

Summer Research Opportunities with FSU College of Medicine Faculty

The research opportunities below were submitted by CoM faculty members for dissemination to students interested in applying for the 2020 CoM Summer Research Fellowship. A brief description is included, and additional information about these opportunities can be found on the [Medical Student Research website](#).

If you are interested in working with these or any CoM faculty members to apply for the Summer Research Fellowship, you are encouraged to begin reaching out to them. Contact information is included below.

Research Opportunity: Psychometric Properties of a Depression and Anxiety Screening Tools; Data Collection.

The Immokalee Health Education Site has opportunities for a medical student to participate in collecting data to assess the performance of the Haitian Creole Version of the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9/PHQ-2) and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) as screening tools for depression and anxiety in Haitian immigrants receiving treatment in a primary care clinic in a rural and medically underserved community.

Student needs to be fluent in Haitian Creole.

*Note: Student housing is available at the Immokalee Health Education Site.

*Contact: Jean Kesnold Mesidor, PhD
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Research Opportunity: Tobacco Cessation Intervention in Disparity Populations

BSSM faculty members Dr. Bryant Howren and Ms. Andrée Aubrey are co-leading a clinical research project which will evaluate the effectiveness of a "Practice To Quit" (PTQ) intervention focused primarily on tobacco disparity populations. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and disparities populations are disproportionately impacted. PTQ is a one-time group or individual intervention that utilizes motivational interviewing principles to engage tobacco users who have not yet made the decision to quit in a treatment intervention. We will evaluate whether engaging tobacco users in a low-risk practice quit attempt improves cessation skills, self-efficacy and willingness to use an FDA medication in a more formal quit attempt. PTQ offers a three day sample of over the counter NRT medications.

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Research Opportunity: Developmental Basis of Neuropsychiatric Disorders

Dr. Stanwood's research examines how signaling of specific neurotransmitter receptors during sensitive periods of development alter the formation and subsequent function of brain circuits involved in neurological and mental health disorders. Current projects focus on dopamine D1 and D2 receptors within interneurons of the prefrontal cortex and glucagon-like peptide-1 receptors within projection neurons of the lateral septum. Experiments involve behavior and cognitive assays in laboratory mice, following by cellular, neuroanatomical and molecular analyses of adaptations and maladaptations following receptor loss.

Contact: Gregg Stanwood, PhD

Associate Professor, Biomedical Sciences

Florida State University College of Medicine

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Research Opportunity: Toxic Stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences

The FSU Center for Child Stress and Health at the Immokalee Health Education Site has opportunities for medical students to participate in applied clinical research that addresses Toxic Stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in a primary care setting. Toxic stress is defined as strong, frequent and/or prolonged adversity without adequate adult support. This includes several different types of ACEs, such as physical or emotional abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence or economic hardship. Research projects can address a variety of related topics, such as the implementation of screening methods for toxic stress, identifying biomarkers that can be used to measure toxic stress in children, and long-term impact of ACEs in a geriatric population presenting to primary care.

*Note: Student housing is available at the Immokalee Health Education Site.

Faculty: Elena Reyes, PhD & Javier Rosado, PhD

Contact: Javier Rosado, PhD

Clinical Associate Professor & Director of Clinical Training

Florida State University College of Medicine, Immokalee Health Education Site

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Research Opportunity: Chronic Disease Management Among Haitians

The Immokalee Health Education Site has opportunities for medical students to participate in applied clinical research that addresses chronic disease management, particularly diabetes. Diabetes, a chronic metabolic disease, is a major public health issue. We developed a culturally and linguistically appropriate diabetes self-management curriculum in Haitian Creole for the Haitian Community Health Workers (CHWs) with the ultimate goals of helping Haitian patients manage their diabetes. Research project can address issues related to diabetes management/education experiences such as diabetes prevention, treatment adherence, effectiveness of our diabetes education intervention or the effects of healthy behaviors such as healthy eating, healthy exercise, healthy relationships, and healthy stress management on diabetes self-management, prevalence of diabetes in a rural community, role of spirituality in diabetes self-management, etc.

*Note: Student housing is available at the Immokalee Health Education Site.

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Research Opportunity: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Rural Latina Women

Exposure to early adverse childhood events (ACE's), in particular violence, places women at risk for exposure to violence as adults. Two areas of research are currently open to students: 1) The relationship between ACE's and women's current exposure to IPV and health conditions and 2) bridging the gap between women's experience with violence and their own parenting knowledge and skills. The goal is forming positive parenting relationships to stop the cycle of violence and improve parent and child health.

*Note: Student housing is available at the Immokalee Health Education Site.

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