College Research Mission

To engage faculty and students in the discovery of knowledge that will define the future of health disciplines through applied and basic research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Translational Research

"Translational research transforms scientific discoveries arising from laboratory, clinical, or population studies into clinical applications . . . ." *
RuthAnn Althaus, PhD, MPH, MBA, MSLIS, CHES
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s):
Organization and financing of health systems; interdisciplinary studies of ethics (business, nonprofits, and health care); business models for poverty reduction; health care leadership pedagogy.

Email: althaus@ohio.edu

Select publications:

George Raul Audi, Ph.D.
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research areas: Healthcare mergers and organizational structures; profitability and quality in rural multi-hospital systems, hospice and home health agencies.

Email: audi@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Tania B. Basta, PhD, MPH, CHES
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s):
HIV prevention and treatment; Appalachian rural health; and HIV research ethics.

Email: basta@ohio.edu

Select publications:
Darlington K, Basta T, Obregon R. Cross-generational relationships (CSGs) in rural
Cathy J. Baker, PhD, RN, CNS  
School of Nursing

Major research area(s):  
Culturally-sensitive nursing interventions; smoking cessation.

Email: bakerc2@ohio.edu

Select publications:  
Baker CJ, Fortney C, Wewers ME, Ahijevych K.  

Joann P. Benigno, PhD, CCC-SLP  
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

Major research area(s):  
Situational and psychosocial factors related to social communication skills in children with and without developmental disabilities; language and cognitive outcomes of children who are orphans.

Email: benigno@ohio.edu

Select publications:  

Darlene E. Berryman, PhD, RD, LD  
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

Major research area(s):  
Obesity; depot-specific differences and impact of growth hormone on adipose tissue biology; nutrient and endocrine interplay in obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Email: berrymad@ohio.edu

Select publications:  
Berryman DE, Glad CA, List EO, Johannsson G.  


Berryman DE, Lubbers ER, Magon V, List EO.  


Douglas S. Bolon, PhD  
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s):  
Organizational behavior/theory issues in hospitals; hospital mission statements, governance, and human resources; healthcare management.

Email: bolon@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Mary E. Bowen, RN, DNS, JD, NEA-BC, FNP-BC  
School of Nursing

Major research area(s):  
Interprofessional nursing education; nursing practice outcomes.

Email: bowenm2@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Rob Brannan, PhD  
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

Major research area(s):  
Reducing the fat content of fried foods; developing value-added ingredients from pawpaw; meat science—interactions between antioxidants in meat systems.

Email: brannan@ohio.edu

Select publications:
Rebecca M. Bryant, DNP, CNP  
School of Nursing

Research interests:
Evidence-based practice to improve patient outcomes: patient self-care initiatives related to chronic disease management and home-based care by nurse practitioners for the geriatric population.

Email: bryantr@ohio.edu

Select publication:

Gary Chleboun, PT, PhD  
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

Major research area(s):
- Mechanics of whole muscle function using ultrasound imaging; change in muscle fascicle length during various daily activities such as walking, stair negotiation, and strengthening exercises; fascicle length adaptation to resistance training; lumbar spine motion in healthy and back pain subjects.

Email: chleboun@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Tawna Cooksey-James, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E.  
School of Nursing

Major research area(s):
Teaching effectively using learner-centered teaching; raising political awareness and action for nursing and health care; exploring the health needs of new mothers in an academic environment.

Email: cookseyt@ohio.edu

Select publications:


Jeffrey J. DiGiovanni, PhD, CCC-A
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

Major research area(s):
Assess and improve hearing aid efficacy with an emphasis on signal processing that is designed to improve speech intelligibility and/or reduce listening effort.

Email: digiovan@ohio.edu

Select publications:


Warren B. Galbreath, PhD
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s):
Rural health care; mental health care for at-risk youth; dual relationships in social work practice.

Email: galbreat@ohio.edu

Select publication:

Roger Gilders, PhD
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

Major research area(s):
Effects of exercise (acute and training) on blood pressure in normotensives and hypertensives; factors relating to optimal muscle power outputs (with potential applications to athletic performance, maintaining function during aging); optimal recommendations for improving muscle function and performance.

Email: gilders@ohio.edu

Select publications:


Brooke Hallowell, PhD, CCC-SLP, F-ASHA  
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

Major research area(s):  
Aphasia and other acquired neurogenic language disorders in adults; eyetracking research methods to study cognitive and linguistic processing; aging, disability, and access to care in diverse global contexts.

Email: hallowel@ohio.edu

Select publications:


Deborah Henderson PhD, RN, CNE  
School of Nursing

Major research area(s):  
Simulation training nursing education.

