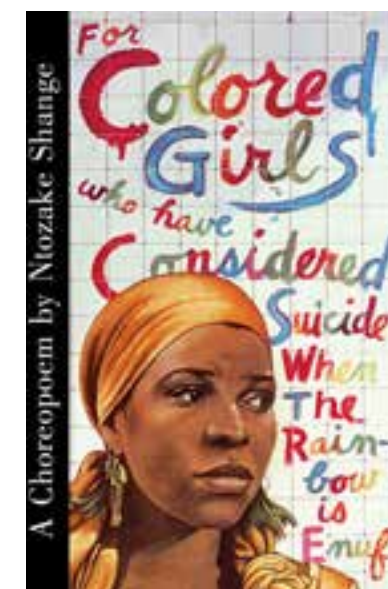


Lansden's mobile

MARCUS GREEN ('21)

Ntozake Shange's groundbreaking work *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow is Enuf* delves into painful topics such as sexual assault, domestic violence, and psychological abuse with stunning clarity. Within this choreopoem—a story structure that combines poetry and dramatic narrative forms—life trajectories, or experiences encountering misogynistic and racist attitudes, lead each woman to falsely believe that they are unworthy of affection and that their cyclical abuse is justified. These internalized self-perceptions result in suicidal ideation and aversion to care. However, despite its depressive content, *For Colored Girls* advocates for self-love and emotional healing, and promotes the revolutionary perspective of literature as care. In other words, it asks: can literature transcend complex personal histories and fragile insecurities to encourage care?

As a poetic response in direct conversation with Shange, “mind out of mind” calls into question the reality of American cultural values of independence and equality and briefly examines the difference between theory and application of foundational historical texts.



mind out of mind

i've given you everything -
nurtured you from death,
baptized you in the hudson,
fed you scraps from the melting
pot,
and with
arms outstretched,
numbing scattered blues
and preaching gospel,
endless possibilities,

i stood in faith -
deaf to my own promise,
bound to half-truths
of measured life
and cruel liberty

hollow
and heavenly
can't think myself out of feeling
arose to set myself free

Diagnosing War through Veteran Experiences

Professor Ken MacLeish is an anthropologist who studies people's lived experiences of contemporary medicine, everyday life, and organized violence. His research focuses on US military servicemembers, veterans, and families and their communities, looking at firsthand experiences of the people whose lives and work literally make the US's post-9/11 wars. MacLeish also studies the medical and psychiatric categories used to make sense of war-related distress. His work shows how conditions like posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are not only clinical phenomena and sources of tremendous suffering, but also interpretive frameworks rich with cultural meaning that shape how civilians perceive war and how veterans make sense of their experiences. A diagnosis can shape access to health care and validate a sufferer's experience, but it also becomes a language through which people mobilize stereotype, make claims on institutions (i.e., for benefits and compensation), or debate the politics and morality of war.

In November 2018, MacLeish traveled to Australia to participate in an international public panel of experts discussing a rise in soldier suicide that has been observed across many of the militaries involved in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also delivered talks at Brown University and the University of Chicago on his new book, *Veteran Disorder: On Care and Ex-Military Life in a Veteran Treatment Court*. This ethnographic investigation of recent veterans involved in the criminal justice system will be published by Princeton University Press.

MacLeish's classes draw students into investigations of how culture and power shape human experiences of health and illness. Students become important authors of course material, organizing discussions and group projects that shape the course of the semester. In 2018 he taught War and the Body, Perspectives on Trauma, Politics of Health, and Anthropology of Healing.



Photo courtesy of Centre for International Security Studies, University of Sydney



How LGBTQ+ Mozambicans Confront HIV/AIDS Stigma

Naveen Krishnan ('20) is majoring in MHS, Neuroscience, and Sociology, and is interested in the issue of health care access towards marginalized communities and LGBTQ+ rights on a global scale. Last year, he conducted an immersive research trip to Mozambique, under the advising of MHS professor Tara McKay. There, Krishnan studied how MSM (men who have sex with men) access health care in a stigmatized environment. Through interviews with NGO workers, MSM activists, and health care officials in the country, Krishnan was able to understand the inner workings of this issue to supplement the literature review and background research he completed in the US. Specifically, the end goal of the project was not only to determine the main obstacles that MSM face in trying to gain access to health care, but also to see how health care is or can potentially be tailored towards MSM individuals. By sitting in on meetings within Lambda, Mozambique's only LGBTQ+ organization, and speaking with MSM and trans Mozambicans, Krishnan was able to get a better picture of the specific obstacles and discrimination that certain populations face in that country.

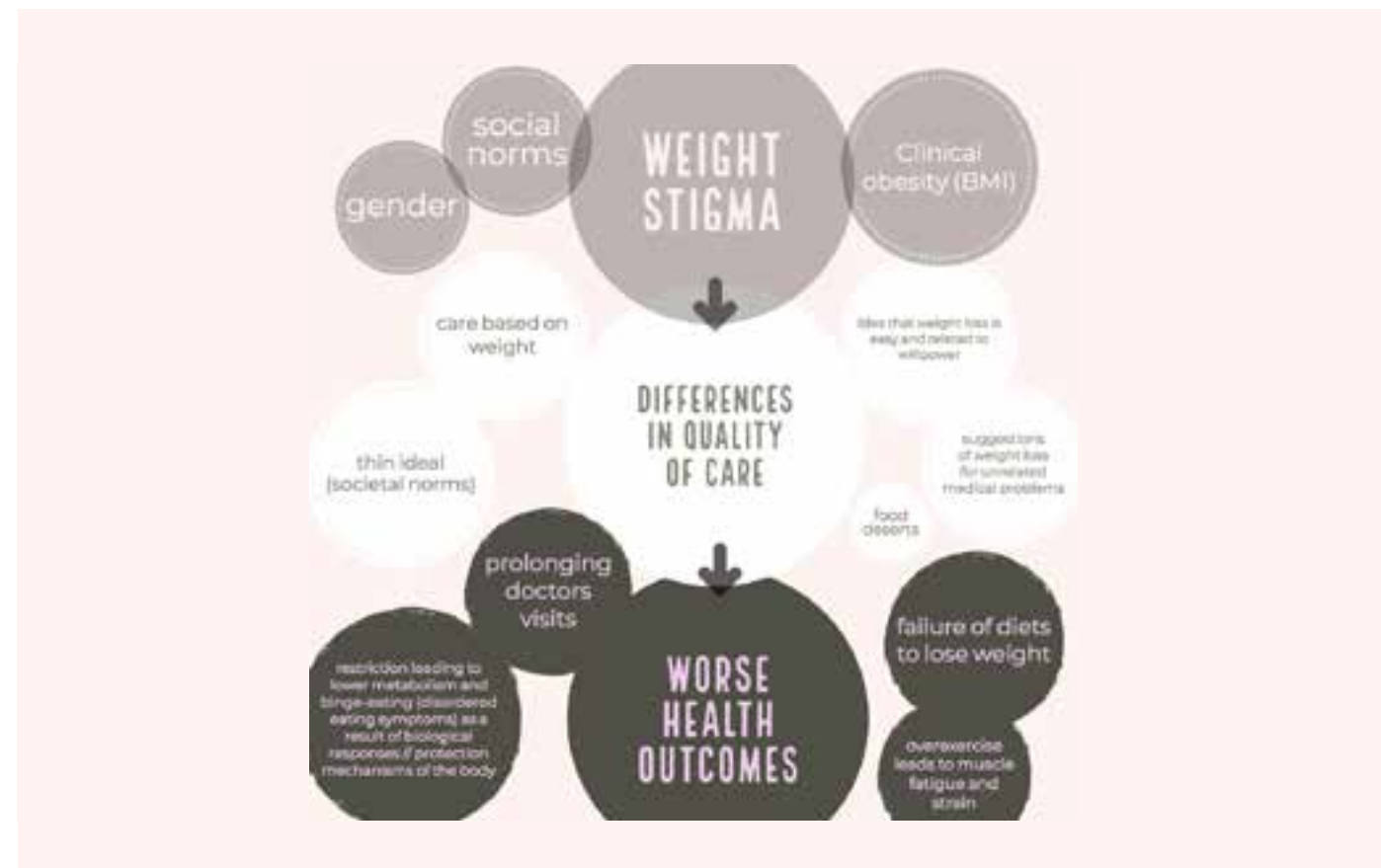
While the research project highlighted many aspects of health care delivery, Krishnan found that Lambda utilizes an innovative system of community agents to reach out to queer populations in the country through a grassroots network. Agents use social media and online platforms, in addition to local hotspots like certain clubs and bars, to make personal connections for outreach. Additionally, agents also provide services discretely, since individuals do not have to go to a public clinic or other areas for one-on-one help and attention. Through this network, Lambda agents are able to answer questions and aid in an individual navigating the health care process.

