

Research at a glance



Chicago North Lawndale // Little Village // Englewood // Pilsen // Hegewisch
Humboldt Park // **Kenya** Kisumu // **Indonesia** Jakarta // **Bangladesh** Dhaka
West Indies Grenada // **Chile** Santiago // **India** Hyderabad // **Vietnam** Hanoi

Public health research for communities in Chicago and around the world

Confronting **the opioid epidemic** // Closing **disparities in health outcomes**
Shaping **policy for the public good** // Advancing **environmental justice**

Research for Health Equity and Social Justice

At the **University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health**, our faculty partner with community organizations and government agencies throughout Chicago, the nation and the world to conduct cutting-edge research that promotes healthy lifestyles, advances environmental justice, reduces chronic and infectious diseases and increases health equity across the life span. Our research training programs equip students at all levels to serve as future leaders in public health. With the school's commitment to producing actionable knowledge for a healthier and more just society, our research is recognized for its exemplary and innovative contributions to crucial long-standing and emerging issues affecting the public's health and well-being.

Faculty Research Highlights

Dr. Susan Buchanan directs the Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health, one of ten Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units across the country. Her research examines how exposure to chemicals and toxins affects population health. She has worked with communities across the Midwest to address children's exposure to lead in drinking water.



Rohan Jeremiah, PhD, studies the pathways to differential human well-being (health disparities and structural vulnerability) at the intersection of trauma (community violence, torture, persecution), HIV/AIDS and substance use. His expertise with diverse populations includes racial, ethnic and gender minority men in the United States, the Caribbean and nations in Africa.



Jennifer Hebert-Beirne, PhD, leads the Center for Healthy Work's Greater Lawndale Healthy Work participatory research project in Chicago's North Lawndale and Little Village neighborhoods, communities with significant populations of low-income residents. This project is characterizing the experience of community members engaged in precarious work and identifying community interventions to promote worker health.



Mary Turyk, PhD, is leading an NIH study with SPH's Hua Yun Chen, PhD, to strengthen human bio-monitoring for chemical exposure. Because exposure to chemicals often comes in mixtures of chemicals, the two are creating new software that explores datasets of human chemical exposure to improve researchers' ability to understand the complex relationships among chemicals and detrimental health outcomes.

Sanjib Basu, PhD, aims to understand and address biostatistical methodological problems underlying health science studies. He is developing biostatistical methods to understand causal effects and pathways of environmental chemical mixtures in an NIH-funded project and developing new understandings of the effects of spatio-temporal aspects of social determinants of health on cancer outcomes.



Lisa Powell, PhD, is a global expert in policies on food marketing and taxation. She has led evaluations of beverage taxes in locations across the country and analyzed how food marketing to children has impacted current and long-term health prospects. Her leadership of the Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center brings policy, systems and environmental changes to communities across the state to support reductions in chronic disease and health disparities.



Yamilé Molina, PhD, leads health promotion efforts in Chicago neighborhoods focused on breast cancer. They lead two NIH grants, one examining if patient navigation toward Affordable Care Act insurance plans led to increased breast cancer screening among African American women and a second crafting an empowerment intervention to train Latinas on discussing breast health with their social networks.



Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD, is an associate director with UIC's Institute for Health Research and Policy and a professor of pediatrics. She focuses on health risk reduction interventions in minority and underserved populations, including an NIH grant addressing effects of obesity on cardiovascular disease. She leads the Cancer Education and Career Development Program at UIC, training diverse scientists to research cancer-related health disparities and equity policies.

\$39.5M

annual grant
expenditures (2018)

95

current projects funded by the CDC,
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
and the National Institutes of Health

64

funded projects
involving students

Global Impact

Our research is strengthening health equity and social justice in 65 nations worldwide.

AFRICA
GHANA
KENYA
MALAWI
MOROCCO
NIGERIA
SENEGAL
SOUTH AFRICA
UGANDA

ASIA
BANGLADESH
CHINA
INDIA
INDONESIA
ISRAEL
JAPAN
JORDAN
NEPAL
PAKISTAN
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
RUSSIA
SINGAPORE
SOUTH KOREA
TAJIKISTAN
THAILAND
TURKEY
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
VIETNAM

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
CUBA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
GRENADA
GUATEMALA
HAITI
NICARAGUA
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

EUROPE
ALBANIA
AUSTRIA
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BOSNIA
CROATIA
DENMARK
GERMANY
GREECE
HUNGARY
ITALY
KOSOVO
MACEDONIA
MONTENEGRO
RUSSIA
SERBIA
SLOVAKIA
SWITZERLAND
TURKEY
UKRAINE
UNITED KINGDOM

NORTH AMERICA
CANADA
MEXICO
UNITED STATES

OCEANIA
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND

SOUTH AMERICA
ARGENTINA
BOLIVIA
BRAZIL
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
PERU
URUGUAY

CHICAGO AND ILLINOIS

Charting contextual risk factors for Hepatitis C among young people who inject drugs, in a study funded by NIH. (PI: Basmattee Boodram).

Leading CDC efforts to prepare Illinois for the effects of climate change, including flooding, heat waves and insect-borne illness (PI: Elena Grossman).



ACROSS CONTINENTS

Creating a Global Center for Fiscal Policy and Health to support governments in establishing effective tobacco tax policies that maximize public health and revenue impact, with funding from the Bloomberg Foundation (PI: Frank Chaloupka).

BANGLADESH

Studying children with known prenatal arsenic exposure to explore endocrine-related clinical and molecular impacts of prenatal and early life exposure to the contaminant, with NIH funding (PI: Maria Argos).



MULTI-SITE CLINICAL TRIALS

Testing the use of a mobile phone app using a relational human-talking avatar to promote medication adherence among HIV-positive African American men who have sex with men in Chicago, Atlanta and Jackson, Miss., with NIH funding (PI: Mark Dworkin).



KENYA

Building solar-powered ozonation systems to supply purified water to families living in low-income communities in Kisumu, through a Gates Foundation grant (PI: Samuel Dorevitch).



Studying the effects of menstrual cup usage on the adolescent vaginal microbiome and how use may lead to reduced bacterial vaginosis and sexually transmitted infections. This NIH-funded project team is working with girls age 14-16 in western Kenya (PI: Supriya Mehta).

Testing the use of a new device called AccuCirc for early infant male circumcision as an HIV prevention strategy in Nyanza Province and also examining how health care providers and parents make decisions about circumcision, in a study funded by NIH (PI: Robert Bailey).

INDONESIA

Strengthening AIDS research capacity through NIH funding at Atma Jaya Catholic University in Jakarta by training a cadre of Indonesian investigators to conduct innovative HIV/AIDS research and translational science (PI: Judith Levy).



Research Training for Students

Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program

Trains public health practitioners to carry out high-level analytic work in reproductive, perinatal and pediatric epidemiology.

Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health

Trains students to support and promote the health and well-being of women, children and families as one of only 13 Centers of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health in the U.S.

Great Lakes Center for Occupational Health and Safety

Prepares professionals to improve, promote and maintain the health of workers and communities as one of 18 NIOSH Education and Research Centers.

Cancer Education and Career Development Program

Prepares promising new scholars to conduct research in the critical field of cancer disparities.

UIC/AJCU Training Program in Advanced Research Methods and Translational Science

Trains a cadre of highly prepared Indonesian investigators to conduct innovative research that advises HIV social and medical services, social policy and interventions.

Research Centers, Institutes and Programs

Black Lung Center of Excellence

Provides resources to miners and healthcare, legal and benefits professionals on patterns in Coal Mine Dust Lung Disease as the only Black Lung Center of Excellence in the country.

Mining Education and Research Center

Provides surveillance and medical screenings for miners and researches evolving health threats facing miners.

Chicago Center for Health and Environment

Promotes multidisciplinary environmental health research between clinicians, laboratories and population scientists to reduce environmental health-related disparities in Chicago.

Community Outreach Intervention Projects

Supports persons who use drugs and those with HIV in Chicago through harm reduction, street outreach, testing, counseling, case management, syringe exchanges and overdose education.

Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health

Promotes the health of children and pregnant women as it relates to exposures to environmental toxicants, as one of only ten Pediatric Environmental Health Speciality Units nationwide.

Center for Healthy Work

Works to remove barriers that impact the health of low wage workers in the increasingly contingent workforce as one of only six Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health nationwide.

Center for Biostatistical Development

Uses biostatistics research to develop innovative methods to address health-related scientific problems.

Illinois Occupational Surveillance Program

Serves as the bona fide agent of the state health department and workers' compensation agency to conduct research, interventions, training and outreach to prevent occupational injuries, illnesses and fatalities in Illinois.

Institute for Health Research and Policy

Studies social and behavioral issues, health and well-being through a collaboration of UIC scientists across fields.

Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center

Builds and translates evidence and strengthens leadership capacity to advance policies and practices that improve population health and equity.

Learn more about our public health research by visiting publichealth.uic.edu/research

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