Email: hendersd@ohio.edu

Select publications:


David H. Holben, PhD, RD, LD  
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

Major research area(s):  
The impact of food access on the health outcomes of individuals, households, and communities.

Email: holben@ohio.edu

Select publications:


Jennifer Horner, PhD, JD  
College of Health Sciences and Professions

Major research areas:  
Law and ethics for health professions; research integrity; neurologic disorders.

Email: hornerj@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Cheryl A. Howe, PhD, CES, CEP  
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

Major research area(s):  
Dose of physical activity required to prevent childhood obesity and obesity-related diseases; evidence-based structured physical activity interventions implemented in school settings to correct the daily energy surplus related to childhood obesity. Development of techniques for measuring free-play physical activity in children.

Email: howec@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Gregory Janson, PhD  
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s):  
The physiological and psychological impact of trauma and its treatment; working with severely disturbed children, adolescents and families; the effects of emotional maltreatment on young children in school settings.

Email: gregory@ohio.edu

Select publications:
Fuh-Cherng Jeng, MD, PhD
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

**Major research area(s):**
 Event-related and cognitive potentials to help identify babies who are at risk for developing language disorders; to enhance the ability of scientists and therapists to create methods to prevent and treat hearing loss and communication disorders for individuals who speak tonal and non-tonal languages around the world.

**Email:** jeng@ohio.edu

**Select publications:**

Xia Jing, MD, PhD
Department of Social and Public Health

**Major research area(s):**
Constructing biohealth knowledge bases to interface with standardized electronic health records; developing graphic methods for reducing, visualizing and analyzing large clinical data sets; transferring, expanding, redesigning and evaluating web-based knowledge management tools.

**Email:** jingx@ohio.edu

**Select publications:**

Youngsun Kim, PhD, CCC-SLP
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

**Major research area(s):**
Dysphagia (swallowing disorders); biomechanical and temporal characteristics of normal and disordered swallowing; refinement of diagnostic tools and develop intervention strategy for patients who aspirate.

**Email:** kimy2@ohio.edu

**Select publications:**
Caroline Kingori, PhD
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s):
HIV stigma among individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Africa; measurement and evaluation research; global health; mental health; community-based participatory research.

Email: kingori@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Michael R. Kushnick, PhD
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

Major research area(s):
Therapeutic lifestyle modification to attenuate chronic disease, namely, cardiovascular disease and T2DM by (a) using slow digesting starch to modulate blood glucose response and (b) using physical activity/exercise to modify risk factors associated with chronic diseases.

Email: kushnick@ohio.edu

Select publications:


Chao-Yang Lee, PhD
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

Major research area(s):
Speech perception: the cognitive processes involved in extracting information from the acoustic signal to understand spoken language.

Email: leec1@ohio.edu

Select publications:


Mingun Lee, PhD, MSW  
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s): Social work program evaluation, school prevention program; evidence-based practice in rural settings; social work education and field evaluation; cultural competence.

Email: leem3@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Randy Leite, PhD  
College of Health Sciences and Professions

Major research area(s): Father involvement with children; post-divorce family dynamics; family policy.

Email: leite@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Sally Marinellie, PhD, CCC-SLP  
College of Health Sciences and Professions

Major research area(s): School-age language acquisition including vocabulary, metasemantics, and syntax in relation to literacy skills.

Email: marinels@ohio.edu

Select publications:
John McCarthy, PhD, CCC-SLP
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

Major research area(s):
Improving computer interfaces for speech generating devices for children and adults with a wide range of physical, intellectual, and sensory disabilities; at the community level, changing attitudes of children and adults without disabilities toward individuals who use speech generating devices to improve social and vocational outcomes.

Email: mccarthj@ohio.edu

Select publications:
McCarthy JW. (2013). Music therapists may be missing chances to provide opportunities for individuals with autism spectrum disorders requiring AAC to use aided systems, but we still need to know why. Evidence-Based Commun Assess Intervent. 2013;7(1):52-56.

Charman L. Miller, MSN
School of Nursing

Major research area(s):
Forensic nursing; human simulation in nursing education.

Email: millerc3@ohio.edu

Select publications:

James Montgomery, PhD, CCC-SLP, F-ASHA
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

Major research area(s):
Cognitive-based psychometric models of auditory sentence comprehension in school age children with and without specific language impairment, ie, investigating the contribution of six cognitive mechanisms to the comprehension of spoken and written language.

Email: montgoj1@ohio.edu

Select publications:
Michele Morrone, PhD
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s): Public perception of environmental health risks; environmental justice; health disparities and social determinants of health.