Many of the community agents themselves were part of the LGBTQ+ community, which aided in beneficiaries feeling comfortable when seeking help.



Immersed in the Classroom

Students produced infographics for their coursework in MHS 1930, Social Dimensions of Health and Illness, taught by Professor Lauren Gaydos. Students examine how the social environment shapes patterns of health and disease, producing health inequalities. The assignments for this course were designed around a semester-long engagement with a research subject of the student's design. Students outlined their project using a conceptual diagram, tested their research question using real data, produced a data visualization, and interviewed a practitioner specializing in their topic. These projects were supported by Adobe Creative Cloud licenses provided by the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning.



Michelle Cole (MHS, '20) completed a project connecting weight stigma to quality of medical care received and the resulting negative impact on health outcomes. Weight stigma is a negative perception of individuals based on weight that influences how we treat them. As part of this project, Cole interviewed Emily Murray, local registered dietitian, and Dr. Elissa Rosen, an internal medicine doctor who works at the renowned Gaudiani Clinic in Denver, Colorado. Both Murray and Rosen work in the field of eating disorder, where weight stigma is common in diagnosis and treatment.

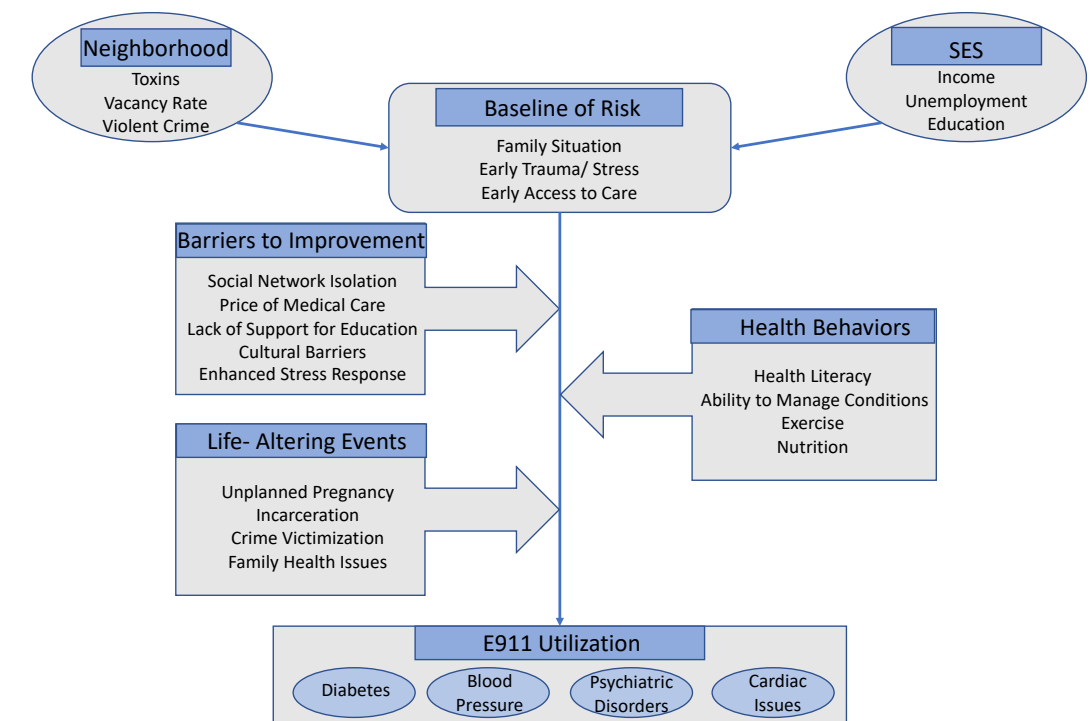


Murray works with clients of different shapes, sizes, and abilities. She found that dietitians are, unfortunately, often highly susceptible to internalized weight bias, which may affect their recommendations to clients. Murray noted that health care providers, dietitians included, tend to vilify fat and give unsolicited advice to eliminate certain foods from their diet, despite research showing that dieting is associated with binge eating and unhealthy weight suppression. She explained that these patients then avoid seeking help from providers due to shame about their bodies. In her practice, Murray says that "treating clients with respect is the first priority.... Patient-centered care should be focused on the patient's biological,

psychological, and mental needs, not on the practitioner's opinion about their weight." This model of care focuses on a holistic picture of health untainted by practitioners deeply ingrained biases. Dr. Rosen is one of the few medical doctors in the country who is a certified specialist in eating disorders. At the Gaudiani Clinic, weight is generally not measured, as the clinicians prefer to focus on other more telling indicators of health. Dr. Rosen ingeniously said that "weight and health are mutually exclusive." Weight stigma and our society's preference of smaller bodies over larger ones leads to weight-biased health care and worse health outcomes, as our bodies are physically affected by discrimination and mental stress. Thus, weight-based discrimination can lead to trauma in the brain and negative associations with fat, simply because we do not acknowledge or value natural body diversity. From this project, Cole learned about the value of a weight-neutral approach in providing ethical and compassionate care for all bodies.



Wills Dunham (MHS, '20) used the coursework as an opportunity to further his ongoing work with the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service. In Spring 2018, Dunham was awarded a Buchanan Library Fellowship through the Jean and Alexander Heard Library to develop a project using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He analyzed a dataset of over 30,000 emergency 911 calls provided by the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service, the main emergency medical response agency of his hometown of Birmingham, AL. He provided the fire department's preventative medicine division with a set of data visualizations and analyses exploring the incidence rates of blood pressure, stroke, mental health episodes,



and other preventative medical issues. These maps allow the fire department to better target prevention efforts down to the neighborhood and fire station territory level, as well as better facilitating cooperation with other important community health stakeholders.

Dunham expanded upon this data analysis to explore the relationships between the call data and measures of fundamental socioeconomic causes of health outcomes. He incorporated publicly available, neighborhood-level socioeconomic measures collected by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to correlate social conditions and health incidents. Throughout the process, he gained valuable experience in research methods, learned about the difficulties inherent in social science research, changed his perspectives about health care, and solidified his interest in working in epidemiology, particularly in his hometown.



Photo by Adonyi Gábor

Students Propose Expert Nutrition Statements

A recent survey from the International Food Information Council reported that more than half of adult consumers believed it easier to do their taxes than figure out what constitutes a healthy diet. This confusion about food and nutrition is no surprise to Professor Jamie Pope, who teaches the MHS course Nutrition and Health for a Changing World. Pope fields plenty of questions from the undergraduate students in her course. What's more, she asks for their questions as part of their first assignment. "I've collected literally thousands of these questions in the almost 20 years that I've been teaching this course," Pope says. "They tend to reflect what is trending in the media or what dietary approaches are popular at the moment." After reviewing the questions and common themes, Pope asks the class to vote on four or five topics to research for a Nutrition in the News project. Students choose one of the topics, to be explored in the media and in the scientific literature. On the last day of class, students who researched the same topic convene as a group and are challenged to draft a Consensus Statement. The statement is proposed to begin with something like "Based on current scientific evidence, it is the opinion of this panel that...." Pope enjoys moving among the groups as they share (and often debate) their individual findings, and consider how differing perspectives influence a consensus. "I have several objectives with this project—to encourage a scientific lens for reading headlines or media reports, to explore on a small scale the scope of scientific literature, and to experience the evolving nature of nutrition science—though there are few concrete answers." Recognizing that this is not an exhaustive review, students experience the complexities of evaluating nutrition claims and conflicting messages in the media and marketplace.



Group consensus questions and statements from Fall 2018:

Does intermittent fasting provide health benefits or aid in weight loss/control?

Based on current research findings, it is our group's consensus that intermittent fasting may provide health benefits such as lower blood pressure and lower risk of Type 2 diabetes (by improving insulin sensitivity). However, it may contribute to inflammation. Intermittent fasting for weight control does not appear to be any more effective for weight loss or maintenance than other approaches. When paired with healthy food choice, fasting does not appear to present significant health risk, however, more research is warranted as data in humans is limited.

Do the "pros" of red meat consumption outweigh the "cons"?

Based on the informed opinion of this panel, the health benefits of red meat consumption only outweigh the risk when consumed in moderation. There appears to be a dose-response relationship that indicates an increase in mortality (total and cause-specific) with high consumption of red meat. Processed red meat, in particular, should be strictly limited. Further research is warranted to determine safe and moderate intake levels of red meat.

Is sugar addictive?

Based on current evidence, it is the consensus of this panel that results regarding addictive qualities of sugar consumption are inconsistent and inconclusive, and that more research in humans is warranted. However, in view of research reviewed by this panel, it appears that sugar is not addictive. Some studies show "addictive" effects similar to caffeine, but not on the level of drugs like cocaine across studies reviewed.

What is the effect of diet soda consumption on health?

Based on the findings there was inconsistent evidence of correlation, but not causation, between regular diet soda consumption and increased risk of chronic disease. Some evidence links diet soda consumption to glucose intolerance and increased abdominal fat. Overall, while the choice of diet over regular soda is likely preferable in that it does not contribute empty/excess calories to the diet, it is the recommendation of this group to limit consumption of both diet and regular soda. More research is warranted.

UNDERSTANDING GAPS IN HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

MADELYN BOLLIG ('19)

As an MHS major who plans to attend medical school, Madelyn Bollig cares a lot about people and health care as a whole. Last spring, upon realizing the severity of the predicament of people within the coverage gap through Professor Laura Stark's course on American Medicine and the World, Bollig was struck and inspired to pursue an honors project on the state of health insurance and barriers to health care in the US. Growing up in a family that has had countless procedures and medical challenges, this inspiration was especially poignant for Bollig, who could not imagine where her family would be if they had not had health insurance, and thus access to care.

Bollig found an ideal mentor in Professor Gilbert Gonzales of Health Policy and MHS, whose research focuses on improving health care, and understanding how the structure of the US health care system impacts specific groups and individuals. Under the guidance of Gonzales, Bollig is using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) health survey to examine the reasons people fall in the coverage gap. More specifically, she is using large data to identify which individuals still remain in the coverage gap after the implementation of Medicaid expansion and other aspects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. She hopes to better understand the role of government policies in perpetuating or eliminating the coverage gap.

To address this question Bollig is implementing a statistical tool, the Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition, which was originally developed in economics to demonstrate the influence of discrimination in creating the wage gap between men and women. By applying this method to the health insurance coverage, Bollig can determine how much of the difference in insurance coverage between whites and nonwhites is explained by known attributes—such as sociodemographic characteristics or state residency—and how much remains unexplained. Despite different states having varying policies on health care and Medicaid expansion under the ACA, state residency has yet to be identified



as a significant contributor to the disparities in coverage. More interestingly, both the language spoken by the individual and their level of education explain the majority of the difference in health insurance coverage between whites and nonwhites. This finding could have significant implications on future health policies seeking to mitigate the coverage gap, achieve universal coverage, and promote better access to health care. This is especially important in the uncertainty produced by the continued wake of attacks and repeals on parts of the ACA.

While Bollig is still unsure if she will pursue an MPH in conjunction with a medical degree, or the exact capacity this newfound passion will occupy in the future, because of this experience she plans to persist in seeking best practices for eliminating the barriers to care for all people—especially when these barriers are related to health insurance coverage—and to hopefully leave a legacy of a better health care system.

MAKING A MORE INTEGRATED HEALTH IT INFRASTRUCTURE

ZAIN CHAUHAN ('16, *17)

Zain Chauhan is currently in graduate school in the Vision Science and Investigative Ophthalmology program at the Miller School of Medicine. Working with his mentor, MHS Professor Martha Jones, Chauhan conducted a statewide survey of dental clinics in Tennessee, measuring adoption of dental IT and practice characteristics, including region, rurality, specialty, and practice size. Their research was published in *Applied Clinical Informatics* in 2018. Chauhan and Jones found that organizational factors, namely specialization and practice size, significantly predicted the adoption of an Electronic Health Record (EHR)-capable system. More specifically, the odds of adopting an EHR was 67% lower for specialists than for general dentists. They also found that larger dental practices were associated with a much greater likelihood of adopting an EHR.



Dentistry and medicine often operate in separate domains—divided by policy, insurance, education, and professionalization. This dental-medical divide impacts the ability of dental and medical clinics to effectively exchange patient data, such as medical history, dental history, laboratory reports, and prescribed medications. Movements to improve interprofessional collaboration have suggested that improving patient data exchange would allow for better cooperation between medical and dental clinical teams, and provide more reliable information on a patient's overall health. One of the essential first steps to an integrated dental-medical patient data environment is the development, adoption, and widespread use of interoperable EHRs, in both the dental and medical fields. However, compared to medicine, there has been significantly fewer studies analyzing the adoption and factors contributing to adoption of dental information technology (IT), such as EHRs.

To begin the process of developing a truly integrated health IT ecosystem that includes dentistry as a critical component of one's overall health, there needs to be the development and use of certified EHRs in both the dental and medical fields. The findings from Chauhan's research suggest that any efforts to increase dental IT adoption should be mindful of potential disparities between larger and smaller practices, as well as between dental specialists and generalists.

BODIES AT SEA

BY SAHAR FAKHRUDDIN ('18, *19)

"Bodies at Sea" is a poem that relates to my thesis on the rhetoric around veteran and refugee posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Told from the point of view of a refugee, the piece is in part inspired by the now viral picture of Alan Kurdi, a child whose lifeless body washed up on the shores of Greece. It encourages the audience to see their life as truly being worthy of protection and care, effectively challenging the way we look at and talk about people from war-torn countries in the Global South as sensationalized news stories.



You're looking at me now:
Matted hair, tear stained face
Brown skin, a piercing gaze
Must I always scream so loud

For you to look at me
To stir feelings of rage?
Plastered shock at my pain . . .
You need my agony

Because looking at me
Fuels your fiery posts;
Your friends take them as "oaths"
To save those lost at sea

But will you keep looking
When I show you my scars,
Mangled limbs, and broken heart?
From wars you keep starting

For purposes of looking,
Surveilling, policing,
Destroying, and making
Sure you're still controlling

The way you look at me
But keep failing to see
My body as being
Worthy of your healing

Because looking is free
While protecting is not
And when engulfed in greed
Making me human costs

I may not look like you
But I'm asking
No, I'm telling
Begging
See me now

THE MAGIC OF FAMILY AND RITUAL

BY REBECCA RAHIMI (*19)

I am interested in the ways that Persian culture influences memory and generational rituals. The following narrative piece, adapted from my master's thesis, I explore the importance of superstition in forming familial bonds:

As Persians, our very culture reveres superstition and the uncanny. At the most basic level, we engage in the popular ritual of knocking on wood to ward off bad luck. But Persian rituals drip to excess with symbolism and the stakes are higher, if only because we take superstitious rituals so seriously.

My maternal grandma and the matriarch of our family, Jeeba, introduced my mom and I to Persian witchcraft, so I think of her as being magical. When persistent bad luck befell one or more of us for a long period of time, Jeeba would summon the egg. I honestly don't know whether the egg is a tradition in which only our family engages, or if earlier Persian generations passed it down to us. Essentially, the ritual leader takes an egg—any regular, raw egg, nothing special—

and writes in pencil on the shell the names (or if the names are too long, the initials) of a range of people suspected of having cast the curse. On and on we'd go, calling out the names of family members and friends, while Jeeba penciled them onto the egg in random patterns.

Once the names of potential suspects filled up space on the hard, white shell—or once we had run out of names to share—the individual holding the egg would place her thumb onto the penciled name, say the name aloud, and press down on the spot. An unbroken shell meant that that particular suspect was clear of any implication in casting the curse. The process continued as name by name the shell remained rigid. And then, crack. As Jeeba called a name and pressed her thumb into the shell, the shell would crack and the egg's insides would ooze out, as if the shell were made of soft, crumbling clay. Everyone's body would stiffen and their faces would freeze as we'd begin to understand the ritual's implications. I loved every minute of the egg ritual. I loved knowing that in that moment, we had all recognized a collective enemy. In the back of my mind I knew that the tradition could be cause for skepticism. We took the outcome as fact and tended to brace ourselves for more bad things to come. But I was grateful to have had a magical prediction that would prepare me for evil that might come my way.

When I grew old enough to form my own opinions on superstitions, I began to adopt some of my family's rituals, and a few of my own. I'd knock on wood each time a friend shared good news or a hopeful prospect. If a friend complained of their ears turning red and feeling hot, I'd tell them that it was because someone was, at that moment, talking about them. When I visited Jeeba on my first trip home after moving to Nashville for graduate school, she greeted me with a long, Clinique Happy-scented hug. Then she promptly picked up the saltshaker from off the dining table, shook a handful of salt grains into her palm, and circled her enclosed fist around the crown of my head. I couldn't help but feel safe.



Catching Up With MHS Alumni



MILLER MORRIS ('16, *17)

After completing the 4+1 program in MHS, Miller Morris matriculated to the MPH Program at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. In the MPH program, Morris works as a research assistant for Lwala Community Alliance, a community-led health incubator in rural Kenya. Her thesis examines the prevalence and predictors of violence against women in this region and she plans to develop and implement an intervention to help reduce Gender-based violence in this area. Morris interned at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva for eight weeks in their Service Delivery and Safety Department. At the WHO, she developed an evidence-for-policy brief on engagement and empowerment efforts for health systems strengthening.

Morris credits her flexible MHS curriculum concentrating in global health with inspiring her interest in public health: “The MHS program cultivated my sense of stewardship and responsibility in my academic work. This ultimately helped me decide against a career in clinical medicine, and toward a career in public health, where I felt I could better integrate issues of justice and equity into my work. I feel like I began my MPH ahead of many of my peers. MHS’s dedication to systems thinking and a focus on the explanatory has helped me develop a growth mindset open to innovative solutions to multifaceted and complex problems in global health and development.”

BEATRÍZ SATIZÁBAL (*18)

Since graduating with an MHS Master’s degree in social determinants of health, Beatriz Satizabal began an Master’s of Science in communications with a public relations focus. Satizabal attributes her passion for science communication to the focus on writing and critical thinking in the MHS major. She explains, “The MHS program allowed me to showcase my writing skills, and to bring messages to others in a concise, simple manner. The research and reading skills I learned have given me an edge in all my classwork and personal life.” Satizabal shares her personal narratives in her blog, culturallytailored.com, where she hopes to inspire others with her path to self-confidence and self-expression.



PHILLIP GARRETT KING ('14, *15, *18)

Phillip Garrett King was an undergraduate double major in MHS and European history, and an MHS 4+1 master’s student. He also attended Vanderbilt Law, and now works in health care investment banking at Bailey Southwell. On the value of his MHS training for his job in health care, King says, “Having a background in MHS, particularly health care policy, has been critical in understanding the current state of our health care industry. Specifically, it assists in understanding the economic factors within the health care industry and how it has evolved post-ACA.”

RENÉE MARTIN-WILLET (*15)

Renée Martin-Willet earned her MA in MHS in 2015. Since graduating from Vanderbilt, Martin-Willet has worked in neuroscience and mental health research, first at the Vanderbilt Memory and Alzheimer’s Center in clinical Alzheimer’s research, and currently as the Laboratory Manager for CUChange at the University of Colorado-Boulder. CUChange is a transdisciplinary psychology and neuroscience center exploring the psychological, neurocognitive, physiological, genetic, and epigenetic factors that are linked with health and risk behavior. Martin-Willet was also a finalist in the Gates Cambridge Foundation Competition, and has published three, first-authored manuscripts.

Describing the value of her MHS training in her current role as Laboratory Manager, she notes, “I am able to leverage the competencies I gained from my MA from MHS and Certificate in Global Health from VIGH, and my experience as the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Scholar for 2014–15 both at the Alzheimer’s Center and in my current role, to increase emphasis on underrepresented groups in research, integrate principles of community engaged research in our study programs, and support diversity and student achievement among research staff and trainees in the research programs that I help to administer.”



DANIELLE BROOKS ('18)

Danielle Brooks was an MHS major and is currently attending Georgetown Law School. She looks forward to combining her MHS training with law to pursue a career in Food and Drug Law. Reflecting on her time in MHS, Brooks says, "I appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of the MHS degree, as it allowed me to become knowledgeable in many different areas relating to public health. I hope this breadth of knowledge, combined with what I learn in law school, helps me become as successful as possible in my career."

**MOLLY MOREAU ('16 *17)**

Molly Moreau was an MHS major and an MA program graduate. She is currently working at Vanderbilt's Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center as a program coordinator. At the Women's Center, Moreau oversees Vandy Sex Ed, the Center's peer-to-peer sex education program, and The Body Project, its body positivity program. Moreau cites her MHS degree as central to her current work: "I am constantly using the information I gained from the MHS program in my day-to-day work, particularly in my role as a sex educator. Understanding that the meanings of concepts like "health" and "wellness" are socially-constructed and ever-changing has been crucial for creating holistic sex education programs and addressing the sex-related questions and concerns of students on this campus."

Congratulations to Our 2018 MHS Award Recipients!

MHS major Danielle Brooks ('18) was awarded our Top Scholar Award for highest grade point average. Danielle graduated *summa cum laude* with minors in psychology and managerial studies.

Kelly Perry ('18) and Karin Oh ('18) were awarded the Beyond Boundaries award for outstanding community service efforts and leadership skills that have taken the study of Medicine, Health, and Society beyond the boundaries of the university.

The Excellence in Humanities Writing Award was given to Ava Wilson ('19) for her paper "The Technocratic Model of Birth in *The Bluest Eye*." Honorable mentions to Mary Gwin ('18) for "Reliable Regulation? Origins and Issues of the IACUC," and Anoop Vemulapalli ('19) for "Disruptions of Continuity: An Analysis on Empathy in Doctor-Patient Interactions Using a Narrative-Based Medicine Approach."

The Excellence in Social Sciences Writing Award was given to Caroline Thompson ('18) for her paper "Controversies in Stem Cell Research: Which Life Matters?" Honorable mentions to Isabel Taylor ('18) for "Health Insurance Coverage and Disability Status," and Ciara Leoncadio ('18) for "The Racialized Experience of In Vitro Fertilization: Questions of Choice and Liminality."



MHS director, Jonathan Metzl
and Danielle Brooks

Medicine, Health,
4+1 AND Society
M.A.
SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH

APPLICATIONS DUE OCT 15th, 2020

The MHS M.A. in the **Social Foundations of Health** emphasizes interdisciplinary research and critical perspectives on health and illness. The curriculum includes classes with professors in MHS, the Graduate School, and Vanderbilt's Professional schools. Through faculty research collaborations and internships, students acquire foundational skills that will help them pursue careers or advanced degrees in a wide array of health-related fields.

Additional program and application information is available at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/mhs>. Application is open to students at Vanderbilt and other institutions with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. GRE scores are not required.

Questions? Contact Program Director JuLeigh Petty at juleigh.petty@vanderbilt.edu

Meet Our Master's Students

SUMMER BROWN ('18, *19)

Summer Brown is an MHS 4+1 master's student whose work promotes the literary intervention of reading illness memoirs as a tool to restore disrupted physician-patient communication. Summer combines her previous studies to argue that the vast narrative knowledge embedded in illness memoirs expose the complications, emotions, and lack of individualized illness information that textbooks can leave out. Brown's chosen illness memoirs, Roxanne Gay's *Hunger* and Porochista Khakpour's *Sick*, share complex stories about the authors' bodies, their lives, and their illnesses—obesity and Lyme's disease, respectively—revealing that medicine and illnesses are not confined to textbooks. Rather, medical care takes time, patience, and active communication that physicians and patients may lack.

This contemporary medical miscommunication stems from the lack of literary studies within the scientifically-focused, medical school curriculum founded upon the 1910 publication of the Flexner Report. As a solution, illness memoirs—such as *Hunger* and *Sick*—are accessible and relatable, revealing a variety of individual illness experiences, teaching narrative knowledge to both physicians and patients.



SAM EDWARDS ('18, *19)

Sam Edwards is a native of Toledo, Ohio, and an MHS 4+1 master's student. His thesis project reviews quality of life intervention plans for pediatric cancer patients. Edwards' research presents literature which claims that quality of life interventions promote positive health outcomes for pediatric cancer patients, and better psychosocial adjustment for the familial unit beyond their physical illness. His thesis also analyzes the current treatment plans of five major pediatric cancer centers to present current interventions, as well as locate areas of improvement. His work concludes with a discussion on the sociopolitical and philosophical implications of holistic pediatric cancer treatment, as well as public narratives surrounding pediatric cancer. Edwards hopes to present the value of quality of life interventions, motivate cancer centers to improve their services, and spark further research.



GRAYSON THOMPSON ('18, *19)

Grayson Thompson was a double major in MHS and molecular and cellular biology, and an MHS 4+1 master's student. Thompson researches the effectiveness of firearm legislation. The dozens of mass shootings that have occurred over the past several years have made the topic of firearm violence a pressing issue for many Americans. While mass shootings garner a lot of media attention, they only constitute a small fraction of overall gun violence and may unduly influence legislative attempts to counter mass shootings. Thompson's research examines states' responses to the firearm epidemic, including background checks, assault weapons bans, permit-to-purchase laws, red flag laws, and safe storage laws. He has investigated each of these policies in terms of their effectiveness at reducing firearm violence. Since Tennessee has a particularly high rate of firearm mortality—it ranks ninth in the country in terms of firearm homicides, and eighth in the country in terms of accidental shootings—Thompson made policy recommendations for the state of Tennessee that considered both the effectiveness of each proposal at reducing firearm violence, and the political feasibility within the state. He hopes to take the lessons that he learns at Vanderbilt to a career in the health care industry.



SAHAR FAKHRUDDIN ('18, *19)

Sahar Fakhruddin is an MHS 4+1 master's student who is interested in the politics of health and the social construction of disease narratives. Her research focuses on the cross-cultural comparison of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) rhetoric within two politically polarizing populations: veterans and refugees. With refugees and veterans both suffering from disproportionately higher rates of PTSD compared to the general population, her project highlights the mental health burden of these two figures of war. More specifically, it deconstructs the narratives used to describe them by analyzing war-induced trauma and violence through the lens of national security and biopower. The increase in the global refugee population, along with the rise of immigration policies that reflect the rhetoric of foreign terror, effectively mask Western involvement in warfare and the creation of mental health disorders. Thus, her research sets out to challenge normative assumptions of who we believe is worthy of care in an increasingly globalized and militarized society, in order to aid two ultimately interdependent populations.



LAUREN TAYLOR (*19)

Lauren Taylor is a master's candidate in MHS and works full-time as a Clinical/Translational Research Coordinator in Pediatric Endocrinology at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She is broadly interested in the social determinants of health, politics of health, and how health policy creates health inequities. Her thesis research focused on the high price of pharmaceutical drugs in the US, and she is interested in how high drug prices for cancer patients has caused patients to skip treatment and experience financial turmoil. Taylor has partnered with the cancer patient advocacy group, Patient Power, in order to employ a survey that asked patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Multiple Myeloma about disease characteristics, subjective financial burden, treatment behaviors, and global mental and physical health scores.

Taylor has enjoyed her time in the MHS program this year, as it has allowed her to cultivate an interdisciplinary skillset in the fields of social research and public health. She hopes to use the qualitative and quantitative skills gleaned throughout her academic course at Vanderbilt in order to further her studies in cancer research, pharmaceutical pricing, and health policy.

**GLORY STANTON (*20)**

Glory Stanton is a student in the two-year MA program in Medicine, Health, and Society. Prior to her education at Vanderbilt, she received her BS in health promotion and education (Provider Health/Pre-Medicine) with a minor in sociology from the University of Utah. While in her undergraduate program, she conducted research that explored effects of gendered-racial discrimination and its impacts on the health outcomes and coping mechanisms of African American men.

For her master's thesis, Stanton is interested in understanding the concepts of "trust" and "mistrust" in African American men, and how particular life experiences may ultimately shape not only their physician-patient relationships but their overall health outcomes. Exploring these intricate connections may allow us to learn more about the effect one's biopsychosocial responses have with regard to how various health disparities may develop within certain environments. This research may also allow us to understand current gaps that exist with the medical school curriculum, as they relate to cultural competency. Following the completion of her MA, Stanton plans to further her education with a possible research focus in bioethics and pediatrics.

**BRITTANY COX (*19)**

Brittany Cox graduated from Emory University in 2016 with a BA in psychology and a minor in sociology, and is currently an MHS 4+1 master's student. Throughout her time in the MHS graduate program, she has come to appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of the study of health and how psychological and sociological perspectives, among others, are essential for understanding human health. Cox is interested in health behavior change as it applies to healthy eating, specifically, how to increase access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables by people living in food insecure areas. Her master's thesis will review health behavior change interventions in food deserts, attempt to explain why they did or did not work based on the predictions of leading health behavior change theories, and offer suggestions for designing more successful interventions in the future. Cox has also had the privilege of working with Dr. David Schlundt and researching how to best define food deserts, map them, and design interventions for them. She is passionate about this work because a healthy diet has been shown to be a buffer against many diseases, and a way of promoting positive health outcomes. Her work supports the claim that all people, regardless of where they live, deserve access to healthy foods that will nourish and promote health.

**MAGGIE MANG (*19)**

Maggie Mang continues her work in Professor Hamraie's Critical Design Lab, which pairs critical design with intersectional feminist disability theory. The lab released a lab podcast, *Contra**, in the beginning of January. In Episode Two, Mang interviewed Mimi Khúc about hacking the DSM, and in Episode Five, Mang and fellow MHS student Rebecca Rahimi interviewed Robert McRuer about his book, *Crip Times*, and austerity politics. In addition, and inspired by her work with Khúc, Mang is developing pedagogical materials using the arts and humanities project Open in Emergency (OiE), to think through care politics and a pedagogy of care. Additionally, Mang continued her work as a research assistant for Professor Béhague's manuscript on the shaping of adolescence in Brazil. Mang's thesis engages with a "politics of unwellness" inspired by OiE, a project oriented as an intervention into Asian-American mental health. In addition to developing these pedagogical materials, Maggie uses OiE as a springboard to discuss the ethico-political charges that unwellness can provide in the midst of seemingly depoliticized compulsory wellness.

JENNIFER EDOBI ('18, *19)

Jennifer Edobi is an MHS 4+1 master's student. Throughout her course study in MHS, Edobi has learned that the ways self-identification and interaction occur within mundane and medicinal environments can be influenced by the ways bodies are depicted and constructed.

Over the past nine years of running track as a black female athlete, Edobi has generally been surrounded by white teammates with slimmer and less muscular builds. During this time, she was often exposed to socially-constructed assumptions that black female bodies are heavier and more voluptuous than their white counterparts. Consequently, she conducted a literary analysis of the ways black female bodies were portrayed through images and language surrounding obesity within two mainstream magazines from the 1990s, an era when obesity and eating disorders soared. This was also a time period where the ideal image of female beauty had transformed from that of the Gibson Girl, which exemplified slim-waisted voluptuous women, to that of Twiggy, which exemplified thin women. Edobi believes analyzing the rhetoric around black female bodies is critical since image portrayals influence general health, medical treatment, social interactions, and ultimately, our identity.

**JEREMY MANI ('18, *19)**

Jeremy Mani is an MHS 4+1 master's student. Mani has a long-standing interest in mental health, and a strong desire to conduct an investigation into a critical health issue such as the opioid epidemic. For his thesis, Mani is conducting a literature review of the opioid epidemic, its interaction with the Emergency Department (ED), and effective opioid interventions, to better understand if the implementation of an opioid abuse triage checklist in the ED can be an effective, method of improving health outcomes. This particular topic is important because the number of opioid abusers has increased every year for the past decade. As a result, EDs are being overrun with these victims of abuse—patients who may find more effective treatment in other sectors of health care. In order to best identify, diagnose, and refer opioid abusers to appropriate long-term health care sectors, a triage checklist would serve as an efficient, affordable intervention. Research shows that for other various mental health conditions, checklists are an effective tool in profiling, diagnosis, and referrals. Therefore, the aim is to use the literature and insights from ED physicians throughout the Nashville area to develop an opioid abuse triage checklist.

**BRIANA GOCHETT ('18, *19)**

Briana Gochett an MHS 4+1 master's student. Her research explores the power dynamics that exist within relationships between physicians and patients, and what kind of physician is prone to boundary violations. For this project, she worked with MHS Director Dr. Jonathan Metzl and the Center for Professional Health (CPH) in the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, which holds courses and conducts research in developing better professional skills in physicians. Her motivation for this project stems from her work at CPH, and the reality that patient-physician interactions are key determinants to health outcomes for the patient. These interactions constitute the physician-patient relationship, and require the definition of a boundary—essentially, a mutually beneficial yet professional relationship—which for decades has been framed and taught to American medical school students. When these boundaries are violated and relationships are not thoughtfully executed, worse health outcomes among patients are observed, particularly among women and racial minority patients who are disproportionately affected by poor physician-patient relationships. Built on her passion in understanding the different factors that lead to such health disparities, Gochett's goal is the further study of how boundary definitions have changed over time and between medical specialties, the effectiveness of professional development courses for physicians, and how race, gender, and other structural factors play into boundary violations.

**MANISHA MISHRA (*19)**

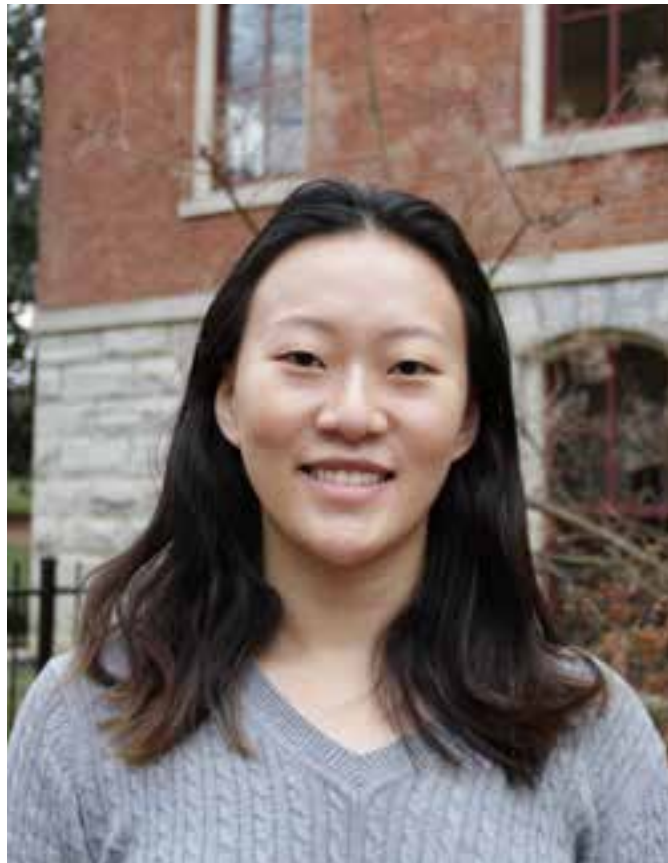
MHS master's student Manisha Mishra graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with double majors in biology and medical humanities. Her research interests at Vanderbilt include clinical empathy, medical education, clinical communication, and the doctor-patient relationship. Her undergraduate thesis looked at the ways the arts and humanities were integrated into the medical school curriculum to address professional burnout and decline of compassionate care practices. She was also a research assistant for the Vermont Study of Aid-in-Dying, which investigated the sociocultural and ethical implications of the Patient Choice and Control at End of Life Act. At Vanderbilt, her MA thesis combines methodologies learned from MHS coursework to examine how clinical empathy is integrated into modern clinical practice. Mishra is interviewing physicians and residents to better understand their perspective and practices of empathetic and compassionate care. Through this research, she aims to highlight systematic barriers and hierarchies that exist in the doctor-patient relationship and communication. Mishra has also had the opportunity to work as a research assistant in VUMC's Emergency Department, collecting informed consent and data for various studies. She hopes that her research will inform her own clinical practice, as she plans to pursue a career in academic medicine.

ELSA YOUNG ('18, *19)

Elsa Young is an MHS 4+1 master's student who is pursuing a Certificate in Latin American Studies. Her research interests include the various ways that structural violence and the legacies of colonialism perpetuate health disparities in marginalized Latin American populations. For her practicum project, Young is working with Mani+, a Guatemala-based social enterprise which develops and produces treatments for chronic malnutrition. Founded by Vanderbilt professor Ted Fischer, Mani+ pairs the distribution of a nutrient-dense therapeutic food product with educational workshops, investments in the local economy, and agricultural development initiatives in an effort to address both the immediate and broader structural causes of malnutrition. Her work involves researching various ways in which the organization can scale up and maximize its social impact through the reorganization of its funding sources and distribution model. From this partnership, Young is hoping to gain a better understanding of how global health initiatives can be designed to address pressing health problems, while also taking into consideration the complex contexts in which these problems exist.

**LORO QIANHUI PI ('18, *19)**

Loro Qianhui Pi is an MHS 4+1 master's student who graduated from Vanderbilt with a double major in anthropology and MHS. Her research examines ethical policy making and health care system implementation concerning medical brain drain, which refers to the human capital migration in health care largely from Global South to the North. With a large number of health care workers leaving the country for financial, social, and political incentives, the country is left with slowed health care infrastructure development and an unstable, class-polarized society. Promptly addressing the phenomenon of medical brain drains is essential to the effective development of self-sustaining health care infrastructure in the Global South. In her research, Qianhui Pi wishes to explore ways to mediate this conflict through health care administration or policy reforms. Her thesis will add to the larger conversation of effective and ethical health policy in the context of globalization and pluralistic cultural interactions. She is also completing a Certificate of Global Health.

**JORDAN MOODY ('18, *19)**

After graduating from Vanderbilt with degrees in MHS and women's and gender studies, and a minor in French, Jordan Moody chose to pursue the 4+1 master's degree in MHS. Her research is interested broadly in the social determinants of health, especially for queer adolescents and on a global scale. Moody's research has allowed her to be a part of monitoring and evaluation efforts for an STI/HIV prevention intervention with the Prevention Research and Health Equity Lab at the University of Michigan. Additionally, she worked with The Addis Clinic to improve the quality of a telemedicine software that connects specialized physicians with community health workers in resource limited settings.

For her master's practicum, Moody explored the ethics of Episcopal faith-based organizations that seek to promote social justice, health, and racial healing. She worked with the Canterbury Circle at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church as they developed a leadership development and spiritual formation program with university students in Nashville, TN, and Calusa, Haiti. This program had a focus on health and healing, connections between education and liberation, and social justice. Through a qualitative case study approach, Moody explored how the histories, priorities, and perspectives of these two student populations were negotiated and discussed. Specifically, this research allowed her to understand a framework of global social justice work that is guided by faith, and seeks to promote equity and mutuality rather than perpetuate dynamics of dominance.

In addition to her practicum experience, Moody has been pursuing her graduate Certificate in Global Health. She has also had the immense privilege of being a teaching assistant for Professor Aimi Hamraie's Theories of the Body course for three semesters, and for Professor Nathalie Dieu-Porter's Comparison of Healthcare Systems Maymester to France and Italy. Outside of academic life, Moody enjoys spending time outdoors and cooking dinner with friends!

**MATHIAS SCHREINER ('18, *19)**

Mathias Schreiner is working towards a master's degree in the MHS 4+1 program. Having earned a bachelor's degree in Russian and neuroscience, he enrolled in the program in search of new direction. Schreiner has pursued interests in the social foundations of health, global health, and health policy through a diverse set of courses. His practicum project, under Dr. Ashley Leech in Vanderbilt's Health Policy Department, focuses on the policies and economics of pregnancy-related decision making. Working with Dr. Leech, he is learning Markov Modeling in R to compare treatment options for women seeking conception with their HIV-positive partners. Schreiner also plans to develop a critical perspective on how such analyses are developed and how they can be improved. He hopes to learn more about the economics of health care policy, and work to make health care systems in the US and abroad better with this knowledge.





MARY CLAIRE DACHILLE ('18, *19)

Mary Claire Dachille is an MHS 4+1 master’s student. As a collegiate student-athlete, much of Dachille’s research focuses on the business of college athletics. During her undergraduate studies, Dachille conducted a thesis titled, “Rewriting the Rulebook: Should Student-Athletes be Paid —A Marxian Analysis.” Using data analysis, her research looked closely at Division One student-athletes, measuring if scholarships fully compensated for their labor which brings in millions of dollars of profit annually.

Building off of her undergraduate research, her master’s practicum also focused on Division One collegiate athletics. After playing five years of college lacrosse, and serving as team captain, Dachille understands the pressures and the value of the game by the administration. Many athletic departments provide support for their student-athletes on a day-to-day basis, however, when it comes to career-readiness and career-development, there are not proper resources readily available to appropriately support the student-athlete. This led Dachille to assist the Vanderbilt Women’s Lacrosse program in creating a career development mentoring program, Does Opening Doors, which pairs each team member with a former Vanderbilt student-athlete working in their respective field. Together, mentor and mentee work towards accomplishing goals to ensure the student-athlete has a steady plan for life after athletics.

HENNING ANDER (*19)

Henning Ander is a second year student in the MA program in MHS. Prior to Vanderbilt, he received his BA in mathematics from Rollins College, where he conducted research in mathematical epidemiology by modeling the spread of alcoholism. He also aided in biological research that sought to find connections between NAMPT protein levels and muscle recovery. Though Ander remains interested in the natural sciences, his studies in MHS have sparked his interest in humanities and social sciences.

For his master’s thesis, Ander conducted research about mental health and illness at the university/ college level. His qualitative study centers on how university-level students come to frame and analyze mental illness, theories of cause, and possibilities for prevention, recovery, and treatment. Through in-depth interviews and literature review, Ander hopes to produce recommendations for academic institutions that will serve to improve systems of care and approaches to student mental health. Following completion of the MHS master’s program, Ander plans to attend medical school, where he hopes his newfound curiosities in health policy, anthropology, and sociological views of health will aid him going into medicine.



DANIEL HECHT ('18, *19)

Daniel Hecht is an MHS 4+1 student who is interested in health care policy. His research explores the intersection of state politics, health care, and mental health services, specifically comparing the cases of Tennessee and Connecticut.

REBECCA RAHIMI (*19)

Rebecca Rahimi’s thesis research centers on the roles of storytelling, intergenerational memory, and nostalgia in forming the identities of Iranian Revolutionary migrants and first-generation Persian-Americans. She aims to understand how trauma, diaspora, and narrative have impacted migrants’ identities, and how they have contributed to forms of meaning making in their places of relocation. Her thesis will also explore the nostalgia that first-generation Persian-Americans feel towards their parents’ childhoods—a time and place they’ve never lived through, yet one which they yearn for. In weaving together ethnographies, memoir, and art, she hopes to explore the complexities surrounding culture, assimilation, and the hybridization of identity.

While at Vanderbilt, Rahimi has had the opportunity to serve as a teaching assistant, research assistant for the DISARMED exhibit at the Rymer Gallery, and research assistant for The Center for Genetic Privacy and Identity. She has also been a member of the Critical Design Lab and published with *Somatosphere* (Fall 2018). In the future, she hopes to bridge art and the humanities with therapy and processes of healing in order to serve immigrant and underrepresented populations.



Making Community at MHS



MHS graduate students present Director Metzl with a Skinny Pop Appreciation Award for his affinity for the MHS snack of choice



MHS MA students celebrate the holiday season



MHS pup Frank Werner-Rahimi visits the office to catch up on research advances in chew toy design



MHS 4+1 student Sam Edwards tries out one of Nashville's new scooters



MHS undergraduate major Ese Aikhuele enjoys catching up with friends at the MHS Ice Cream Social

FACULTY RESEARCH AND WRITING

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PRESENTATIONS

Behague, D.P. (2018, November). *Clinical Intimacy? Investigating Care at the Boundaries of the Clinic*. American Anthropological Association. San Jose, CA.

Behague, D.P. (2018, April). ‘Adolescent’ sex and psyche: *The politics of pre-emptive intervention and surveillance in Brazil*. Law and Reproductive Health Politics in an Unjust World, Princeton University, April. Princeton, NJ.

Behague, D.P. (2018, May). *Setting an agenda for Global Social Medicine*. Wellcome Trust sponsored workshop, London, UK.

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Bruce, M.A. (2018, March). *Health, Wholeness, and Holiness, Part I*. Garnett-Nabrit Lecture Series. American Baptist College, Nashville, TN.

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Gaydosh, L., and McLanahan, S. (2018, April) *Adolescent Striving and Body Mass Index*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Population Association of America, Denver, CO.

Gaydosh, L., Mitchell, C., Notterman, D., Schneper, L., and McLanahan, S. (2018, October) *Adolescent Academic Achievement and Accelerated Aging*. Paper presented at the annual Integrating Genetics and Social Science Conference, Boulder, CO.

Gaydosh, L. and Harris, K.M. (2018, November) *The Unequal Benefits of Education*. Paper present at Deep Wounds: Social Determinants of Health Inequalities Conference at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Griffith, D.M. (Moderator), Ford, C.L., Jones, C.P., Jones, L., Baumhofer, N.K., & Hing, A. (Discussants). (2018, November). *What Do Public Health Professionals Need to Know About Racism?* Collaborative session at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, San Diego, CA.

Griffith, D.M. (2018, October). *“It’s not what you look at, it’s what you see”: Re-envisioning health equity and Black men’s health*. Keynote address for the 2018 Community Engagement Institute “Building Bridges for Better Health through Engaging Communities”. The Community Engagement Institute was created by the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Center for Clinical and Translational Science’s (NIH CTSA) One Great Community and the UAB Center for the Study of Community Health’s Jefferson County Community Participation Board. Community Engagement Institute. Hoover, AL.

Griffith, D.M., **Bruce, M.A.**, and Hames, C. (2018, November). *An Upper Room Experience and Discussion for Brothers Only!* Interactive session at the Balm In Gilead, Inc. Healthy Churches 2020 Conference. Faith + Health: The Power of You. Point Clear, AL.

Hamraie, A. (2018, November). *Crip Technoscience*. Annual Endowed Rathlyn Lecture, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Hamraie, A. (2018, November). *Building Access*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA.

Hamraie, A. (2018, October). *Mapping Access*. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Hamraie, A. (2018, October). *Livable Cities*. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Hamraie, A. (2018, October). *Enlivened City: How Disability Culture Can Inform the Livable Cities Movement*. DisArt-sponsored lecture, Grand Rapids, MI.

Hamraie, A. (2018, September). *Building Access*. Center for Disability Studies, New York University, New York, NY.

Hamraie, A. (2018, August). *Building Access*. University of Lund, Sweden.

Hamraie, A. (2018, March). *Critical Access Studies and Socio-Spatial Practice*. Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, UK.

Hamraie, A. (2018, November). *Critical Design Lab Roundtable discussion*. National Women's Studies Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Hamraie, A. (2018, November). *Disability Switchpoints*. Paper presented at the American Studies Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Hamraie, A. (2018, August). *Universal Design and the Rhetoric of Common Sense*. Paper presented at the Universal Design and Communication Conference, University of Lund, Sweden.

Hamraie, A. (2018, May). *Author Meets Critic Session for Building Access* (invited), Cultural Studies Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Hamraie, A. and Fritsch, K. (2018, March). *Crip Technoscience*. Paper presented at the Composing Disability: Crip Politics and the Crisis of Culture conference, George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Hamraie, A. (2018, April). *Mapping Access*. Roundtable on Critical Digital Geographies for Justice, American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, LA.

Hamraie, A. (2018, April). *Livable Cities, Habitable Worlds*. Paper presented at American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, LA.

Hamraie, A. (2018, March). *Livable Cities, Habitable Worlds*. Paper presented at the Composing Disability: Crip Politics and the Crisis of Culture conference, George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Hao, F., and **Song, L.** (2018, August). *A Multilevel Analysis of Environmental Concern: Evidence from China*. The 113th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Jay Chen, C., and **Song, L.** (2018, November). *Does Who You Know in the Positional Hierarchy Protect or Hurt? Social Capital Theory versus Social Cost Theory*. Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

Jones, M. and Wurzelbacher, S. (2018, June). *Worker's compensation data and methodological issues*. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Annual Meeting, West Palm Beach, FL.

Jones, M., and Bushnell, T. (2018, December) *Estimating Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Denominators for Workers' Compensation Claim Rates: New Additions to the Draft White Paper of November 2017*. Paper presented at the CDC NIOSH State Grantee meeting, Denver, CO.

Lindsey, O. (2018, October). *A Reading from We Come to Our Senses, and Some Go Home*. Visiting Writers Series, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ.

MacLeish, K. (2018, November). *Diagnosis, Vulnerability, and the Everyday Life of War-Making*. Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney.

MacLeish, K., and Wool, Z. (2018, September). *Ethnographic Perspectives on Burn Pit Illness*. War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center, VA New Jersey Health Care System, East Orange, NJ.

Song, L. (2019, May). *Social Capital or Social Cost? Accessed Status, Tie Strength, and Depression in the U.S., Urban China, and Taiwan*. University of California, Davis, Davis, CA.

Song, L. (2019, April). *Social Capital or Social Cost? Accessed Status, Tie Strength, and Depression in the U.S., Urban China, and Taiwan*. Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

Song, L. (2018, December). *Nan Lin and Social Support*. 2018 Asia Conference of the International Chinese Sociological Association, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong.

Song, L. (2018, October). *Does Whom You Know in the Status Hierarchy Protect or Hurt? Institutional Embeddedness of Social Capital and Social Cost Theories in Three Societies*. National Taipei University. Taipei, Taiwan.

Song, L. (2018, October). *Social Capital or Social Cost? Accessed Status, Tie Strength, and Depression in the U.S., Urban China, and Taiwan*. Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

Song, L., and Frazier, C. (2018, October). *Marry Up, Socialize Up? Educational Hypergamy, Gender, and Social Capital in Three Societies*. Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

Song, L. (2018, May). *Social Capital or Social Cost? Accessed Status, Tie Strength, and Depression in the U.S., Urban China, and Taiwan*. Nanjing University, Nanjing, China.

Song, L. (2018, May). *Social Capital or Social Cost? Accessed Status, Tie Strength, and Depression in the U.S., Urban China, and Taiwan*. Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China.

Song, L., and Pettis, P.J. (2018, August) *Accessed Status and Health Limitations in Three Societies: Institutional Embeddedness of Social Capital and Social Comparison*. The 113th Annual Meeting of American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Song, L., and Frazier, C. (2018, August). *Marry Up, Socialize Up? Educational Hypergamy, Gender, and Social Capital in Three Societies*. The Annual Meeting of International Chinese Sociological Association, Princeton, NJ.

Song, L., and Chen, Y. (2018, June). *Do Social Networks Affect Public Knowledge and Attitudes about Genetic Testing? The Roles of Social Integration, Tie Strength, and Social Cohesion*. The XXXVIII Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Song, L. (2018, June). *Social Capital or Social Cost? Accessed Status, Tie Strength, and Depression in the U.S., Urban China, and Taiwan*. The Sixteenth International Conference on Social Stress Research, Athens, Greece.

Stark, L. (2019, May). *Ludy T. Benjamin Jr. Distinguished Lecture*. Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, University of Akron, Akron, OH.

Stark, L. (2019, April). *Race and erasure: Racialized medicine from LSD to 23andMe*. STeM Distinguished Lecture, Department of History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Stark, L. (2019, April). *The normal body in theory and practice*. Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY.

Stark, L. (2019, February). *Incarceration as a history of labor*. STS Colloquium Series, Brown University, Providence, RI.

Stark, L. (2018, August). *Censors or trustees? Academic research and the politics of refusal*. Paper presented at President's Panel on Academic Freedom at annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Stark, L. (2018, June). *Scientists as regulators*. Descartes Centre, Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands.

Stark, L. (2018, June). *Building a market for human subjects: Total institutions, alternate worlds & the space of the NIH research hospital, 1950–1980*. Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands.

Stark, L. (2018, April). *The death of Frantz Fanon: Science, citizenship, and methods of history*. Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Weed, K. (2018, October). *Microbe Fictions: Narrating Ecocentrism in Turn of the Century American Literature*. Center for Medicine, Health, and Society Colloquium, Vanderbilt University.

Weed, K. (2018, November) *Thinking with Our Microbes: Human Autonomy and Microbial Agency in Late-Nineteenth Century Fiction*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Toronto, Canada.

GRANTS

Behague, D.P. Principal Investigator (2018). Troubled Teens: Psychiatry and the Shaping of Adolescence in the Wake of Brazil's New Democracy. Vanderbilt University Research Scholar Faculty Development Grant.

Behague, D.P. Named Collaborator (2014–2018). Challenges for Global Mental Health Policies in Brazil. Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) Brazil. (PI: Fransciso Ortega, State University of Rio de Janeiro)

Bruce, M.A. Science Director and Co-Investigator (2018–2023). Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center. NIH/NHLBI. (PI: Beech)

Bruce, M.A. Science Director and Co-Investigator (2019–2024). HBCU PRIDE. NIH/NHLBI. (MPI: Beech and Norris)

Bruce, M.A. Implementation Core Member and Co-Investigator (2016–2021). Center of Excellence in Precision Medicine and Population Health. NIH/NIMHD. (MPI: Wilkins, Cox, Lima and Weiss)

Bruce, M.A. Co-Investigator (2016–2020). Mighty Men: A Faith-Based Weight Loss Program to Reduce Cancer Disparities. American Cancer Society. (PI: Griffith)

Bruce, M.A. Stakeholder Engagement Co-Director (2015–2019). Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative. Practice Transformation Networks. (PI: Rothman)

Gaydos, L. Principal Investigator (2018). Health Disparities: Inflammatory Response, Immune Function, and Environmental (In)Congruence. National Institutes of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development.

Griffith, D. Co-Principal Investigator (2018–2020). Engendering Trust in Health Care: Incorporating gender, age and race in efforts to measure and increase trust among African American men. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (The Building Trust and Mutual Respect in Health Care solicitation is managed by AcademyHealth). (Co-PI: Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MCSI and Derek M. Griffith, PhD)

Griffith, D. Principal Investigator (2016–2019). Mighty Men: A Faith-Based Weight Loss Program to Reduce Cancer Disparities. Research Scholar Grant in Cancer Control and Prevention Funded by the American Cancer Society.

Griffith, D. Co-Investigator/ Sub-Project Principal Investigator/ Member of Consortium Core (2016–2021). Center of Excellence in Precision Medicine and Population Health proposal in response to NIMHD Transdisciplinary Collaborative Centers for Health Disparities Research Focused on Precision Medicine (U54). (Multiple PIs: Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MCSI, Nancy J. Cox, PhD, Maria F. Lima, PhD and Roy E. Weiss, MD, PhD)

Griffith, D. Principal Investigator (Project 3) of the NIMHD U54 (Center of Excellence in Precision Medicine and Population Health) (2017–2021): Tailored behavioral intervention for overweight African American and Latino men.

Griffith, D. Co-Investigator (2017–2018). Trust and Privacy in underrepresented groups. Minority Supplement funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health. (PI: Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MCSI)

Griffith, D. Co-Investigator (2016–2018). Mobile Phone Intervention for Physical Activity Maintenance in African American Men (MobileMen). R41 funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. (PI: Robert Newton, PhD)

Griffith, D. Consultant (2016–2018). Creating a Tailored Lifestyle Intervention for Midlife Mexican American Men. R21 funded by the National Institute of Aging, National Institutes of Health. (PI: Steven Hooker, PhD, FACSM, FNAK)

Griffith, D. Co-Investigator (2014–2018). Active and Healthy Brotherhood. Funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. (PI: Melicia Whitt-Glover, PhD)

Griffith, D. Co-Investigator (2014–2018). Obesity Health Disparities PRIDE. R25 Funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health. (PI: Bettina Beech, PhD)

Jones, M. Consultant (2016–2018). Utilization of Tennessee Workers' Compensation Data for Injury Surveillance and Prevention. (PI: Edward Taylor, Construction Industry Research and Policy Center, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

MacLeish, K. Principal Investigator (2018). Burn Pit Exposure, Diagnostic Dilemmas, and Toxic War. Vanderbilt University Faculty Research Grant Summer Stipend.

MacLeish, K. Principal Investigator (2017–2018). Perspectives on Burn Pit Exposure: Questions of Diagnosis in Veteran and Caregiver Experience. Veteran's Health Administration War Related Illness and Injury Study Center Special Projects Interagency Funding.

Myers, H.F. Co-Investigator and Mentor (2015–2020). Tennessee Center for AIDS Research. NIH/NIAID. (PI: Mallal)

Myers, H.F. Co-Investigator and Training & Mentoring Core; Leader, Conceptual Framework Workgroup (2016–2020). Multi-Institutional Collaborative Center of Excellence in Precision Medicine and Health Disparities. NIMHHD. (PI: Wilkins)

Myers, H.F. Co-PI and PI on Subaward (2017–2022). Mechanisms Linking Adversities and Pain in African American Adults. NIMHHD. (PI: Morris)

Song, L. (2019). Zheng Gang Visiting Scholarship. Nanjing University.

Song, L. Co-Investigator (2016–2020). Genetic Privacy and Identity in Community Settings. The Centers of Excellence in ELSI (Ethical, Legal and Social Implications) Research Program. The National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health. (Co-PIs: Ellen Wright Clayton and Bradley A. Malin)

Stark, L. Visiting Scholar (2018). Islam through American Eyes: The Life and Culture of Clifford Geertz. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin) Fellowship.

Stark, L. Principal Investigator (2018–2019). Islam through American Eyes: Examining How Postwar Anthropologists Studied Islamic Communities through the Case of Clifford Geertz. Vanderbilt University Research Scholar Grant.



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