Email: morrone@ohio.edu

Select publications:
Morrone M, Basta T, Somerville J. Framing the national nuclear legacy at the local level: implications for the future of federal facilities. Energy Policy. 2012;43:45-152.

Sharon Rana, PhD
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

Major research area(s): Effect of fatigue and exercise on neuromuscular function specifically mechanomyographic (MMG) and electromyographic (EMG) signals; muscular performance with exercise intervention, exercise threshold estimations, and childhood growth/obesity studies.

Email: rana@ohio.edu

Select publications:

David W. Russ, PT, PhD
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

Major research area(s): Skeletal muscle physiology and fatigue at the molecular, organelle, tissue and organism levels, including human and rat models to determine what factors other than muscle mass can affect muscle force production, particularly in cases of aging and disuse.

Email: russd@ohio.edu

Select publications:
Jeffrey A. Russell, PhD, AT
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

Major research areas:
- Neuromusculoskeletal demands placed on the human body by performing arts; body worn sensor applications in biomechanics; orthopaedic imaging of pathoanatomy and motion of the lower extremity in dancers; improvement of healthcare for performing artists.

Email: russelj4@ohio.edu

Select publications:
- Russell JA, Shave RM, Kruse DW, Koutedakis Y, Wyon MA. Ankle and foot contributions to extreme plantar flexion and dorsiflexion in female ballet dancers. Foot Ankle Int. 2011;32(2):183-188.

Timothy Ryan, PhD, RS, CIH
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s):
- Indoor environment (carbon monoxide detectors, prevalence and risks of MRSA bacteria, and microbial volatile organic compounds); distance education pedagogy testing of delivery methods for an applied sciences curriculum via various media platforms, and the assessment of efficacy of such efforts.

Email: ryan@ohio.edu

Select publications:

Alexander V. Sergeev, MD, PhD, MPH
Department of Social and Public Health

Major research area(s):
- Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and their conventional (such as diabetes) and emerging (such as persistent organic pollutants) risk factors; comparative effectiveness research (CER) of treatment for CVD; epidemiological studies; quantitative methods in health research.

Email: sergeev@ohio.edu

Select publications:
Betty Sindelar, PT, PhD  
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences

**Major research area(s):**  
Examination of the inter-play between structure and function in the development of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) using an animal model (pig) through application of immunohistochemical assays, material testing, EMG analysis, and other biochemical assays; testing novel approaches for the treatment of periodontal disease.

**Email:** sindelar@ohio.edu

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Solveig Spjeldnes, MSW, PhD  
Department of Social and Public Health

**Major research area(s):**  
Effects of offender reentry services and informal and formal social support factors on recidivism rates and wellbeing; criminal justice policy.

**Email:** spjeldne@ohio.edu

**Select publications:**  

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Chad Starkey, PhD, LAT  
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness

**Major research area(s):**  
(a) Epidemiology of injuries and illnesses occurring in the NBA; (b) epidemiological / financial impact of training services provided to Southeastern Ohio High Schools; and (c) effects and efficacy of therapeutic electrical stimulation used in the treatment of musculoskeletal pathologies.

**Email:** starkeyc@ohio.edu

**Select publications:**  

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**Select publications:**  


Rika Tanda, PhD, RN  
School of Nursing  

**Major research areas:** Early life environments and cognitive behavioral outcomes; association between maternal prepregnancy obesity and children’s behavioral and cognitive profiles.

**Email:** tandar@ohio.edu

**Select publications:**

James Thomas, PT, PhD  
School of Rehabilitation and Communication Sciences  

**Major research area(s):** Changes in motor coordination in low back pain; interactions of psychological and motor behaviors in the prediction of recurrent low back pain; the neurophysiological mechanisms of trunk muscle fatigue as well as spinal manipulation techniques.

**Email:** thomasj5@ohio.edu

**Select publications:**

Jason White, PhD  
School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness  

**Major research area(s):** Human performance (normal, healthy population and athletic population) with a focus on muscle development (muscle strength, endurance, hypertrophy and recovery, preventing muscle loss and attenuating sarcopenia).

**Email:** whitej4@ohio.edu

**Select publications:**

White J. Effects of supersets versus traditional strength training methods on muscle adaptations, recovery, and selected anthropometric measures [dissertation]. Athens, OH: Ohio University; 2011(June).
Major research area(s):
Speech perception with cochlear implants: (a) studies on speech perception theories and speech processing strategies to improve performance of cochlear implant patients; b) evaluation of speech perception performance (eg, lexical tone perception and production) in prelingually deafened children with cochlear implants.

Email: xul@ohio.edu

Select publications: